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News briefly

Sarries ease to Bath victory

SARACENS won their eighth consecutive match after beating Bath 20-9 in the Premiership at Vicarage Road on Sunday. David Strettle scored the only try of the match just before half time and the Men in Black were rarely troubled in the second half. The squad are in Miami this week with no match this weekend.

Harrow reach another final

HARROW RFC reached their second final of the season after beating Old Millhillsians 41-15 in the Middlesex Federation Vase. Harrow will take on Herts Middlesex One side Old Actonians in the final later this month. Harrow were beaten finalists last year.

Tigers squander two-goal lead

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS drew 2-2 at home to Harefield United in the South Midlands Premier Division. Abdullah Hassan fired them in front and they led 2-0 through Wadah Ahmidi. But two goals in the last 12 minutes denied them maximum points.

News immediately:
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'It's in our own hands'

by SIMON MAIL

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell insists their play-off hopes are in their own hands after climbing up to third in the table.

Boro produced a brilliant second-half comeback from 2-0 down to defeat Margate 3-2 which puts them in a great position with only five games remaining.

Howell said: "It is in our own hands and I'm just pleased that we find ourselves in this position. It is down to us and it is not a case of what other teams do.

"We have five games to go and I'm so proud of the players and all the staff for getting us into this position.

"It has just been a continuous battle against relegation since I've been here so to be in this position is just brilliant for everyone involved with the club.

"If you had said to me at the start of the season we would have reached the first round of the FA Cup and been third in the league then we would not have complained."

The Reds suffered a poor start to the game on Saturday conceding twice in the first 16 minutes.

Howell's side pulled one back at the start of the second half when Danny Hart's cross was headed home by Kenta Nakashima.

The hosts equalised in the 55th minute when David Ijaha's angled shot was turned in by Dewayne Clarke.

Howell claimed a dramatic winner six minutes from time when the exceptional Nakashima, who is leaving this month to return to Japan, cleverly flicked the ball into the net.

The Reds entertain bottom side Folkestone Invicta this weekend. But Boro are unlikely to be complacent after a shock 1-0 defeat to them earlier in the season.

Howell said: "That defeat was just a reminder of what happens if you take things for granted. So it can serve as a positive but we need to win on Saturday to show that we have learned from it.

"This is our most important game and we need to ensure we keep our focus."



Gavin Massey scored his first goal for the Stones at the weekend but could not prevent a home defeat.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Tired Stones fall off pace

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett believes fatigue and a lack of available players has cost his side dearly.

The Stones have lost three consecutive league matches which has ended any prospect of a late Ryman Premier play-off charge.

Bartlett was without his whole back four in Saturday's 3-1 home defeat to Concord Rangers and was again hit by absentees in Monday's 1-0 loss to Cray Wanderers.

Bartlett, whose side enjoyed a 12-game unbeaten run recently, said: "Playing three games in five days [Thursday's Middlesex Charity Cup win over North Greenford United] doesn't help.

"If you look over the two league games we looked a tired outfit. Saturday was like men against boys. We got bullied on Saturday and I have no complaints about the scoreline.

"I was disappointed for the lads because with five games to go we are struggling to get into the top half of the table.

"It just seems to be an ongoing chain of events and a continuous tale of our misfortune."

Gavin Massey scored his first goal since joining on loan from Watford during the Concord defeat.

But Bartlett believes there is more to come from the teenage striker.

The manager added: "By Gavin's own admission there is room for improvement."

The Stones travel to Hendon on Saturday.

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