

# SPORT

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## News briefly

### Stones goalkeeper wins season award

JONATHAN NORTH has been named as Wealdstone Supporters' player of the season at their awards night. Kurtney Brooks won the young player of the year and Alex Dyer was named players' player of the year. Peter Dean picked up the golden boot and the supporters' club fan of the year went to Neil Rands.

### Barker regains European title

DARREN BARKER has regained the European Middleweight title after a points win over Italy's Domenico Spada. The Barnet boxer maintained his unbeaten record after the judges scored the contest 115-113 and 116-113 twice. The 28-year-old surrendered his belt last year due to a hip injury.

### Middlesex suffer first setback

MIDDLESEX CCC lost for the first time this season after going down to an eight-wicket defeat to Kent in the Clydesdale Bank 40 on Monday. But Middlesex are top of County Championship Two after three consecutive wins to start the season.

### News immediately: [harrowtimes.co.uk](http://harrowtimes.co.uk)

## Play-off woe for Borough

by SIMON MAIL

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell was proud of his players after their heart-breaking Ryman Premier play-off defeat at Tonbridge Angels.

The Reds fought back from 2-0 down on Tuesday night to force extra time but their promotion dreams ended in a 3-2 semi-final defeat.

But Howell said: "They have had a brilliant season and I'm very proud of them.

"If we were going out then we were going to go out fighting. It was a great effort and I couldn't ask any more from them. We left it all on the pitch and unfortunately it just wasn't meant to be."

Boro started slowly as they conceded twice against a side they defeated twice during the season. But a brace from Rocky Baptiste brought them back into the tie and Howell felt his team were in the ascendancy.

He said: "We went out with more purpose in the second half and I felt from this period on we were the team likely to win it.

"We were the stronger team but we just didn't do enough to pip them at the end.

"We had chances and the

players feel as if they should have won the game. Tonbridge were on the backfoot and they were fearful and would have settled for penalties.

"We were in the ascendancy and they couldn't cope with our fitness and pace."

The Reds have been the surprise package of the season finishing as the highest scorers and earning their best finish, fifth, for 25 years.

However Howell accepts it will be a challenge to replicate their form next season.

He added: "It was hard this year but it will be even more difficult next season because of the expectation levels.

"We had no pressure this season but we've had a great year and next season people will be following us and looking for us to do well.

"But that is what we are in the game for and we want to play meaningful matches. I hope they take confidence and belief from this year and that we can be competitive again.

"I would like us to keep everybody and add some players. But we're going to have to find players that we don't know are out there because of our financial constraints."



Stones boss Gordon Bartlett celebrates with the Middlesex Charity Cup trophy.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Stones seal cup victory

WEALDSTONE won their first silverware for seven years after a 2-0 victory over Hanworth Villa on Monday in the Middlesex Charity Cup.

The Stones ended the Ryman Premier campaign in 12th spot after losing 1-0 at Bury Town on the final day but their cup win will send them into next season full of optimism.

Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett said: "It was an important way for us to finish the season. The players deserved something from the season and if we get a taste for winning then it can only stand us in good stead."

The Stones took the lead in the final when Alex Dyer converted a free kick early in the second half. Wealdstone sealed the cup win after 70 minutes when Sean Cronin rose to head home their second.

Bartlett set high ambitions of his side in the league this season and he admits their inconsistent results have been a disappointment.

He said: "I expected us to do well and I think we have played tremendous football at times. But results wise we haven't achieved what we wanted.

"I think the mental strength needs to improve but hopefully this winning feeling from the final will stand us in good stead.

"I would like to bring a couple of experienced players in and we probably need to be bigger physically.

"But the general consensus from the lads is that they are enjoying it here and they want to stay together. I hope the majority of the players will remain here."

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