

News briefly

World Cup places for Sarries players

RICHARD WIGGLESWORTH and Matt Stevens have been named in England's World Cup squad. The Saracens players were selected in the 30-man group which will travel to New Zealand. But Mouritz Botha and Charlie Hodgson both missed out on selection. Sarries forward Kelly Brown has also made the Scotland squad.

Sailors to stop off at Wealdstone

THREE Royal Navy sailors are walking 166 miles from Cardiff to Wembley for the England v Wales match on Tuesday, September 6. The trio are raising money for Help for Heroes and will stop off with the match ball at Wealdstone on Monday September 5. Everyone is welcome to attend the fundraiser from 7pm at Ruislip Social Club.

England complete India whitewash

ENGLAND completed a comprehensive 4-0 series win over India on Monday at the Oval. Middlesex's Andrew Strauss led the new world number one ranked side to the innings and eight runs victory. Strauss scored 40 during the match but Middlesex team-mate Eoin Morgan again struggled as he was out for just one run in their declaration of 591 for six.

'I won't be making any predictions'

GORDON BARTLETT has refused to make any bold predictions about Wealdstone's chances this season after their disappointing campaign last year.

The Stones boss expected his side to make a play-off challenge last season but it failed to materialise and they ended in mid-table.

While he is not prepared to talk up their chances of the top-five, he is content with the way his squad is shaping up.

Bartlett said: "I opened my big mouth last season and it backfired. So this time I'm keeping quiet and won't be making any predictions on how we'll do."

"You can always strengthen the squad and we're quietly happy with the way it is shaping up."

"We just have to make sure that we lay firm foundations and that we are stronger mentally than last year."

The Stones have started the season with two draws. Substitute Tom O'Regan rescued a 1-1 draw at home to Margate with a second-half equaliser in their opener.

Wealdstone held big spenders Carshalton 0-0 away on Tuesday

night. Bartlett said: "Carshalton are the Man City of our league and with the players they've got and money they've spent they should be up there."

"We deserved to get more out of the game and overall I thought we probably had the better of it."

"If I look at the two games so far then for three quarters of them I was very pleased with our performances."

"The only aspect that was disappointing was the first half against Margate. I thought we were slack and didn't look up for the fight."

"We were a bit flat and they are a big, strong side who have had a fantastic pre-season. In the first half we didn't move the ball quickly enough and didn't perform."

"But the response was excellent. From being on the back-foot we went into the ascendancy. In the end I thought we were unfortunate not to win the game."

The Stones visit East Thurrock United on Saturday before entertaining Ryman Premier leaders Wingate and Finchley on Monday.

Anderson eager to face old club

HARROW BOROUGH manager Dave Anderson is relishing the chance to face his former club Hendon.

Anderson enjoyed a successful five-year spell in charge of Hendon, between 1999 and 2004, where he led them to three consecutive Middlesex Senior Cups.

The Boro manager, who takes his side to Hendon on Bank Holiday Monday, said: "It is always nice to go back to somewhere you've been successful in the past."

"I have fond memories of my time there and genuine respect for the club. They've had a great start to the season and we will go into it as underdogs but I quite like that."

Boro picked up their first Ryman Premier point of the season in their 1-1 draw at home to Billericay on Tuesday.

Dean Fenton's goal was cancelled out by the visitors but it was an improved performance after their 1-0 defeat at Metropolitan Police in their season opener last weekend.

Anderson said: "It was probably a fair result and we created a lot more chances than Saturday. It felt like we had it in us to win the game."

"I thought we were good going forward and I was happy enough. But I did think we looked a bit vulnerable defensively."

"Our fitness is not where it needs to be due to a frantic pre-season and I thought we faded in the last 20 minutes on Saturday. But the two games will do us the world of good and we'll only get stronger."

"We are a bit undercooked but that is down to circumstances. The more we play the fitter we will become."

Boro entertain Aveyal on Saturday afternoon before the short trip to rivals Hendon.



Alan Massey challenges for the ball during the Stones' opener on Saturday.

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