

News briefly

Record score for England's Strauss

ANDREW STRAUSS hit a career best unbeaten 188 as Middlesex dominated Leicestershire on the first day of their County Championship Two match. The England captain beat his previous best of 177 against New Zealand in 2008 as Middlesex finished the first day on 370 for one before bad light stopped play.

Saracens set for title defence

PREMIERSHIP champions Saracens will launch their title defence this weekend at Twickenham. The Men in Black will face London Wasps in the traditional London double header on Saturday afternoon. Steve Borthwick, who has just agreed a new contract, is expected to lead out the side. Fly-half Charlie Hodgson is also in line to make his league debut.

Wealdstone Girls playing at Vale

WEALDSTONE Under-18 Girls will use Grosvenor Vale for their home games this season. The Thames Valley Womens League South side will be playing on Sunday afternoons at 12.30 with free admission to supporters. The team are looking to attract players aged between 16 and 18. Anyone who is interested should email office@wealdstonefc.co.uk

'The players have let the club down'

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett described their 4-2 home defeat to ten man Wingate and Finchley as an "embarrassing performance".

The Stones slumped to defeat at Grosvenor Vale on Monday despite the sending off of Joe O'Brien for a sliding tackle. Bartlett's side fell 4-0 and efforts from Richard Jolly and Kurtney Brooks could not mask their deficiencies.

Bartlett said: "It was an embarrassing performance. The players know they under performed and that is not acceptable.

"They let the club down, the fans and themselves. But there is nothing we can do about it and we must show the fight and determination to get a first win.

"There weren't any elements of our performance that we could be proud of. I honestly don't know why we played like that. For whatever reason no one really performed.

"It was an extremely poor performance and we didn't see it coming."

The Stones have yet to win this season and only two late

goals helped them fight back for a 3-3 draw at East Thurrock United on Saturday.

Jolly equalised for the visitors at the start of the second half but they quickly fell 3-1 down.

But an Alex Dyer goal and Jolly's penalty, both in the final 12 minutes, salvaged a point for the Stones.

Bartlett said: "With ten minutes to go we would have taken it but it still felt like two points dropped overall."

Wealdstone will be looking to claim their first win of the season when they entertain Bury Town on Saturday.

Bartlett said: "We need to get the first win under our belt. Despite the results I'm confident that this side can still do well.

"I am expecting a response and they need to put things right. They need to fight for the cause and on Monday they fell short.

"We've conceded seven goals in two games and I don't think the opposition have yet scored a decent one. When we haven't got the ball we have to realise we need to do the ugly things."



The Stones produced a poor performance during their home defeat to Wingate and Finchley on Monday.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Anderson's side beaten on return

HARROW BOROUGH manager Dave Anderson experienced mixed fortunes on his return to Hendon on Monday.

Anderson, who enjoyed a successful five-year spell as Hendon manager, returned with his new side but they are still looking for their first win after a 3-2 defeat to the Ryman Premier leaders.

A penalty from Gary Jones and Dave Lawrence's late effort was not enough for Boro to return with any points.

But Anderson said: "I know Gary McCann [Hendon manager] and the rest of the staff very well and it was lovely to see them and all the supporters. I was treated really well.

"That side of the day was great and I never expected anything else. I'm also pleased to see where they are in the league.

"It was always going to be tall order for us. Both sets of players looked jaded and it had a real funny tempo like a Champions League match.

"The negative aspect was that we gave away three poor goals. But the positive was that we played against the top team in the league who hadn't conceded any goals and we scored twice and were in touch against them."

Boro were below par during the first half of their 1-1 draw against Aveley at Earlsmead on Saturday.

A sluggish first-half display saw them fall behind but Jon Jo Bates netted the equaliser eight minutes into the second half.

Anderson added: "It was the poorest we've been in the first half and I didn't think that the level we were at was acceptable.

"But I thought our reaction to it was good and we came out in the second half and did well."

Boro remain on the road this weekend as they travel to Canvey Island.

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