

News briefly

Sarries brush aside Exeter Chiefs

SARACENS eased to a 43-20 win over Exeter Chiefs in the LV= Cup. The Men in Black sealed a bonus-point victory after running in four tries at Vicarage Road on Sunday. Adam Powell and Rodd Penney got on the scoresheet in the first half before late efforts from Owen Farrell and Hugh Vyvyan. Champions Saracens face a huge test this weekend as they travel to Gloucester in the Premiership.

Harrow extend winning form

HARROW RFC continued their excellent form with a 38-16 win over London French. Harrow scored six tries in the victory despite having two players sin-binned. Harrow's next match is a difficult trip to fourth placed Kilburn Cosmos.

Margate trip for Stones in Trophy

WEALDSTONE have been handed a trip to Margate in the second qualifying round of the FA Trophy. The tie will take place on Saturday, November 5 at Hartsdown Park. The Stones booked their place after seeing off Tooting and Mitcham United. Harrow Borough will take on AFC Hornchurch at home in the next round of the competition following a win over Dulwich Hamlet.

Striker boost for Stones

by Joe Whitbread

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett hopes Scott Fitzgerald can rediscover his predatory instinct after cutting short the striker's loan spell at Hemel Hempstead Town.

The former Watford man was sent on loan to the Southern League Premier side at the start of September to improve his match fitness after an operation in the summer.

He was recalled for Saturday's FA Trophy match against Tooting and Mitcham United and the 31-year-old got on scoresheet in a comfortable 3-0 win.

Speaking about his decision to send Fitzgerald to the Tudors, Bartlett said: "It was always in our hands. We sent him out to get fit and score some goals. Getting him back is a gamble but hopefully it might start working again."

"He had to undergo an operation in the summer and we didn't feel like we could provide the number of games that he needed."

"We've called him back and hopefully he can get back to his best and to what we expect. It hasn't all been plain sailing with Scott."

"Look at his track record. I hope he will bring a lot of his experience of scoring goals and live up to his reputation."

With Wealdstone already eliminated from other competitions this season, Saturday's

win kept alive their hopes of a potential cup run.

It also provided a much needed boost after the penalty shootout defeat at Leatherhead in the League Cup.

"It was a very important result," Bartlett said.

"Especially after the way we went out in the FA Cup earlier this season against Beaconsfield."

"Overall it was very comfortable. Other than a good opening 15 minutes, they didn't look like causing us any problems. We kept reasonable possession for the whole 90 minutes. It was a good, positive performance."

On Saturday Bartlett's men travel to 17th placed Aveley who have yet to record a home victory this season.

However, Wealdstone have only one win on the road this campaign and Bartlett anticipates a tough game at The Mill Field.

"They [Aveley] haven't had the best of starts. It is not one of the most welcoming places and there is little atmosphere."

"We've played them a number of times down the years and it's always been a tough place to go to so it's difficult to know what to expect."

"We just have to keep working hard. The last game was really encouraging and we just need to carry that on into Saturday. We're looking to improve our away form and it's something we need to overcome."



Scott Fitzgerald marked his return to the club by scoring in the win over Tooting and Mitcham United.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

No concerns over Reds' home form

HARROW BOROUGH manager Dave Anderson insists he is not concerned that his team have yet to record a home league win this season.

The Reds' 3-1 defeat to Kingstonian on Tuesday night was the club's sixth Ryman Premier game at the Earlsmead Stadium without a victory.

Anderson admitted he was not even aware of the statistic until after the game, when he was told by a journalist.

"It doesn't concern me," he said. "If we were looking to win the league then of course it would be a worry but we're rebuilding at the moment and we just want to reach 45 points."

"As long as we reach that then I don't mind if we get the points at home or away. There isn't a fear when we play at home and I'm not apprehensive."

The match brought an end to Harrow's six-match unbeaten run in the league which stretches back to to mid-September.

It also followed Saturday's impressive 2-0 win over Dulwich Hamlet in the FA Trophy. Their victory was secured after goals from Evandro Delgado and Jon-Jo Bates.

Anderson said: "I thought we looked very jaded [Tuesday]. It was a poor performance and we just didn't get going."

"It was just one of those games. We were a little bit slow to the ball and just looked flat in general. Even the dressing room felt flat. Kingstonian were the better side and deserved to win the game."

"We had a great win at Dulwich. They came into the game on the back of a great run so to go there and win 2-0 was great. We rode our luck at times but deserved the win."

Harrow have a chance to rectify their poor home league record when they welcome high-flying Bury Town on Saturday afternoon.

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