

News briefly

Saracens denied by Cherry and Whites

SARACENS were frustrated by Gloucester after being held to a 15-15 draw at Vicarage Road on Sunday. The Men in Black looked on course for another win after five penalties from Owen Farrell gave them a 15-12 lead. But Freddie Burns slotted over a kick two minutes from time to snatch a draw for the Cherry and Whites. Defending champions Sarries entertain Bath at home this Sunday.

Parkfield search for new players

PARKFIELD AND HEADSTONE CC are looking for new players to join the club. Indoor winter nets will take place at Nower Hill High School in Pinner between 9-10am on Saturday mornings. Anyone interested in coming along or joining Parkfield should contact Nainesh Shah on 07786 731260.

Harrow ready to face Grammarians

HARROW RFC will return to action this weekend when they face Pinner and Grammarians. Harrow will be expecting to hit the ground running after their two-week break. The Seconds are also playing again this Saturday when they take on St Albans Thirds.

News immediately:
harrowtimes.co.uk

'I think it was the best that we have played'

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett described his side's 5-0 win at Wingate & Finchley as their "best performance of the season".

The Stones extended their run to just one defeat in 17 matches after thrashing their north London rivals.

Bartlett said: "We owed Wingate [lost 4-2 to them in August] and it was a great result. I thought it could have been even more for us.

"It was a very good all-round performance and some of the football we played in the second half was outstanding.

"I think it was the best we have played this season because all of the elements came together."

The Stones were held 1-1 by Carshalton Athletic on Saturday but had no such problems on Monday in their rout.

Scott Fitzgerald opened the scoring but missed the chance to double the lead when his penalty hit the crossbar.

Watford loanee Britt Assombalonga, who will remain with the Stones for

another month, added the second with a superb solo effort.

Assombalonga netted a close-range third before Richard Jolly scored a brace for the visitors.

Bartlett, who has challenged his side to reach 70 points this season, said: "I couldn't have asked for a better start. We went unbeaten through December and were obviously looking for a good start to the new year.

"Things are beginning to take shape and if we can continue in that vein throughout January then we can look forward to February.

"It is a massively important month for us. There is no point having a good December if we don't carry it on this month."

Wealdstone host promotion contenders Lewes this weekend.

Bartlett added: "We have to target teams in the playoffs. Lewes are one of those and we owe them after losing 1-0 and missing a penalty against them.

"If we can beat them then all of a sudden the gap between the sides doesn't look insurmountable."



The Stones celebrated a comprehensive 5-0 win over Wingate and Finchley. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Reds halt slump with Hendon win

HARROW BOROUGH ended a run of six consecutive league defeats with a vital 4-2 home win over high-flying Hendon.

Dave Anderson's side ended the year with a 3-0 defeat to Ryman Premier leaders Billericay Town but bounced back with a superb fightback against Hendon.

Anderson said: "Before this season I hadn't lost three games in a row during 25 years. But I never thought that the confidence of the players was that low.

"It's nice to get a win and score four goals against a team near the top."

Striker Danny Buckle nodded Boro in front at Earlsmead on Monday before former Wealdstone forward Greg Ngoyi prodded in the equaliser.

Elliott Charles fired Hendon into a 2-1 lead at half-time but Boro responded with a second-half revival.

Buckle headed in the equaliser midway through the half before Wayne Walters swept in his first of the season in the 86th minute.

Michael Barima netted the fourth goal late on to seal a much-needed three points for the Reds.

Anderson added: "I thought the performance was excellent especially considering the run we've been having.

"That is a really good sign because it shows that we have a bit of spirit.

"We were much better in the second half and I thought we ran out worthy winners."

The Reds face a trip to mid-table Kingstonian on Sunday afternoon.

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