

News briefly

**Sarries win Saints kicking contest**

SARACENS battled to an 18-12 win over Northampton Saints at Vicarage Road on Sunday. The wet weather meant kicking dominated the contest and six penalties from Charlie Hodgson proved the difference. The win leaves Sarries in second place heading into the final five fixtures in the Premiership.

**Harrow Colts bow out of the cup**

HARROW RFC were knocked out of the National Colts Cup after a 22-8 defeat to Ivybridge. Harrow crushed Old Isleworthians 66-0 in Herts Middlesex Two. In their next match Harrow will face the short trip to Uxbridge in the league.

**North signs new Stones contract**

WEALDSTONE goalkeeper Jonathan North has signed a new contract with the club. North has been an ever present for the side since joining them from Championship outfit Watford in 2010. His new deal will keep him at the club until the end of the 2013-14 season. The shot stopper was voted player of the season last year for his form in goal for the Stones.

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## ‘We hope we’ll be in the game at half-time’

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett insists his depleted team have the belief to go to Newport County and keep their FA Trophy semi-final alive.

The Stones will be missing six players for Saturday's trip to the Conference side but their manager has backed them to return from the first leg with a positive result.

Connor Smith, Chris O'Leary and Alan Massey are all suspended while Alex Dyer is injured and Dominic Sterling and Tom Pett are cup tied.

Bartlett said: "Missing six players doesn't make it any easier going to a Conference side. They wouldn't be two leagues above us unless they had some damn good players.

"We hope that we will be very much in the game at half time, win, lose or draw. We want to be in a competitive situation when we come back to Grosvenor Vale.

"The players are very upbeat and the belief stems from the fantastic run we've been on of late. We will go there and give it our best shot.

"All we can do is try and get as many things right and hope that they have one or two problems because it will be the little things that make the difference."

The Stones received an unexpected message this week when current England boss Stuart Pearce sent

them a good luck email. Pearce played 242 times for Wealdstone between 1979 and 1983.

Bartlett admitted: "It was a very pleasant surprise and a lovely gesture.

"He is such a genuine, honest guy and it was typical of the man. He remembers his roots even now that he's England manager."

Wealdstone reached their first final of the season with a 2-0 Middlesex Senior Cup win at North Greenford United on Tuesday. David Hicks and Scott Fitzgerald fired them to a final with Hampton & Richmond Borough on Easter Monday.

Bartlett believes his team may have a bit of history on their side because the last time the Stones went to Wembley in the Trophy they also reached the final of the Middlesex Senior Cup.

His two trips to the famous stadium with Southall and Yeading also came during seasons when they reached the final of the County Cup.

He said: "We wanted to get through to the final. It wasn't in the manner that we hoped but no-one asks how you got to a final. Maybe the omens are looking good for us."

Their win followed a 1-1 home draw with Ryman Premier leaders Billericay Town on Saturday. Richard Jolly gave them the lead before they were pegged back.



Richard Jolly scored again in the draw with leaders Billericay Town.  
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Borough face uphill struggle

HARROW BOROUGH's Ryman Premier relegation fears increased after a desperate week featuring two dismal defeats.

The Reds slumped to a 2-0 defeat at struggling Leatherhead on Saturday before suffering a 3-0 hammering at home to Concord Rangers on Tuesday night.

Young Watford goalkeeper Jack Bonham was the only player to come out with any real credit from their defeat to Leatherhead.

Vernon Francis netted the opening goal but Bonham was quick to deny a second immediately afterwards.

The hosts sealed the crucial win 20 minutes from time when Charlie Holness scored from off the bench.

Dave Anderson's side mustered only three meaningful efforts on goal during an afternoon to forget.

But it did not get any better on Tuesday when they were easily turned over by Concord.

The hosts fell behind before the break when Bonham made a mess of a throw in and Nicky Cowley tapped into the empty net.

The game was over as a contest midway through the second half when Harry Elmes dispossessed Rickelle Christian and fired home from an acute angle.

Boro conceded the third goal in injury time when Christian lost the ball and Tony Stokes rounded the goalkeeper to score.

The Reds will need to get a result quickly as they are being dragged nearer to the relegation zone. Anderson's side will host East Thurrock United at Earlsmead this weekend.

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