

News briefly

Saracens sunk by rivals Harlequins

SARACENS lost 24-19 to Premiership leaders Harlequins in front of a record crowd at Wembley. More than 83,000 supporters turned up for the clash but three tries for Quins made the difference. Richard Wigglesworth scored for Sarries but it was too little too late. The Men in Black host Clermont Auvergne in the Heineken Cup on Sunday afternoon.

Harrow scoop place in final

HARROW RFC booked their place in the final of the Under-18 LV Colts Cup after a 28-21 win over Shelford. The Colts will face Bishop's Stortford for the trophy on Sunday, April 22 at Hitchin. It was a bruising encounter at Grove Field as Harrow overcame the National League Two South side.

Stones awards evening confirmed

WEALDSTONE's presentation evening will take place following their final match of the season. The event will be held at 6.30pm after the Concord Rangers match at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday, April 28. All supporters are welcome to attend and there will be a free buffet included at the evening.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

'This week is likely to shape our season'

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett insists the next week will go a long way to deciding their fate this season.

The Stones host Kingstonian in the Ryman Premier as they look to keep their play-off hopes alive before facing Hampton and Richmond Borough on Monday in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

A crucial five days for the Stones finishes on Wednesday with a derby against Harrow Borough.

Bartlett said: "We have three massive games coming up that could shape our season. There are two league games and a cup final so this is a massive week if we want to achieve our goals.

"We don't want to be known as a nearly team but that could happen. We got to the semi-finals of the FA Trophy, could end up as runners-up in the Middlesex Cup and could just miss out on the play-offs."

The Stones are currently five points off the play-offs and Bartlett believes they cannot afford draws if they want to extend their season.

A frustrating 1-1 draw at Bury Town on Saturday, when a late own goal from Alan Massey cancelled out Chris O'Leary's opener.

Wealdstone received plenty of praise for their performance but this was little comfort to Bartlett.

The Stones boss said: "We were

very good against Bury Town at the weekend and had some great opportunities that we didn't take.

"They never looked like scoring and for them to get a late goal in the manner they did made it difficult to swallow. Those three points could easily be the difference at the end of the season.

"Draws have cost us this season and we don't want any more. A draw is no good to us at this stage of the season. We are behind [in the table] and we have to take gambles.

"We've had too many draws this season. If we'd turned half of them into wins and the rest into defeats we would probably be in the play-offs now.

"Both managers prior to Tuesday complimented us on our performance but we didn't win. I'm fed up of other managers saying how good we are. I'd rather we played badly and won because results are the only thing that matters."

Wealdstone picked up a vital 2-0 win at Hastings United on Tuesday night. The Stones had to wait until the 77th minute for Richard Jolly to open the scoring with a header.

The visitors sealed the points when prolific striker Jolly lashed in his 42nd goal of the season.

Bartlett added: "It was a massive win and keeps things interesting for us. We have to keep winning games to maintain an interest for us at the top."



Chris O'Leary netted for the Stones in their draw with Bury Town.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Reds win boosts survival hopes

HARROW BOROUGH boss Dave Anderson admitted their 3-1 win at East Thurrock United was a "psychological boost" in their battle to avoid relegation.

The Reds slipped into the Ryman Premier drop zone after a 4-3 home defeat to Canvey Island on Saturday but responded in style on Tuesday.

Ashley Watson fired the visitors in front before a brace from Simeon Akinola guided Boro to the crucial victory.

Anderson said: "I couldn't pick out any individuals because from back to front they all had a great appetite. We got our just rewards and it was a big result for us.

"It has moved us up two places in the league and psychologically it's a big lift for us. But we're not going to get carried away."

Anderson admits he is still concerned by the threat of relegation but his experience in the game will ensure he does not panic.

The former St Albans City manager said: "We have to be concerned with our position. If you say you aren't then you're either stupid or telling lies.

"But that concern is mixed with a lot of experience of dealing with this type of situation. I think there is a difference between concern and panic."

The Reds squandered the lead three times against Canvey Island as a brace from Steve Ferguson and a Danny Buckle goal was in vain.

Anderson's side face a difficult Easter programme with a trip to Cray Wanderers followed by a home clash with Wealdstone on Wednesday night.

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