

## News briefly

### Saracens crash out of Heineken Cup

SARACENS were dumped out of the Heineken Cup after a comprehensive 20-3 home defeat to Clermont Auvergne. The Men in Black only had a first-half penalty from Owen Farrell to show for their efforts as they were outplayed by their French opponents.

### Harrow reach final of National Vase

HARROW RFC reached the final of the National Junior Vase after beating Brockworth 38-6. Tries from Lee Huggett and Derek Byrne put them in control. Shane Togher extended the lead and Huggett scored a stunning solo effort. Sean Pratt and Hywel Gosling sealed their place at Twickenham against Baildon next month.

### Academy produces five champions

RAYNERS LANE Taekwon-do Academy won five gold medals at the PUMA Open World Championships. Umar Marikar won the first medal of the event before Imran Zaman finished first in the 15-17 age group. Vikram Gautam won gold in the third dan black belt event. Lyndsey Reynolds won the first to fourth dan section and sparing competition while Colin Avis won the second dan pattern event.

News immediately:  
harrowtimes.co.uk

# Wealdstone boss rues lack of killer instinct

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett admitted the biggest disappointment from their Middlesex Senior Cup final defeat was their second-half performance.

The Stones were beaten 2-0 by Hampton & Richmond Borough on Monday at Uxbridge despite dominating possession in the first half.

Bartlett said: "I think the biggest disappointment is the way that we played in the second half. We were poor after dominating the first half.

"You can come up with lots of reasons for it. But for all our dominance in the first half we didn't really show a killer instinct to get shots in. We went back to our early season habit where we overplayed.

"We had one shot on target in the first 45 minutes, despite having about 80 per cent of the territory, so that statistic wasn't good enough and we paid the price in the second half."

Hampton & Richmond Boro had to wait until the 74th minute to open the scoring through James Simmons and Dave Tarpey ensured the Stones missed out on the trophy.

Bartlett added: "The league is our priority but I really wanted to win some silverware and I felt it

was a great opportunity. We wanted to win something and I felt the lads deserved to for their efforts this season."

The Stones kept in contention for a Ryman Premier play-off place after thrashing Kingstonian 4-1 on Saturday.

Ian Gayle was sent off for the visitors in the first half and the hosts took full advantage as Lee Chappell fired them in front.

Kingstonian briefly levelled the match in the second half through Bobby Traynor's penalty but Richard Jolly restored Wealdstone's lead.

Peter Dean made it 3-1 and Connor Smith came off the bench to seal a comfortable win for Bartlett's side.

The Stones face a crucial home clash with second-placed AFC Hornchurch on Saturday and Bartlett knows his team cannot afford to drop many more points.

Bartlett said: "I felt that two points a game would be promotion form but that is not going to be enough for us at this stage of the season.

"We have to give everything we've got over the next five games and hopefully that will be enough.

"We don't want this to be a season of nearlys because I think the lads deserve more than that. But if we keep getting results we will give ourselves a chance."



The Stones suffered disappointment in the Middlesex Senior Cup final on Monday.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Reds ease drop fears after upset

HARROW BOROUGH boosted their hopes of avoiding relegation after a superb 2-1 win at promotion chasers Cray Wanderers.

The Reds produced a brilliant second-half comeback after trailing 1-0 to increase their chances of staying in the Ryman Premier next season.

Boro boss Dave Anderson, who thinks four points could be enough to remain in the league, said: "It's a great time in the season to be hitting form and playing well.

"Hopefully we can just keep our heads, continue what we're doing and make sure we're safe. I think two wins is what we need but a victory and a draw could be enough."

Anderson's side were denied the opener when Garry Jones' free-kick was tipped over by goalkeeper Andy Walker.

Cray opened the scoring after Danny Leech was penalised for handling the ball in the area. Tommy Whitnell sent Jamie Jackson the wrong way from the penalty spot.

The visitors equalised four minutes after the restart when Tristan Toney fired home.

The hosts were awarded a second penalty on the hour mark for an innocuous looking challenge from Leech. But this time in-form keeper Jackson guessed the right way and saved Whitnell's effort.

The winning goal came in the 76th minute when Danny Buckle gathered the loose ball and found the net from a tight angle.

The Reds face a crucial trip to Hastings United this weekend. Their opponents are currently just below them in the table as both sides fight to stay in the division.

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