

News briefly

Sarries fight back for Irish victory

SARACENS battled to a 28-19 win over London Irish in the Premiership. The Men in Black trailed to a Delon Armitage try but the boot of Charlie Hodgson got them back on track. Will Fraser scored in the second half but Sarries still slipped down to third after Leicester Tigers' bonus-point win.

Wealdstone Girls wrap up title

WEALDSTONE GIRLS sealed the title after thrashing Whiteknights 9-1. Nicola Dixon, Rosie Watts and Stevie Wickes made it 3-0 at half-time in their final home game of the season. Claire Holden was on target before another from Watts and Dixon. Emily Birmingham scored from the halfway line before a late brace from Catherine Fahy.

Bowls club look for new players

HARROW Bowls Club are keen for new players to join them. Free coaching is available for beginners and the first day of the summer season starts on Monday, April 30. An open day will be held on Saturday, May 21 between 10am-5pm. Anyone interested in coming along to the event should contact Jim or Mary on 0208 4242140.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

Wealdstone close in on play-off place

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE's Ryman Premier play-off hopes are in their own hands after two vital victories in the last week.

The Stones responded to a frustrating goalless draw at Harrow Borough by beating second-placed AFC Hornchurch 2-1 on Saturday.

Gordon Bartlett's side followed this up by thrashing Tooting & Mitcham United 6-0 on Tuesday to leave their destiny within their own grasp.

The Stones took full advantage of a makeshift Tooting side who were forced to field striker Charlie Stimson in goal due to player shortages.

Wealdstone scored in the first minute of the contest with Richard Jolly beating the offside trap to fire past Stimson.

The visitors doubled the lead after just 13 minutes when Alan Massey threaded a through ball into the path of Jolly and the striker coolly rounded the goalkeeper.

It only took 35 minutes for the prolific Jolly to complete his hat-trick and claim his 46th of the season. Chris O'Leary flicked on the ball at the far post and Jolly scrambled it home.

Lee Chappell added the fourth at the start of the second half

when he cut inside and his deflected strike beat the goalkeeper.

The Stones' fifth goal came three minutes later after captain Wes Parker rose to head home a corner.

Wealdstone netted again shortly afterwards when midfielder Connor Smith's strike squirmed underneath the keeper.

It was another vital three points coming after a pivotal victory over AFC Hornchurch at Grosvenor Vale.

Former Watford striker Scott Fitzgerald flicked in the opener. The Stones doubled their lead when Tom Pett embarked on a mazy dribble before firing in his first goal for the club.

Hornchurch pulled one back when Lewis Smith netted from close range.

But the Stones held on to put them firmly in the running for a top-five spot.

Bartlett's side, who are sixth, are one point behind Lewes with a game in hand.

Their next match is a trip to Met Police on Saturday and the club are offering free coach travel to supporters.

Coaches will depart the Vale at midday. To book a place contact Jez Albert on 07903 805861 or email jeremy.albert@jetset-flights.co.uk



Richard Jolly netted a hat-trick during the Stones' comprehensive midweek win.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Reds braced for last day drama

HARROW BOROUGH boss Dave Anderson expects their survival battle to go down to the last game of the season.

The Reds produced a disappointing performance losing 3-1 at Hastings United on Saturday which brought the opponents behind them only on goal difference.

Jon-Jo Bates netted the consolation but Anderson had no complaints about the result.

The Boro manager said: "With the way things have gone it will probably come down to the last ten minutes of the final game.

"We hope it doesn't come to that but we have to prepare for the possibility that it does.

"The consolation is we are battling with three teams and one of them will go down but we're top of this mini league so it's in our hands."

Boro face a tough end to the season, starting with a home clash against second-placed AFC Hornchurch on Saturday.

But the Reds boss is upbeat because his side have fared better against the top sides in the Ryman Premier this season.

Anderson said: "We have done better against the sides at the top of the league than the ones down the bottom. If I knew the reason why I would have done something about it.

"The fact we are playing AFC Hornchurch doesn't bother us. Perhaps we have played better because we're the underdogs and we are such a young side.

"They are all big games and we must make sure we enjoy our football otherwise what's the point?"

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