

## News briefly

### Harrow Borough lose friendly

HARROW BOROUGH were beaten 3-0 at Chalfont St Peter in their final pre-season friendly on Saturday. Dave Anderson's side begin their Ryman Premier campaign this weekend with a home game against Thurrock. The Reds are quickly back in action two days later when they travel to Kingstonian.

### Club skipper stands down

MATT HENRY has stepped down as club captain at Harrow RFC. Henry skippered the side for two seasons but has decided he no longer has the time to commit to this due to his work. He has been replaced by Stuart Nurse. Brendan O'Sullivan has also given up the first team captaincy and this has gone to Dave West. Simon Reynolds has also stepped down as youth chairman of Harrow.

### Middlesex beaten by eight wickets

MIDDLESEX suffered an eight-wicket defeat to Sussex in County Championship Division One. The side were all out for 170 in the first innings and it did not get much better when they batted again as they were dismissed for 211. This left Sussex needing 95 to win and they reached this target easily at the Hove.

# 'The players' attitude has been first class'

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett has set his side the target of improving on their achievements from last season.

The Stones enjoyed an exceptional campaign last year as they reached the semi-finals of the FA Trophy, the final of the County Cup and were beaten in the Ryman Premier play-offs. Confidence is high coming into this season and the manager is optimistic his squad can build on their form and challenge for silverware over the next year.

Bartlett said: "There is a winning mentality around the squad and I just hope that bears fruit. We want to build on last year when we reached the play-offs and did well in the FA Trophy and County Cup. There were good foundations and we want to take it a step further. It is highly unlikely we will have more success in the FA Trophy but we would like to do well in the FA Cup.

"We've added to the squad and the attitude has been superb so I have to go into the season optimistic but also realistic.

"We have no divine right to do well and we will have to work hard to make sure that we're successful."

The Stones have endured poor starts to the season over the last couple of years and Bartlett has altered certain things in an effort to change their fortunes. The club have minimised their pre-season schedule and have also not brought in trialists this summer unlike in previous years.

Bartlett added: "I think the confi-



Chris O'Leary attacks the ball during the Stones' draw against Forest Green Rovers.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

dence is there but the last two years we've had disastrous starts. This is why we made changes during our pre-season.

"We have changed a few things this summer and have cut down on the number of friendlies and we haven't taken any trialists in. Last year we spent so much time with trialists and we didn't end up focusing on the main squad."

The Stones have gone undefeated in pre-season which featured a draw with Watford and a 4-1 win over Hemel Hempstead Town on Saturday. But the team will be missing four key players in this weekend's league opener at home to Met Police with Chris O'Leary, Sean Cronin and new signing Tommy Brewer

all suspended while Wes Parker is struggling with a foot injury.

The Wealdstone manager said: "The last seven weeks we've been easing into things and pre-season has been very encouraging. The attitude of the players has been first class.

"I think we are in a better position than this time last year but at the same time having four senior players missing from the first game is not ideal."

"I don't put any emphasis on results during pre-season but the performances have been very encouraging. Saturday was very positive and I think we've played a better quality of opposition this year and remained unbeaten."

## Five-wicket haul seals win

MIDDLESEX Tamil Sports & Social Club eased to a seven-wicket victory over Turnham Green & Polytechnic Cricket Club in Middlesex Championship Division One thanks to a fine performance from young fast bowler Ashok Andrew.

Andrew claimed a devastating five-wicket haul – his second in two matches – to reduce the home side to 120 all out from 36 overs and end the innings with figures of six for 19 off ten overs. Andrew was ably supported in the bowling attack by teammates Lavan Krishnamohan (two wickets) and captain Abdul Hamza (one wicket).

In reply, Tamil opened with Niro Sriharan and Jenson Singarajah. The pair started the chase conservatively as they assessed the wicket and wanted to make sure the run chase wasn't similar to their horrendous batting performance last week. However it was the third and fourth batsmen who made the difference in the chase.

The pair joined each other at the crease with the score on 31 for two, leaving Middlesex needing another 90 runs to win. Barring at number three was debutant Theeban Raj, who was able to rotate the strike comfortably. However, it was David Devadoss who took on the bowlers as he reached his maiden half-century for the club after smashing six fours and three sixes.

Unfortunately Devadoss couldn't see out the innings as he was caught at extra cover after an attempted lofted cover drive. But with the side just needing four runs for victory it wasn't too long after the dismissal of Devadoss that they were celebrating.

The win has resulted in MTSSC now standing second in the table, ten points behind leaders Osterly with just four games left in this campaign.

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