

## News briefly

### Saracens set for Tigers test

SARACENS will face Leicester Tigers at Wembley this weekend. Both sides have made promising starts to the Premiership season with two victories from their opening games. The Men in Black battled to a 23-16 win at Sale Sharks on Saturday with England winger Chris Ashton scoring his third try of the season.

### Huge Vase win for Harrow

HARROW started their National Junior Vase campaign by thrashing Kings X Steelers 125-5. It was a totally one-sided preliminary round contest as Harrow began their first step along the road back to Twickenham. Harrow's next match is on Saturday in the league when they visit Old Millhills. In other action, the Lions went down 34-0 to a strong Borehamwood side.

### Gymnast shines at championships

HARROW-BASED Sapphire gymnast Shelley Sweeney Slavin impressed at the Hertfordshire Gymnastics Championships. The Harrow High School pupil came second in the Level four category for 12/13 year old with a high score of 43.35 which takes her through to the regional final.

# Howell's winning return

FORMER Harrow Borough manager David Howell admitted it was an emotional return for him after he guided St Albans City to a 3-1 FA Cup win at Earlsmead.

The former Reds boss took the Saints to the Ryman Premier club and they had far too much for Boro in their first qualifying round tie.

Howell, who steered Boro to the play-offs two seasons ago before moving to Clarence Park, said: "My connections with Harrow Borough go back a very long way as a player.

"There are things that have happened here which have been tragic and things that have happened which are really great.

"I think I probably assembled one of the best teams they would have seen here when we got to the play-offs, so coming

back was different and emotional for me. I just had to focus and make sure we got the result St Albans City required and I felt we did.

"On a personal level, I brought my young son here. I think it's fitting his first football match is at Harrow Borough and it's a ground where he lost his uncle Michael some 25 years ago, so I've given him my brother's name as his middle name and I took him into the changing room for his first footballing environment."

The manager added: "It's difficult because Harrow is always a special place for me and I just feel we didn't perform. It was difficult because Harrow didn't come alive until all was lost.

"If I'm brutally honest, they're a million miles from when I left. I know some supporters will think that's my fault but

you have to make decisions based on your own personal circumstances and what your ambitions are.

"I spent maybe a decade here doing things for the club and working hard and trying to think positive and achieve things.

"When I left the one thing I left them with is that they actually felt that."

St Albans took the lead when former Fulham striker Barry Hayles headed home after just 14 minutes.

Lewis Toomey set up Hayles for his second goal before Sean Shields swept in a well-taken third in the last 15 minutes.

Former Saint Joakim Ehui grabbed a late consolation for the hosts.

Boro have lost their last five matches and need to turn their form around at home to Carshalton Athletic on Saturday afternoon.

## Stones to face Lowestoft Town

WEALDSTONE have been handed a home draw with Lowestoft Town after their 2-0 win over Biggleswade Town in the FA Cup.

The second qualifying round tie will take place on Saturday, September 22 which means their clash with Hampton & Richmond Borough will have to be rearranged.

Gordon Bartlett's side ensured they avoided an early exit for the third consecutive year with a comfortable victory over Evo Stick Division One outfit Biggleswade.

The Stones nearly opened the scoring after just three minutes but Richard Jolly's close-range strike cannoned off the crossbar.

Craig Daniel came close for the visitors but his shot was well saved by home goalkeeper Rikki Banks.

Prolific striker Jolly made no mistake after 17 minutes when he gave Wealdstone the lead.

Peter Dean crossed the ball into the area and Jolly placed his effort past Michael McEntegart in the Biggleswade net.

Wealdstone started the second half strongly and were rewarded with another goal.

Kurtney Brook released Jolly and he threaded the ball through to Dean who stabbed it home.

Dean had a chance to double his tally for the match late on but his shot flew wide of the target.

The Stones return to action in the league this weekend with a trip to Concord Rangers.

Meanwhile, the club will host a 'Meet the Manager and Chairman' event on Wednesday evening at Grosvenor Vale.

It will take place in the Aquarium Bar at 7.45pm and anyone is welcome to attend.



Harrow Borough were beaten at home by St Albans City in the FA Cup.

Picture: DAVID TAVENER

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