

News briefly

Acorn host strong finals tournament

GEORGE CRISTEA and Petronel Stoian defeated Ravi Gupta and Neil Phillips in the men's doubles Acorn LTC finals. Cristea beat Gupta in the men's singles while Steve Melzack won the vets event. Melzack and Lawrence Kaffell won the vets doubles. Barbara Chappell and Lyn Hamlyn won the ladies' doubles and Kavi Shah landed the Under-16 boys' title.

Old Millhillians defeat Harrow

HARROW RFC suffered a 24-14 defeat at Old Millhillians in Herts Middlesex One. The visitors went in 14-9 up at half-time. The hosts had four players sinbinned during the course of the match but they still managed to turn the game around and take the points. Harrow return to action this weekend at home to London Welsh Amateurs.

Wembley draw for Saracens

SARACENS drew 9-9 with Leicester Tigers at Wembley in the Premiership on Saturday. It was a turgid encounter between the two title contenders. Owen Farrell missed a number of kicks for the hosts but Charlie Hodgson came off the bench to salvage a draw for the Men in Black.

Stones face Lowestoft in FA Cup rematch

WEALDSTONE will face their play-off conquerers Lowestoft Town in the FA Cup this weekend.

Gordon Bartlett's side were beaten at Lowestoft in a heartbreaking Ryman Premier semi-final defeat in May.

The sides have been reunited again in the second qualifying round of the FA

Cup but the Stones have never beaten their Suffolk opponents.

Wealdstone had to battle back twice to earn a 2-2 draw at Concord Rangers at the weekend.

The visitors could easily have taken an early lead but Lee Chappell's strike cannoned off the crossbar.

The away side's defence kept Concord at bay until the 28th minute when they opened the scoring.

Tony Stokes found Harry Elmes and he sent a long-range strike into the net past the despairing dive of Rikki Banks.

The Stones looked a different proposition in the second half and they nearly forced an equaliser when Kurtney Brooks' strike was saved by keeper Michael Jordan.

But Wealdstone were back on level terms within minutes when Tom Pett lifted the ball into the area and striker Richard Jolly fired home.

Bartlett's side were stunned ten minutes from time when they fell behind for the second time in the match.

Banks made a superb save to push the ball away for a corner. From the set-piece, Tony Stokes rose and headed it into the net.

But the visitors responded almost instantly and Chappell's speculative 25-yard strike deflected into the goal for their second equaliser of the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Wealdstone Ladies kept their 100 per cent record with a 6-1 win over Milton Keynes City Diamonds.

Natalie Osman and Katie Harling gave them a comfortable lead.

Osman went on to score three more goals in the second half as the visitors cruised to victory.

Nicola Dixon also found the net as the Ladies kept their outstanding early season form going.

Their next game sees Wealdstone play Chiltern Saints at the Vale.

Harrow Borough back on track

HARROW BOROUGH ended a five-match losing run with a vital 1-0 home win over Carshalton Athletic.

The Reds had failed to win since their opening day victory over Thurrock and there was a great sense of relief after ending their barren run of form.

Dave Anderson's side made a promising start and nearly opened the scoring when Rob Wollaston released Steve Ferguson and he fired just wide of the goal.

Michael Peacock also had a decent opportunity when his strike was parried by the visiting goalkeeper.

The hosts ended the half strongly and were unlucky to see Gary Burrell fire an effort over the crossbar.

Harrow started the second period slowly and were indebted to Latvian goalkeeper Elvijs Putnins who kept the scoreline intact.

The keeper was forced into a string of excellent saves as the visitors enjoyed their best spell of the match.

Boro finally started to come to life in the second half and Ferguson curled an effort narrowly past the post.

Carshalton's keeper made a brilliant save from Simeon Akinola's header as the clock ticked on.

But, just as it appeared the match would finish goalless, Boro snatched a winner with three minutes of the game remaining.

Ferguson sent in a dangerous free-kick and Burrell neatly flicked the ball into the net.

The Reds have arranged a friendly this weekend, after their FA Cup exit, and will host Uxbridge at mid-day with free admission.



Lee Chappell celebrates his equaliser for the visitors.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

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