

News briefly

Tennis coach wins Middlesex award

NIGEL BUCKMAN has been named the tennis coach of the year at the LTA awards ceremony. The head coach at Pinner LTC picked up the honour at the evening held at the Queens Club in London. Buckman has spent 25 years working as a coach and he received the award from tennis player Anne Keothavong.

Wealdstone Ladies rout Buckingham

WEALDSTONE LADIES thrashed Buckingham Athletic 11-0. Goal machine Natalie Osman netted a double hat-trick while Nicola Dixon was on fire as she scored four times. Lauren Simmons completed the victory. Meanwhile, the Under-18s defeated Caversham 8-0. Kevisha Brown opened the scoring while Ria Bird (2), Catherine Fahy (4) and Sarah Key sealed the win.

Sarries stay top despite defeat

SARACENS remain top of pool one despite losing 15-9 to Munster on Saturday night. The Men in Black were below par but still came away with a losing bonus-point through Owen Farrell's late penalty which could prove crucial. The two sides face each other again on Sunday afternoon at Vicarage Road.

Wealdstone slump to Lowestoft setback

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett described his side's performance as "inept" after they suffered a 3-0 defeat at Lowestoft Town.

The Stones went into the match with only one loss in the Ryman Premier Division this season but were comfortably beaten at the club who defeated them in last season's play-off semi-final.

Bartlett said: "We were inept virtually all over the park with only Rikki Banks doing well and keeping us in it."

"I am bitterly disappointed. We went the entire afternoon with hardly a shot on target; the question now is how we respond to this."

The Stones were second best throughout the match and it could have been a heavier defeat if it wasn't for the performance of goalkeeper Banks.

Richard Jolly was handed a rest with a place on the bench as striker Chris Moore made his debut for the Stones.

But he had little chance to impress as Lowestoft dominated and opened the scoring when Jack Defty headed home from a corner.

Defty almost doubled the lead but his effort was brilliantly saved by Banks.

The hosts eventually made it 2-0 at the start of the second half when Joe Francis cut the ball back for Defty to find the net.

Jolly came off the bench and nearly pulled one back for Bartlett's side but he miskicked from close range.

Banks was called into action with two more excellent saves to deny Defty and Michael Frew.

But Lowestoft's pressure paid off when they killed off the contest with their third goal. Defty completed his hat-trick four minutes from time when he headed in Danny Cunningham's free-kick.

Bartlett will be looking for a strong response from his side this weekend when they host Enfield Town. The Stones' midweek match at Canvey Island was postponed due to a frozen pitch.

Borough slip to Thurrock defeat

HARROW BOROUGH crashed to their fifth consecutive home defeat after losing 3-2 against East Thurrock United.

The defeat plunged Dave Anderson's side into the relegation mire heading into the festive period.

The home team got off to a flat start and were punished early on when Sam Collins was not closed down and he fired the ball past goalkeeper Elvijs Putnins.

Boro responded and forced Elliot Justham into a decent save when he turned Simeon Akinola's effort round the post.

The hosts' best spell of the match resulted in an equaliser when Akinola charged into the area and the ball fell to Frankie Merrifield who netted his first goal for the club.

Just five minutes later Boro fell behind for the second time in the game. A series of mistakes enabled Kris Newby to fire the ball into the unguarded net.

Boro put a decent move together at the start of the second half but Emmanuel Akokhia headed over Michael Barima's cross.

The visitors extended their lead after 63 minutes when Hakeem Araba found the net after a header came back off the crossbar.

Boro pulled one back when Akinola blasted a 20-yard free-kick past the keeper but United held on for the victory.

Boro's home game with Metropolitan Police was called off due to the freezing conditions on Tuesday. Anderson's side are scheduled to visit Leiston this weekend.



It was an afternoon to forget for the Stones at Lowestoft Town on Saturday. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

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