

News briefly

Brewer returns to Wealdstone

WEALDSTONE midfielder Tommy Brewer has returned to the club following a loan spell at Carshalton Athletic. The Stones did not play this week due to the freezing conditions with games at Thurrock and Margate both postponed. Gordon Bartlett's side are due to Hastings United this weekend assuming the weather improves.

First home game for England team

THE England six-a-side football team will play their first home game in Wembley against Bulgaria on February 5. The teams will be playing at Vale Farm for the Stiliyan Petrov Cup. The match will help raise money for leukemia. England's six-a-side team were formed last year and competed in the inaugural miniEURO event won by Romania in Moldova.

Finn unable to stop India series victory

STEVE FINN took one wicket in England's five-wicket defeat to India yesterday [Wednesday]. The tourists lost the series after going down to India in Mohali. England scored 257 for seven from their innings. In reply, India reached the target in 47.3 overs. Middlesex bowler Finn finished with one for 39 from ten overs.

Olympic champion launches Swimathon

SWIMMERS will dive into the world's biggest fundraising swim at Harrow Leisure Centre and Hatch End Swimming Pool in April as they take on a Swimathon challenge in an effort to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Held at over 600 pools across the UK from 26-28 April, the event will see thousands of swimmers challenge themselves through 5k, 2.5k and 1.5k individual challenges or Team 5k/1.5k challenges, while raising funds to help Marie Curie Nurses care for terminally ill people at the end of their lives.

Entries for Swimathon 2013 opened this month. Television presenter Tim Lovejoy and Swimathon president and Olympic gold medallist Duncan Goodhew launched the event with the unveiling of the Swimathon squad.

Hand-picked by Goodhew himself, the squad is made up of Lovejoy, Sportsister Editor Louise Hudson, Marie Curie Cancer Care supporter Sue Barclay, and Swimathon competition winner, Jennifer Sutton.

The launch saw the squad take part in their first training session ahead of their 5k team challenge later this year at London's Oasis Sports Centre.

Lovejoy said: "Being part of the Swimathon Squad is a fantastic opportunity to brush up on my swimming skills, while raising awareness of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Like many people, my family has been affected by cancer so I know just how important the Marie Curie Nursing service is to people at the end of their lives and their families."

Goodhew added: "It's going to be a busy few months coaching, and taking part in the Swimathon squad 5k team challenge. The squad provides a fantastic opportunity to bring together swimmers of all abilities and demonstrate to the thousands of people taking part in Swimathon every year that anyone can achieve their goal regardless of their ability, while raising funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care as they smash their target."

Duncan Cogger, general manager at Harrow, said: "Swimathon is a fantastic way to bring our community together, to raise money for charity, and provides a great challenge."

Entry is available online for a Swimathon session before 31 January 2013, and you can enjoy half price entry. Swimmer entry is open at www.swimathon.org until April 24.



Duncan Goodhew is part of the Swimathon squad.
Picture: ACTION IMAGES

'It's a big opportunity'

THE England Korfball Junior Inter-Area Championships will be held at Harrow Leisure Centre this weekend.

Teams from around the country will compete at Under-11, Under-14, Under-16 and Under-19 level aiming to become national champions.

The event is being organised by local club Harrow Vultrix, with support from the London Korfball Association and the England Korfball Association.

Teams representing both London and Harrow will play in the competition. Paralympian gold medallist Tim Prendergast will be attending to present the prizes.

Korfball is a mixed team sport with four male and four female players on each team. The game is Dutch and shares its roots with basketball and netball. It was invented in 1902 by a Dutch schoolteacher who wanted a game that all his pupils at the first co-educational schools in Amsterdam could play together.

Max Buttinger, head coach of Harrow Vultrix, said: "The whole Harrow Korfball community has become totally absorbed with preparing for this amazing youth event. The parents, kids, locals and council have gone the extra mile to help train the children, get kit, find sponsors, advertise and promote the event, there is a real buzz."

"It is a big opportunity to promote youth korfball in London. The youngsters are nearly as excited as the parents with Tim Prendergast presenting the prizes. Roll on the weekend when Harrow will run a great show."

Mark Paxton, development officer of the London Korfball Association, said: "To have some of the best young korfball players in the country competing in Harrow is a great achievement and it will raise the profile of korfball in North-West London."

"Harrow have put a lot of effort into this event and we hope that the London and Harrow teams will do us proud."

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