

News briefly

Harrow crowned champions again

HARROW RFC celebrated becoming champions for the fourth season in a row after winning Herts Middlesex One. The title was sealed after a comprehensive 36-0 win over Old Millhillians. Skipper Dave West and Sean Pratt put them into an early lead before tries from Chris West, Hyland Proctor, Adam West and Shane Togher completed the win.

North lends hand in keeper coaching

WEALDSTONE goalkeeper Jonathan North was joined by four professional goalkeepers at the weekend to provide free coaching sessions for around 70 children. North linked up as part of an event held by GK Icon which is a goalkeeping academy founded by Brentford's Richard Lee. If you are interested in attending a session visit www.gkicon.com.

Smith returns to ring at Wembley

HARROW WEALD boxer Mitchell Smith is back in the ring this weekend at Wembley Arena. The 20-year-old puts his unbeaten record on the line when he takes on Welshman Chuck Jones on Saturday. Super featherweight Smith has won all five bouts and his last victory came against Igor Tsujev in December.

Wealdstone boss sets home semi-final target

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett believes his side need two more wins to ensure a home play-off semi-final in the Ryman Premier Division.

The Stones' 2-0 home win over Cray Wanderers pushed them back into second spot with four matches remaining.

While Wealdstone are still ten points off leaders Whitehawk, the manager thinks a top-three finish is well within their sights.

Bartlett said: "We went close last year. Can we go one step further this time? Well it won't be for the want of trying."

"We are at the business end of the season and the pressure and tension is there because every game is important."

Bartlett continued: "I think we need two wins to get a home semi-final but we want to win all four of them."

"I wasn't in the best of moods last week but things changed quite dramatically in the last week. We won our game and all the other sides up there dropped points."

"It suddenly means that we're only one point of mathematically securing a play-off place. But we have to strive to get second or third spot if we can."

The Stones were far from at their best on Saturday despite seeing off Cray.

Wealdstone got off to the ideal start inside seven minutes when Scott McGleish beat the offside trap and fired past keeper Andy Walker.

The Stones were relieved to see returning goalkeeper Rikki Banks save Leigh Bremner's penalty and preserve their lead.

Wealdstone sealed the win in the second half when Chris Moore rifled the ball home.

Bartlett said: "It was a poor performance but we did enough. We have been lacking creativity in recent weeks but hopefully we can stumble over the line into second or third place."

"There are some strange results at this time of the season. There have been an awful lot of games there is a bit of pressure on teams at both ends of the table."

The Stones travel to Hampton and Richmond Borough tonight [Thursday] before visiting Carshalton Athletic on Saturday.

Bartlett said: "Hampton have recently lost their manager and have underachieved this season but they were in the Conference South last season so they're no mugs."



Chris Moore celebrates his goal against Cray Wanderers. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Borough boost survival hopes

HARROW BOROUGH boss Dave Anderson believes they would be unlucky to get relegated from their current position.

Boro are five points clear of the bottom three with four games remaining.

Anderson said: "While it is still possible for us to get relegated I don't think it is probable."

"I think we would be very unlucky to go down with 41 points. But if we could get three more then we'd definitely be safe."

The Reds moved closer to safety after a hard-fought 0-0 draw at Hampton and Richmond Borough on Tuesday night.

The visitors had the best chance of the first half when Simeon Akinola fired just wide of the post before the break.

Hampton made the stronger start to the second half and had the ball in the net only for it to be disallowed for a foul.

The result followed on from an impressive 2-1 win at promotion challengers Concord Rangers at the weekend.

Dave Anderson's side opened the scoring after five minutes when Shaun Lucien's shot was blocked on the line but Paul Olima reacted quickest to fire the ball into the net.

The hosts grabbed an equaliser early on in the second half when Ben Greenhalgh's free-kick was pushed onto the bar by Ross Fitzsimons and Nicky Cowley tucked home the rebound.

But Boro sealed a vital three points when Lucien netted a free-kick from 22 yards out.

The Reds host third bottom Lewes this weekend.

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