

News briefly

Smith impresses in Wembley stoppage

HARROW super-featherweight Mitchell Smith eased to victory at Wembley Arena after a first-round stoppage against Gavin Reid. The 20-year-old maintained his unbeaten professional record as he won his sixth fight. A flurry of heavy punches proved too much for Reid as he ensured it was a quick night's work.

Double delight for Eastcote teams

EASTCOTE CC Colts celebrated double success at the weekend. The club won the County indoor Under-11 title and followed this up with victory in the Under-13 indoor final. The Under-11s won all ten of their matches in the indoor season including victories in the finals over Hampstead and Ealing. The older group defeated Hornsey and South Hampstead to wrap up the title.

Bessborough earn friendly victory

BESSBOROUGH CC started their season with a 61-run friendly win over Pinner. A blistering knock of 96 from Andy Carr helped them on their way to a total of 228 for four from 40 overs. Nitin Modha took four for 37 as Pinner were skittled out for 167. Bessborough Seconds lost by five wickets to Rickmansworth Seconds.

Stones targeting home advantage

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett insists his side will have no-one else to blame if they miss out on a home semi-final in the Ryman Premier Division.

The Stones have slipped down to third place and have a one-point advantage over Concord Rangers in the race for a home tie.

Wealdstone host Canvey Island, who still harbour play-off ambitions, while Concord entertain Leiston in the final league game of the season on Saturday.

Bartlett said: "We have one game to go to ensure that we have a home semi-final but if we don't get it we will only have ourselves to blame.

"We need all the help that we can get. If they [fans] can try and help us get over the line then it will just make it a bit easier by playing at home.

"The most important thing is we're in the play-offs and we are not going to be up against world beaters.

"We know that we're capable of beating them home or away but we would just like to make our life a bit easier by not having to travel away and having our fans behind us."

On the task of taking on Canvey Island, Bartlett replied:

"They beat us at their place and I don't think there is any team that you can take for granted in this league."

The Stones had a week of mixed fortunes which started with a disappointing 3-1 defeat at Hampton and Richmond Borough last Thursday.

Wealdstone responded with a 2-0 victory at Carshalton on Saturday after goals from Scott McGleish and Tom Pett.

Bartlett's side faced second-placed Lowestoft Town on Tuesday night but they were unable to break them down as they were held to a goalless draw.

The result kept the visitors one point clear of the Stones with an extra game in hand.

Bartlett said: "It was a bit of a stalemate.

"They came for a point and unfortunately that is what they got.

"We had a decent spell in the second half where we were very much on top but we didn't get the goal."

The manager added: "We had a gameplan but it didn't go to the script when Pett went off with a badly swollen foot.

"I think he will be struggling for at least the next week and it could be longer because it doesn't look good."



James Hammond attacks during the Stones' draw with Lowestoft Town.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

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Reds still not safe

HARROW BOROUGH can secure their place in the Ryman Premier Division with a win at home to Bognor Regis Town this evening [Thursday].

The Reds are three points clear of the bottom three in 18th position but can still be caught with some of the sides having two games left.

Dave Anderson's side were beaten 2-0 at East Thurrock United on Tuesday night as they missed the chance to move away from the relegation zone.

It has been a disappointing week so far for the Reds after they went down to a 2-0 defeat at home to relegation-threatened Lewes on Saturday.

Nathan Crabb gave the visitors the lead just before the break when he lifted the ball over goalkeeper Mark Osborn.

Lewes sealed the victory when Crabb struck again after nodding home from close range.

Boro did not threaten until the second half when Garry Jones' free-kick was saved by Kieron Thorp.

Simeon Akinola also had a couple of chances but the striker failed to hit the target.

Their last two results have renewed the pressure on them going into their last home match of the season tonight.

If the Reds fail to get a result then they may need to come away with a win or draw from their trip to Margate on the final day of the season on Saturday.

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