

## News briefly

### Wolleaston wins Borough award

ROB WOLLEASTON was named Harrow Borough's players' player of the year at their presentation night. Simeon Akinola was selected as the vice-president's association's player of the year. Michael Peacock won the supporters' player of the year for Dave Anderson's side after they secured their status in the Ryman Premier Division.

### Bessborough see off rivals St Marys

BESSBOROUGH CC completed their pre-season with a 53-run win over Harrow St Marys. Captain Dan Hawes led the way with an unbeaten knock of 104 as the side reached 218 for three. Rohan Karkhanis took three for 34 as Harrow were dismissed for 165. Bessborough Seconds defeated Hanwell Town by five runs. Phil Bush hit 95 as they scored 197 for nine. But Hanwell came up short as they finished up on 192 for nine.

### Middlesex fall to Glamorgan loss

MIDDLESEX CCC suffered a 26-run defeat to Glamorgan in the Yorkshire Bank 40 on Monday at Lord's. The hosts were only able to restrict Glamorgan to 280 for three in their innings. In reply, Gareth Berg top scored with 75 but Middlesex came up short of the target on 254 for nine.

# Play-off agony for Wealdstone

GORDON BARTLETT admitted Wealdstone's Ryman Premier Division semi-final exit at home to Concord Rangers was one of his toughest defeats as a manager.

The hosts were in complete control and led 1-0 but a late goal helped give the visitors a 2-1 extra-time win to shatter the Stones' promotion dreams.

Bartlett, whose side hit the woodwork four times, said: "Ten months of hard work was blown away in the last minute of our last game of the season and that hurts. It's a bitter pill and we have to reflect on why it happened."

"I think we did everything right other than the score. I don't know what we could do differently apart from shaving the posts."

A record crowd of 1,055 gathered at the Vale for the semi-final clash and the Stones repeatedly came close to leading in the first half.

Bartlett's side had to wait until the 62nd minute to open the scoring through Richard Jolly's header in his final appearance before retirement.

Concord snatched an equaliser totally against the run of play as the match headed for injury time when Steve King scrambled in a scrappy equaliser.

The visitors completed the most unlikely comeback when Tony Stokes fired the Beachboys through to the final which they went on to win.

Bartlett said: "I'm over it now but it was a hard one to take. We dominated the game and hit the woodwork four times.

Their keeper pulled off two world class saves.

"I think 4-0 to us would have been a fair reflection and their manager was in agreement. I'm still scratching my head as to how we didn't win it. I couldn't see them scoring in a month of Sundays.

"The best team does not always win a football match and over the 90 minutes we were comfortably the better team."

The Stones boss is adamant Concord were not one of the best sides in the league but claims their strength and conditioning helped fire them to promotion.

He said: "The bottom line is we're out and Concord are in the Conference South. What I would say about them is Concord's resilience and fitness has probably carried them through.

"I wouldn't put them in the top half a dozen teams in terms of quality but they have something that no-one else has got and they win games."

The Wealdstone manager insists he still finds it hard to understand how his team lost at the semi-final stage for the second year in a row.

But he had nothing but praise for his players despite missing out again in the play-offs.

"It took me a couple of days but even now, when I'm on my own, I still shake my head in disbelief.

"Full credit to the players because they gave me everything I could have asked for.

"Everybody in the ground was in disbelief. I felt it was cruel but we have to get over it."

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The Stones suffered a heartbreaking semi-final defeat to Concord Rangers. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

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