

## News briefly

### First league defeat for Harrow Borough

HARROW BOROUGH suffered their first Ryman Premier Division defeat of the season after losing 3-2 at Bury Town on Tuesday night. An early Leroy Griffiths penalty, which was saved, proved costly for Dave Anderson's side. Shaun Lucien scored twice, including one from the penalty spot, but it was not enough to rescue a point. The Reds were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Billericay Town in Saturday's opener. Lucien's 77th minute free-kick cancelled out Town's opener.

### Batting milestone for captain Hawes

BESSBOROUGH skipper Danny Hawes became the first batsman at the club since 2005 to score 1,000 runs in a season. Hawes scored 58 in the side's winning draw against Perivale Phoenixians in Middlesex Division One. His contribution took his tally for the season to 1,020. He has scored three centuries this season.

### Victory keeps Tamil on top of division

MIDDLESEX Tamil Sports and Social Club stayed top of Middlesex Division One after a 96-run win over Shree Kutch Leva Patel CC. Ashok Andrew scored 53 as the side posted a total of 167. A brilliant spell of five for 57 from Kavi Kannathasan, alongside four for 17 from David Devadoss, helped dismiss the opposition for 71.

# 'Players we've lost are hard to replace'

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett insists his team are in transition after the departure of a group of key players during the summer.

The Stones suffered Ryman Premier Division play-off heart-break last season and the close season has seen six players leave Grosvenor Vale.

Prolific striker Richard Jolly retired, Alex Dyer joined Welling United while Lee Chappell, Chris O'Leary and Darren Locke have moved to St Albans City. Goalkeeper Rikki Banks also left the Stones.

Bartlett has brought in defenders Jey Siva and Jerome Okimo. New midfielders Adam Martin and Jack Hutchinson will be joined by former Reading winger Glen Little once the 37-year-old receives international clearance. Striker Lewis Putman also arrived from Oxhey Jets but is out for several months with a knee injury.

Bartlett said: "We are a team in transition. If you take out the players we've lost then they're difficult to replace."

"I'm happy enough with the squad but we know we need to strengthen."

"It hasn't been easy and everybody has to realise with all these changes it will take a bit of time for the squad to settle down."

The Stones are still looking for their first win after an opening 1-1 draw at Maidstone United on Saturday and being held 2-2 at home to Bognor Regis Town on Monday.

Chris Moore's equaliser earned a point at Maidstone but Wealdstone blew a 2-0 lead at home to Bognor.

Wes Parker and Elliot Godfrey scored for the hosts but costly mistakes denied them maximum points.

Bartlett said: "It's been a frustrating week because we've got two points but could easily have had six points."

"We have to be a bit more professional because we've let Bognor back into the game with two individual errors."

"We gave the ball away in our own half on all three goals this week and this is something we need to iron out quickly."

The manager added: "In pre-season we conceded 11 goals and ten of them were our own fault. It hasn't been collective errors but we've been making individual mistakes. The good thing is I'm confident we can easily resolve this."

The Stones host Wingate & Finchley this weekend before travelling to Hampton & Richmond Borough on Tuesday.



The Stones squandered a 2-0 lead in their draw against Bognor Regis. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## National triumph for young Saints

HARROW ST MARY'S Under-15s were crowned ECB national club champions after defeating High Wycombe.

The side defeated Stockton by eight wickets before beating High Wycombe in the final at Shrewsbury School by six wickets.

Manager Sadhna Patel said: "The boys have done themselves and the club proud today, finally fulfilling the true potential we knew they possessed."

"They are a team of true champions to win a place in the history books. Being crowned the best Under-15 team in the country from 1,700 clubs who started out in April, is a great achievement."

"A Middlesex team have not won this championship since 1978, so I hope Middlesex will be proud of our achievements."

"Of the 12 team members ten have been with the club since the age of nine. Development of our young cricketers is at the forefront of the club's development strategy, so seeing this come to fruition is very satisfying."

In the final, Wycombe were restricted to 118 for eight after Charanvir Gill picked up two for 33.

Kushal Patel launched Harrow's response by scoring 32 and Ian Harris's knock of 38 took them to the brink of victory. Amar Dave's batting ensured they lifted the trophy.

Their success followed on from the team's victory as Under-10s in the Gubby Allen final at Lord's.

Harrow's semi-final win over Stockton owed much to their bowling as they dismissed the opposition for 71. Patel returned figures of three for 12. An unbeaten 39 from Nikhil Rawal sealed the Saints win.

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