

## News briefly

### Stones let lead slip against Lewes

Wealdstone are fourth in the Ryman Premier after taking four points from games against Lewes and Thamesmead Town. The Stones, who signed striker Jonny Wright and Tom Hamblin this week, threw away a two-goal lead in the final eight minutes against Lewes to draw 2-2. On Saturday Wealdstone overcame Thamesmead 2-0 thanks to a Chris Moore brace.

### Late Berry strike seals Borough win

Harrow Borough secured their third away win of the Ryman Premier season after defeating Carshalton Athletic 2-1. A Jordan Berry penalty and an 89th minute goal from Ronnel Dennis ensured Borough claimed the three points.

### Stanmore to hold open day

Stanmore Golf Club will welcome members of the public on Sunday as the club holds an open day. Professional James Reynolds will give advice to novices and experienced players interested in signing up.

News immediately:  
harrowtimes.co.uk

# Ballance's Ashes call

Former Harrow School pupil Gary Ballance's inclusion in England's Ashes squad for the winter series Down Under might have surprised some, but not former captain Allan Lamb.

When England announced their 17-man touring party to Australia it was the name of Ballance that stood out, the 23-year-old getting the nod ahead of Nick Compton, Ravi Bopara and James Taylor.

Zimbabwean Ballance is uncapped at Test level and has played a solitary one-day international for England to date - going for a duck against Ireland.

However his form for Yorkshire this LV County Championship season put him on the selectors' radar, the left-hander scoring 995 runs at an average of 52.36 ahead of the final game with Surrey.

And while he is untested in the senior side Ballance was picked for the Lions earlier this year and in the space of nine days made 104 against the touring Australians as well as 115 and 87 against Bangladesh.

Lamb knows a thing or two about what it takes to win the Ashes.

He helped England lift the urn in 1985 and 1987, and while Ballance will get on the plane fully aware that he is not first choice, the ex-batsman is adamant Yorkshire's latest star will come good if given a

chance in the side.

"Gary Ballance has been absolutely fantastic," said Lamb. "He was really pushing and I wasn't surprised that he got picked in the England tour party for Australia."

"From what I have seen of him I think he can go all the way to the top. He has got a good head and a good technique. He looks good enough and he is working very hard with Graham Gooch."

"I always thought there was a good chance they would take him because I thought England would be looking for the future."

"Ravi Bopara has been around for ages and unfortunately he has never quite fulfilled his potential and made the most of his talent. He's been up and down for England over the years but he has done well with the one-dayers and I'm sure he'll be in the one-day squad in Australia."

"You have got to take your chance at Test cricket - that is the big thing."

"Batting down the order at six you have got to get some runs when you can and he has never really taken his chance and cemented his place there so that opens the door for the likes of Ballance."

For more information on the LV= County Championship and this year's LV= County Championship Breakthrough Player Award, visit [www.LV.com/cricket](http://www.LV.com/cricket).



Gary Ballance has been selected for England's winter tour of Australia.  
PICTURE: ACTION IMAGES

# Smith wins first title as a pro

Harrow super-featherweight Mitchell Smith claimed the Southern Area title following a points win against Scott Moises but admitted the fight was harder than he expected.

It was the first time the 20-year-old had been past six rounds but he used his greater boxing skills to clinch a 96-95 victory against Moises.

Smith is now unbeaten in seven bouts and is looking forward to defending his newly acquired title.

"I wanted an English title shot in my next fight but this has been an eye-opener," Smith told linboxing.com.

"I'm now looking to defend the southern area title and just get a bit more experience."

"I will admit that I thought it would be easier than this but I have age on my side."

"I'm very happy because it was a mature performance, controlled, and Scott Moises is a capable opponent."

"And it was great to be involved in such a good contest where my opponent wanted to win."

"As everyone has been saying, I have done what I wanted in my previous six fights. Scott Moises made me think and it was a tactical fight."

The "baby faced assassin" had to overcome the longer reach of his opponent but did perform well to score often and effectively.

The rounds remained tight throughout the ten-round contest and they could have gone either way.

However, Smith's higher work rate swung the result his way and ensured he clinched the title.

He added: "It was nice to do the rounds. I had never gone past five rounds before. It's good to get 10 rounds in the bag."

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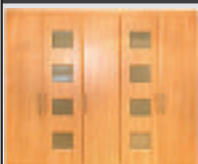
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