

News briefly

**Leaders Harrow ease to Hitchin victory**

Harrow RFC moved four points clear at the top of London Three North West after thrashing Hitchin 56-10. The victors ran in nine tries which took their total to an impressive 22 in just four league games this season. Harrow secured their bonus point by half-time as they led 25-3. The scoring continued in the second half as flanker John Kinnell marked his debut with the final try of the game.

**Sarries set to start Heineken Cup bid**

Saracens launch their Heineken Cup campaign tomorrow [Friday] with a trip to Connacht. The Men in Black are fancied to go far in the competition after reaching the semi-final last season. Sarries have won all of their Premiership matches this season and now turn their attention to Europe. Their other pool three opponents are French giants Toulouse and Zebre.

**Help sought for Earlsmead work**

A working party has been arranged to tidy up Harrow Borough's ground this week. The work will take place at Earlsmead from 10am on Saturday. The overgrown areas around the ground will be cleared behind the stands. All help is welcome and volunteers are asked to bring along gloves and garden shears if possible.

## Stones chase FA Cup win over title rivals

Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett insists his side have nothing to fear ahead of their FA Cup clash at AFC Hornchurch on Saturday.

Their opponents are currently second in the Ryman Premier Division and will present a challenging third qualifying round tie. The two sides met in the league last month and drew 1-1 after a 96th minute equaliser from Hornchurch.

Bartlett said: "They are near the top of our league and we know it's going to be a very difficult match. We were disappointed to draw with them earlier in the season when we felt we had the better of it."

"They scored five last week and are on the crest of a wave but we will go over and give it our best shot. They have the advantage of being at home and I think they've signed four players since we played them, so they have made their intentions clear about getting straight back up after relegation last season."

The Stones boss added: "The number one target is the league but then the FA Cup comes next, if we could get into the first round proper then who knows what we can do? But it's only the third qualifying round stage and it's a difficult one but certainly won't frighten us."

"It's not just a matter of financial incentive but also the prestige of the competition. It is the opportunity to get one of the bigger boys."

Wealdstone suffered their first defeat of the season on Saturday when they lost 1-0 at home to Margate. The result has dropped them down to sixth in the table.

Bartlett said: "In terms of territory and possession we dominated but we failed to create enough and our build-up play was too slow."

"It is all about how you react when things go wrong. We realise where we fell short and we'll try to put that right."

The Stones responded with a 1-0 victory at home to Hendon in the Ryman League Cup after a goal from James Hammond on Monday night.



The Stones edged to a win over Hendon in the Ryman League Cup on Monday night. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Borough fall to Wingate defeat

Harrow Borough's miserable recent record against Wingate & Finchley continued after a 2-0 home defeat in the Ryman Premier Division on Saturday.

The Reds' latest setback means they have taken just one point from their last five meetings with their rivals.

The hosts had a decent opportunity to open the scoring when Michael Barima's cross was headed over the bar by Simeon Akinola.

Visiting keeper Bobby Smith was then called into action as he tipped over Shaun Lucien's strike.

Dave Anderson's side missed another glaring opportunity when Michael Peacock headed Rhys Murrell-Williamson's corner over the bar.

Boro began the second half promisingly and were unlucky not to find the net when a Danny Leech header rebounded back off the post.

The visitors started to offer a greater threat and went close when Leon Smith headed wide.

The breakthrough finally came for Wingate in the 76th minute after a shot hit the post and Ahmet Rifat took full advantage to net from the rebound.

The Reds nearly grabbed a quick equaliser but luck was not on their side as debutant Gareth Chendlik's strike cannoned off both posts but no-one was able to follow in and score.

Wingate doubled their lead in the 88th minute when Leon Smith broke upfield and tucked away their second goal.

The result leaves Boro with 13 points from as many games in 16th position.

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