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News briefly

Five-star show by Northwood

NORTHWOOD cruised to a 5-0 win at home to Witham Town on Saturday in Ryman One North. Wood led 2-0 at half-time through goals from Eugene Ofori and Gary Senior. Ofori added his second after the restart before the visitors scored an own goal. Gary Burrell completed the win from the penalty spot.

Junior golf day event

KIDS can try out a free golf day at Premium Golf Schools Academy next week. Children aged between five and 16 are welcome at the event in Watford Road, Northwick Park on Wednesday between 2-5pm. Coaches will be on hand to offer advice. Anyone interested in booking can ring 0208 422

Strauss not picked in squad

ANDREW STRAUSS has been left out of England's provisional 30-man squad for the ICC World Twenty20 tournament. The Middlesex batsman has been omitted from the group because he is not considered a specialist at Twenty20. But county captain Shaun Udal and Owais Shah have been selected in the squad.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

Bartlett: 'We're still in with a chance'

by SIMON MAIL smail@london.newsquest.co.uk

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett says he will be delighted if they can go into the final game of the season with a chance of reaching the play-offs.

The Stones face a pivotal week in the Ryman Premier

with a game against rivals Dartford on Saturday before a meeting at rivals Harrow Borough on Monday. They end the week with a trip to champions Dover and Bartlett knows their promotion credentials will be severely tested.

He said: "We have got four games left and we are still in with a chance. If you had said that at Christmas, we

would be three points off the play-offs at this stage, I would have bitten your hand off.

"We have got three difficult games coming up and if we are still in with a shout of the play-offs in our last game then we have done well. I would be delighted if we went into the Hastings game with a shout."

The Stones thrashed Boro in their first meeting this season 6-0 but Bartlett believes they will be a different propo-

sition this time.

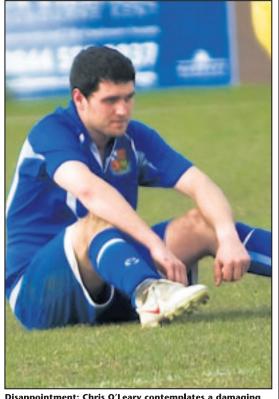
He said: "They are having a wonderful run and have an air of confidence about them. I'm sure they will be looking to avenge the first game. I've got no idea why that happened but David Howell has done a great job for them. All we can do is look after ourselves and it would be lovely to do the double.

Bartlett is looking for a response after they dropped out of the top-five following a 2-1 defeat at Maidstone Unit-ed on Saturday. After conceding an early goal, the visitors equalised through an excellent header from Greg Ngoyi. But they conceded again in the second half and slipped to

their first league defeat in seven games.

The Stones boss added: "It was disappointing but the players have given us the opportunity this year. We are sitting in sixth and we have everything to gain. I said we would be in the play-offs if we won our last five games. We didn't and it means it's out of our hands. All we can do is our best.

'After Christmas we had a little blip but we responded well. Now we hope we can respond again this weekend.'



Disappointment: Chris O'Leary contemplates a damaging defeat for Wealdstone. Picture: WEALDSTONE FC

Boro set for busy schedule

HARROW BOROUGH face a fixture pileup over the next week as they face a punishing run of four games in seven days.

Boro travel to bottom club Ramsgate on Saturday before a hotly-anticipated clash at home to Wealdstone on Easter Monday. Their next test is a league match at AFC Hornchurch on Thursday before hosting Tonbridge Angels on Saturday.

But Boro manager David Howell insists his players are looking forward to the challenge after an excellent eight-match unbeaten streak eased their relegation

Howell said: "The players just want to keep the run going. They are enjoying their football and feel fresh. When you are on a losing run then things go against you and you have a mountain to climb. But the team spirit is good and we're looking for-

ward to the games."

Boro have a score to settle with the Stones after a humiliating 6-0 defeat at Christmas and Howell is confident they will re-adress the balance.

He said: "We were affected by losing

Robin Shroot [signed for Birmingham] despite him being at the game, and Weald-stone were boosted by him not playing.

"Both teams are in form and something has got to give. I can assure everyone that we will be better prepared for this match and it's one every footballer wants to be involved in. These are the games you play football for."

Boro were set to play Tilbury last night in the Ryman League Cup final at Staines. They warmed up for the clash by defeating Margate 3-2 on Saturday at Earlsmead The hosts found themselves 2-0 down at half-time but responded through an own goal, and second-half efforts from Ryan Watts and Gary Noel.







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