

News briefly

England complete India win at Lord's

ANDREW STRAUSS led England to a 196-run win over India in the first Test at Lord's on Monday. The Middlesex batsman scored 22 and 32 but team-mate Kevin Pietersen's brilliant double century steered them to the win. Middlesex batsman Eoin Morgan also struggled with figures of nought and 19. The second Test starts tomorrow at Trent Bridge.

Saracens target Cape Town match

SARACENS have asked for permission to stage their Heineken Cup game against Biarritz in South Africa. The Men in Black want to play the game, scheduled for the weekend of January 13, in Cape Town. Sarries have a group of South African players including Schalk Brits and Ernst Joubert.

Bolotov claims finals victory

YURA BOLOTOV has won Harrow Tennis Club's men's title at their annual finals day. Elena Synesi was crowned the women's champion. In the men's doubles competition, Steve Bloom and James Kavanagh were the winners. Synesi and Hazel Adams picked up the women's doubles title with Emma Shenton and Mick Hooker winning the mixed doubles.

Borough lose nine players

by SIMON MAIL

HARROW BOROUGH manager Dave Anderson admits he faces a difficult task rebuilding the squad after losing nine players this summer.

David Ijaha is the most high profile departure from Earlsmead after deciding to move with Danny Hart and Jerome Walker to St Albans City alongside former Boro boss David Howell.

Anderson said: "It wasn't a great shock that players left but the number that left was a bit more than I initially thought.

"It makes it a bit more difficult now and we have to rebuild. The squad is short and we will be adding to it in the next few weeks. It isn't going to be easy but everyone is aware of it.

"We would like to have kept all of the players and in particular David. He was the big one but the others were more than capable of playing at this level.

"It is a blow but it just means that we have to work even harder over the next few weeks to rebuild the squad.

"In the next two weeks you will see a big difference in the number of players at the club."

Anderson knows he has one of the smallest budgets in the Ryman Premier but was well aware of this

when he took the job.

Boro reached the play-offs last season but Anderson is keen to play down their chances of repeating this next season.

The former St Albans City boss said: "It's a small budget but that's no secret. I was aware it was one of the smaller ones in the division when I took the job.

"It is a major rebuilding process and we will try to achieve stability as quickly as we can.

"I would say that if I have been here eight years then I would expect us to have reached the play-offs."

Boro continued their preparation for the new campaign with a 1-1 draw at Sandhurst Town on Saturday. Kurt Morlese scored the goal for the visitors.

Anderson added: "It was a bit like after the lord mayor's show because it came after the QPR friendly. But it was a good fitness exercise for us on a lovely surface.

"Kurt is one of the guys in the squad that is capable of playing at this level.

"When people leave other players have to stand up and make an impression so it could be a big chance for him this year."

Boro travel to Northwood this evening before another away game at Hemel Hempstead Town on Saturday afternoon.

Stones earn Wycombe draw



David Hicks scored during the Stones' 1-1 draw with Wycombe Wanderers. : STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

WEALDSTONE produced their best performance of the pre-season campaign after holding League One Wycombe Wanderers to a 1-1 draw on Tuesday night.

The Stones more than held their own against Gary Waddock's side at Grosvenor Vale and arguably should have won the game.

Gordon Bartlett introduced several new faces including winger Scott McGubbin and former Hayes and Yeading defender Nathan Webb.

Danny Spendlove almost

gave the hosts the lead but Chairboys goalkeeper Steve Arnold saved his effort.

Wycombe opened the scoring after 16 minutes when Peter Dean was caught in possession and Matt Bloomfield tucked the ball past Jonathan North.

From this point onwards, Wealdstone dominated the match and it was no surprise when they levelled before half time.

Sean Cronin took the ball out of defence before Richard Jolly crossed for David Hicks to smash the ball past Arnold.

Bartlett's side piled on the pressure in the second half and came close to taking the lead through Jolly, Alex Dyer and Dean.

It was a much improved performance from their sloppy 3-3 draw at Biggleswade Town on Saturday.

After falling 2-0 behind, the Stones fought back through goals from Dean, Wes Parker and Jolly. But they were denied the win when the home side equalised four minutes from time.

The Stones travel to Tring Athletic on Saturday.

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