

News briefly

Saracens close in on quarter-finals

SARACENS need just one point from their game in Treviso this weekend to secure a Heineken Cup quarter-final place. The Men in Black defeated Biarritz 20-16 on Sunday after a try from scrum-half Ben Spencer. The Premiership champions will be targeting a win in Italy on Sunday which should be enough to earn them a home tie in the last eight of the competition.

Ruthless Harrow destroy Ickenham

HARROW RFC ran riot against Ickenham as they thrashed them 87-0 in their league and cup double win. Harrow moved four points clear at the top of Herts Middlesex Two after running in 15 tries in the rout. The victory also earned them a semi-final against Ruislip in the NW Middlesex Floodlit Cup.

Stones announce Dartford travel

WEALDSTONE Supporters Club will be taking a coach to Dartford for their FA Trophy match on Saturday, February 4. Travel will cost £10 for adults and £5 for Under-16s and seniors with the coach leaving at 12.15pm. To book call Jez Albert on 07903 805861.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

'That can only bode well for the future'

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett insists the belief they showed in their FA Trophy upset over Barrow can help their promotion charge this season.

Goals from Richard Jolly and Britt Assombalonga helped the Stones overturn a half-time deficit and seal a 2-1 win over the Conference side.

Bartlett, whose team are unbeaten in their last 13 games, said: "One word I use is belief. When players finish their career there are very few games you will look back on and remember. I told them I wanted them to go out there and pull off a giantkilling act.

"It will only stand us in good stead and the belief must be there after beating a Conference side. I'm proud of what they've done.

"I think we dominated for long periods and the players' attitude was spot on.

"If the players have belief then the confidence levels rise and we can play with more freedom.

"That can only bode well for the future. January has gone pretty well so if we can get through it unscathed then February becomes that much more important.

"There is confidence around the camp but not arrogance. You only get there with hard work.

"It was one of the best results of

the season. We thoroughly deserved the win and it could have been more comfortable if it wasn't for their keeper or hitting the woodwork twice."

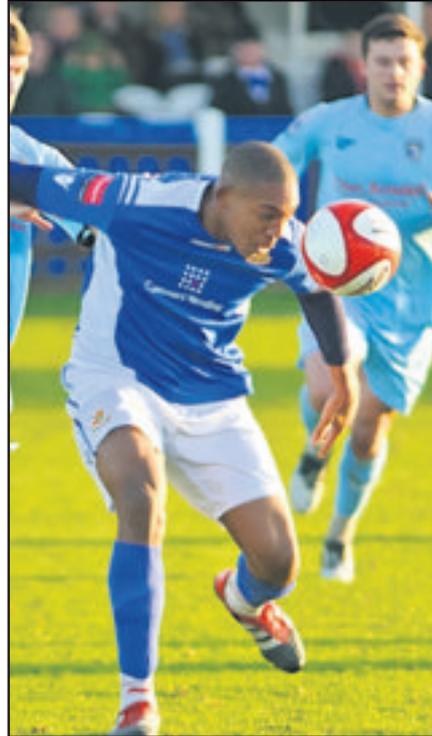
Wealdstone will travel to Conference South club Dartford in the next round and Bartlett feels his side have not been rewarded for their cup scalp.

He said: "I wanted a home tie and if not then we wanted a big Conference side but that's the way it came out. They're a very good side who have only lost one game at home this season and are flying high. It's not the reward we were looking for after Saturday but we will give it a go."

A frozen pitch forced their game against Met Police to be called off on Tuesday night. But the Stones face a crucial home match against play-off contenders Cray Wanderers this weekend.

Bartlett, who has re-signed defender Dominic Sterling from Lewes, said: "I am bitterly disappointed the game was off because we wanted to keep going. We would have been even stronger than Saturday and it was a good opportunity for us.

"Our number one priority is the four games before the next round. All the sides we have to play are in or around the play-offs and they are the games we have got to win. We are playing catchup but what better way to make up ground than by beating the sides in front of us in the league?"



Britt Assombalonga scored again their FA Trophy upset win over Barrow.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Reds see off bottom side

HARROW BOROUGH eased their relegation fears with a 2-0 home win over bottom club Hornsham.

The Reds started brightly and came close to the opener when Danny Buckle laid the ball off to Lee Wooton whose 30-yard strike flew just wide.

Dave Anderson's side made the breakthrough at Earlsmead after 28 minutes. Akin Abiola-Daramola's low cross from the right was bundled in from close-range by striker Buckle.

Boro looked certain to double their lead when the ball fell to Buckle but he was denied a second by a brilliant challenge by Yinka Salami.

The hosts stepped up the pressure and Tristan Toney's shot deflected off a defender before being tipped over the bar by goalkeeper Michael Hunter.

Boro shot stopper Will Viner was forced into rare action when he managed to keep out Kery Kedze's header.

But the hosts sealed the win when they added the second goal five minutes after the restart. Toney opened his account for the club as he flicked in Aryantaj Tajbaksh's inswinging cross.

Anderson's side dominated the rest of the game and had more chances to extend their lead. Toney again went close and Jon-Jo Bates was also denied by the agile Hunter.

The Reds will look to move clear of the sides at the foot of the Ryman Premier table as they visit third-bottom Tooting & Mitcham United on Saturday.

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