



IN BRIEF

Royal display from WaldenTRI pair

DUATHLON: Charlie Passfield and Michael Buchallet both competed in The Althorp Park Sprint Duathlon, held at the estate which is famous for Lady Diana Spencer's burial place.

Passfield, 17, finished fourth and Buchallet 17th out of field of 286 competitors.

The event was also a qualifier for next year's age related European Championship in Holland.

Passfield was second in his 17 to 18 age group while Buchallet went one better with first in the 40 to 44 age group.

Under the rules of the top four qualifying in their respective age groups, they have qualified for Horst next April.

In typical autumnal conditions, both duathletes had a reasonable initial 5km run, but improved their positions as the race progressed with Passfield moving up 10 places on the bike leg (20km).

Buchallet also improved his position from outside the top 20 with a good ride in muddy conditions. Despite a stitch for the former and twisted ankle for the latter, both finished with strong runs to achieve the excellent results.

Hawks comfortably beat Braintree by 15

NETBALL: Saffron Hawks U14 team put in an excellent performance to beat Braintree Emeralds 26-11.

Hawks had a great start and went 8-1 thanks to Katie Whyte and Charlotte Staniforth, a lead they extended to 12-3 by half-time. In their third quarter the girls went from strength to strength, winning it 8-4, before wrapping up a comprehensive win in the fourth. Player of the match was Grace Kelvin.

Eleven goal thriller

YOUTH FOOTBALL: In a tough and at times difficult encounter away at Chatteris Town, Spartak 78 U13 deservedly won 6-5 with Gabe McBride scoring the winning goal with three minutes remaining. First half goals from Alex Zsandecki and Ben O'Keefe kept Spartak in the game as they went into the break 4-2 down. A resurgent second half display saw Spartak come from 5-3 down to secure an eventful win, with Spartak keeper Ben Allen winning the man of the match award.

Scratch team captain set for cricket's international stage

Saffron Walden Golf Club's scratch team captain Graham Goodman is swapping his white ball for a red leather one as he prepares to represent the Rest of the World in the International Seniors Competition in Dubai.

The Rest of the World side is made up of cricketers from England and will play against teams from Wales, United Arab Emirates, Surrey and South West of England in a 36 over bash.

Joining Goodman is Mel Hussain, brother of former England captain Nasser, from High Roding. The pair still hold

the highest opening partnership in Essex over-50 cricket with 286, which they achieved against Kent last year.

Goodman played his one and only cricket game this year, scoring 79 not out, a few weeks ago in the final game of the season.

Opportunities were limited because of injury and being part of a memorable season for the Walden scratch team, which did a league and cup double.

You can follow the International cricket tournament on Twitter @waldenscratch from November 1.



■ Graham Goodman

FOOTBALL

Town draw Haverhill in quarter-final

Saffron Walden Town have been drawn at home against Haverhill Borough in the quarter-final of the First Division Cup.

The tie will be played on November 18.

The Bloods reached the last eight by beating Needham Market Reserves 5-1. The attendance of 175 spectators that watched the game



■ Stuart Wardley's Saffron Walden take on Haverhill Borough in the quarter-final of the First Division Cup.

Bloods take King's ransom to go top



■ Craig Calver takes on three Kings Lynn defenders.

Picture: JAMIE PLUCK

FOOTBALL

Three second half goals against Kings Lynn Reserves fired Saffron Walden Town back to the top of the Thurlow Nunn First Division table.

After a goalless first period, Charlie Gray rifled the Bloods in front from a free-kick before Craig Calver and Shaun Avis piled on to hand Walden a deserved 3-1 win.

The result moved them back to the summit of the standings, which they share with Swaffham Town and Long Melford, ahead of Saturday's trip to eighth-placed Stowmarket Town.

Saturday's game started well for Kings Lynn but it was Walden who had the first chance as Jamie Solkhon headed over the crossbar. Three minutes later James Spittlehawk just managed to avoid

his own net when trying to clear Spike Bell's teasing cross.

Walden goalkeeper Floyd Croll was called into action in the 31st minute as comfortably saved Rob Palmer's effort.

Just before the break Gray had a chance to break the deadlock but Luke Pearson clawed his header out from under his bar.

The first goal arrived on the hour mark. A minute after Bell was denied a goalscoring opportunity by the offside flag, Calver was upended on the edge of the box and Gray smashed the resulting free-kick past Pearson.

Walden were now in full flow and within a minute an excellent through ball by Louis Harper was dispatched by Bell but the jubilation was cut short by another offside flag.

Walden were then denied a penalty,

in the 76th minute, despite Calver being felled by the goalkeeper. He did manage to get a shot off but a covering defender cleared off the line.

The inevitable goal arrived two minutes later as Gray set up Calver to slide the ball through a crowded box and into the net.

King's Lynn responded immediately as, after Croll pushed the ball behind, Liam Fryatt turned in a corner, setting up a tense final 10 minutes.

Instead of defending their lead, Walden went in search of a third, and Solkhon and Calver went close.

The game was made safe in the 90th minute when Graeme Turner unselfishly squared the ball to Calver after a 40 yard run and the striker coolly finished, sending Walden back to the top of the First Division table.

equaled the record attendance, excluding the finals, that watched Saffron Walden Town against Braintree Town Reserves in the 1912-13 season.

In the quarter-final they have the chance to better that record when they take on local rivals Haverhill. The two teams, who are strong contenders for promotion this season, meet in the league at the New Croft on Boxing Day, and at Catons Lane Monday, April 6.

Higher league Ely dumped out of cup

Saffron Walden Town shocked Ely City in the League Challenge Cup on Tuesday night.

First division Town beat Ely, of the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division 3-1 after extra-time at Catons Lane.

James Crane gave Walden a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute and it looked to be enough to settle the tie until James Tricks headed Ely level in the 90th minute to send the game into extra-time.

The Bloods showed their class after the restart as Shaun Avis fired them ahead before Louis Harper made the game safe with a third.



■ Louis Harper scored Walden's third goal against Ely. Picture: JAMIE PLUCK