



FOOTBALL

Win keeps Bloods hopes alive

Saffron Walden Town 3 Cornard United 1
Thurlo Nunn League First Division

CORNARD UNITED looked anything but a bottom of the table side as they played with considerable organisation and skill at the Meadow on Tuesday evening, and the Bloods had to rely on a goal deep into injury time to see them safely over the line, and earn a sixth league win in a row that keeps their outside chance of promotion still a possibility as we enter the last week of a thrilling season.

Walden had most of the possession in the first half, but had to wait until the 23rd minute to take the lead when Stuart Hoskin rose highest to head home a free kick. Cornard were always dangerous on the break, and started the second half well. Ezra Drann had a dangerous shot deflected over the bar in the 46th minute, and then

No goals for league's best crowd of season

Saffron Walden Town 0 Halstead Town 0
Thurlo Nunn League First Division

A CROWD of 325 spectators, the best crowd this season for any Thurlo Nunn League game, were not rewarded with a goal, but did see an absorbing contest between two well matched teams, on a glorious Spring day that saw the Meadow at its best.

A draw was no good to either team, and it is now almost certain that the two teams will be playing each other again next season in the First Division.

It was manager Colin Wallington's last home league match for the Bloods, for which he was presented with a signed framed team photograph before the game to very appreciative applause. For the second season running the team has only lost six league games in a long season, but has once again missed out on promotion, in a very competitive division. The final game will be played away to Ipswich Wanderers on Saturday, who could achieve the last promotion place at Team Bury on Wednesday.

Well-deserved victory for Young Bloods

SWTFC U18s 3 Wisbech Town U18s 1
Thurlo Nunn Youth League North Division

THE GAME started evenly with both sides pushing for an early advantage.

It was the Young Bloods who took the early lead. Some good build-up play, in the 9th minute, was finished with a superb 20-yard strike by Joe Minter. Walden continued to push for a second and in the 15th minute Luke Cooper was unlucky with a good effort. Wisbech Town came back into the game, but were denied by good defending and a couple of smart saves by Aaron Millar. The home side were rewarded for their pressure in the 40th minute, Machai Tolosi ran onto an inch-perfect pass from Dan Procter, forcing the visiting keeper to miss kick and running the ball into an empty net.

The second half started as an even contest

Abacus win thrilling cup final

Abacus Athletic 4 Littlebury 3 AET
Terry Reed Division One Cup Final

ABACUS faced local rivals Littlebury in what was promising to be an epic final. Littlebury took the lead when a defensive mix up allowed the Littlebury striker to lob. Abacus looked shell shocked but it was deserved with Littlebury knocking on the Abacus door on a more frequent basis.

A determined Abacus brought the game back to even pegging minutes after kick-off when Steve Leys rolled the ball past his marker before rifling home. Abacus were now running at the Littlebury defence at every opportunity: Marc Salmon saved well but the ball fell in front of the Littlebury forward who couldn't miss.

Abacus were feeling hard done by and there were bookings for Brown and Leys, but it seemed to rally the troops. Abacus got their just rewards when Charlie Norris sent in a dangerous corner, and Leys left the ball hitting Ali Rolfe in the face and into the back of the net, ensuring the game

struck the top of the crossbar with a good turn and shot in the 57th minute.

Craig Calver was providing most of the danger for the Bloods with some tantalising runs down the left wing, and it was from one of his crosses in the 64th minute that Shaun Avis skilfully of the goal to give the Bloods a more comfortable two goal lead.

In the 88th minute Cornard's endeavour was rewarded when Stuart Wardley was dispossessed and Ezra Drann drove a powerful shot into the net from 20 yards, to give Walden a nervy last few minutes. The nerves were finally settled in the fourth minute of added time when Craig Calver crossed for Matt Snelling to head the ball home from close range, to keep the Bloods on course for mission impossible.

with both sides not really creating any clear cut chances. A mix up in the Walden defence presented Wisbech Town with the opportunity to get back into the game with a calmly taken goal from the corner of the penalty area. With Ben Weedon causing the Wisbech defence trouble, a third goal always looked a possibility. It duly came, this time from a brilliant counter attack in the 85th minute, from a Wisbech Corner, was played out from the Walden defence at great pace. A superb 70-yard sprint by Kieren Lock was rewarded, when the quick move played him in to round the keeper and slot the ball into an empty net. The Young Bloods defence held out well in the closing minutes to gain a well deserved 3-1 victory.

would go to extra time.

Extra time and Littlebury took the lead when a miss-kick allowed the forward to take his time before scoring. Abacus then took the game to Littlebury once again, and nobody saw this comeback coming.

Peter Flack hit a superb ball up-field to Norris who struck the ball low and hard into the net. Spurred on by this Abacus' 'never say die' attitude they continued to pile on the pressure. A Norris cross then found Leys in the box who then gave Abacus their first lead of the match.

With minutes left on the clock Abacus rallied together, launching the ball into the opposition's half. Brown took himself off for Abacus legend Richie Salmon and both received a standing ovation. The full time whistle signalled silverware returning to Camp Nou Port, Abacus' first trophy in their 14 years' establishment, a proud day for the club and fans.

LONDON MARATHON

Dotting uncle raises over £1000 for charity

DOTING UNCLE Steve Ede ran the London Marathon to raise money for the charity that helped save his miracle nephew's life. This was Steve's first Marathon attempt and he finished in time of 4hrs 02secs.

Over £1000 raised so far for First Touch, a charity in support of life saving equipment for premature babies in St. George's Hospital, Tooting. His nephew Samuel, born at 23 weeks and weighing just 1lb 4 oz. received the best possible life saving care here. Samuel has grown into a happy and energetic boy who has just celebrated his 5th birthday with friends, and attends his local Primary School. His brother Cliff and wife, of Guildford, are delighted and amazed by the kind donations and well wishes. Steve's charity page: www.justgiving.com/Stephen-Ede.

BASKETBALL

A Slam dunk for Friends'

FRIENDS' School Senior Basketball Team went into the final of the District Basketball League on Monday 1st April with an unbeaten record. Their form continued throughout the fast paced and attacking match to secure a 35-22 win against Freman College in the final.

Friends' won all their preliminary league matches against Birchwood, Hockerill, TBSHS, St Mary's and Freman College to qualify for the final. Zak Charlton and James Lin were the main point scorers with Jimmy Roberts controlling the game effectively from point guard with quick and accurate passing. Jaunte Campbell-Cole was very effective on offensive and defensive boards making many critical rebounds.



● Pictured, back row: Yerzhan Sadyk, James Ward, Zac Deller, Francois Earp; front row: Jimmy Roberts, Zak Charlton (C), Jaunte Campbell-Cole.

CROSS COUNTRY

Success continues for Max

YEAR 6 PUPIL from Friends' Junior School, Max Godfrey, represented Uttlesford at the recent Essex Cross Country Championships in Chelmsford. After finishing first at the USSP Cross Country at Newport Free Grammar in late November, he qualified to compete for Uttlesford against the best runners in his age group from all over Essex at Hylands Park recently.

The highly competitive event saw around 100-120 children compete in each year group race. Max ran a superb race over a challenging and difficult course to beat out runners from Southend, Thurrock, Basildon, Colchester and Harlow to finish 2nd in the Year 6 race.

A team of eight runners from Friends' Junior School represented Uttlesford at Hylands Park. They were, Year 4 - Cecily Hannam (12th) & Alice O'Callaghan (21st), Year 5 - Lily Godfrey (6th), Year 6 - Max Godfrey (2nd) and the Year 6 girls' team - Rosie Bromell, Margot Annis, Mia Gregory and Grace Clarke.

DARTS

Mixed Pairs results at Football Club

THROUGH TO Finals night are Richard and Sami Watson; and Kieth Hills and Pat Slominski (Hitting 171) Wayne Bloomfield hit 180. This Week's 4s are tonight (24th) at The Crown and The Queen's Head.

RUGBY

Walden U12s reach finals in Cambridge Mini Rugby Festival

SUNDAY saw Saffron Walden U12s attend the Cambridge Mini Rugby Festival for their final fixture of the season. Saffron Walden were pitched against Hitchin and Cambridge A in the pool round. Following a very close first match between the other two teams, Saffron Walden were wary of the strong opposition.

First up was Hitchin, who had beaten Cambridge 14-7. An early try, following a great run, from Mans Thornberg settled the team, allowing them to play flowing rugby culminating in 5 further tries, one from Thornberg and others from Joe Saych, Max Skingsley, Max Luxford and Jarno Longaretti. Outstanding conversion taking from Ben Turnbull took the final score to 40-0 to Saffron Walden.

The pool draw meant that Saffron Walden were straight on to face Cambridge A. Again, an early try opened the scoring flood gate, with Longaretti getting a hat-trick, and singles from Saych and John

Williams. Despite a try from Cambridge, Saffron Walden booked their place in the semi final with a score line of 31-7.

Semi-final opposition came Hertford A, and Saffron Walden, despite all back-to-back games, kept up their relentless scoring, kicked off by a superb individual try from Turnbull, who also converted. More tries, including two from Saych, gave a final score of 35-7.

They then had to go straight into the final against Letchworth, who had dominated all of their games. In the end, a very strong Letchworth side were just too good for Saffron Walden. Despite keeping their heads up, giving it 110% and getting a consolation try from Skingsley, Saffron Walden had to give way to the better side, losing 31-7.

The team should be very proud of their performance and the day's performance bodes well for when the team move up to youth rugby at U13s next season.

ATHLETICS

European Duathlon Championships

THREE MEMBERS of WaldenTRI headed off to Horst in Holland two weeks ago to represent Great Britain in their respective age groups, in the ETU European Duathlon Championships. All were racing in the Sprint event which consisted of a 5km run followed by a 20km bike leg and finally a 2.5km run. The weather on the day was dry, cool and slightly windy, which made the fast flat course more challenging, especially with it's many technical turns.

Pete Thompson finished a credible 6th overall and third Brit home, in the 55-59 age category in 1 hour 7 mins 43 secs,

missing out on a bronze medal by a mere 1mins 50 secs.

Michael Buchallet, in the very competitive 40-44 age category, was 11th in 1hr 2 mins and 17secs, a significant improvement in both time and position on his previous representative appearances.

Craig Dyce, racing in the 45-49 age category improved on his bronze medal success of last year, by finishing 2nd in 59mins 25secs

In a separate Junior event for 12-15 year olds, WaldenJNR member, Helena Dyce, put in a strong performance to finish 2nd overall.

Success for Walden Junior Tri at Upminster

WALDENJNR had more success at the Upminster Aquathlon, the second race in the Eastern Region League series. 16 members took part with the Dunlop sisters leading the way with Marnie Dunlop finishing 3rd in the youngest Tri Start age group and Innes Dunlop coming second in the Tristar 1 age group.

James Fraser and Helena Dyce, who both won their age groups in the Eastern Region Series last year, registered podiums but they are facing stiff competition this year. Both are competing in the Tristar 2 age category and James finished second boy behind Alex Williamson from Discovery Tri Club and Helena Dyce third girl behind arch rival Sophie Mabbs from Tri Force. In the same age category there was a close race between sisters Maisie and Angharad Evans. They started in the same swim wave and raced the whole race together, with Maisie winning

the sprint finish for 8th place overall. In the boys race there was a similar tight race between Thomas Wisbey and Max Godfrey and it was Max who finished just ahead with an impressive second fastest run of the day for 6th place overall.

In Tristar 3 age group a strong swim from George Rogers helped him to 6th place with Mael Bely not far behind in 9th place whilst in the Youth race Joely Wright had the second fastest swim time to finish in 5th place.

Club members will now be focusing their training in preparation for the Annual Practice Triathlon against Cambridge Tri Club which takes place at the Friends' School on May 3. Over 200 are taking part from the two clubs. WaldenJNR are hoping to win the Mob Match for the first time against one of the strongest junior clubs in the country.

GOLF

SWGCL Ladies Spring Meeting results

THE 2014 Spring Meeting, being the first ladies major event of the year, started with a 30 minute delay due to frost, however, the sterling efforts of the green staff ensured the continuing excellent condition of the golf course. The competition format consisting of 18 holes medal in the morning followed by 9 holes foursomes in the afternoon was supported by 71 ladies. Results were as follows: Silver Division: 1st Jaife Fieldhouse (nett 74) 2nd Jeannie Ratcliffe (nett 76). In Bronze A Division: 1st Madeleine Walker (nett 70) 2nd Kay Barnett (nett 75). Bronze B Division: 1st Claire

Oldroyd (nett 76) 2nd Geri Still (nett 78).

Results for the afternoon foursomes Front 9: 1st on c/b La-Vern Frost & Corinne Parmentier (15 points) 2nd Pat Clarke and Judy Saunders (15 points). Back 9, on c/b 1st Deb Bowler and Mary Baker (17 points) 2nd on c/b Marjory Smith and Ginny Eley (17 points).

The Dorrett Salver (for the best overall nett score), was kindly presented by past Lady Captain Doreen Ertling, and won by a delighted Madeleine Walker with a nett score of 70. A big congratulations to all the winners!