

> Cricket

Saffron Walden close in on promotion with crucial win

A FINE unbeaten 74 from James King ensured Saffron Walden II beat closest rivals Histon and kept their place at the top of the Tucker Gardner Cambs & Hunts Premier League, Division Two table.

The result put Walden firmly in line for promotion while Histon dropped to third place behind Eaton Socon.

Histon batted first but made a slow start with opener Ishmail Baksh (21) the only member of the top order to get double figures.

Ben Leach did well to hit 52 and Jake Lawrence scored 27 as Histon added some respectability to their score, finishing the innings on 136 all out.

Steve Atherton was the most effective bowler, taking 4 for 50 and he was well supported by Ashley Garrod who claimed 3 for 26.

Victory for Walden rarely looked in doubt as they got their run-chase off to a bright start.

King struck 74 not out and solid scores from Tom Price, Joe Barrs and Christopher Melton took the score to 140 for 3.

Walden continue to top the league table but they now have an 11-point lead over second-placed Eaton Socon who were held to a draw by Newborough.

Histon are now in third place, 19 points behind.



Steady: Saffron Walden II batsmen Ben Leach in action during his team's win over promotion rivals Histon.

> Football

Abacus tot up a 9-1 victory

ABACUS Athletic got off to a flying start as they began their pre-season preparations with a 9-1 friendly thumping of Saffron Dynamos.

There were hat-tricks for the Newport-based side from Charlie Norris and Steve Leys, Joseph Anderson bagged a brace and Alisdair Rolfe netted on his debut.

There were a number of positive performances from numerous new faces on show in Neil Brown's new-look team.

And they will be looking to continue to build ahead of their season opener on Sunday.

> Bowls

Chesterford fail to go up

GREAT Chesterford Bowls Club narrowly failed to gain promotion from Division Two of the Cambridge & District League.

Difficult away matches at Fenstanton and Balsham with defeats of 7-0 and 6-1 respectively sealed their fate leaving them in a safe third position.

In the final club tournament of the season, Beryl Kellam, Paul Ellis and Malcolm Hyde were victors with Colin Brand, Graham Ferguson and Colin Mount runners-up. Thanks go to Mike and Kay Flack for organising a successful day.

> Duathlon



Taking on the world: Walden Tri members Michael Buchallet and Craig Dyce, who were competing at the World Duathlon Championships in Canada.

Dyce rolls in for duathlon silver

CRAIG Dyce earned a silver medal at the World Duathlon Championships in Canada.

The Walden Tri member headed to Ottawa with club-mate Michael Buchallet and returned with a second-place finish in the 45 to 49-year category, adding to the bronze medal he won at the European Duathlon Championships earlier in the year.

In the 5km run, 20km cycle and 2.5km sprint distance, in the initial transition he was first, but some stronger cyclists passed on the bike leg, however, a strong second transition and battling run saw him finish second in 1hr 42sec, behind the winner from America.

Buchallet was in the 40 to 44-year category in the standard distance of 10km run, 40km cycle

and 5km run, and he finished 30th out of 43 competitors in 2hr 11min, having only taken up the sport a year ago.

Helena Dyce was fourth in the open 5km running race in 20min 11sec.

In the Newmarket Duathlon, Pete Thompson was ninth out of 110 athletes and was first in his age group in 1hr 16min.

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