



## FOOTBALL

## BLOODS BOXING DAY OWN GOAL ENDS MAGNIFICENT RUN OF LEAGUE WINS

■ **Haverhill Borough 1 Saffron Walden Town 1**  
Thurlow Nunn League First Division

AN OWN GOAL in the fifth minute of added time ended the Bloods magnificent run of ten consecutive away league wins, and was the first goal conceded in over seven league matches. The Boxing Day local derby produced great entertainment for well over a hundred travelling Walden supporters.

Despite battling against the odds for much of the game, Haverhill Borough never gave up, and battled hard as a team throughout the match, and their last gasp equaliser was a reward for their 'never say die' attitude. The point gained kept Haverhill Borough on the fringe of the promotion race, and for Saffron Walden it kept them at the top of the table and on the path for their first league championship for fourteen years.

The goal that Walden deserved finally came in the 40th minute when a long throw from Ben Lawrence was headed on by Graeme Turner and Chris Reid

followed up to head powerfully into the net from six yards out. The Bloods maintained their momentum up to half-time, and in the last minute of the half, Charlie Turner made another fine save, punching the ball off the head of the incoming Ben Lawrence.

Haverhill Borough had their best spell at the start of the second half, winning several corners, although the Walden defence remained solid.

One of the best chances of the game fell to Craig Calver in the 82nd minute, following a fine run and cross from Spike Bell, but from ten yards our Calver volleyed the ball over the bar, from a position he would normally have scored from.

The game entered the fifth minute of added time when Gavin Taylor launched a high ball into the Walden box from near the half way line. The ball missed Ryan Weaver but was deflected by the diving Floyd Coll onto the arm of centre half

Ben Lawrence back towards his own goal line, but despite a desperate diving clearance the ball had crossed the line, and Haverhill Borough had scored the unlikely of equaliser's. It was virtually the last kick of the game, and the "Bloods" had come within seconds of registering their seventh 'clean sheet' in succession. The game was a good contest throughout, and a point each was ultimately a useful reward for both teams.

● On Saturday December 20 Saffron Walden Town beat Cornard United 1-0 in the Thurlow Nunn League Division One. An 87th minute goal from Louis Harper, who has scored a number of important goals recently, finally broke the backs, and hearts, of a well organised Cornard United team. Both teams worked incredibly hard throughout the match, and Cornard played far better than their league position suggests, but somehow Walden managed to battle their way to a win.

## ATHLETICS

## Walden Junior Tri trio excel at the London Velopark Duathlon



THREE WALDEN Junior Tri members, Freddie Wardle, Lewis Buchallet and Annabel Hunt travelled to London earlier this month for the Christmas Cracker Duathlon taking place on the magnificent purpose built cycling road circuit Velopark in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The heavy frost overnight resulted in the venue not releasing the circuit as safe to race on until 9:45am but this didn't discourage our competitors. In the TriStart category, Lewis Buchallet finished his amazing first season by claiming another 1st place and Freddie Wardle claimed the fourth place. In the Youth race, podium for Annabel Hunt in third.

## RUGBY

## Diss-appointed Walden

■ **Saffron Walden 1s 24 Diss 29**

WALDEN started the second half of the season with a difficult home game against fellow promotion chasers Diss.

Diss had much the better of the opening exchanges but could not convert the pressure they put on the Walden defence into points. On the 10 minute mark Walden regained possession deep inside their half and the ball was kicked long, left winger Paul Marshall gave chase and pressurised the Diss full back into making a mistake. Second row James Gosden was able to pick up the loose ball and run in the last 20 metres unopposed 5-0.

Diss scored a penalty five mins later when Walden strayed offside to narrow the gap to 5-3. They then took the lead when they gained a scrum 5 metres out and the No 8 picked the ball up and drove over the line, 5-8.

For the next 15 mins neither side had total control, towards the end of the half Walden mounted an attack deep inside the visitors half and after several phases they spun the ball down the line for flanker Eddie Brown to receive the ball as he ran a good line beating the defence to score near the posts to leave the half time score at 12-8 in Walden favour.

Walden went to sleep early in the second half and allowed Diss to score 2 tries to stretch the lead out to 12-22.

But on the hour mark Walden attacked the blind side and full back Harry Beddows joined the line using his pace to dive over to reduce the lead to 22-17.

However Diss scored what turned out to be the decisive try 5 mins later when they scored under the posts after a defensive lapse by Walden allowed them to trot over the line virtually unopposed, 29-27.

In the last 15 minutes Walden dug really deep and despite being down to only 14 fit men due to injuries showed great character to fight back and score a well worked try by centre Mark Kimberley and with Tom Price kicking the conversion they narrowed the gap to 29-24 with still 6 mins to go.

In these last minutes of the game Walden attacked again and again but never quite generated enough momentum to score despite going close several times.

The final whistle went and Walden had to settle for the 2 bonus points for scoring 4 tries and getting within one score of a win.

Perhaps if Walden showed as much passion throughout the game as they did in the last 10 mins things might have been different but they also need to know that they came up against a good team that might well be at the top of the league come April.

Walden next take on Old Cooperians away on January 10.

## Dismal Dynamos

■ **Dynamos 3 Suffolk Punch Haverhill 3**  
NMC League Division 5A

SAFFRON DYNAMOS dismal run of results continued as they where only ten minutes from recording their first win in eight games, but two late goals from the visitors meant it was a solitary point they took. For this game against unknown new Haverhill side, Dynamos made three changes with Harry Bond, Dan Wiseman and Ben Start returning to the starting 11. Dynamos started well taking the game to the visitors with some good football that saw them encamped in the visitors half for the first 15 minutes. It looked like it was only a matter of time before the Dynamos would take the lead, but unbelievably against the run of play Suffolk Punch scored on a rare break away. Dynamos came back fighting and equalized on 24 minutes as a great shot over the keeper from Jack Clark to registered his first club goal. Dynamos increased their lead on 37 minutes as Alex Paskins chipped in with first club goal, moving from his center back position to head home. Second half Dynamos kept up the pressure and it was no surprise as they increased their lead on 72 minutes with a typical finish from leading marksman Sam Mitchell to surely make the three points safe. But the visitors did not lay down and on 78 minutes after an onslaught on the Dynamos goal their determination paid off as they made it 3-2 as the Dynamos went slack, instead of playing the game out. Finally Dynamos completed their Christmas present to Suffolk Punch as a moment of disappointment and baffling decisions saw the visitors draw level with minutes remaining. With an attack on the Dynamos goal saw a clear foul on keeper Samier Sadaoui with him being flattened to the ground, the ref amazingly played on, subsequently the ball was hand-balled by Dynamos Ryan Barry in the crowd of bodies in the penalty area. He was then red-carded, with Manager Daniel Rouse going in goal for the penalty that was converted.

## DARTS

## SW Friendly League

THE BLIND PAIRS at held at The Football Club recently was won by Ben Barker and Tony (Tap Water) Boyce who beat Lee Chapman and Andy Marshal in a tense but good final with Tony hitting 2 x double 8 - no one told him that's 32 double 16!

On January 8 there's a Singles Fundraiser Knock-out raising funds for refurbishments at the Football Club. All are welcome, please be there for 8.15pm.

KEEP IT BRIEF! Because we have only one sports page we ask our correspondents to keep their match reports to a minimum so that we have a chance to include everyone.

## MOTORCYCLING



● Members of the newly formed motor cycle club, Walden Bikers, along with over 200 other motor cyclists from the eastern region, recently took part in the annual Toy Run to give presents to children in Addenbrooke's Hospital. Starting from Harlston with police escorts they rode to Addenbrooke's through the centre of Cambridge. Mike Ratcliffe, founder of Walden Bikers, said: "It was great to see so many members turn out for a very worth cause. Walden Bikers meet every second Tuesday of the month at The Old Kiora, Newport. For information contact 07980 301823".

## MINI RUGBY



● All of Wendens mini rugby teams returned to their spiritual home of the Wick in Wendens Ambo recently for fun and festivities. The club originated as a small group of kids wanting to play rugby but with nowhere to play, so the Wick sufficed. It has now grown to over 200 strong and is based at The Friends school in Saffron Walden. But like all good clubs it doesn't forget its roots. This year all the teams joined together to sing Merry Christmas to parents, followed by a visit to see Father Christmas and share a winter warmer in The Bell. The day rounded off a fantastic first half of the season, with all of its county cup winning sides continuing in winning ways.

Please remember that all sports reports and photographs must arrive at our office by NOON Mondays