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SAFFRON WALDEN

DUATHLON

Walden Tri juniors are Crackers for Christmas at Olympic Park

Three Walden Junior Tri members, Freddie Wardle, Lewis Buchallet and Annabel Hunt, travelled to London for the Christmas Cracker Duathlon.

The event took 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 competitors.

In the TriStart category, Lewis finished his first season by claiming another first place and Freddie came fourth. In the Youth race, there was a podium place for Annabel in third.

■ Lewis Buchallet and Freddie Wardle take on the Christmas Cracker Duathlon in London.



■ Former Saffron Walden Town player Stuart Wardley has managed the Bloods to 15 league wins this season.
Pictures: JAMIE PLUCK

Bloods' away run ended by own goal

An own goal in the fifth minute of added time ended the Bloods' remarkable run of 10 consecutive away league wins, and was the first goal conceded in over seven league matches, a total of 640 minutes.

To say Saffron Walden Town's defence has been stout would be an epic understatement and the team is rightly sitting at the summit of the Thurlo Nunn First Division heading into 2015.

Stuart Wardley's side are top by a single point from Long Melford and they also have two games in hand.

The Bloods could have had a three-point cushion if not for a stroke of bad luck in the 95th minute in their Boxing Day derby against Haverhill Borough.

An 11th consecutive away win looked assured as Walden closed in on a 1-0 win courtesy of Chris Reid's first-half header. But they couldn't hold out as a hopeful punt into the box was deflected by goalkeeper Floyd Croll onto Ben Lawrence and the ball trickled over the line.

The result should only be a minor setback in what has been an unbelievable season for Wardley's troops. Fifteen wins

FOOTBALL

Michael Edwards

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from 18 games, and only one loss, has them on track for automatic promotion.

Chairman Martin Johnson said: "2014 has been the first full year for Saffron Walden Town FC as a fully member-owned club, and so much has happened on and off the pitch that in looking back on the year it is hard to know where to begin.

"The first thing to say is a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this great club what it is.

"The priority for the year ahead has to be to build on the progress we have made, and to keep working hard to bring success to the club, both on and off the field.

"Promotion to the Eastern Counties Premier Division is now a real possibility for the first team, although there is a lot of work still to do and we want to go as far as we can in the FA Vase, and the Reserves can also have some real success this season."



■ Chris Reid scored for Walden against Haverhill Borough on Boxing Day.

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