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## FOOTBALL

## POINTS DROPPED IN HOME DRAW

■ Saffron Walden Town 1 Woodbridge Town 1  
Thurlow Nunn League Division One

THERE WAS a big gulf in class when Saffron Walden Town met Woodbridge Town for the first time ever in their long history at the Meadow on Saturday, but somehow Woodbridge managed to achieve a draw from another entertaining game. The Bloods had so many scoring chances that they could easily have won 10-0, but Woodbridge scored from their only chance, and Walden could not add to a 23rd minute goal from Shaun Avis, despite a continuous stream of exciting goalmouth action.

The game was slow to get going on the sticky pitch with the first twenty minutes being relatively even, with neither side having a shot on target. Things changed in the 23rd minute when Shaun Avis was put clear with a through ball down the right, and after racing forward with the ball into the penalty area he managed to squeeze the ball under the keeper and into the far corner of the goal.

In the 32nd minute Graeme Turner found Shaun Avis in the goalmouth, and although his shot rolled over the keeper the ball was held up on the goal line. A minute later Shaun Avis

had a header from a corner saved, and this was followed by Graeme Turner heading wide from a good position, then Shaun Avis had a shot blocked in the goalmouth. In the last few minutes of the first half Jamie Solkhon's header was well held by the keeper falling backwards, then Spike Bell's low drive was cleared from the goalmouth, and from the resulting corner Charlie Gray shot wastefully over the crossbar as Walden at least justified their interval lead.

Six minutes into the second half from Walden's best passing move of the match, Craig Calver struck a curling 20 yard shot against the inside of the left hand post, the ball bounced across the other side of the goal where Graeme Turner shot into the side netting.

From their only chance of the second half Woodbridge unexpectedly equalized in the 61st minute. A long through ball at first did not look to pose any danger, but the ball bounced kindly for Sam Cole who managed to get a touch on the ball and steered it past the advancing Floyd Croll to make the score 1-1.

What followed needed to be seen to be believed, as the Bloods laid siege on the

Woodbridge goal. Scoring chances were coming at the rate of one a minute as somehow the Woodbridge defence managed to keep the ball out of the goal. Charlie Gray struck the post in the 78th minute with a curling free kick, twice shots struck a defender on the goal line, as did a close range header from Ben Lawrence, shots were blocked in the goalmouth, and goalkeeper Dean Garnham stopped everything that was hit goalwards, in a fine display.

Some of the misses were heart-stopping, as the pressure was relentless, and none more so than in added time when Ben Lawrence's long throw found Shaun Avis 5 yards out from goal, but he headed the ball wide with half the goal to aim at. There was a promising debut for substitute Deacon Napier, who looked lively, and was heavily involved in the action, and twice had shots blocked in the crowded goalmouth.

Next Saturday the Bloods can undo the damage caused by this draw, when they play a vital top of the table clash at home to Swaffham Town, when another big crowd is expected at the Meadow. The match could have an important bearing on the championship.

## RUGBY



● The U16s in action

Photo: Rudi Pack Photography

## S W Rugby Youth make up for England disappointment!

UNLIKE in the England camp at the weekend, it was smiles all round at Saffron Walden Rugby Club Youth section as three of the age groups participating in the Cambridgeshire Cup Plate Finals and Cup semi-final came away winners.

The Final of the U16s Cambridgeshire Plate at Carver Barracks between Saffron Walden and Peterborough. A fierce cross wind throughout the game made playing condition tough for both sides, but Walden started the stronger with Alex Howlett scoring under the posts after three minutes, which was duly converted by Connor McCabe. Four minutes later Walden attacked again with fluent passing along the backs for a second try, this time from winger Angus Fletcher in the corner. A run from Ross Bromfield down the other wing, then passing inside to Ned Potter bought the third Walden try, which was converted by McCabe. Peterborough pulled back a penalty kick to

give a half time score of 19-3. The second half was evenly matched – a Walden try from prop Dion Thomas came first, followed by Peterborough's opening try, which was converted. The tension increased for Walden, as Peterborough found rhythm, but the Walden defence was sound, and a powerful solo break gave Potter his second try, and effectively sealed the game for Walden. Peterborough scored again in the closing minutes, but at a final score of 31-15 it was a well deserved victory for Walden's U16s.

The U15s travelled to Haverhill and secured victory 30-5 against the home side. Try scorers were Archie Boon (2), George King, Hudson Reese-Jones. All tries were converted by Reese-Jones. The final will be played at Henham on 7th March.

## Impeccable display Dynamos bounce back

■ Wivenhoe Town Reserves 0  
S W Town Reserves 2  
Thurlow Nunn Reserve Division 1

IN LESS THAN ideal circumstances Walden came away from this vital encounter with all three points to consolidate their position at the top of the table, and at the same time open up a gap between themselves and their hosts who do still have a game in hand on the Bloods.

The first ten minutes of the game was a pretty even affair with both sides probing for the openings required.

The second period began with both sides doing all that they could to break each other down, however Walden gradually gained control of the midfield. It wasn't long before Walden had to make a change when it became obvious that Manser couldn't continue and Ryan Dewey entered the fray, with Crane being moved to lead the line with Morrell. Soon afterwards a ball was played through the home defence, Ben Morrell latched onto it and raced clear before side stepping a defender and placing his shot into the corner of the net beyond the home keeper's reach. The hosts continued to probe for the elusive opening through the Walden defence for much of the half, but each time they looked dangerous The Bloods skipper Dave Scraggs ensured that they never had a clear opportunity at goal. The game was made safe with five minutes remaining. Matt Snelling picked up a loose ball around the edge of the Wivenhoe area before making room for a sweet right foot strike from eighteen yards that had the home custodian beaten, just reward for another impeccable display throughout.

## NETBALL

## Hawks round-up

■ Hawks Ladies 44 T&M Baddow 17

A GOOD team performance saw the Hawks extend their winning streak, they are now up to second in the table and look good for promotion.

■ Hawks Ladies 3 40 HPSS 26

WHAT a turn up! The Hawks had suffered a loss 20point in their first fixture with HPSS, and the revitalised Hawks3 continued their fantastic revival!

■ Hawks U13s 27 Braintree 6

THE 13s continued their march at the top of the table with a convincing win, Eliana Godsall, Izzy Evans and Indy Collocott all in great form, the Hawks now head into the final stages of the winter league in a great position.

■ Hawks U14s 34 Braintree 21

A SUPERB display as the U14s look for their 2nd trophy of the season! They proved too strong as they continued their unbeaten league form. Charlotte Staniforth and Cassie Thompson showed how the Hawks were strong through the whole court.

■ Saffron Dynamos 2 Kedington United 1  
NMC League Division 5A

SAFFRON DYNAMOS bounced back after last week's defeat to league leaders Tuddenham 08 with a superb win over second placed Kedington United. Dynamos got off to the best possible start as they took the lead in the first minute as the Kedington keeper kicked the ball straight out to Dynamos James Banks, with the ball ricocheting back over the keeper. This gave the home side the confidence to attack the visitors with some great pass and move football that Kedington could not deal with. Time after time Dynamos played their way through Kedington and created some good chances to notch again. Kedington showed why they are second, they counter attacked with well worked routines that put Dynamos under pressure. Dynamos finished the half well, and deserved to have a better lead. Kedington came more into it second half, helped with the strong wind, but again Dynamos coped well with the more frequent action in their half. Unfortunately mid half with Dynamos pushing up, the visitors broke leaving the home defense out numbered, causing Alex Paskins to bring a Kedington attacker down, with them converting the subsequent penalty. Two minutes later Dynamos had a great chance to go back in-front as they themselves were awarded a penalty. Up stepped captain Ryan Barry who smashed in a good kick only to see it being saved in the top right hand corner. With 84 minutes on the clock Dynamos were rewarded with the winner with Oliver McRandal scoring a terrific goal from just inside the box that was well deserved after the effort put in by the whole team throughout the 90 minutes. This win moves them up to 7th place. This Saturday Dynamos travel to Balsham Reserves for a 3pm kick-off.

## Girl power!

■ PSG FC 2  
Haverhill Rovers 0  
Cambridgeshire FA U13 Girls  
League Cup – Quarter Final

PSG U13 now progress to the semi-final of the Cambridgeshire League Cup, which is a fantastic achievement for one of the smallest squads in the competition.

■ St Ives Rangers 0  
PSG FC 3  
Cambridgeshire Women and Girls  
S-Tech U11 League

PSG U11s are unbeaten in the League this season and their fine form continued on Saturday with a commanding away victory at St Ives Rangers.

## ATHLETICS

## George brings home the silver

ON SUNDAY, local triathlete and WaldenTri member, George Peasgood took part in the first round of the ITU World Paratriathlon Series, in Buffalo City, South Africa. The race consisted of a 750m open water swim with a beach start into the Indian Ocean, where the water temperature was 16°C, followed by a 2 lap, 20km bike and finally a 2 lap 5km run along the beachfront.

George, one of six members of the GB Paratriathlon squad participating there, was competing in the hotly contested PT4 class, whose athletes have either a below elbow or below knee impairment. This inaugural event in the eleven race series, set the scene for this important year, as countries compete to gain places for the 2016 Paralympic Games, in Rio de Janeiro.

Following George's move to Loughborough to study Sports Science, where the Paratriathlon squad are based, he has put in considerable effort in his training and this was reflected in him posting the fastest swim split of the day, of any category in 12:35. This enabled him to maintain the lead right through the bike section, with him only being passed during the run, which is his weakest discipline of the three. George finished second in his category, bringing home a silver medal



## WaldenJNR dominate at the Olympic Velopark Duathlon

WALDEN TRI Juniors had a fantastic day out at the first of the seasons Duathlons, held at the Olympic Velopark in London, a closed road circuit right next to the magnificent Olympic Velodrome.

First up were the Tristarts (8 years and under). WaldenJNR were represented by Mae Bisset and Raphael Buchallet who raced brilliantly over the 400m, 0.8km, 200m course with Mae securing the first WaldenJNR podium of the day coming home 2nd girl. Only 20 seconds behind was little Rafi (all 3 foot 6 inches of him) taking 4th place in the boys race.

Tri Star 1s were next. Olivia Bisset, Mia Hickey and Darcy Stanton-Stock for the girls and Hywel Bowen, Lewis Buchallet and Thomas Ormsby for the boys. Everyone raced strongly over the 600m, 3km, 600m course. Lewis led the WaldenJNR contingent into T1 and was quickly into the lead on the bike. He pushed courageously on the final run and got within 5 yards of the winner at the end to take a well-earned 2nd place. Thomas and Hywel finished were only 4 seconds apart to take 6th and 8th places respectively. The girls were equally competitive and it was great to see both Mia and Olivia on the podium in 2nd and 3rd place.

Three WaldenJNR boys and 1 girl took on the 1.2k, 5k, 600m Tri Star 2 course against some very talented opposition. Ben

Furrier and Scarlett Mitchell both claimed magnificent 4th places. Scott Slater was a creditable 9th and Thomas 12th.

Tri Star 3 and Youths all raced together over 1.6k, 8k and 600m. In the TS3 girls race Helena Dyce led from the start to take 1st. Bella Hall took a slight wrong turn out of T2 but in the final analysis Bella was 4th.

Luhan Bely, Sam Gribben, Thomas Grindal and Jack Stanton-Stock toed the line in the TS 3 boy's event. Jack also led from the off and was a very impressive/comfortable winner. After an astonishing ride, Luhan got stronger and stronger on the bike in the hugely demanding conditions and ended up with the fastest bike split of any TS3s or Youths finishing 3rd in the boys race. Thomas was an excellent 5th and Sam 8th place in a strong field.

Luhan's brother Mael took a silver medal in the Youth category.

Finally, has WaldenJNR uncovered another potential Para Olympian? Charlie Stanton-Stock took part in the Youth race and racing a sensibly configured, slightly shorter course was able to enjoy being in the centre of the action. His bike lap times were excellent and a determined final run saw him take a well-earned gold.

So, all in all, a pretty satisfactory and hugely enjoyable morning's work for WaldenJNR.

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.