



## FOOTBALL

## Bloods extend unbeaten run with a disappointing 1-1

Saffron Walden Town FC 1 Team Bury 1  
Thurlow Nunn League First Division

THE BLOODS extended their unbeaten run to eight matches on Saturday, with a 1-1 home draw against Team Bury, but will be disappointed at not taking maximum points after having the majority of the play.

Walden started the game well winning two corners in the first four minutes. From the second corner Louis Harper's cross fell to Jamie Solkhon who drove the ball into the net, but the goal was disallowed as he was adjudged to be marginally offside. Team Bury won a free kick in the 14th minute, and in their first real threat on the Walden goal, scored from close range.

The first half ended frustratingly for Walden, when James Crane's cross was headed over by Jamie Solkhon from a good position, and Darren Bicknell mis-hit his shot wide, when put clear.

At half-time Walden made a tactical substitution by taking off a defender and bringing on Joe Rudkin, whose long throw-ins posed a different threat to the Team Bury defence.

In the 58th minute a long throw from Joe Rudkin was headed down by Jamie Solkhon and the Bury keeper made a

brilliant one handed save to push the ball away, but only as far as Craig Calver, whose close range shot hit the crossbar. The pressure finally told five minutes later when another long throw fell to Matt Snelling who equalised with a firm volley into the net.

In the 65th minute James Crane almost scored from another long throw into the box, but the Walden forwards were not firing on all cylinders, and were struggling to break down a well organised defence.

The pressure intensified in the last ten minutes, but the closest the Bloods came to scoring was from another long throw which Jamie Solkhon headed towards the top left hand corner, but Walters jumped to head the ball off the goal line with a magnificent clearance.

Deep into added time the home supporters were given a fright when a Team Bury free kick was bundled over the line at the far post, only to be disallowed for offside.

The hectic run to the end of the season continues this week with a vital six pointer at home to Ipswich Wanderers, in what should be a cracking game.

## Late goal rough justice for Bloods Reserves

SW Town Res 1 Walsham-le-Willows Res 2 (AET)  
Chell Trophy Quarter Final

WALDEN RESERVES came agonisingly close to reaching the semi-finals of the Chell Trophy for the first time, but lost by the smallest of margins to a goal three minutes from the end of extra-time against a team from a division higher.

The visitors took the lead in the first minute when a mis-hit shot dropped agonisingly over Jason Harvey in a crowded six yard box to give Walsham an early advantage.

Walden eventually equalised in first half injury time when Darren Wardley's right wing cross was struck low and hard by Charlie Gray for a deserved equaliser.

The second half was equally competitive, with little to choose between the two sides. Either side could have won the match,

but to Walden's credit they again had the slight edge in attacking play and finished the stronger.

The turning point of the game was in the first minute of the second period of extra time when Walden won a corner and Joe Murphy headed a far post cross into the net unchallenged for what looked like a superb second goal. The goal was harshly disallowed.

With a penalty shoot-out looking imminent, three minutes from the final whistle a long throw was glanced on and the ball dropped inside the far post for a late Walsham winning goal. It was rough justice on the Bloods reserves who had battled magnificently throughout against their higher league opponents.

## Abacus through to semis after 11 goal thriller

Abacus Athletic 6 Stortford Cobras 5 (AET)  
G H Wilson Senior Inter Divisional Cup

ABACUS continued their inter divisional cup run with a win against Premier division opposition in the form of Stortford Cobras.

Abacus took the lead in the first minute with a clever ball from Rolfe finding Norris who put it past the stationary keeper. In the third minute, an unprovoked attack on Norris from a Cobras player resulted in a straight red and Cobras were down to 10 men. Rolfe scored Abacus's second with a fine team effort resulting in a tight but accurate finish. Abacus continued to control the game but got a little complacent against the ten men and Cobras managed to pull one back.

At the start of the second half Abacus looked to kill the game off. The Cobras keeper buckled under pressure and Rolfe capitalised on this and finished his second. Abacus started to relax and Cobras scored three goals in 8 minutes to be 3-4 ahead. Steve Woods then made a vital and essentially match winning clearance.

Right at the end of the second half Siggers found himself about 30 yards from goal and an opportunity to shoot. He rifled his shot hard and low in to the bottom right corner of the net.

The first half of extra time mirrored exactly how Abacus had been playing all game and Cobras could no longer cope with the extra man advantage. On the 100 minute mark Abacus had a corner and with the ball pinged around in the box, Woods poked the ball past the keeper. Just before the end of the first half of ET Anderson broke down the right flank and drove a low shot under the keeper. The game looked to be over but in the last five minutes of the second half of ET a deft chip from the Cobras centre back was just out of the reach of M Salmon and dropped into the net. This led to a nervy final five but Abacus saw the game out with some outstanding focus and control and finished the game 6-5 winners.

## Clinical finishing secures points for Crocus

Saffron Crocus 4 Melbourn 3  
NMC League Division 4a

CLINICAL finishing was the main factor in Crocus securing the points from this match, but were pushed all the way by the visitors in an absorbing contest. The home side struggled to get going from the kick off, and went behind for the first time when a cross field ball found a Melbourn striker who smashed the ball in at the near post. This woke up the home side who equalised from a cross shot from Iain Lecky. Scott Cummings soon doubled the home side's score. Melbourn applied pressure for the remainder of the half and scored again after making the most of poor Crocus defending. In the second half, the home side picked up the tempo and tried to regain the lead but were again pegged back after another defensive lapse. Crocus made changes and substitute Michael Mylees came on and changed the game with a deep cross that found Lecky who equalised. The 4th came from a Crocus counter-attack that gave Lecky space on the left to cross the ball onto the head of Scott Cummings. Despite late pressure from the visitors Crocus held on to win. Next Saturday brings a crunch match at home to fellow promotion hopefuls Little Paxton.

## Brilliant Hawks through to final

Saffron Hawks 4 Albury Saints 2  
League cup semi final

COMING BACK from two poor Hawks performances, Hawks put on a brilliant team performance to secure their place in the cup final. Daniels started the scoring by cutting in from the right and hitting an unstoppable left footed strike. Soon after Daniels got a second by rounding the keeping and slotting home. Murphy then added the third from the spot to make it 3-1. Albury pushed hard to get back into the game and eventually got a goal to make it 3-2 but a impressive Hawks counter made it 4-2 with Larsen supplying the finish.

Saffron Hawks will now play the Marne on Wednesday 19 at Bishop's Stortford in the final, 7.30pm kick-off.

## NETBALL

## What an achievement!

Hawks U14 As 39-14 Hawks U14 Bs  
Chelmsford District league cup semi-final

HAWKS were the only team in the Junior leagues to have 2 semi-finalist in the same age group. Though the B team played well and kept pace with the A team for the first quarter it was the A team who pulled away strongly and are now in pole position to complete the double! Player of the match: Olivia Alltree.

### Hawks U11 11 Chelmsford Chicks 10

A VERY CLOSE game was settled by the single goal, Annisa Dutton and Alexandra the newest Hawk players are quickly adapting to the speed of the Hawks game. Ashleigh Cowling once again proved what a good shooter she is becoming. Player of the Match: Gracie Bannister.

### Hawks U10s 11 Chelmsford Canaries 3

THE HAWKS 2nd youngest team got another win are in a good battle to win the title. Bella Howarth was all over the court with Holly Whyte also impressing with her defensive display. Player of the Match: Scarlett Haralambous.

## DARTS

## Calling all dart players!

DUE TO THE great success of the winter league, we are glad to announce a new mini summer charity league. Any teams interested?

Team minimum of four, maximum as many as you want £2.50 per player, no team fee, all money to go to charity. 2 Pairs; 4 singles; 1 four; best of three legs. Starting late June, the winners to chose charity. Message 07808 146920 or e-mail trevor-bright@sky.com. Limited spaces so don't delay!

Results week 19: SWTFC 6 The Queen's Head 15.

Cup: The Crown 19 The Fleur-de-Lys 2;

The Axe 6 Newport Club 15.

180s: J Willes; Lee Chapman; Bob (the haircut) Carter.

114 out: R Watson. 14 dart leg: Billy Powell.

**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.

## RUGBY

## Historic rugby finals to be staged at Saffron Walden

LOCAL RUGBY fans are in for a treat after plans were announced for the last-ever cup finals in a popular knockout tournament to be staged at Saffron Walden Rugby Club.

The first ever Greene King Merit Table Cup Finals, which were first staged at the club in 2000, are returning to the town on April 26 for the last event before the league merges with other Merit tables from Suffolk and Norfolk to form several new leagues across the region under the auspices of the Eastern Counties RFU.

Clubs drawn from across Eastern Counties, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Essex and East Midlands County Unions have competed in the league, which was launched to provide more opportunities for lower XV teams to play, since 1997. The cup finals were

introduced three years later as part of an expansion of the league.

The 2014 finals will coincide with a beer festival and family fun day being staged to close Saffron Walden Rugby Club's 50th anniversary celebrations. The event will include live music, barbeque and a host of activities for the family. Money raised during the event will go towards the club's Fifty50 campaign which aims to raise £50,000. Funds raised are being used for repairs and improvements to the clubhouse and upgraded drainage for the pitches. The club is also investing in developing its Youth Academy, aimed at players aged 16-18.

To follow progress of teams in the Greene King Merit Table, visit : [merittablerugby.com](http://merittablerugby.com)

## Walden return to winning ways

Ely RFC U17/18s 12 Saffron Walden RFC U17/18s 44  
Eastern Counties U18 Plate Competition

Against a powerful Ely side, Saffron Walden RFC combined U17s/18s Colts team secured a well-earned victory, scoring eight tries to two.

Centre pairing of Andrew Smith and Ben Morris bagged three tries each in a backs dominated game played on a wide pitch with perfect running conditions underfoot. Wing Sam McReynolds added to the Walden tally, showing impressive support play on the left. For the forwards, Rory Turtle was able to cross the line late in the first half after a penalty deep in the opposition half was quickly tapped by scrum half Dan Rust and Turtle crashed over.

### Ely U15s 7 Saffron Walden U15s 55

SWU15s bounced back from their cup exit with an accomplished win over Ely.

## HOCKEY

## Win makes Walden division 1 champions

Saffron Walden 2 Wisbech 1  
NE14 East Women's League Division 1

A 2-1 WIN over Wisbech last Saturday means Walden will be promoted as division 1 champions regardless of the outcome of their remaining two fixtures. Wisbech, previously unbeaten at home, proved tough opposition but Walden stuck to the task and were rewarded with two goals shortly after the break. Walden, below par in the first half, were sloppy in possession and gave too much time to their opponents on the ball. Both goalkeepers kept their team in it as Katy Borgeson saved from several Wisbech forwards and then her opposite number prevented Julia Westedge from getting a shot off when one on one. Walden

started the second half with renewed vigor, forwards harrying the back line and forcing Wisbech to attack down their weaker flank where their play invariably broke down. Walden won a corner and took the lead when Tash Cox fired in, a good time to score her first of the season. Having intercepted a weak Wisbech pass, Westedge doubled the advantage with a shot from the top of the D. After stubbornly defending numerous short corners Walden eventually conceded one and Wisbech were back in the game at 2-1. Walden missed several chances to extend their lead but were not made to pay as they hung on for the win and all three points.

## ATHLETICS

## WaldenTri's Dambuster Duathlon

SIX MEMBERS of WaldenTri took part in the Dambuster standard distance Duathlon, held at Rutland Water on Saturday. The Dambuster Duathlon is a qualification event for the Duathlon World Championships 2014 and there was a very competitive field with more than 600 top athletes looking to get a spot at The Worlds or get their season under way. This challenging course started with a 10km run around the lake and across the dam, followed by a 42km bike leg around the spectacular Rutland scenery. After a testing bike the athletes completed the race with a 5km run. Michael Buchallet was the first home for WaldenTri, finishing 165th overall in a time of 2hrs 18mins closely followed by Matthew Switzer, in a time of 2hrs 19mins. Sterling performances were also delivered by Adam Wardle, Mark Coutts, Doug Bowen and Robert Gould, finishing respectively in a time of 2hrs 23mins, 2hrs 30mins, 2hrs 39mins and 2hrs 41mins.

## WaldenTri at Cambridge Half Marathon

WALDENTRI was out in force again on Sunday with 15 athletes including 'Duracell Bunny' Adam Wardle yet again, competing in the Cambridge Half Marathon.

First home for the club was Brendan Moran who was delighted to break the 1.30 benchmark with an impressive 1.29.18, with Simon Page knocking over 2 minutes off his personal best with a 1.32.33. Jess Bloomfield was first lady home just behind Page, with a time of 1.32 59 which placed her an impressive 28th out of over 1440 female athletes. She was closely pursued by Sarah Switzer with another outstanding result in 32nd place with 1.33.48. Chloe Brown was also delighted to knock over 2 minutes of her 2008 personal best and finally break the magic 2 hour mark in 1.57.45 on what was a very successful day for Walden Triathlon club.