

> Rugby union



Impressive: Andrew Smith goes on the attack for Saffron Walden against Ely.

Smith and Morris trebles inspire victory

ANDREW Smith and Ben Morris scored hat-tricks as Saffron Walden beat Ely 44-12 in the Eastern Counties Plate under-18 competition. The backs dominated the game and winger Sam McReynolds added to the

Walden tally with impressive support play. 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. Walden led 25-0 at half time and after

Morris touched down in the first minute of the second half to record his second try, they eased off a little. Ely scored two tries but Walden crossed the whitewash twice more to complete the win.

> Football

Butcher carves up Cambourne Rovers

GREAT Chesterford continued their push for the Newmarket Motor Company League, Division 2A title with a hard-fought 2-1 win at Cambourne Rovers.

Chesterford had to come from behind as they conceded direct from a corner with only 10 minutes on the clock.

But they got back into the match thanks to a fine passing move, with the ball eventually reaching Adam Brown on the wing and his cross was headed home by Steve Leys with 30 minutes played.

And Chesterford claimed the game's decisive third goal 20 minutes from the end when Ben Hornby swung in a corner and captain Mark Butcher volleyed in from close range.

In 4A, Iain Lecky and Scott Cummings both bagged braces to guide Saffron Crocus to a 4-3 success against Melbourn.

Crocus went behind but restored parity when Lecky's cross-shot sailed over the

goalkeeper's head.

They took the lead thanks to Cummings' first goal of the game, which came from a powerful shot from the edge of the area, but their opponents replied with an equaliser before half time.

Crocus increased the tempo after the break, but they fell behind once more and required Lecky to level things up at the far post following substitute Michael Mylees' cross.

And Crocus grabbed all three points with their fourth goal, which came from the head of Cummings as Lecky turned provider.

Saffron Rangers reserves came from 3-0 down to salvage a 3-3 draw against Thurlow Royal Exchange reserves in 5A.

Adam Bicknell came off the bench following a lengthy injury absence to give his team a glimmer of hope with 20 minutes left, before Phil Beighton made it

3-2 with a cool finish.

And Bicknell completed the comeback as he latched onto a pass and saw his effort go in off the post.

But there was no luck for Saffron Dynamos, also in 5A, as Ben Start's goal came in a 3-1 defeat to Whittlesford United reserves.

Abacus booked their place in the GH Wilson Senior Inter-Divisional Cup semi-finals with a thrilling 6-5 win over 10-man Stortford Cobras after extra time, with two goals from Rolfe being added to by Norris, Siggers, Woods and Anderson.

And Saffron Hawks advanced to the final of the Terry Reed North West Essex Sunday League, Division Two Cup as they overcame Albury Saints 4-2 in the last four.

Daniels netted twice and Murphy and Larsen also struck for the victors, who will take on The Marne Nouveaux in the final.

> Hockey

SAFFRON Walden wrapped up the East Women's League, Division 1N title with a 2-1 win on the road at Wisbech.

The result means Walden, who had already sealed promotion, can now not be caught at the summit, with two fixtures remaining, as they look forward to life back in

Cox and Westnedge net for champions

the Premier Division.

Walden stuck to their task against tough opponents and were rewarded with two goals shortly after the break.

Tash Cox broke the deadlock

with her first goal of the season, from a short corner, before Julia Westnedge doubled the lead shot from the top of the D following a weak pass from a Wisbech player. Walden, who had had to thank

goalkeeper Katy Borgeson for some smart saves in the first period, defended solidly from numerous short corners before Wisbech eventually netted a consolation from one.

> Triathlon

Buchallet the Dambuster

MICHAEL Buchallet was the first Walden Tri competitor across the line in the Dambuster Duathlon at Rutland Water.

The standard distance competition is a qualification event for the world championships, and there were more than 600 athletes looking to get a spot.

Buchallet finished 165th overall in 2hr 18min 1sec closely followed by Matthew Switzer (2:19:18). Sterling performances were also

delivered by Adam Wardle (2:23:27), Mark Coutts (2:30:22), Doug Bowen (2:39:54) and Robert Gould (2:41:47).

Brendan Moran was Walden Tri's first finisher in the Cambridge Half Marathon, clocking 1hr 29min 18sec and Simon Page set a personal best 1:32.33.

Jess Bloomfield was Walden's first lady in 1:32.59 and she was closely followed by Sarah Switzer (1:33.48).

> Athletics

Great Strides for running club thanks to support

SAFFRON Striders have been given a boost by the continued support of Kevin Henry.

Club chairman Nigel Coates received a cheque from Kevin Henry co-founder Henry Rowe for sponsorship of the 2013 Saffron Striders 10K and the inter-club Kevin Henry 5K series of races.

The 10K race is held in Newport and entrants from across the region, while the 5K series sees the Striders racing against running clubs from Haverhill, Newmarket, Ely and Cambridge.

Coates said: "Neither the annual 10K nor the Kevin Henry 5K series would be possible without the support of our sponsors and we are extremely grateful to them."

"The club has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Kevin Henry and are delighted they have agreed to continue their sponsorship in 2014."

Rowe said: "Kevin Henry has been in Saffron Walden for more than 25 years and are proud to be associated with a local club like the Saffron Striders."

> Netball

Hawks soar to success over clubmates in semi

SAFFRON Hawks under-14 A team came through 39-14 against their B side in their Chelmsford & District League Cup semi-final.

Hawks were the only team in the junior leagues to have two semi-finalists in the same age group.

Although the B team played well and kept pace with the A team for the first quarter, the latter pulled away strongly and are now in pole position to complete the double. Player of the match was Olivia Alltree.

Hawks under-11s edged out

Chelmsford Chicks 11-10 in a very close game.

New player Annisa Dutton quickly adapted to the speed of the Hawks' game and Ashleigh Cowling once again proved what a good shooter she is becoming, but the player-of-the-match award went to Gracie Bannister.

Hawks under-10s won 11-3 against Chelmsford Canaries, with Bella Howarth all over the court and Holly Whyte impressing with her defensive display. Player of the match was Scarlett Haralambous.

> Youth football

Plantation trio strike to down Shephall United

PLANTATION under-13s kept up their pursuit of the Royston Crow Youth League, Division Two title with a 3-0 victory over Shephall United.

Max Halls fired them ahead after 10 minutes, with Louis Eady and Ollie Newman sealing

the win with one goal apiece in the second half.

Aiden Elves and Amrik Braico got one apiece for Saffron Walden Black in their 2-2 draw with Isleham United in Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League 11A.

> Darts

Saffron Walden Darts Winter League, week 18 results: SWTFC 6 Queens 15, Cup - Crown 19 Fleur 2, Axe 6 Newport Club 15.

180s: J Willes, Lee Chapman, Bob Carter. 114 out - R Watson.

14 dart leg - Billy Powell.

■ Due to the success of the

winter league, a new mini summer charity league is being launched to start in late June. £2-50 per player, no team fee, with all money to go to charity.

Two pairs, four singles and one four - best of three legs. E-mail trevor-bright@sky.com for more details.