

**RUGBY UNION**

## Saxons hit three figures in triumph

Saffron Saxons racked up three figures in a ruthless win over Ely 2nds at Henham on Saturday.

Oscar Norman (five), Rob Booth (four), Dan King (two), Charlie Potter, Harry Stocking, Callum Guthrie and Ian Lyons grabbed Saxons' 15 tries in a 104-0 mauling.

Ed Smith added the extras for 12 of the 15 scores.

Saxons got off to a strong start maintaining good possession and, building phases through the forwards, gained good early field position with King crashing over for the opening try converted by Smith

This set the tone for the first half, a strong pack dominating and fluid running from the backs, excellent support lines and a 50-point lead at half-time.

The second half was scrappy to begin with, with a series of penalties affecting the flow but discipline soon returned and the Saxons got back into their groove.

Man of the match Billy Powell organised the team well, getting the forwards back.

Credit to Ely who did not lie down, despite the score and forced Saxons to defend their line for the last 10 minutes but resolute defence kept them out.

**FOOTBALL**

## Dynamos do the double

Ben Start hit a brace as Saffron Dynamos secured back-to-back MNC League Division Four A MNCs for the first time this season with a 4-1 success at Comberton United Reserves.

Daniel Rudd and Sam Mitchell were also on target for Dynamos.

# Portway's hot streak continues but Town held

**THURLOW NUNN PREMIER**

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN ..... 1  
ELY CITY ..... 1

Stuart Wardley's Saffron Walden Town took their unbeaten Thurlow Nunn Premier Division run to five games with an entertaining home draw with struggling Ely City.

Charlie Portway notched his eighth goal in nine games to put the Bloods ahead but Ely levelled soon after through Oliver Brooks.

Town dominated the first half with a number of chances and didn't give Ely's defence much time to rest.

Ryan Fleming was the first to test Ely's keeper Harry Reynolds with a powerful header but he tipped the ball over the crossbar.

Craig Calver was causing Ely problems in the penalty area with his great footwork.

He was denied two potential penalty claims after being pushed.

Calver continued to dominate and almost produced the perfect pass for Portway.

Striker Portway ran into the area to try and convert Calver's cross but he was just inches away from the ball.

New signing Julian Parson-Simon then cleverly curled the ball into the area for Portway but his strike was straight at Reynolds.

Daniel Grindrod came close to opening the scoring with a stunning free-kick but again Reynolds made another great diving save.

It took over half-an-hour before Walden's defence was tested.

Ashley Walter latched onto a cross, but his strong header went over the bar.

Walden almost scored in the last few minutes of the second half.

James Crane and Calver linked up well but Reynolds pushed the ball out of the area.

Ryan Fleming had a great follow-up shot which forced another save from Reynolds.

Ely started the second half more confidently and looked threatening



■ Charlie Portway was on target for the Bloods again. Picture: JAMIE PLUCK

on the attack but Walden held the lines well and kept the visiting attack at bay.

Grindrod conjured the move of the match as he dribbled the ball around four Ely players and into the box.

He tried to square the ball but lost it just as he was about to pull the trigger.

Parson-Simon was unlucky not to get his first goal for the Bloods.

He executed a superb overhead kick which beat Reynolds but the goal was disallowed for offside.

The goal was soon to come though as Reynolds was finally beaten by in-form Portway.

Crane delivered an excellent cross and Portway struck the ball, which shaved the inside of the post, and

flew in. As it looked like Walden were going to score a second, Ely equalised.

The ball was crossed in and Oliver Brooks headed it over keeper Lee Pacey and into the net.

With just a few minutes remaining both teams looked like they could have taken all three points.

Walden desperately tried to get the ball over the line with a melee of players but it wasn't to be.

The last excellent effort from Walden was from Spike Bell. His venomous shot from distance was brilliantly saved by Reynolds.

Town remain 11th in the table. They travel to Thetford Town on Saturday.

**NETBALL**

## Hawks confirm number one status

A dominant win over Rookies has seen Saffron Hawks U14s confirm their number one county ranking.

The in-form side triumphed 98-10, seeing them qualify for the regional levels in the next round of the national competition.

Hawks Ladies firsts dominated a spirited Turnford side, beating them 47-14.

Hawks U14s B started slow against Hertford Hornets but played well in the remaining three quarters to win 44-39.

Hawks Ladies 4ths beat Chelmsford Swifts 33-17.

Player of the Match was Mya Sanderson.

**RUNNING**

## White outshines husband at Fitch

Saffron Striders' Rebecca White was on top form as she finished as second female at the Fitch Way Ultra Trail Marathon.

The event, which follows the old Fitch Way railway line which connected Bishop's Stortford to Braintree from 1869, is a flat, multi-terrain 26-mile race and is a popular trail marathon, attracting runners from all over the country.

Nick White, of Saffron Walden, was the first male Strider to finish in seventh place overall in an impressive three hours 22 minutes 10 seconds, with his wife Rebecca stealing the show as she finished in sixth place overall in 3:22:08.

**GOLF**

## Charity to promote Walden juniors

Members of Saffron Walden Golf Club are looking to promote talent in the club's junior section via a charity.

The Walden Charity has provided funds for a scholarship which this year has been awarded to Louis Martin, who has joined the Lee Westwood Academy, hoping to make golf his career.

The money will help him fund winter training as the academy sends its pupils to Spain.

Funding given to the Futures programme, which provides one-to-one and fast-track coaching, has gone to Josh Izod and Leo Bonser.

The U18 award will provide Callum Brookes with funds towards membership and tournaments.

Hettie Carter is the recipient of the Academy girls' fund to help her with membership, coaching and tournaments.

**TRIATHLON**

## Buchallet warms up in style

WaldenTRI member Michael Buchallet got his 2017 season off to a flying start with an overall win at the VeloPark Mince Pie's Revenge Duathlon.

The event took place on the magnificent closed road circuit surrounding the 2012 Olympic velodrome in the VeloPark, Stratford.

The event format of run-bike-run, started with a two-mile first run then a 10-mile bike section before finishing with a 1mile final run.

Buchallet took the lead during

the first run and, with a strong bike leg, established a comfortable margin for the final run to cross the finishing line in 43 minutes 32 seconds.

It is a promising start at the beginning of his preparation for the 2017 European Duathlon Championship due to take place in Spain at the end of April.

■ Michael Buchallet crossed the line in first place at the VeloPark Mince Pie's Revenge Duathlon in preparation ahead of the 2017 European Duathlon Championship.

