

Last Thursday, my little constituency was sandwiched in between two very different results on its borders. Both relate to team performance and outcome but one was good news, the other, in my opinion, was not.

So starting with the good; the result by Maidstone United in the FA Cup! I am not going to pretend I follow Maidstone United week in week out but I know that many of my constituents do. I have been to the Gallagher Stadium on a few occasions, including their first game in their new stadium, and I love the atmosphere generated by a loyal fan base. Plus I love what the Club is doing for grassroots football in general. The fact that the artificial pitch allows for it to be used every day for community and Club use is brilliant which in turn will generate income for future investment in football.

Who knows what will happen in the next round of the FA Cup but what is great about the competition is it is proper Roy of the Rovers stuff. It is not just the players who dream of cup glory but the fans do too. So good luck to the Stones against Wrexham.

Meanwhile on the northern border of my constituency, the dream result didn't quite happen. Obviously I refer to the result in the Rochester & Strood by election. I was very disappointed that UKIP won and for those who read my column the week before last will understand why. The mainstream parties took a battering and some will brush it off as a by-election phenomenon, which often they are because it is seen as a free hit on Westminster. That said it is important that we all make the case as to why voters should do stick with the mainstream next May. Issues were raised during the high profile election that cannot be ignored. I am sure if they are then all parties will suffer.