

Stones close in on the top

Wealdstone produced a clinical performance to claim an emphatic 3-0 victory at Cray Wanderers on Saturday to go within two points of league leaders Hampton and Richmond Borough.

Stones would have been expecting a tough afternoon at a ground where they don't have the best of records, but manager Gordon Bartlett will no doubt be delighted at the way his side went about their job.

The visitors looked sharp from the start, their high tempo put the opposition under pressure throughout and two goals from Richard Jolly, with Alex Dyer netting the other, were enough to see the away side take the points.

There was just one change in personnel from the side which had performed so admirably in the 3-2 victory over Hampton, midfielder Kurtney Brooks was recalled to the starting XI in place of Tom Pett.

Brooks' impact was immediate as Wealdstone made a flying start to the game.

With just two minutes on the clock, Chris O'Leary played the ball inside to the former Watford man who prodded through to Richard Jolly. The striker had timed his run perfectly as he beat the offside trap before confidently side footing past Cray keeper Grant Hall to give his side the perfect start.

It could have been 2-0 just five minutes later; Nathan Webb laid the ball off to Wes Parker 20 yards from goal. Parker's driven effort took a deflection before being palmed round the post by Cray's veteran substitute keeper Hall, first choice stopper Andy Walker was injured in the warm up.

In a fast-paced opening, the Wands had an opportunity to level on 12 minutes and probably should have. Billy



In fine scoring form: Alex Dyer slots home to put his side 2-0 up on Saturday.

Picture by Steve Foster/Wealdstone FC

Burgess crossed the ball to the far post where an unmarked Paul Vines headed wide from close range.

Stones keeper Rikki Banks almost handed Vines a chance to make amends five minutes later, the Wanderers striker hit a weak header at goal which Banks almost fumbled into his own net. The keeper would have been relieved to see it bounce just wide of the post.

Stones grabbed their second of the afternoon with 19 minutes on the clock. Peter Dean played the ball inside to Jolly, who slotted it through to Dyer and the former Northampton Town man clinically slipped the ball past Hall to continue his recent rich vein of form in front of goal.

Cray responded and Alex Stavrinou

hit a spectacular volley from the edge of the box which was unfortunate to dip just wide of the upright.

Webb came close to adding a third on 38 minutes, but he could only lash over when well placed after an effort from Jolly had been deflected into his path following a neat passing move.

Wanderers almost pulled a goal back on the stroke of half-time when Mark Willy met a corner with a first-time effort which was cleared by a combination of Banks and Lee Chappell.

The home side began the second period on the front foot, and only another great block from the well-placed Chappell denied Vines as he bore down on goal after Dyer had lost possession in the middle of the park.

Despite Cray enjoying more of the ball at the start of the half, a crucial third goal arrived for Stones on the hour mark.

Sloppy play gifted Chris O'Leary possession and after a determined run he was able to pick out Jolly at the far post, the deadly marksman expertly finished into the far corner from the tightest of angles for his second of the game.

There was very little action of note in either 18-yard box following the goal, with the home side enjoying more of the ball but failing to trouble Banks as Stones defence was resolute.

The visitors defended so well that Cray didn't register an effort on target in the second half until the 82nd minute, when substitute Laurent Hamici hit a 25-yard effort which was straight down the throat of Banks.

At the other end, Brooks almost added a fourth on 86 minutes, curling a low effort at goal from the edge of the box which Hall did well to save at full stretch.

Next up for Wealdstone is an intriguing FA Trophy third qualifying round tie on Saturday, as they entertain Blue Square North side Corby Town at The Vale.

Wealdstone: Banks, McCubbin, Chappell, Parker, Cronin, Dyer, Webb, O'Leary, Dean (Pett 87), Jolly (Baidoo), Brooks. Not used: Jordan, Nicholas and Haxhia.

Fine strike ends cup quest

A terrific strike 15 minutes into the game settled Tuesday night's London Senior Cup fourth round tie in Bromley's favour and was enough to leave Harrow Borough wondering what might have been.

Both sides named strong line-ups and a fast-paced start to the game saw chances at either end.

The decisive moment came on 15 minutes when Elliot Buchanan picked the ball up in the inside left channel, 22 yards out and sent a dipping shot over Elvijs Putnins and into the roof of the net.

In a spell of late pressure, Harrow had their best chance to equalise, Yasmine Fehmi-Gil chipping the ball over the home defence for Simeon Akinola to run onto. George Howard was quickly off his line and a vital touch took the power off his shot, giving a defender the chance to get back and clear before it could go in.

Borough were unfortunate to lose out 2-1 to Concord Rangers on Saturday with goals from Nicky Cowley and Harry Elmes cancelling out a spectacular Akinola equaliser.

A controversial penalty settled the game late on but there was still time for Ruddock Yala to see red when he was deemed to have kicked out at an opponent.

Borough return to Earlsmead to host Margate on Saturday.

GALAXY WINDOWS
SIMPLY THE BEST! SPECIAL OFFER FOR 2012
DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
from
£99
EACH
SUPERIOR QUALITY WINDOWS & DOORS... HIGH STANDARD OF FITTING AND AFTERSALES SERVICE...
www.galaxywindows.info
sales@galaxywindows.info
Telephone Galaxy Windows Hotline
020 8427 3888
All uPVC is manufactured to British Standard specifications & new part 'L' compliance giving you total peace of mind. Subject to conditions available on request.

Established since 1980
SANGHANI WARDROBE
Specialist For
QUALITY
MADE TO MEASURE
WARDROBE & FITTING
For FREE no obligation quotation,
Call **020 8861 2826**
Range of colour & designs
In-house fitters (No contractors used)
We also supply any size DOORS and HANDLES
Unit G3, Phoenix Industrial Estate, Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, HA1 2SP.
www.swardrobe.co.uk

thehive
FITNESS CENTRE
NOW OPEN
2 Exercise Studios
Spin Studio
Bespoke Fitness Regimes
OPEN DAILY
6AM - MIDNIGHT
CAMROSE AVENUE, EDGWARE, HA8 6AG
020 8238 5920
fitness@thehivelondon.com
www.thehivefootballcentre.com