

Back to winning ways

Wealdstone put their FA Trophy disappointment behind them on Saturday as Gordon Bartlett's side recorded a 3-1 win against lowly Carshalton Athletic in the Ryman Premier League.

The Stones' victory owed a lot to an improved second-half display as it seemed the Robins may upset the form book at the interval.

Bartlett's men controlled possession for long periods in the opening 45 minutes but struggled to turn their dominance into chances.

Elliot Godfrey showed neat control before he fired a shot over the crossbar and Luke Pigden was brilliantly denied by a point-blank save from Carshalton goalkeeper Dean Snedker.

The Robins' direct approach almost paid off as Lewis Taylor was left with room but his lofted shot was too high.

Carshalton, who had only claimed two league victories prior to the game, looked dangerous and the Stones defence had to be alert to deny the lively Alex Addai.

After Snedker made a good block from Johnny Wright, Wealdstone managed to make the breakthrough. Tom Pett's effort on goal was saved but the ball rebounded off Quincy Rowe and into the net.

After working hard to gain a lead, the Stones let it slip immediately. Jonathan North pulled off a fine stop but moments later Adriano Moraes levelled with a well-struck shot.

Wealdstone took some time to settle in the second period but they eventually started to apply pressure on the Robins' defence, with the persistent Wright causing several problems.

He played an important role in helping the Stones retake the lead as he played the ball to Pett and his clever pass was met by Godfrey, who rifled past the exposed Snedker.



Wealdstone's Jonny Wright forces Carshalton Athletic goalkeeper Dean Snedker into a good save during the Stones' 3-1 win on Saturday.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Bartlett's men then took control and Pett drilled an effort wide after a neat through ball from the influential Wright.

With 17 minutes remaining the Stones sealed victory. From a corner, Sean Cronin headed powerfully into the area and Scott McGleish managed to finish off from close range.

The Robins pushed forward late on in search of a route back into the game but the Stones comfortably saw out the remaining quarter of an hour.

With a few of the top sides dropping points at the weekend, Wealdstone were able to take advantage and move up one place in the table to fifth spot.

The Stones, who have taken 29 points from their 14 matches this season, are five points off league leaders Maidstone United.

However, Bartlett's side have games in hand on the teams above them and have a good chance of taking another three points when they travel to struggling Cray Wanderers on Saturday.

Top performance brings Harrow win

Harrow Borough produced their best display of the season to claim a 4-2 away win against AFC Hornchurch in the Ryman Premier Division on Tuesday evening.

The hosts, who are third in the table, started brightly but Harrow goalkeeper James Shea was alert to deny George Purcell.

Borough went ahead in the eighth minute from the penalty spot. Calum Willock was brought down in the area and Steve Butterworth confidently converted from 12 yards.

The lead was doubled soon after as former Chelsea youngster Rob Wollaston played a fine pass into the path of Victor Osobu and he held off a defender before dispatching his shot past goalkeeper Inigo Echebare.

Shea did well to maintain the two-goal advantage as he denied Tambeson Eyong's drive and then Sam Lechmere shot just over.

Borough continued to fashion chances and Echebare did well to save an effort from Willock after the defence had been opened up by a fine interchange between Saheed Sankoh and Osobu.

Harrow kept their lead until the interval and the second half was action-packed.

Hornchurch pulled a goal back as a cross into the area was met by Purcell and he smartly slotted past Shea.

The hosts came close to adding a second but Purcell's acrobatic attempt across goal narrowly missed the post.

Hornchurch continued to apply pressure and it paid off as they levelled in the 69th minute. Purcell completed his brace as the ball dropped to him inside the area and he fired a shot inside Shea's right-hand post.

With the home side in the ascendancy it seemed as if they would eventually go ahead. However, it was Harrow who grabbed the fifth goal of the contest.

Echebare pushed clear Butterworth's clever curling free-kick and the resulting corner was turned home by Danny Leech after a knock down from Willock.

With nine minutes remaining, Borough added their fourth. Sankoh surged powerfully forward and laid the ball to Simeon Akinola who twisted past a defender and slotted in to seal the three points and extend Harrow's unbeaten run in the league to three matches.

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