

Stones miss out on double

Wealdstone's hopes of winning the double were scuppered after the Stones lost 3-2 at home to Hampton & Richmond Borough in the Middlesex Senior Cup final on Saturday.

Gordon Bartlett's side won the Ryman Premier Division title this season but Hampton and Richmond thwarted their bid to round off the campaign with a second trophy.

Bartlett said: "It would have been the icing on the cake and it is an opportunity missed but it cannot spoil a fantastic season."

The Stones lost 3-1 at home to Boro back in December and the visitors repeated the trick despite Wealdstone taking the lead.

The hosts opened the scoring after just three minutes when Charlie Penny fired them into the lead.

But the equaliser came in controversial circumstances as referee Reuben Simon awarded Hampton a free-kick for a clash involving Wes Parker and Charlie Moone despite the Stones defender being elbowed in the nose.

Dave Tarpey punished Wealdstone as he curled his effort around the wall and into the net.

Tarpey gave Hampton & Richmond the lead before the break when the striker hit a half-volley past Garry Malone.

Wealdstone equalised shortly after the restart when a free-kick was flicked into the net by Sean Cronin.

But the visitors scored a spectacular winner when Tom Hickey smashed home a 30-yard half-volley which gave the keeper no chance.

Bartlett said: "I thought we started very well and scored an early goal but then it was a very strange deci-



Jerome Okimo attacks during the Stones' cup final defeat against Hampton & Richmond Borough.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

sion to award them a free-kick which led to the goal. It totally changed the game and it was an understatement to say I was frustrated.

"For their winner, Hickey will not hit a shot any sweeter than that and there is not a lot you can do about that."

Bartlett added: "We had spells

during the match when we played well but with no real end product. But we will make do with playing at a higher level in the Conference South next year."

● Ticket sales are going well for the Champions champagne reception which takes place on Sunday.

The evening costs £25 for the two

course supper which starts promptly at 5.30pm start or £15 for the finger buffet which runs from 7.45 pm at the Vale.

To buy tickets contact Leo Morris on 07931 167417, Jez Albert on 07903 805861 or club president Paul Rumens on 07710929692 or via email at rumens@gotadsl.co.uk.

Chelsea champ

Harrow's Qasim Khan was crowned Under-12 champion at the sixth instalment of Chelsea's Asian Star initiative on Monday at the club's Cobham training ground.

The youngsters took part in a day of activities designed to increase Asian participation in all levels of the game, while the winners in each age group are invited to join the Chelsea Foundation's Football Development Centres.

Chelsea Foundation coaches were joined by coaches from the Zesh Rehman Foundation, with participants competing in under-9s to under-12s age groups. Children were judged on a series of matches and tests specifically designed and used by the Chelsea Academy to examine speed, skill and ability.

Khan said: "I didn't expect it but I thought I played well and some of my team mates thought I would get it, but when I heard my name I was so excited."

"I like to play centre midfield and on the wing and I feel I learnt a lot from just one day at Chelsea as my movement was something the coaches immediately helped with and improved."

Asian Star is the first scheme of its kind undertaken by a professional football club. It is designed to boost Asian participation at all levels of the game.

Shea cleans up

Harrow Borough goalkeeper James Shea landed a treble at the club's end of season awards.

The talented shot stopper won the players' player of the year award for Borough.

Shea also scooped the supporters' player of the year and the vice-president's association award.

The former Arsenal keeper's consistency has been rewarded with a hat-trick of awards for Dave Anderson's side. The Reds finished 18th in the Ryman Premier Division.

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