

# SPORT

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## FOOTBALL: Wealdstone continue winless start Bartlett heartened by Stones' performance

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett has admitted his side are still in pre-season mode due to the number of obstacles they have faced this summer but has taken heart from the Stones' performances.

Their luck was once again out on Saturday as Wycombe Wanderers loanee Alex Lynch was recalled by the Blues on Friday due to their own goalkeeper injury problems. Jon North was then sent off for the Stones at Eastbourne Borough meaning midfielder Matt Ball donned the gloves for 55 minutes.

It was not until the third minute of extra time that the former Norwich City youngster was beaten either, as Nathaniel Pinney struck a cruel blow by settling the contest in the visitors' favour.

But on Tuesday the Stones picked up a creditable first point of the season at big-spending Margate with a goalless draw.

Reflecting on a challenging start to the season, Bartlett said: "There have been so many obstacles thrown our way we are still in pre-season mode; trying different things out.

"We are still trying little things and it is very much a learning

By Tom Bodell

curve and a case of trying to get the right balance."

He continued: "You have got to look at performances rather than results; you have got to look at the character of the group and we are in a better position than last year. The disappointing thing is we have lost to three teams I don't expect to be up there at the end of the season."

But Bartlett insists the players are refusing to beat themselves up over a winless start to the campaign. After all, they went nine games without winning in their first campaign in the Conference South.

"I think it is a sign of the group that they are not feeling sorry for themselves and evident at Margate," explained Bartlett.

"If you look at the results they are disappointing. But the performances are encouraging."

Bartlett will now seek a replacement for North between the sticks and says he has three or four potential keepers "on the go" ahead of Saturday's visit from Ebbsfleet United.



Gordon Bartlett's expression says it all after Wealdstone lost 1-0 to Eastbourne Borough. Picture: Steve Foster/Wealdstone FC

## Boro's big parking nightmare

THE LATEST ACTION FROM THE ISTHMIAN PREMIER DIVISION

HARROW Borough manager Steve Baker described Saturday's 1-1 draw at Lewes as a nightmare, summed up by the team's difficulties finding somewhere to park when they arrived.

The Dripping Pan does not have a car park and Boro players were left to find alternative parking in the town centre at short notice after being hit by traffic on the way to Sussex.

Harrow's afternoon was then compounded by the hosts taking an 87th-minute lead, only for David Taylor to snatch a point virtually from the restart.

Reflecting on a difficult day, Baker said: "To be honest, it summed up the afternoon. We had a nightmare getting there and it took two-and-a-half or three hours.

"I can't get my head around the fact there is no parking there. Most the squad spent time driving around looking for somewhere to get parked. We were not on the pitch until half past two."

But Baker was more impressed with his side's resilience. "The lads don't give up whatever the score is and the response was really good.

"The only change I would like to make is not going 1-0 down every week," added Baker.

Harrow lost 3-2 to Kingstonian in the Isthmian League Cup on Tuesday with goals from Connor French and Michael Bryan in consolation.

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