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WEALDSTONE: Met win sets up first round tie

Bartlett hoping for another Trophy run

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett is targeting a run in the FA Trophy after a "limp" FA Cup exit at the hands of League One side Colchester United.

The Stones advanced to the first round proper on Saturday with a 2-0 win at Isthmian Premier Division outfit Metropolitan Police.

Goals from Bradley Hudson-Odoi and Jonny Wright saw the Stones into round one where they will meet National League South rivals Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, December 12.

Wealdstone reached the semi-finals in 2012, eventually going out against Newport County after beating the then Conference Premier side Cambridge United away from home earlier in the competition thanks to a Richard Jolly brace.

Now Bartlett is hoping his current crop can go some way towards emulating that run, starting in Somerset next weekend.

"It's one where we really want to advance," said Bartlett. "We want to do well in the FA Trophy.

"Getting to the semi-finals as an Isthmian League side proves it's something which can be done and it's what we want to do now.

By Tom Bodell

"Realistically there's no way you can go a long way in the FA Cup but you can in this competition and we want to avenge what I would say was a fairly limp exit in the FA Cup.

"But it's a tough draw and I'm not looking any further than that at the moment."

With the Seagulls coming out of the hat in round one the Stones will face the side four places below them on consecutive weekends, starting with a league encounter at The Vale on Saturday.

"My biggest thing is playing them away from home," explained Bartlett. "No two games are ever the same because teams are different away from home.

"You deal with the cards the way they come up," he added.

Saturday's victory at Imber Court means it is now three matches unbeaten for Wealdstone, who would have hoped to extend that run against Gosport Borough at The Vale on Monday, had it not been for the match being rained off.

The Stones were unbeaten in 13 before they lost 6-2 at home to Colchester in the FA Cup and Bartlett



(Left to right) Bradley Hudson Odoi celebrates his opener with Josh Hutchinson and Elliott Godfrey. **WWealdaldstoPicture:**

now aims to keep the momentum going on Saturday.

"Momentum is massive," he said. "There's no doubt, the low point in recent weeks was the St Albans City defeat because I thought we were extremely poor and got exactly what we deserved - nothing.

"That performance wasn't acceptable and sometimes you need a

kick up the backside which a few of them got after that game.

"For some reason we went out there and didn't apply ourselves in the right manner.

"We're now getting back to the kind of results hard work and spirit bring you."

The Gosport Borough game will now be played on January 18.

Boro loss deserved says boss

By Tom Bodell

HARROW Borough manager Steve Baker hopes getting players back to fitness will improve his side's consistency.

The Reds, 12th in the Isthmian Premier Division, lost 3-1 at high-flying Wingate & Finchley on Saturday after taking the lead and have only won back-to-back games on three occasions this season.

"I just hope we can put a run together," said Baker. "It's been stop-start so far and I put that down to the availability of players at the moment."

Boro are struggling for players at the back and Baker felt that was, in part, to blame for Saturday's loss at Summers Lane.

He said: "We could have been more than 1-0 up at half time with the chances we had in the first 20 minutes but we could have defended better too.

"The one thing we're struggling with is injuries in defence. With the size of the squad we've got we're always going to struggle if a few are out."

Baker continued: "Wingate is never an easy place to go. Their home record is good and they're a decent side. "It was level by the end of the first half and I felt if we had gone in 1-0 up at half time we would have got something out of the game.

"They scored two early goals in the second half and I was disappointed with the third goal because it was a country mile offside.

"But they were the better team and we deserved nothing."

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If a task is performed in the consciousness that God is my companion then the impossible becomes possible.

a) Month 1
Month 3
Month 6
after 12 months

HARROW
TIMES

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