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STONES: Boss hopes break can prove beneficial Bartlett targets points from tough January

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett says a good points return from January will make the rest of the National League South season easier for the Stones.

The bad weather means Wealdstone haven't played a league fixture since they drew 2-2 at Hemel Hempstead Town on Boxing Day.

However, the Stones now face a tough month with a double-header against Gosport Borough, a trip to Dartford and, potentially, a visit from Oxford City on Saturday – unless they advance in the FA Trophy.

"You look at the next few games and they are against strong teams who are right up there in and around the play-offs," said Bartlett.

"It's an important month for us playing against some of the best sides in the league so we have got to be at our best.

"Hopefully we can pick up some valuable points that will make the rest of our season that bit easier."

It has been a frustrating couple of weeks for Bartlett and Wealdstone who have seen games against Sutton United and Hemel Hempstead lost to the inclement weather.

The Stones have also seen their FA Trophy first round tie with

By Tom Bodell

Weston-super-Mare postponed and rescheduled on an almost weekly basis. They were due to travel to Somerset on Wednesday evening.

"That's what you get at this time of year," said a frustrated Bartlett. "The only teams who are playing are the likes of Maidstone United on their 4G pitch.

"The only person who is pleased is Josh Urquhart who went to Australia for two weeks thinking he would miss four games but will only miss two."

However, there has been one benefit to Wealdstone's enforced break. Bartlett has seen his squad suffer with injuries throughout the first four months of the campaign but is now working with an almost fully fit squad for the first time.

He said: "Most people are fit. It's probably the first time we've had a virtually full squad all season. Tom Cadmore is back but we lose Wes Parker for Saturday with suspension."

Despite that Jonathan North's knee surgery is imminent meaning West Ham United loanee Sam Howes will deputise when required.



Gordon Bartlett says a good January will help Wealdstone for the rest of the season.
Picture: ALAN PALMER

Reds boss laments injuries

BAKER SAYS HARROW WOULD BETEN POINTS BETTER OFF WITHOUT INJURIES

HARROW Borough manager Steve Baker insists he has no concerns over his side's slump as they are better off than at this stage last year.

A run of five defeats from their last nine has seen Harrow slip from 11th to 15th.

However, with 36 points from 26 games the Reds are better off than last season when they had just 24 points from the same number of games.

"We're in a much healthier position than last year with more points and fewer games played," said Baker, who saw Tuesday's clash at Brentwood Town postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

"If we hadn't had the injuries we've had at the back then we would probably have another ten points. We need a run of results."

Baker believes Harrow haven't been helped by the volume of defensive injuries they have suffered.

"Our biggest problem is we have had players missing in the key areas," he said.

"We're now on our fifth goalkeeper of the season. I can't remember the last time we played the same back five.

"Last year it was the same back five every game and we kept a lot of clean sheets."

Harrow host Staines Town on Saturday.

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