

# SPORT

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## STONES: Wealdstone earn point at Gosport Bartlett encouraged by team's progress

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett believes his side are in a stronger position than they were back at the start of the season.

The Stones boss has talked regularly about improving the balance and shape of the side but thinks his team are now in a much better state than back in August.

Bartlett said: "We are in a better position than we were back in August. Our target was to have a couple of cup runs and finish higher than last season. We've done one of those already and still have a chance with the other two."

"The shape and the balance has improved from earlier in the season and we are in a better state than August."

The Stones boss believes having a near fully fit squad has helped him and being able to pick a settled side has made the difference.

He said: "Jonathan North is out for eight to 10 weeks after his knee operation but the rest of the players are back. We have got a more settled squad and until a couple of weeks ago I don't think I'd picked the same team twice throughout the season."

"They look fitter, sharper and

By Simon Mail

there is a real belief in the camp."

Wealdstone earned a 1-1 draw at Gosport Borough in the National League South and Bartlett felt his side deserved to beat their fourth-placed opponents.

Bartlett said: "Gosport have been going very well but I think we had the better of it. In the end I was disappointed we did not get the three points, which bodes well."

Gosport took the lead when West Ham United loanee Sam Howes conceded a penalty.

Justin Bennett stepped up and fired past keeper Howes for the opener.

But the Stones responded quickly and Jack Smith was clattered in the area within four minutes.

Jefferson Louis stepped up and struck his penalty past goalkeeper Nathan Ashmore.

Wealdstone will get another chance to beat Gosport when they host them in Monday night's game.

Bartlett said: "They know all about us and we know about them. I felt we were better than them on Saturday and sincerely hope we get a positive result on Monday."



The Stones will host Gosport Borough on Monday night.  
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Chance to impress for Hazlett

**BOROUGH BOSS HAS HIGH HOPES FOR NEW GOALKEEPER AFTER SOLID DEBUT**

HARROW Borough manager Steve Baker believes new goalkeeper Brendan Hazlett can make an impression after joining the club.

The Reds have been searching for a new shot stopper and brought in Hazlett from Beaconsfield SYCOB last week.

The keeper made his first appearance for the club in Saturday's 3-2 friendly win over Beaconsfield and Baker holds high hopes for him.

The Boro boss said: "He has come in and looked very sharp in training. He did well on Saturday even though it was only a friendly and it is a good opportunity for him."

Boro were due to face Staines last weekend but it was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch and the club arranged the friendly at the last minute.

Goals from Marc Charles-Smith, Kane Jones and Spencer McCall fired them to victory on the 3G pitch at Hayes & Yeading United.

Baker is optimistic their Ryman Premier Division game at fifth-placed Leiston will go ahead this Saturday.

He said: "It's a very tough place to go to and not many teams pick up a positive result there."

"But we will go there and hopefully get something from the game. It's massively important for us because over the last six to eight weeks we have been very inconsistent."

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