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WEALDSTONE pick up four points in one week

Stones boss delights at his players' spirit

GORDON Bartlett saw his Wealdstone outfit pick up four points in a week to put a smile on his face.

He said: "If you had offered me that at the start of the week, I'd have taken it."

The four-point haul put the Ruislip-based outfit in 11th spot, six points shy of the play-offs at one stage, before midweek results bumped them down to 12th and stretched the gap to the play-offs back to nine points.

With the Vanarama National League South table being so tight, the midweek results actually put the Stones closer to the unlikely spectre of relegation rather than the play-offs.

Bartlett said: "That just goes to show how competitive this league is. Everyone is capable of beating each other and every point has to be fought for."

Typically, Bartlett is looking upwards going into the final five fixtures.

He said: "We've got to look at that [play-offs]. We're certainly capable of winning those games and then it's down to other teams' results."

"We've fallen short a few times this season and we could well look

By Dave Peters

back on that at the end of the season and think if only."

His team showed their battling qualities as they turned a 2-0 deficit against Havant and Waterlooville into a 3-2 win on Saturday and then they produced a stubborn defensive performance to hold Hemel Hempstead to a 0-0 draw on Monday.

Four points in a week looked out of the question when Stones were two down at home to Havant with less than half an hour remaining. But the Blues pulled it round with a dramatic rescue show to bank three unlikely points in front of their ecstatic fans.

Wes Parker led the fightback, forcing the ball home from a Scott Davies free-kick before Swansea City loanee James Demetriou equalised after good work from Nathan Mavila and Jefferson Louis.

Stones now had the bit between their teeth and they completed the dramatic turnaround with five minutes left when Johnny Wright scored the winner.

Saturday's five-goal thriller was followed by Monday's hard-fought goalless draw at home to Hemel



Wealdstone fought back to defeat Havant and Waterlooville:

Picture: ALAN PALMER

where the team responded to Bartlett's pleas to be more solid but, despite fielding an attacking line up, they could not find a winner.

Fit-again keeper Jonathan North was in star form to keep the visitors out and earn high praise from the boss.

Bartlett said: "We know how good he is and he showed it. He's got over

two bad injuries and I'm sure if he was that little bit taller he'd be playing at a much higher level. He was excellent along with Tom Hamblin and Parker. It was resolute defending and we showed a lot of character."

The Stones will be without injured veteran striker Scott McGleish for Saturday's clash at Whitehawk.

Boro earn nine-point cushion

TWO WINS IN FOUR DAYS SEE HARROW BOOST CHANCES OF AVOIDING DROP

HARROW Borough moved nine points clear of the Ryman Premier Division relegation zone with two wins in a week.

Having only had two league wins in 2016, Boro doubled that tally in just four days to give their survival hopes a real boost.

They achieved lift-off with a nail-biting 3-2 victory over bottom club VCD Athletic on Saturday, and then they gave themselves real breathing space with Tuesday's 1-0 win over Staines thanks to Spencer McCall.

Boss Steve Baker said: "There's a bit of relief around the place. You can feel the pressure lifting. But we're still not mathematically safe and won't take our foot off the gas."

"It is nice to see a smile back on people's faces. We stayed calm, didn't panic and now after three games unbeaten [following the previous week's draw] our position looks a lot healthier."

Last Saturday, they were coasting with a two-goal lead, then conceded two late goals, before Marc Charles-Smith's 18th of the season won it.

It was a dramatic climax to a day which began well when Dylan Cascoe gave Boro the lead after four minutes and Charles-Smith doubled it on 36. Boro conceded in the 81st minute and the game was back on a knife edge as Athletic equalised before, two minutes later, Charles-Smith settled it.

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