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FOOTBALL: Wealdstone Raider's dentist chair routine tops poll

Stones win £10k contest for best goal celebration



The Stones won £10,000 from the national goal celebration competition. Picture: ALAN PALMER

AN ENTHUSIASTIC goal celebration has netted Wealdstone £10,000 which could rise to a whopping £50,000 pay-out.

The Stones won the cash prize in Marathonbet's Non-League Challenge – a nationwide competition in support of Prostate Cancer UK to find Non-League football's greatest goal celebration.

The National League South club scooped the initial £10,000 windfall from the online bookmaker and they will have the chance to multiply it by five with the second part of the prize – the proceeds of a Wealdstone match against a Premier League Legends side at their Ruislip-based ground in July.

Stones won the competition – which called on all 68 clubs of the National League, National League South and National League North to record their best goal celebration – thanks to superfan the Wealdstone Raider, aka Gordon Hill.

His hilarious 'dentist chair' im-

By Dave Peters

personation, where players celebrated Matt Ball's goal against Truro City in February by pouring the contents of their water bottles down his throat, was a landslide winner.

The clip can be seen online at youtube.com/watch?v=ToTLb7UchRw. Thousands of entries from up and down the country were received and whittled down to a final five which were put up for a public vote.

Wealdstone's celebration won the most public votes ahead of Chelmsford City, Truro City, Whitehawk and Torquay United thanks to the celebration which was reminiscent of Paul Gascoigne's Euro '96 goal celebration.

Stones president Paul Rumens said: "We're all absolutely thrilled to have won the competition and the £10,000 cash prize.

"The club is ecstatic. We want to thank everyone who gave their sup-

port and voted. We're going to spend some of the cash on the team.

"It's going to be amazing playing against a team of Premier League legends at our ground this summer. We've set a target of a sell-out and record crowd for the game.

He added: "He's [Wealdstone Raider] been phenomenal for the club and has helped us grow and grow.

"We always try and use his fame for good, be it the club and/or charities.

"Gordon is always game for a laugh and we thank him and others at the club who made this happen."

No firm date has been confirmed for the game yet although the fixture has been provisionally set for July 17.

Meanwhile, Ball, the man whose strike sparked the winning celebration, is now a free agent.

He and striker Jefferson Louis have been thanked for their service by Stones and are free to find themselves new clubs.

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