

# SPORT

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## FOOTBALL: Side bounce back after Brackley loss Stones recover to bag first pre-season win

WEALDSTONE notched their first win of pre-season on Tuesday night as Danny Green's strike saw off Staines Town.

The Stones bounced back from a disappointing 4-1 defeat to Brackley labelled "lacklustre" by manager Gordon Bartlett to win at the sixth time of asking.

Bartlett had fielded a mix of first-team regulars and trialists for their first game of the week against Brackley, with the visitors taking home the Brian Collins Trophy which the two teams compete for each time they meet.

New signing Elliot Benyon got them off to a fine start, but James Armson's leveller before the break began the visitors' turnaround.

Another two from the 26-year-old midfielder followed after half-time, before a fourth from an unnamed trialist rounded off a miserable day for the Stones.

They would bounce back in Tuesday night's 1-0 win over Staines.

In total, eight contracted Wealdstone players were unavailable for the fixture, while a host of half-time changes left a mostly young Stones side on the pitch as the match wore on.

By Ron Walker

Wealdstone had looked impressive in earlier pre-season fixtures in narrow defeats to Leyton Orient and QPR Under-21s, but despite another three defeats against less glamorous opposition, the manager insisted he was not concerned.

He said: "The good news is that this has happened in pre-season and I remember losing 4-1 to Uxbridge three years ago and the whole place was doom and gloom, including myself. Nine months later we went and won the league."

"Credit to Brackley, who looked bright and cohesive, but we were the total opposite and were flat and lacklustre."

Teddy Sheringham will be among the big names to take on the Wealdstone Raider on Sunday when a Premier League legends side face the Stones at Grosvenor Vale.

Champions League winner Sheringham, most recently manager of Stevenage, is the latest name to be confirmed in the all-star tie, which will also feature Arsenal's Nigel Winterburn, Ireland midfielder Matt Holland and Bolton legend Kevin Davies among others.



The Stones were beaten by Brackley Town on Saturday.

Picture: ALAN PALMER

## Struggling Bessboro' bulldozed

**SPECTACULAR COLLAPSE SEES SIDE  
MAKE A MERE 72 AWAY AT OSTERLEY**

BESSBOROUGH are teetering on returning to the bottom of the Middlesex Division Three table after making just 72 in a heavy defeat by Osterley.

Rohan Karkhanis' 3-29 helped them keep Osterley's innings to a reachable 230, but they would collapse spectacularly in response, with only Vidosha Jayardena and Kibreeth Rameez making double figures.

A slow start for Bessborough would see the opening four Osterley batsmen make 155, but despite falling to 138-6 thanks to two ducks from Rohan Khakanis, they rallied.

Fahim Barharami's unbeaten 45 helped them beyond the 200 mark, but their total was still one Bessborough would have hoped to chase down.

But from the moment Gihan Pallage reported for six in response, 8-1 soon became 11-3, as Sherrick Chavda departed for a single run.

Jayardena became the fifth man to fall despite opening, but the fact he had made only 12 runs in that time told its own story.

Khakanis, who had starred with ball in hand, was unbeaten with two from 22 deliveries, but Bessborough were long since beaten by the time Sharnben Kanthasamy departed for two for their final wicket.

A brutal 6-29 from Shakir Ahmad had done most of the damage in what ended as a big defeat for the visitors.

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