

# SPORT

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## STONES downed in back-to-back home defeats Red rescinded but scant consolation

ELLIOT Benyon's later-overturned red card is typical of Wealdstone's recent luck, in the mind of manager Gordon Bartlett.

His star striker, with 14 goals to his name in his debut season, was left aghast when shown a red card for a routine challenge on Eastbourne Borough goalkeeper Charlie Horlock on Saturday, with the scores level at 1-1.

They had led through Johnny Wright's goal following a first-half corner, but after an Eastbourne equaliser and Benyon's red card, conceded three without reply in the final 15 minutes.

They were simply below-par, on Monday night as Bath City travelled to Grosvenor Vale, and walked away with a 1-0 win in a game where neither side got going.

Benyon was eligible to play in that game regardless as his suspension was automatically delayed a week, but could not inspire them to create enough to ever really trouble the Romans.

Bartlett said he was at a loss to explain his players' performance in their second defeat in three days, but was grateful to have his top scorer off the hook.

By Ron Walker

He said: "It's not much consolation for the game, but I don't think anyone in the ground would be surprised it has been overturned except the referee. That's the way things are going at the moment for us.

"There was no malice in it. It says a lot that you rarely get an appeal overturned at this level.

"It's good to have him back, but it's bad because there is nothing we can do to change Saturday.

"On Monday we didn't play well until half-time. We dominated after that, but didn't create enough.

"We're lacking a cutting edge and a bit of confidence, for whatever reason, and the only way we can fix that is by winning games.

"I've had teams who weren't good enough and lost games but a lot of these guys have played at a higher level. We have got to find a solution, and I'm confident we will."

On Saturday, that recovery can begin at Hungerford Town, who sit just a place below the Stones.

• For an in-depth interview with new Wealdstone chairman Peter Marsden, see Page 59.



Elliot Benyon reacts to his red card from the referee for an innocuous challenge on Saturday. Picture: ALAN PALMER

## Hat-trick hero sinks Uxbridge

MEITE SETS THE TONE AS HARROW HIT UXBRIDGE FOR FIVE WITHOUT REPLY

IBRAHIM Meite was in imperious form on Tuesday night as his hat-trick led Harrow Borough to a 5-0 win against Uxbridge in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

Max Holland and Francis Babaloo also got on the scoresheet in what was a totally dominant display from the hosts.

It took just 15 minutes for the floodgates to open as Meite fired a low shot beyond the Uxbridge keeper to spark a hugely productive five-minute spell.

Holland then beat two defenders before smashing home from the edge of the box to double the lead and Meite made it 3-0 after 20 minutes.

Despite more Harrow pressure, the visitors held out for the remainder of the half before their new-found resilience was broken eight minutes after the restart.

A sweeping team move saw Babaloo receive the ball from Michael Barima, exchange passes with Joshua Webb and calmly beat the Uxbridge keeper.

A more even second period saw the sides trade chances, with a lack of composure combining with good goalkeeping to keep the score down.

Meite still managed to claim his hat-trick with four minutes to play though, as he latched on to a loose ball in the area, beat a defender and finished emphatically to complete the comprehensive rout.

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