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BENYON and Godfrey fire Stones to victory

Unbeaten streak of 19 matches is ended

TOP-of-the-table Maidenhead United were rolled over by a resurgent Wealdstone at Grosvenor Vale on Boxing Day as Gordon Bartlett's men returned to within eight points of the play-off places following their 2-1 victory.

Goals from Elliott Benyon and an Elliott Godfrey winner 12 minutes from time gave the Stones their second league victory from three, in front of a bumper home crowd of 1,100.

Between the two strikes, Dave Tarpey, the league's top scorer, levelled up from the penalty spot after Eddie Oshodi had brought down Kieron Forbes.

After Godfrey had restored the hosts' advantage they hung on with relative ease to inflict only the second league defeat on Maidenhead all season.

Josh Ugruhart missed out on the festive fixture after undergoing an operation on his knee, with David Hunt taking his place alongside Oshodi in the centre of defence.

Maidenhead came into the game on the back of a 19-game unbeaten streak in the National League South, dropping only eight points in that time – but they were second-

By Ron Walker

best from the outset.

Matty Whichelow went close just after the quarter-hour mark before Tarpey, in search of his 27th league strike of the season, uncharacteristically blazed the ball over from a good position at the other end.

Four minutes before half-time, the hosts found themselves in front. Ciaron Brown found space on the Wealdstone left and his low cross was turned in by Elliott Benyon.

Shortly after the restart, Forbes should have levelled the scores but could only shoot straight at Jonathan North.

It looked like it might not be Tarpey's day when the striker's shooting boots were again missing with an hour gone and he again missed when well-placed.

But minutes later, he was given the perfect opportunity to get on the scoresheet when Forbes was fouled – and slotted beyond North for a fortuitous equaliser.

Godfrey produced a storming performance at the heart of the Stones' midfield in the closing stages as the hosts pressed for a winner their play had deserved, with Ricky



Wealdstone ended Maidstone's unbeaten run on Boxing Day.

Picture: ALAN PALMER

Wellard and Whichelow both unfortunate not to see more from their surging runs.

But as the game entered its final throes, it would come. Wellard's free-kick fell to Godfrey just outside the area, and he struck the ball beyond Carl Pentney.

Tarpey forced a late save from North as Maidenhead's unbeaten

run began to ebb away, but they were rightly downed by a determined Wealdstone side, who they will again face on New Year's Day. **Wealdstone:** North, Sheckleford, Brown, Hunt, Oshodi, Godfrey, Green, Cox, Benyon, Wellard, Whichelow (Wright 81). Subs not used: Freeman, Hamblin, Koroma, McGleish.

Team now clear of drop zone

BOROUGH FINALLY END BOXING DAY HOODOO AFTER THRILLING CLASH

A FESTIVE ding-dong battle saw Harrow Borough pull clear of the Isthmian Premier League relegation zone after winning a nine-goal thriller at Hendon on Boxing Day.

For the first time since 1989, a 27-year hoodoo, the Boro were victorious in a December 26 match – ironically, against the same opponents they had faced that day.

But even then, they did it the hard way, eventually picking up three Christmas points in a 5-4 victory at Silver Jubilee Park.

Josh Webb's curling second-minute free-kick set the tone for a frantic afternoon to open the scoring, before Dave Diedhiou levelled.

Harry Newman restored Boro's advantage with a header but Sam Murphy again restored parity from the penalty spot.

Francis Babalola bundled home the fifth goal of the afternoon from a Newman's low cross.

The respite was very much over when Hendon levelled again, with a fine strike from Casey Maclaren from the edge of the box.

In fact, it would spark the hosts into life when Reis Stanislaus struck a dipping effort beyond Williams.

After the break, Harrow kept pushing and found an equaliser through Joshua Webb's penalty, before an exhausting afternoon of scoring was ended by Sahr Kabba.

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