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FOOTBALL: Unbeaten run ended by Maidenhead Stones let table toppers grab another home win

THE tables were turned on Wealdstone on Sunday as they lost their National League South clash with Maidenhead United 2-0.

Having beaten Maidenhead 2-1 at home on Boxing Day, the Stones arrived at York Road in positive spirits, but failed to match a side which remains unbeaten at home this season.

Gordon Bartlett's men started the match brightly and did enough to trouble their opponents in the first half.

They even had the ball in the net in the seventh minute through Elliot Benyon, but the Stones striker was denied by the offside flag.

Regardless, the scores remained level at the half-time interval as neither side created enough chances to warrant taking the lead.

It took just four minutes of the second half for the stalemate to be broken, however, as the Wealdstone defence was breached in the cruellest of fashions.

Dave Tarpey collected the ball and his shot took a wicked deflection off Eddie Oshodi before finding its way in for the go ahead goal.

The goal gave Maidenhead, who sit top of the table, greater confi-

By Harry Gray

dence and Tarpey would again play a role in their second.

The league's top scorer fed a well-placed pass into the path of strike partner Sean Marks who made no mistake with a composed finish.

Tarpey proved to be a handful throughout and should have had a goal of his own when he flashed over from Renee Steer's cross.

Nick Freeman, who has since returned to Wycombe Wanderers after the completion of his one-month loan, came on to add guile in attack as Wealdstone looked for a comeback.

Both he and Benyon had chances to reduce the arrears but were wayward with their efforts as the Stones ultimately surrendered to the table toppers.

The result leaves the Grosvenor Vale club some 10 points shy of the play-off places with 19 league games remaining.

They will look to rediscover the form which previously saw them go seven games unbeaten when they face Ebbsfleet United at home on Saturday.

It will be no easy task though, with



Wealdstone could not repeat their Boxing Day triumph as they lost 2-1 against title chasing Maidenhead United
Picture: ALAN PALMER

Ebbsfleet currently occupying second position in the table.

They have taken 20 points from their last 10 matches, in a run which has seen them suffer just two defeats and move to within 10 points of the summit of the table.

Ebbsfleet's form over the festive period was similar to Wealdstone's as they lost one and won one of

their matches against Dartford.

Victory on Saturday could see Wealdstone move ahead of East Thurrock United and climb to ninth, while the hosts will hope to consolidate their hold on second.

Wealdstone: North, Sheklofford, Brown, Hunt, Oshodi, Godfrey, Green, Cox, Benyon, Wellard, Whichelow

Borough are hammered by Enfield

EARLY GOALS BY CROOK AND SHULTON
PUT HARROW SIDE TO SWORD IN ROUT

HARROW Borough made a nightmare start to 2017 as they crashed to a 5-1 defeat against Enfield Town in the Ryman League Premier Division.

The loss came on the back of three straight wins with Sahr Kabba's second half strike providing the only relief as Enfield ran riot.

Scott Shulton got the ball rolling for the visitors as he side footed in after 11 minutes and Billy Crook made it 2-0 after racing through the middle.

The game was effectively ended as a contest before half-time when Daniel Wynter diverted in a driven shot at the near post.

Any hope that the interval would bring an improved display was misplaced and poor defending at a corner allowed Ricky Gabriel to steer home a fourth.

Harrows' misery was complete when Wynter rounded Luke Williams for his second in the 71st minute.

The home side's consolation came a minute later as Kabba beat two defenders and forced in his fourth goal in three games.

Despite having 18 minutes to play with, Borough offered little of note late on.

Borough will look to lift themselves in time for an away clash with Leatherhead on Saturday, where they will aim for their first win of the calendar year.

Leatherhead currently sit four places above Harrow in the league in 15th, but victory would take Borough level on 31 points with their opponents.

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