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Frost thwarts Bartlett's hope of Stones run

By Ron Walker

FOOTBALL'S intangible elixir - momentum - was very much on the menu for Wealdstone after last week's historic FA Trophy win at Southport - only for little more than bad weather to deplete its stocks with an unwelcome post-ponement this week.

The Stones were ready to leave North London for Weston-super-Mare on Saturday morning when the pair's National League South fixture was called off due to a frozen pitch in the West Country, one of nine games across the division to fall foul of a national cold snap.

Bartlett's men, still hopeful of making up a 12-point gap to the league play-offs, have lost their last two league games and would have relished the opportunity to reverse that run in Somerset on the back of seeing off National League Southport the week before, something Bartlett was left particularly weary about following the postponement.

"They had a pitch inspection at 9.30am and while it was a sunny day, it was pretty cold," he said.

"When we've played as well as we did at Southport last weekend, we wanted the next game to come round as quickly as possible.

"Losing the momentum we had, and the fact that we have got to travel there in midweek, is frustrating – and I already know Jonny Wright has a prior commitment for that game."

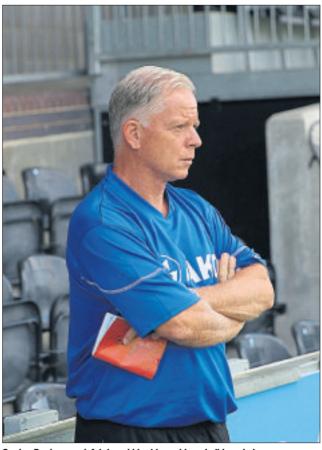
One ray of light ahead of the re-arranged fixture, on March 7, should see injured Elliot Benyon fit for the trip back to the West Country.

In the mean time, Bartlett has been scouring the market for a replacement for his top-scoring marksman.

marksman.

He said: "Elliot was told he will be out for six weeks, which is normal for a dislocated shoulder - but I'm hopeful it'll be less than that.

"We spoke to a few clubs about a striker last week, but it hasn't happened. We're not just going to get someone in for the sake of it."



Gordon Bartlett was left irritated his side could not build on their momentum after their game at Weston-super-Mare was called off. Picture: ALAN PALMER

Smith after revenge in Jupp bout

HARROW BOXER SHUNS 'HIGH LIFE' AS HE LOOKS TO OVERTURN 2015 DEFEAT

HARROW boxer Mitchell Smith admits his 2015 defeat against south London's George Jupp still haunts him "every day" with a revenge bout finally scheduled for later this year.

The 24-year-old was beaten by unanimous decision for the WBO Intercontinental super featherweight title in December that year, in a performance he has labelled "slightly embarrassing". Rumours of a rematch have rumbled for

Rumours of a rematch have rumbled for much of the intervening year – and the fight was finally confirmed this week, for the Copper Box in London on May 6. It is not one Smith is taking lightly.

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He said: "It's one of those fights which could be career ending if you don't come through. It would mean I've hit a level I won't be able to get past.
"I'll have had to live with it for a year

"I'll have had to live with it for a year and a half when I get to the fight, and I think about it day in, day out. "There's not a day that goes by where I

"There's not a day that goes by where I don't think about it, but I have fought the demons and I know I have the skill and talent. I will leave no stone unturned."

A new trainer and a new lifestyle helped Smith return to winning form to see off Norwin Galo in four rounds, and will stand him in good stead as he goes toe-to-toe with lupp in four months time

toe-to-toe with Jupp in four months time.
"I've learned that I can't get away with
living the high life outside of boxing," he
said. "I'm with a very knowledgeable
trainer in Adam Booth now. I've done a
lot of growing up in the past year, and I
think it will show when I fight him again."







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