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WEALDSTONE struggle to draw with Concord Stones keep unbeaten run going despite dismissal

TWO games in as many days may have taken their toll on Wealdstone's 10-game unbeaten side, admitted manager Gordon Bartlett, as they struggled to a 1-1 draw with Concord Rangers on Monday.

One of their toughest tests of the campaign, against play-off chasers Chelmsford United had ended in the same scoreline 48 hours prior at Grosvenor Vale, to keep their own faint hopes of promotion alive.

In that game, Joe White had deservedly equalised from the spot for the Stones after Louie Theophanous had put the visitors ahead inside three minutes.

Holding fourth-placed City came at a cost for Gordon Bartlett's side, though, and in Monday night's game they looked sluggish from the off and had Jonathan North to thank for keeping the scores level at the break.

Danny Green and Ricky Wellard missed early chances after the interval but the Stones looked like relative strangers, and could barely string two passes together.

They were not helped when Aryan Tajbakhsh was shown a straight red card by referee Matthew Buonassisi for an alleged elbow on Concord

By Ron Walker

captain Jamie White with an hour gone.

And things went from bad to worse when Taylor Miles' cross nestled in the back off the net off the far post minutes later.

It was a quirk, perhaps displaying the unity built around the squad in recent weeks, that Wealdstone then summoned up a fine display in the last 20 minutes, and looked far more akin to the side which has gone unbeaten since January.

Bartlett threw caution to the wind and introduced Matty Whichelow and Elliot Benyon in a brave 3-4-2 shape for the final quarter of an hour.

Wes Parker headed over from Wellard's corner with time running out but seven minutes from time Eddie Oshodi, forward from centre-back, showed composure to find the unmarked Whichelow when under pressure himself.

The midfielder took a touch, 25 yards out, before firing a rocket of a strike beyond Bailey Vose to equalise.

Wealdstone might even have won the game in the dying moments



Aryan Tajbakhsh looks stunned as he is dismissed by referee Matthew Buonassisi against Concord Rangers on Monday night. Picture: ALAN PALMER

when Danny Wright had a shot blocked, and with seconds to go Tom Hamblin's header landed in the arms of the visiting goalkeeper.

"They came right out of the blocks," said Bartlett after the game. "They've been on a very good side, although so have we.

"I personally thought the red card was harsh from where I was, but it

was a great strike from Matty and we had a couple of chances after that.

"It's easy to say now we should've made some changes - but these lads put in a great shift recently, so why should you change it?"

On Saturday Wealdstone make the long trip to Bath City, who sit a point below them in the table.

Boro edge towards survival

HARROW PICK UP FOUR POINTS FROM TWO GAMES TO GO 13TH IN TABLE

HARROW'S late-season resurgence continued with four points from two games this week - to move them within a point of the top half of the Ryman Premier League, in an impressive surge to survival.

The gap to the bottom four now stands at 10 points with eight games to play and Steve Baker's side look all but safe following Saturday's 3-1 win at AFC Sudbury, and Tuesday night's goalless draw at Staines.

Marc Charles-Smith opened the scoring for the Borough in their first game of the week, but 10 minutes later Craig Parker equalised.

Lewis Driver tapped home a rebound in first-half stoppage time to give the visitors the lead at the interval, and Kurtis Cumberbatch's goal 11 minutes after half-time sealed victory.

Relegation-threatened Sudbury had Marcus Gamham between the sticks to thank for keeping the score from being even more emphatic in Harrow's favour, as he made a number of fine saves to keep the scoreline down.

Goalkeeper Luke Williams had to be on form on Tuesday night as the Borough travelled to Surrey and Staines, and were hit by late arrivals for three first-teamers.

Josh Webb limped off after 17 minutes to be replaced by Cumberbatch, before Williams saved brilliantly from a free-kick to keep the scores level.

He made further saves after half-time to earn Harrow a valuable draw.

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