

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE midfielder picks up annual award

Cox named Stones Player of the Season

By Ron Walker

SAM Cox was crowned Wealdstone's Player of the Season after a fine debut campaign at Grosvenor Vale.

The Guyana captain, who started his career at Tottenham Hotspur, walked away with both the supporters' player and Junior Stones player of the season awards on Saturday night, having made 32 league appearances for Gordon Bartlett's side this season.

Cox played a starring role in the heart of the Stones engine room as a combative midfielder and helped his new side to eighth in the National League South standings - their highest finish in 29 years.

Elsewhere, Elliot Benyon was given the players' player gong and Ciaran Brown walked away with the young player of the season award.

Benyon, who has barely featured for the Stones since January, still earned the club's golden boot for his sparkling form in the first half

of the campaign, netting some 16 goals in 24 National League South starts in his debut season with the club.

There were also special awards given out to goalkeeper Jonathan North, who made his 250th appearance during the season, with midfielder Elliot Godfrey and centre-back Tom Hamblin both receiving 150 appearance prizes.

Wealdstone have also announced their pre-season line-up ahead of next season, with Fulham, Watford and Reading all sending Under-23 sides to Grosvenor Vale on July 8, 15 and 22 respectively.

The Stones will visit Slough Town on July 11 and Hitchin Town on July 29, with the Middlesex Senior Cup Final against Hampton and Richmond Borough four days earlier, on July 25.

The make-up of next season's National League South, which begins on August 5, is also getting close to completion, with Ebbsfleet and Chelmsford to contest the play-off final for promotion to the National League this Saturday.



Sam Cox with two of his four awards after being crowned, among other titles, the club's Player of the Season. Picture: STEVE FOSTER

Campaign starts with big defeat

BESSBOROUGH BATTING COLLAPSE ENDS WITH 240-RUN DEFEAT TO ACTON

BESSBOROUGH began their Middlesex County League Division Three season with a resounding 240-run defeat to Acton at the BCG on Saturday.

The hosts won the toss and decided to field, and got off to a decent start when Yasir Mehmood was bowled by Rohan Desai for four, taking the score to 32-1.

But that was as good as it would get for the Bessborough bowlers, who were left smarting with the form of opener Jared Sun and third man Sahil Kher.

Sun had just completed his century when he was finally caught behind by wicket-keeper Suwethan Jeyamahon after edging Kibreeth Rameez's ball at 222-2.

But Kher was the star of the show, finishing three short of 150 before Jeyamahon took him too, this time from the bowling of Desai.

Desai's 2-58 was the best Bessborough's eight bowlers could muster before Acton ended 340-3.

In response, the hosts' batting spell never threatened to get going, with openers Hemmen Hutla and Rahul Kulasegaram dismissed for four and one respectively.

Jeyamahon continued his promising afternoon with 36 in the mid-order, with Ian Barrie also making 20 before he was dismissed, and 11th-man Desai's unbeaten 19 proved their third-highest score.

But it took just 25.3 overs for Acton to earn their win, as Bessborough were bowled out for a measly 100.

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