

SPORT

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STONES defender heads to Championship on trial

Danny brings out Green shoots for Wealdstone

By Ron Walker

WEALDSTONE continued to be a thorn in Maidstone United's side as they held the National League South champions to a 1-1 draw at Grosvenor Vale on Tuesday night.

The Berkshire side only lost four league games last season as they romped to the sixth-tier title - but the Stones were one of those sides to claim a scalp over the Magpies in north London last year.

And with half a summer of National League recruitment under their belt, the visitors provided a stern test for Gordon Bartlett's men, but one they dealt with well, earning a draw through Danny Green's second-half strike after Jake Hyde had put Maidenhead in front inside five minutes.

Josh Hill and David Hunt did not do their case for a starting place any favours in the opening moments, getting themselves in a tangle and allowing Hyde to latch on to a long ball and round Jonathan North for the opener.

The questionable defending continued, albeit at the other end, as Jake Goodman was hauled down

in the Maidenhead box, giving Elliot Benyon a chance to score from the spot.

Last season's top-scorer delivered only a tame effort at Carl Pentney in the visitors' net, however.

Within a minute Maidenhead came close to a second, as Dave Tarpey crossed for Hyde, only for North to keep his effort out with a smart save.

Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick and Ricky Wellard entered the fray with 28 minutes to go, and the latter would provide the golden touch for the equaliser.

His square ball found Green who left Pentney with no chance as he levelled up.

The scores stayed the same at the Vale as the Stones looked back on a good performance as their pre-season takes shape - albeit with one notable absentee.

Ciaron Brown was missing from the side to face Maidenhead as the 20-year-old has been taken on trial by Championship side Sheffield Wednesday for the week.

The Stones have already signed what may be the youngster's replacement, with trialist Liam Harwood signing terms on Tuesday.



Danny Green levelled up for Wealdstone in their 1-1 draw with Maidenhead United at Grosvenor Vale last night.
Picture: ALAN PALMER

Time runs out for Boro in draw

SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HANG ON TO CLAIM POINT AGAINST BESSBOROUGH

BESSBOROUGH ran out of time to take all the points against South Hampstead but earned themselves five points from a winning draw at the BCG, with half-centuries from Will Grogan and Kibreeth Rameez giving them a solid total.

They were forced to bat first by their visitors, a decision they would soon regret as Bessborough reached 74 before losing their first wicket, when Grogan was dispatched for 59.

Vidoosha Jayawardena's stoic 17 from 62 was ended three runs after Grogan's departure, but they got back on track with decent scores from Urooj Ahmed (27) and Ian Barrie (31).

From the depths of 88-3, a 50-run partnership between Rameez (59) and Vivek Patel (36*) took Bessborough to 221-6 later in the afternoon, and they closed with a sizeable 243-6 from 50 overs.

South Hampstead gave Bessborough an early sight of an opportunity when James Williams was caught by Grogan off the bowling of Rohan Desai for five, but they would put on 97 runs before losing a second man.

Ajan Sivakumar took five wickets in an exceptional innings, losing only 54 runs in the process, and taking scalps throughout the order.

However, South Hampstead dug their heels in as they fell to 178-8 with Sivakumar's final wicket - and batted out the remaining time to end 201-8, and claim a point.

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