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WEALDSTONE: Late goals rescue pair of draws Stones' character ensures unbeaten Wilkinson start

By Ron Walker

WEALDSTONE twice rescued late points over the Bank Holiday weekend to give new manager Bobby Wilkinson an unbeaten start to live at Grosvenor Vale.

Eddie Oshodi's header from a corner six minutes from time at Eastbourne Borough on Saturday cancelled out Jamie Taylor's fortunate opener, after Aron Pollock had slipped just outside his own box in what ended a 1-1 draw on the coast.

And there were just shy of 1,000 fans at the Vale on Monday afternoon to glimpse the first sight of a new Stones boss for more than 20 years on home soil, as Wilkinson faced his first local rivalry - with Hemel Hempstead the visitors to north-west London.

Josh Hill and Dan Fitchett were included in the starting line-up for the first time under his management, but it was the two home wingers causing all the problems.

Abobaker Eisa and Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick combined to stretch the Tudors' back-line, with the former turning a cross wide with the goal gaping.

Hippolyte-Patrick turned from provider to shooter himself - nodding a Danny Green centre just beyond the post.

Hemel hit the woodwork in first-half injury time to give their travelling fans something to remember at the interval, through Taylor Miles' swerving drive which Jonathan North did superbly to tip onto the bar.

Laurie Walker denied Fitchett and Green in quick succession after half-time before North made another flying save to keep out Ben Greenhaugh's 25-yarder, again with help from the woodwork.

But within a minute the Tudors were in front, with former Stone Tom Hamblin at the heart of it.

He flicked on a cross into a melee of bodies, and sub Callum Driver was on hand to stab the ball home - possibly with the aid of an arm.

The hosts put the controversy behind them, and with two minutes to go were level, when Fitchett tapped into an unguarded net from Green's cross to spark revived celebrations, before Eisa and Matty Whichelow both nearly completed a remarkable turnaround in injury time, but were denied.

Boro are thrashed in first defeat

HARROW BEATEN 6-0 BY HENDON AS WINNING START COMES TO AN END

HARROW Borough were brought down to earth with a bang as their run of wins at the start of the Isthmian Premier League season came to a crashing end with a 6-0 hammering by Hendon.

The Boro had beaten Tonbridge Angels 2-0 thanks to goals in either half from Michael Bryan and Will Turl on Saturday, which had provided a club record fourth straight win to start the season, and keep the club top of the young league table.

But as they chased a spectacular fifth victory on the bounce, Silver Jubilee Park became an unhappy hunting ground within 24 seconds of kick-off on Monday.

Matt Ball fired Hendon ahead within moments of Harrow kicking off, and having struggled with the 3G pitch in the opening minutes, they fell two goals behind six minutes in when Niko Muir beat the offside trap to finish.

Boro were all at sea, and Muir got the better of the nervous Adam Richards after 16 minutes to make it three.

It took more than half-an-hour for Harrow to register a shot on goal, but it made little difference as Muir rattled in their fourth - and his hat-trick - six minutes before the break.

They improved after half-time, although Hendon resumed their dominance with a 68th-minute fifth from a poor clearance, before Keagan Cole completed the rout.

This Saturday, Harrow visit London rivals Enfield in the FA Cup First Qualifying Round, with kick-off at Queen Elizabeth II Park at 3pm.



Eddie Oshodi celebrates his late equaliser for Wealdstone at Eastbourne Borough on Saturday.
Picture: JON TAFFEL

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