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FOOTBALL: Stones finally rolling under Wilkinson Wealdstone get back to winning ways at Vale

WEALDSTONE finally got up and running under Bobby Wilkinson with a pair of home wins to move them a point off the top half of the National League South table.

A 3-0 triumph over Bognor Regis Town on Saturday and a 4-1 drubbing of Poole Town on Monday had Wilkinson relieved as the Stones shook off a four-game winless start to his managerial reign.

The club has struggled to enjoy home comforts over the past few years - something not lost on the new boss - and looked nervous in the first-half of what ended a comfortable victory over Bognor to start the week.

Danny Green broke the deadlock with a 30-yard free-kick, but only after the break did the hosts begin to look confident, and Ryan Sellers scored a rare goal with a brilliant swerving shot, and Ciaran Brown rounded off the afternoon late on.

Monday night brought another three points but seven blink-and-you'll-miss-it minutes had Poole on the ropes, as Matty Whichelow grabbed a brace and Abobaker Eisa scored a third before the interval.

Warren Bentley gave Town a glimmer of hope with a simple goal

By Ron Walker

from a free-kick, but Dan Fitchett's fourth in injury time left Wilkinson breathing easy.

He said: "I had a meeting on Thursday and spoke about the first four games, and we were pleased with the three draws but wanted better.

"I got an outcome last weekend which showed a lot of people who had been saying the boys don't have the passion of the heart that they definitely do.

"It was an unbelievable achievement getting beaten 5-1 on the Tuesday and then winning two games and scoring seven goals in 48 hours."

The new manager has chosen his words carefully when commenting on any matters before his arrival, and perhaps wisely given the regard former manager Gordon Bartlett is held on the back of his 22-year tenure.

But he did make clear he had already made changes around the club, and was unsatisfied with his players' fitness, which some have blamed for their heavy defeat at Weston-super-Mare last week.

He said: "From the first day I came



Matty Whichelow scored twice as Wealdstone put four past Poole Town on Monday night, for a second win in three days. Picture: FREDDIE PATMORE

in, I had to bring in a bit of professionalism and some have come in on the first game and weren't wearing a tracksuit.

"I haven't got anything bad to say about the old team, but you wear the badge with pride and I set high standards.

"My team, for my standards, isn't fit enough yet but I want them fit

and more drilled. It's my way of playing. Brendan Rodgers told me if your team aren't fit, it's your fault."

The Stones host Faversham Town in the FA Cup on Saturday, and Wilkinson added he would work "even harder" to prepare his players to take on the vast underdogs at Grosvenor Vale, as they look to reach the third round of qualifying.

Harrow still struggling for form

BLISTERING START LOOKING A DISTANT MEMORY FOR STEVE BAKER'S MEN

HARROW'S faltering September continued as they salvaged a late point against Merstham Town before a miserable showing at Staines Town on Tuesday night, where the 2-1 scoreline did not do the hosts justice.

Steve Baker's side are now four games without a win following their mauling by Hendon a fortnight ago, an FA Cup exit to Enfield and this week's two largely fruitless results.

Ryan Hall and Reis Stanislaus exchanged goals in Saturday's draw before half-time. Hall put Merstham back in front before Adam Richards levelled again late on for Borough for a 2-2 draw.

There would be no late reprieve for Baker's men on Tuesday night, however. Melvin Minter was the visitors' stand-out performer, which told its own story with his saves keeping the score respectable.

Harrow could've opened the scoring inside a minute when Stanislaus was played through but scuffed an effort, but Minter would soon make two flying saves to keep the score level.

Adam Richards diverted the ball into his own net a minute before half-time to open the scoring from a Staines free-kick with the defence at sixes and sevens.

Harrow kicked off for the second half but within 17 seconds were two down, when Lewis Driver headed in a cross.

Richards scored in the same net for the second time as he pulled a goal back with 12 minutes to go, but it was too little too late.

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