

# SPORT

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## FOOTBALL: Game of two reds at Twerton Park Stones shake off Bath City curse to go four unbeaten

A POINT on the road is normally always a point gained - and even against 10 men for 85 minutes, Wealdstone manager Bobby Wilkinson was satisfied with his side's afternoon at Bath City on Saturday.

The Stones have a wretched record at Twerton Park, which may have contributed to his smiles come the full-time whistle after their battle with the Romans ended in stalemate.

So too may the Romans' four-game winning streak have had some part to play, although the hosts' plans went out the window inside five minutes when captain Darren Jones hauled down Danny Green on the edge of the box before receiving his marching orders.

Still, Bath have not drawn a blank in a competitive game since April, and had chances themselves even before referee Lee Brennan evened things up by dismissing Ryan Sellers for a second booking just after the interval.

Wilkinson felt going a man down had left City more difficult to break down, with one eye on avoiding defeat in their first game after manager Gary Owers was poached by Torquay United last week.

By Ron Walker

And the Stones only came close once after Green's early burst through, when Matty Whichelow hooked Ricky Wellard's cross goalwards but had to look on as Jack Batten headed it off the line.

Green could've stolen the points late on with a free-kick which Luke Southwood tipped over, but a draw was a fair result in a game with more red cards than chances in the West Country.

"If you'd said we'd go there and get a point before the game I would have bitten your hand off," said Wilkinson. "We didn't play particularly well, but we did the ugly stuff well and if there was a team which was going to win, it was us."

"I don't look at it as anything dropped away from home; someone was saying we should've put two up top, but we've got three in attack, and why leave yourself open away from home."

"We'd planned on trying to get in behind the centre-back, who isn't the fastest, but then they dropped another lad in once he got sent off, and if anything that helped them more than us."



Danny Green is brought down by Darren Jones before the Bath City player is dismissed after just five minutes. Picture: AQUEOUS SUN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Stones' own unbeaten run now stretches to four games and has hauled them back into mid-table after a dreadful start, with already rapidly-improving home form a clear priority for Wilkinson.

And with a tricky visit to Burgess Hill Town in the third qualifying round of the FA Cup to come on Saturday, the boss would have no issue

in bringing the Sussex side back for a replay if needs be.

"We'll be going there to win, but if we can bring them back to ours and do it that way, I'll take it," he said.

"I want to make our home ground a fortress. It's already starting - we only won five games at the Vale three years ago and we're already one off that."

## Borough are stung late by Hamlet

**EARLSMEAD SIDE NOW SIX WITHOUT A WIN AND DROP DOWN INTO MID-TABLE**

HARROW are six games without a win and their perfect start to the season looking a distant memory with Dulwich Hamlet the latest side to take three points from Steve Baker's men.

Boro have picked up just two draws from their last five matches in the Isthmian Premier League, as well as being dumped out of the FA Cup by Enfield Town.

A last-gasp equaliser from Adam Richards saved them another defeat at Margate on Saturday in a 1-1 deadlock, but they were beaten 1-0 by Dulwich at Earlsmead on Tuesday night and dropped to 10th in the league.

The hosts got themselves into good positions on a number of occasions against Hamlet, who now sit inside the play-off places, but failed to test visiting goalkeeper Preston Edwards.

In their defence, Dulwich sport the best away record in the division, having picked up 10 points from four games on the road, and Harrow looked like earning a deserved point until nine minutes from time.

But visiting striker Ashley Carew grabbed his third goal of the season in the dying minutes to leave Boro little time to find an equaliser, and drop them out of the promotion standings for the first time this season.

On Saturday, Baker's men travel to Lowestoft Town. The hosts sit sixth bottom and have already lost six times, but have won two of their last three.

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