

# SPORT

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## LATE league loss follows semi-final exit for Stones Play-off hopes hit after Wembley dream dies

WEALDSTONE wasted a chance to move closer to the play-offs and recover from Saturday's gut-wrenching FA Trophy semi-final defeat after a late 3-2 defeat to Eastbourne Borough at Grosvenor Vale.

Monday's fixture was one of several games in hand that Stones have but they were behind after just 33 seconds to Jamie Taylor's effort. Danny Green equalised with a header before Taylor doubled his tally on the stroke of half-time.

The hosts responded well and equalised through Matty Whichelow, but the Sports snatched the victory when substitute Lloyd Dawes ended a counter-attacking move as their hosts chased a late winner to leave their opponents 14th in National League South and 11 points off the play-offs.

The 752-strong crowd were anxious to see how Stones would respond to the morale-crushing 2-0 semi-final second leg defeat against Brackley Town and the answer was far from ideal as Taylor fired a well-struck effort past Jonathan North inside the opening minute.

Jeffrey Monakana had an impressive debut for the hosts and grabbed the first of two assists when his cor-

ner found Green unmarked at the far post to power a header in.

But just as he did in the opening seconds of the half, Taylor struck again in the dying seconds before the break. A headed clearance looped up in the air from an Eastbourne cross and Taylor volleyed past North from the edge of the area.

Bobby Wilkinson's men equalised for a second time on 57 minutes when Monakana spotted Whichelow lurking at the far post and played an accurate deep cross right onto the foot of the midfielder, who smashed it past Mark Smith.

Wealdstone dominated the remainder of the contest, but their efforts to win the game were to back fire with three minutes remaining.

The home side threw too many bodies forward from a free-kick and when Jake Sheppard's set piece failed to beat the first man the visitors broke at lightning pace, with Dawes finishing off an easy effort after his side had enjoyed a 4-v-2 advantage on the break.

The defeat completed a difficult few days for Stones after their Wem-



Stones put the Brackley defence under pressure during Saturday's FA Trophy exit. Picture: ALAN PALMER PHOTOGRAPHY

bley dream died on Saturday.

A crowd of 2,008 crammed into Grosvenor Vale to see if Wilkinson's men could overturn their 1-0 deficit from the first leg.

The home side offered disappointingly little going forward until Shane Byrne had doubled Brackley's aggregate advantage early in the second half with a 20-yard free-

kick and Wilkinson had responded with a triple change.

This did provide the hosts with a much-needed injection of urgency - Green going close to pulling one back when his low drive forced Danny Lewis into a fine save - but Aaron Williams made sure of Town's place at Wembley by finishing off a counter-attack.

## Fine goal seals vital three points

**BOROUGH EDGE OUT 10-MAN KS TO TAKE IMPORTANT STEP TO SAFETY**

AN unstoppable rocket from the edge of the box from George Moore gave Harrow Borough an important three points from their trip to Leatherhead to face tenants Kingstonian, and was a big step in ensuring continued Premier Division football next season.

Following an even opening to Saturday's game, the decisive and spectacular moment of the match arrived in the 17th minute.

Chinua Cole and Ryan Moss combined on the left and the ball came in to Michael Bryan in the box. He worked it on to Moore, cutting in from the right flank, who switched the ball on to his left foot and thrashed it into the top corner from 20 yards out, past Rob Tolfrey's flailing left arm.

Ten minutes later, Moss hassled Sean Francis and won the ball off him. The Kingstonian player's response was to drag the striker to the ground as he shaped to shoot which resulted in a red card for denying a goalscoring opportunity.

Borough almost doubled their lead when Cole then crossed to beyond the far post and Moss met it with an acrobatic drive that was superbly turned away by Tolfrey.

Another Moss effort almost crept under the keeper's body after the break, but Harrow had to survive two scares with Jason Williams heading wide on both occasions before they could make sure of the three points.

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