

SPORT

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WELLARD scores only goal in south coast victory

Stones sign off season with Whitehawk win

By Anthony Matthews

WEALDSTONE ended the 2017/18 season on a high note after beating Whitehawk 1-0 on Saturday thanks to Ricky Wellard's header.

The Stones ended their National League South campaign in 11th place and 10 points off the play-offs after Stones boss Bobby Wilkinson's first season in charge.

Wilkinson made six changes to the side that drew 1-1 with Oxford City last Thursday, with Jonathan North, Jake Sheppard, Eddie Osodi, Jeffrey Monakana, Danny Green and Wellard all returning to the starting XI.

Both sides shared a quiet first half, although Hawks keeper Daniel Wilks did have to pull off two fine saves to keep the relegated hosts level at the break.

He first denied Sheppard after the Reading loanee hit a thunderous volley from the edge of the box that was travelling into the top corner before the keeper got across to tip it over.

The keeper then thwarted Bradley Bubb after Green and Monakana produced some intricate build-

up play that resulted in the latter delivering a low cross for Bubb, but Wilks got down quickly enough to keep out the striker's effort.

Wealdstone were a far stronger outfit in the second half and Whitehawk's Zac Fagan and Kodi Lyons-Foster had to put their bodies on the line to deny Bubb and his strike partner David Pratt.

Wellard offered a potent attacking threat from midfield and had a header cleared off the line by Ky Marsh-Brown and also hit the crossbar after Pratt's initial effort was parried by Wilks.

Wellard finally scored on 71 minutes after Monakana's cross found his teammate unmarked on the edge of the six-yard area to guide the easiest of headers past Wilks.

The hosts offered a rare response just two minutes later when Marsh-Brown's cross found Sam Chaney free at the far post but he headed wide of North's goal.

The Stones could have made their margin of victory more comfortable at the end after a corner found Ian Gayle unmarked and with the goal at his mercy, he smashed his effort off of the crossbar from close range.



Ricky Wellard rises to head home the winner in Saturday's final game of the season.
Picture: AQUEOUS SUN PHOTOGRAPHY

Borough battle back to beat Hill

THREE POINTS ROUND OFF HARROW'S STRONG END TO THE LEAGUE SEASON

HARROW Borough pulled a victory from the jaws of the defeat to beat Burgess Hill Town 3-2 to ensure their strong end to the season continued with a final-day win.

Trailing 2-0 at half-time, Steve Baker's side were second best for much of the game and looked to be heading for a first loss in five matches against their relegation-threatened visitors.

But Borough managed to turn the match around to make it three straight victories and only one defeat in their final nine games of the campaign to finish 12th in the Bostik Premier Division.

Burgess Hill went in front in the 38th minute when Melvin Minter failed to hold a Charlie Bennett shot and Pat Harding converted the rebound.

That advantage was doubled in the fifth minute of first-half injury-time when Minter was stranded in no man's land and was lobbed by Lee Harding.

Harrow halved the deficit 10 minutes after the restart as Ryan Moss stabbed the ball past Josh James after latching on to Kurtis Cumberbatch's long ball forward.

The home side had further opportunities but seemed to be drifting towards defeat until five minutes from time when George Moore ran on to a ball in the penalty area and brushed aside a couple of challenges to score.

The turnaround was completed in the 90th minute when Moore won a free-kick a couple of yards outside the area and Cumberbatch fired home.

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