

# SPORT

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## Stones back on track as boss signs new deal

BRADLEY Bubb's second-half brace put the seal on a comfortable 3-0 win as Wealdstone secured another National League South success at home to struggling Truro City on Saturday.

Those strikes complemented an opener from Bradley Hudson-Odoi as the Stones notched up a fourth victory in eight league matches this term to sit in an encouraging fifth spot in the table.

It was the perfect reaction from Bobby Wilkinson's side as they banished the memories of their 3-0 reverse at Oxford City with a clinical display at Grosvenor Vale, completing a good weekend for the club after the manager signed a new contract.

An excellent start got the reward it deserved after 18 minutes when Hudson-Odoi finished a chance of his own making, cutting inside from the left and flashing an effort past Jo Woolacott to break the deadlock.

The hosts' play might have led to a more convincing scoreline at the interval as they passed up several chances from promising areas to go in at the break only the one goal to the good.

However, the second half was dominated by the Stones and had Bubb as the star of the show as his

By Matt Ford

pace and skill caused no shortage of problems for Truro.

The crucial second goal arrived five minutes after the hour as Bubb collected a pass, turned and created just enough room to swivel and beat Woolacott with a shot.

With the game as good as won and winless Truro struggling to impose themselves, Bubb grabbed his second to put the gloss on a fine afternoon's work.

It was routine one, but Wealdstone wouldn't have cared one iota as the Cornish side were caught out by David Pratt's flick-on from Jonathan North's goal-kick.

Bubb, preying on the shoulder, showed a turn of pace to race through and finish clinically to wrap up the match and the points with a third goal of the game after 78 minutes.

The win came after Wilkinson had laid to rest speculation linking him with a move away from the Stones by signing a new contract.

The manager, who arrived to replace the long-serving Gordon Barlett in August 2017 having worked wonders at Hungerford Town, had been granted permission to speak to two other clubs following approaches for his services.



Stones players and fans celebrate together on Saturday.

Picture: DAN FINILL/DFINILL PHOTOGRAPHY

However, Wilkinson has committed his future to the club and vice-chairman Rory Fitzgerald expressed his delight at the move.

He said: "They were good offers and understandably worthy of consideration but having considered them I am delighted to confirm that Bobby will be staying with Wealdstone."

The Stones boss, meanwhile, said he was "proud and delighted" and noted the "collective desire and commitment to achieve success" at the club moving forward.

Next up for Wealdstone is a trip to the home of Tooting & Mitcham United, Imperial Fields, to face tenants Dulwich Hamlet on Saturday, kick-off 3pm.

## Borough battle back for point

LATE RYAN HAUGH VOLLEY SECURES HARROW A POINT AGAINST SALISBURY

HARROW Borough showed no shortage of fight and grit as they rescued a 1-1 draw against Salisbury on Saturday in a match in which they were distinctly second best.

It looked as if Steve Baker's Borough would slip to defeat at Earlsmead after Jacob Wannell's 72nd-minute header had broken the deadlock, only for Ryan Haugh to salvage a share of the spoils in injury time in their latest Southern League Premier South clash.

Steve Claridge's Salisbury side started brightly with Harrow goalkeeper Hafed Al-Droubi called into action to deny Tom Whelan before Dan Fitchett fired wide.

The visitors then struck the post for the first time in the match when Fitchett's cross found Bay Downing and his diving header had Al-Droubi beaten all ends up.

Whelan was next to go close when he, too, smacked the upright from a free-kick as Harrow continued to live dangerously.

Borough were reduced to efforts from distance and half chances so it was no surprise to see Salisbury snatch the lead with 18 minutes remaining.

A deep corner found Wannell who guided home, but Harrow would snatch a point in the dying embers when Anthony O'Connor fed left-back Haugh and he volleyed home emphatically to snatch a point.

The draw leaves Harrow, who travel to AFC Hornchurch in the First Qualifying Round of the FA Cup on Saturday, 11th in the Southern League Premier Division South table.

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