

SPORT

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Sutton test for Stones after Hungerford success

WEALDSTONE will have to overcome National League opposition if they are to reach the first round of the FA Cup after a patient but battling performance saw them beat Hungerford Town 2-1 at a soggy Bulpit Lane on Saturday.

Second-half goals from a back-from-injury Bradley Bubb and Fumnaya Shomotun were enough to see off the Crusaders in front of a surprisingly low attendance of 306 for the third qualifying round tie.

The reward for Bobby Wilkinson's men is a home clash with Sutton United on Saturday, October 20.

Stones started the tie in good form and were stringing passes together but soon realised they were to face a packed defence and would be closed down quickly at every opportunity by the resolute home side.

The away side created several good chances though, with Bradley Hudson-Odoi going close early on after an opportunity spawned by a superb crash tackle by Freddie Grant in midfield.

Hungerford were creating little but defended stoically and looked for a mistake or a set-piece to create an opening.

Hudson-Odoi again went close on 18 minutes following good work from Wadah Ahmidi, and two minutes later Town finally had a half-chance on goal but the ball flashed

By Anthony Matthews

well over from Danilo Orsi-Dadomo's header.

After Stones almost got caught on a rare break-out, Shomotun produced a great run through the defence and struck the crossbar.

Odoi went close again but was then substituted after a head injury required medical attention despite the winger's displeasure at not being allowed to continue.

Hungerford continued to frustrate their opponents with strong defending but the feeling among the visitors was that playing down the slope in the second period would bring reward, as long as Wilkinson's side stayed patient and kept the ball on the ground.

The visitors were quickly back on the front foot after the break, with Bubb trying his luck with a snap shot that could only be parried by home keeper Michael Luyambula but no player was on hand to seize on the loose ball.

Substitute Jeffrey Monakana's cross was almost turned in by the on-rushing Danny Green as the game became more finely balanced with Town breaking up play increasingly effectively.

The breakthrough for Stones finally came on 66 minutes when Shomo-



Job done: Bobby Wilkinson celebrates Wealdstone's progression.

Picture: GEOFF SMITH/TOP-PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

tun's skill on the right allowed Bubb to hook home past Luyambula.

With the Crusaders now a goal behind, they were forced to chase the game and more space was created for the eager visitors as their tempo ratcheted up.

Monakana's strength and pace saw him smash a strike off the woodwork as Wealdstone looked to kill the game off with the clock ticking down. And the decisive goal came with 10 minutes to go when,

following a Green corner, Shomotun showed his skills and lashed the ball home.

The home side weren't going to lie down though, and two minutes later a smart finish from Orsi-Dadomo brought some tension back to the tie.

However, the visitors were able to manage the remainder of the game reasonably comfortably and ran the clock down despite four minutes of added time.

Borough benefit after late show

O'CONNOR BECOMES THE LATEST PLAYER TO SCORE CLOSE TO FULL-TIME

DON'T leave Harrow Borough home games early. For the fourth match running, there was a late goal at the Rogers Family Stadium, and for the second time it was to Harrow's advantage, as Anthony O'Connor struck with an 84th-minute leveller to ensure the points were shared in what was a very entertaining 2-2 draw with Hartley Wintney on Saturday.

Steve Baker selected an unchanged line-up from the fine win at Chesham, but the game was just three minutes old when Nick Ciardini cut in from the left and although Mitchal Gough blocked his initial shot, the rebound fell for the Wintney player, who powered it across Hafed Al-Droubi into the far corner.

Harrow levelled after 10 minutes following a succession of corners. Michael Bryan's delivery to the near post was misjudged by Hartley keeper Adam Desbois, the ball dipping over him for Ryan Moss to stab home from close range.

The visitors dominated early in the second period and retook the lead when Smart's 52nd-minute left-wing corner curled straight into the goal, the blustery wind seeming to confuse Al-Droubi.

It took a triple substitution from Baker to breathe some extra life into Harrow and it was two of the replacements who played key parts in the equaliser, as Harry Rush combined with Moss to play in O'Connor and he fired home, possibly with the aid of a slight deflection.

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