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SPORT

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PRATT and Bubb on target in Hampton success

Stones up to fourth after fast start sets up victory

WEALDSTONE ground out a narrow 2-1 victory over Hampton and Richmond in an entertaining encounter on Non-League Day to move up to fourth in National League South.

Goals from David Pratt and Bradley Bubb had put Stones 2-0 up on Saturday, before their opponents struck back in a dramatic first 15 minutes.

Although Hampton were reduced to 10 men on the hour, they threw everything at their hosts before the three points were finally secured.

Bobby Wilkinson made just the one change with Pratt replacing the injured Bradley Hudson-Odoi and his charges got off to a flying start.

Fumnaya Shomotun beat three players on a mazy run into the penalty area before getting a shot away and the ball found its way to Pratt, who headed in after just 90 seconds.

The hosts were dominant in the early stages, pinning Hampton back with Shomotun at the heart of the attacks.

The lead should have been doubled when Freddie Grant met a superbly-weighted pass in behind and was pulled to the ground by Casey Maclaren. Daniel Green took the

By Anthony Matthews

resultant penalty but his spot-kick was superbly saved by Tom Love-lock.

The pressure was constant and Wealdstone's fourth corner of the game was powerfully headed straight at Lovelock by Grant. Their fifth corner resulted in Lovelock scrambling, and Bubb flicking the ball home to give the home side a two-goal advantage.

There was no let-up though, and four minutes later Hampton had halved the deficit when a floated cross to the far post evaded everyone but Maclaren made up for conceding the penalty by getting on the scoresheet.

It was no surprise the pace then dropped after such a frenetic start, with the remainder of the opening period becoming more of a battle.

The second half began with caution from both sides, in complete contrast to the start of the first.

Hampton brought on Chris Dickson as a second striker, with captain Ricky Wellard making way.

The game appeared to swing more in Wealdstone's favour when Maclaren was sent off for a bad tackle



David Pratt heads Stones in front inside 90 seconds.

Picture: GEOFF SMITH/TOP-PIC PHOTOGRAPHY

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This resulted in the away side bringing on striker Zak Joseph to desperately try for a second goal. An equaliser looked like it might follow but Stones' defence stuck to the task.

Opportunities came in spells, with Dickson volleying straight at Jonathan North and Wealdstone

attempting to kill the game on the counter attack. But a third goal was not required as Wilkinson's side saw out the closing stages for a well-earned three points.

Next up for Stones is the challenge of National League side Sutton United who visit the Vale on Saturday in the FA Cup fourth qualifying round.

Borough win on the road again

THREE-GOAL BLAST AFTER THE BREAK EARNS HARROW A TRIUMPH AT TOWN

HARROW Borough moved to within two points of the Southern League Premier Division South play-off zone after an impressive 3-1 at Frome Town as they continued their fine away form.

Two superb strikes from wing-backs George Moore and Ryan Haugh, and a stand-out display from goalkeeper Hafed Al-Droubi, were the highlights, but every team member contributed on a fine afternoon's work from the visitors.

Following a goalless first half, Harrow took the game by the scruff of the neck with three goals before the hour.

The first came on 50 minutes when Ryan Moss found Moore, whose deep cross eluded Frank Keita, but behind him was Haugh and he adjusted his body shape perfectly to meet the dropping ball and drive emphatically left-footed past James Carey into the far corner.

Borough put their foot to the floor and they were rewarded again in the 55th minute as Michael Bryan played the ball infield for Moore to take a couple of steps forward before unleashing an unstoppable drive than bent round the diving Carey's right hand into the top corner.

Two became three on the hour when Moss found Moore who got to the right-hand by-line, and his low driven cross was turned past his own keeper by the unfortunate Conor McCormack, under pressure from Moss.

Frome didn't give up though, and pulled one back through Kane Simpson.







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