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Disappointment but pride after Stones held

BOBBY Wilkinson couldn't hide his disappointment after Danny Mills popped up late on to earn Welling United a 1-1 draw with Wealdstone.

The Stones had led for the majority of the game thanks to Connor Stevens' first goal for the club and they seemed destined to close the gap on league leaders Billericay Town, only to drop two points late on through Mills' last-gasp equaliser.

Wilkinson brought in Joe Payne on loan from Barnet in the run up to Saturday's game and the left-back made his first start against Welling.

The Stones took the lead just after the 20-minute mark when Payne played a one-two with Godfrey Poku and his cross was knocked into the path of Stevens, who expertly volleyed past Dan Wilks.

But Stevens was forced to leave the pitch due to a head injury before the end of the half, meaning Rhys Tyler had to fill in as a makeshift centre-back.

Wealdstone continued to cause problems though, and they would have doubled their advantage if it hadn't for a great save from Wilks, who expertly tipped over David Pratt's rising volley.

The Ruislip-based side would, however, be punished for not adding a second, as former Stones man

By Bradley Hayden

Montel Agyemang crossed for substitute Mills to poke home at the far post to earn Welling a share of the spoils.

Wilkinson told the club's website: "It was disappointing not to win it given that the team played their hearts out. My team is being ripped apart through injuries but the team will keep fighting and keep working hard."

"We have battled with half a completed side but we haven't complained. Glenn Wilson was a rock and one thing I've learned is that if we give everything, the fans will give us the support they did today. It's a great point, I'm very proud of the boys."

It has been a busy week on the pitch for Stones, who brought in former Torquay United right-back Christopher Regis on Monday and he made his debut the following night in the Middlesex Senior Cup, as Wilkinson's side recorded a 5-3 win over Uxbridge.

Wilkinson fielded a youthful team for that tie, with 16-year-old Luke Massingham captaining the team for the night, but Uxbridge threatened to cause an upset when they opened the scoring inside 90 seconds through James Burgess.



Connor Stevens celebrates putting Wealdstone in the lead against Welling.

Picture: DAN FINILL/DFINILL PHOTOGRAPHY

But that goal didn't affect the Stones, who turned the game on its head inside six minutes thanks to strikes from youngster Femi Azeze and Elliot Charles.

Azeze then had an effort cleared off the line, while Charles struck the crossbar, before Anton Rodgers, son of Celtic manager Brendan, extended Wealdstone's advantage with an excellent free-kick.

Jerome Slew made it four early

in the second half but the Stones' advantage was nearly wiped out when Uxbridge rallied, with Craig Tomkins converting a spot-kick and Zaine Gangedeon pouncing on a mistake from goalkeeper Sonny Wheeler to make it 4-3.

But any chances of an Uxbridge comeback were ended when Rodgers converted his second free-kick of the game to earn Wealdstone a spot in the third round.

Borough bounce back in cup

DYLAN Kearney scored twice as Harrow Borough got back to winning ways and reached the quarter-finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup with a 3-1 victory.

Having conceded a late winner to lose 3-2 at Walton Casuals on Saturday, Borough took the lead on Tuesday through George Moore's 22nd-minute strike.

Kearney scored his first three minutes before the break and then further strengthened Harrow's grip on the contest six minutes after the restart.

Although Kyran Worrell pulled one back almost immediately, Borough remained in control to reach the last eight.

It had been a different story at the weekend when substitute Luke Holness popped up with the winner nine minutes from time, just moments after James Ewington had dragged Walton back on level terms.

Harrow had started strongly and their pressure finally paid off when Ryan Moss capitalised on an error from keeper Denzel Gerrar.

But Walton rallied following the restart and got back on level terms when Dan Bennett flicked home Jack Battie's free-kick.

Substitute Kearney restored Harrow's advantage when he headed home, only for the visitors to collapse late on.

Ewington dragged Walton back on level terms when he converted at the far post, and he would play an influential role in the home side's winner, with his shot being parried by Hafed Al-Droubi into the path of Holness, who tapped home.

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