

SPORT

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HIGH-FLYING Harrow return to victorious ways Borough see off Staines to maintain fourth place

By Anthony Matthews

HARROW Borough consolidated their fourth place in the Southern League Premier Division South as they opened 2019 with a barrage of goals after brushing aside bottom-of-the-table Staines Town 5-1 on New Year's Day.

Steve Baker named the same team that had started Saturday's roller-coaster 4-3 defeat to Kings Langley, but made a change in formation, with Mitchal Gough employed in a deep-lying midfield position instead of as a member of a three-man central defence. He went on to have an outstanding game.

Both sides were to have early chances but Louis Dixon was beaten for the first time in the 11th minute when Nathaniel Oseni's long ball forward found Ryan Moss outpacing a defender to place a first time finish low past the Staines keeper's right hand.

Harrow continued to press and doubled their lead in the 28th minute when a perceptive pass from Gough sent Michael Bryan away on the right and his cross was nod-

ded home at the far post by Dylan Kearney.

Bryan got in on the scoring act 10 minutes later when Moss rose to head the ball on, Kearney cushioned it into the little Ulsterman's path who ran on to smack the ball home left-footed from 15 yards.

Borough could have been even further ahead either side of the interval, but they were to have a flat period before their fourth goal arrived in the 70th minute.

Gough's pass sent Kearney in on the right, his low shot was pushed away by Dixon but Jordan Ireland was up in support and he tucked away his second goal in three games.

To their credit, Staines's youngsters kept trying and in the 75th minute Harrow keeper Hafed Al-Droubi saw a potential clean-sheet disappear when a cross from the right was firmly headed in from close range by an unmarked Andy Ali.

But three minutes later Harrow got a fifth, and again it was a Gough pass that set it up, as he fed substitute Anthony O'Connor on the right and he tucked a low shot past Dixon from a tight angle.



Kings Langley are forced to head clear during their 4-3 victory over Harrow Borough on Saturday. Picture: LEN KERSWILL

Stevens secures Stones win

POOR RUN IS ENDED BY NEW YEAR'S DAY SUCCESS AT SLOUGH TOWN

CONNOR Stevens helped lift some of the gloom following a difficult December by scoring the only goal of the game as Wealdstone started 2019 on a positive note with a 1-0 win at Slough Town.

A run of five games without a win, four of them in the league, had seen Stones slide down to mid-table, but this much-needed three points leaves them 13th in National League South, five points outside the play-offs.

The former Watford player scored what proved to be the winner two minutes after the restart when he rose to head home a Danny Green corner.

After Slough had looked to make the early running, Stones started to establish an attacking foothold towards the midpoint of the first half as Jeffrey Monakana and David Pratt had shots saved before the home side's keeper was forced into a great stop to prevent Lee Togwell putting through his own net.

After Stevens had made the all-important breakthrough, Stones were close to doubling their lead when Simon Mensah's fine ball picked out Pratt but he was unable to capitalise.

It was then Jonathan North's turn to excel as he did superbly to tip over a near-post header from Dejon Noel-Williams.

The Stones keeper had to save again from Noel-Williams and James Dobson in the final 10 minutes as Slough pushed for an equaliser, but Stones held firm to secure the three points.

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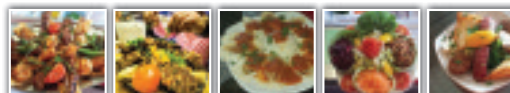
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