

SPORT

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Former Hornet Johnson takes role with Stones

WEALDSTONE have appointed former Watford midfielder Richard Johnson as their new technical director.

Johnson played more than 200 games for the Hornets and his role with Stones will be combined with his business development executive position at Vicarage Road.

The National League South club have stated Johnson's role will include but not be limited to working with the board to identify a manager suitable to lead the Under-23 side next season, beginning to consider links with professional clubs to support loan signings to the first team for next season and to identify professional clubs for potential pre-season friendlies and plan pre-season with the board and management team.

Johnson will also be expected to work with the board to identify and consider commercial opportunities that may benefit club turnover and raise the club's profile.

As a player, Johnson was a key figure in the Graham Taylor side that won consecutive promotions from Division Two and Division One to reach the Premier League in 1999, and he also had spells with Queens Park Rangers, Stoke City, Colchester United, MK Dons and Northampton Town.

By Nat Goodlad

On the pitch, Wealdstone have moved up to 10th in the National League South after an impressive 2-0 away win against second-place Woking at Kingfield on Saturday.

Tarryn Allarakhia, on loan from Crawley Town, and top scorer David Pratt were on target in the first half, and they held on for the remaining 20 minutes with 10 men after Jake Sheppard's dismissal.

The Stones started the brighter of the two sides and had their first shot on target inside the opening minute with Pratt's effort doing little to trouble Craig Ross in the Woking goal.

It didn't take much longer for the deadlock to be broken though, as in the 11th minute Allarakhia latched onto Christian Smith's through ball and slotted past Ross.

Stones' domination continued and by the 22nd minute their lead was doubled. Sheppard's header found Pratt and he produced a stunning low bicycle kick to double the visitors' advantage.

Woking finally had their first major opportunity in a short spell of positivity as Paul Hodges' left-footed effort flew just wide of Jonathan North's near post.

The hosts' Harvey Bradbury, a



Richard Johnson was a pivotal figure in Watford's midfield.

Picture: ACTION IMAGES

half-time substitute, looked dangerous at the start of the second period but it was Hodges that had the first chance for them; he could only fire into the side netting.

Stones' midfield duo of Godfrey Poku and Simon Mensah responded by linking up well on the edge of the box, with the latter crashing against the bar with a superb effort.

The remaining quarter of the game was made difficult for Bobby Wilkinson's men though, as they had Jake Sheppard dismissed for

his second yellow card while trying to defend their two-goal advantage.

Bradbury had an excellent chance to mount a comeback for the hosts in the 81st minute when a lofted ball found him in the six-yard box, but he couldn't divert his header on target.

The win puts the Stones within three points of the play-off positions, and they will have the chance to move further up the table on Saturday when they host Billericay Town.

Barrow breeze into last four

O'CONNOR HITS HAT-TRICK TO HELP SET UP WELLING UNITED SEMI-FINAL

HARROW Borough eased into the semi-finals of the London Senior Cup with a thumping 7-0 away win over Clapton.

Anthony O'Connor scored a hat-trick in Tuesday night's tie, while Ryan Moss added a brace and there were sole strikes for Dylan Kearney and Frank Keita.

Moss converted his first of the night on 15 minutes, and O'Connor doubled the lead 11 minutes later when he buried Shaun Preddie's cross.

Borough needed just four minutes of the second half to make it three as O'Connor struck his second, and he turned provider just before the hour mark as a great run and cross was slammed in by Moss.

They sealed the game with three goals in seven minutes late on as Kearney got in on the act, closely followed by Keita's finish three minutes later, and O'Connor completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot to set up a semi-final with Welling United.

Borough didn't quite have the same success at the weekend as a late equaliser saw them draw 2-2 away at Basingstoke Town in the Southern League Premier Division South.

Kearney's 18th league goal of the season was cancelled out by Ben Wright, and when Moss looked to have secured the win with a penalty, the hosts drew level once more with a spot-kick of their own after Preddie's rash challenge.

Borough's next game sees them host Walton Casuals in the league on Saturday.

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2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture [is] given by Inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for Instruction In righteousness:

HARROW
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