

# SPORT

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**PLAY-OFF** hopes suffer blow with Welling defeat

## Setback for Stones as strong run is ended

By Nat Goodlad

WEALDSTONE'S 11-game unbeaten run came to an end on Saturday against fellow National League South play-off rivals Welling United in a 3-1 home defeat.

A first-half penalty from Daniel Green was cancelled out by a brace from Brendan Kiernan and a second-half strike from Gavin McCallum.

The Stones started well, enjoying the majority of the possession and dominating the opening 25 minutes, coming closest when Green rifled over from 25 yards.

Green also lifted a delightful ball into the box from a free-kick after Godfrey Poku was fouled but Welling keeper Dan Wilks did well to gather Stefan Brown's glancing header.

Tarryn Allarakhia was proving to be a constant threat all afternoon for the Stones, and it was he who created the opportunity for the first goal, whipping in a teasing cross from the right that the referee judged to have been handled, and Green stepped up to blast Wealdstone into a deserved lead.

Against the run of play though, the visitors levelled in the 29th minute through Kieran, as he converted Bradley Goldber's square ball.

The home side failed to take the momentum from their positive performance into the second half, and Welling took the lead within five minutes of the restart when Goldberg seized the ball and fired past Jonathan North.

With both sides pushing for the next goal, the game opened up and became more end-to-end, and the Stones went close on two occasions when Pratt headed agonisingly wide and Freddie Grant's header hit the post.

Wealdstone pressed harder in the final stages of the game as they searched for an equaliser, but they were left exposed at the back and Welling took advantage.

The visitors counter-attacked and Kieran was on hand to fire his second past North and seal the points.

The loss leaves Wealdstone eighth in the table, one point outside the play-off places, and they face another tough test this Saturday when they travel to Bath City.



Stones celebrate taking the lead through Daniel Green's penalty.

Picture: DAN FINILL/DFINILL PHOTOGRAPHY

## Welsh trip yields point reward

**PEPERA GOAL EARNS BOROUGH DRAW AT FELLOW PLAY-OFF CONTENDERS**

HARROW Borough had to settle for a point from their trip to South Wales as they picked up a 1-1 draw against Merthyr Town in the Evo-Stik League South Premier Division South.

Adam Pepera seized upon a Merthyr defensive mistake to hand Borough a first-half advantage, but Ian Traylor found an equaliser soon after the restart to level the game.

Steve Baker made no changes to the side that beat Taunton Town the previous week.

Harrow settled into the game after a nervy start and started to pass the ball around with confidence, and they went close when Ryan Moss headed down to Anthony O'Connor, but his snap-shot went just past the post.

The opening goal came soon after that chance when Pepera kept the ball in play on the touchline but lost possession, however the Merthyr defender gifted him the ball back, and a low shot beat the unsuspecting Lewis Webb at the far corner.

The home side only needed four minutes of the second half to draw level as Mark McLeod lost the ball in midfield and some nice movement opened up the space for Traylor to drive the ball across Hafed Al-Droubi.

The point sees Borough drop back one place to seventh in the league table, a point behind both Kings Langley and Poole Town, who are tied on 54.

Borough's next game comes this Saturday at Hartley Wintney.

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