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HOME victory maintains push for top-seven finish

Brown bags winner to keep Stones in the mix

By Dec O'Reilly

WEALDSTONE secured their first home win since January on Saturday with a 1-0 victory at home to Chippenham Town in the National League South.

Stefan Brown scored the only goal of the game just past the half-hour mark to keep his side in contention for a play-off spot.

Stones almost took the lead within three minutes when Freddie Grant lofted a through ball towards David Pratt, but after taking a touch on the edge of the area he could only blaze over.

Grant was then presented with an opportunity to open the scoring himself, but he planted a header from Danny Green's corner wide of the target.

Wealdstone were putting endless pressure on the visitors and, after Tarryn Allarakhia rattled a loose ball just wide, Brown broke the deadlock two minutes later when his left-footed drive cannoned in off the post and into the bottom corner.

Chippenham almost equalised in stunning fashion just before the

break, but Nick McCootie's audacious bicycle kick went agonisingly wide.

Both sides continued to come forward in the second half, Wealdstone keen to extend their advantage and Chippenham looking for a way back into the contest.

The visitors had two opportunities towards the start of the half, firstly when Will Richards could only head wide from a corner and then when top scorer Nat Jarvis sent a volley just wide of the post.

Wealdstone responded with two chances of their own but neither resulted in any major threat. Allarakhia was set free by Brown's flick-on but he lost possession for he could get into his stride and a shot from the edge of the area by Pratt lacked sufficient power.

Soon after, Nick McCootie was denied by a fabulous point blank save from Jonathan North, and the same player then thought he'd levelled for his side before the referee pulled play back for a foul on the goalkeeper.

Josh Smile also had a late chance for the Bluebirds, but his volley was off target and allowed Stones to hang on for the win.



Jumping for joy: Stefan Brown celebrates his winning goal.

Picture: DAN FINILL/DFINILL PHOTOGRAPHY

Play-off bid suffers fresh setback

DEFEAT LEAVES BOROUGH SEVEN POINTS BEHIND TOP FIVE IN TABLE

HARROW Borough slumped to their second Evo-Stik League South Premier Division South defeat in a row, with a 2-1 loss at home to Frome Town denting their play-off hopes.

Mark Bitmead flicked Borough into a first-half lead but Troy Simpson's second-half brace gave Frome a vital victory in their bid for survival.

The game started slowly for both sides on a dry and bumpy pitch but Frome edged the opening exchanges, drawing a good save from Hafeed Al-Droubi when Rex Manning was played through.

Despite the relegation-threatened side's positive start, it was Borough who took the lead on the stroke of half-time when George Moore delivered a perfect cross from the right and Bitmead flicked home his first senior goal for the side to put them in front at the break.

Frome started the second half as they had in the first, slightly edging the balance of play and it paid dividends after 55 minutes when Al-Droubi spilled Joe O'Loughlin's shot into Simpson's path and he tapped in from three yards out.

Harrow responded positively but the game's defining moment came late on when Simpson capitalised on a defensive mix-up, firing in at the third attempt after Al-Droubi had produced an excellent double save.

The loss leaves Borough seven points shy of Kings Langley, who occupy the final play-off spot, ahead of Saturday's trip to Gosport Borough.

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