

SPORT

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Stones beat Hemel to snatch play-off spot

By Nat Goodlad

A sensational second-half display coupled with other results miraculously going their way saw Wealdstone make the National League South play-offs with a 2-1 win over Hemel Hempstead Town.

Jason Williams gave Hemel a half-time lead but second-half strikes from Freddie Grant and Jake Sheppard set up a meeting with Bath City in the play-offs, finishing ahead of Billericay Town, St Albans City, Dartford and Slough Town.

The visitors made the brighter start and created the first goalscoring opportunity as Williams let fly, but his first-minute effort flew just wide of the far post.

The Stones tested goalkeeper Laurie Walker for the first time when Daniel Green's free-kick was blocked and Sheppard crossed back in for Grant, but Walker produced a comfortable save.

The Tudors began to dominate as the half went on and they were duly rewarded for their efforts in the 36th minute when Williams beat the offside trap and chipped

the ball over the on-rushing Jonathan North from outside the area to give them the lead.

The hosts went into the break behind, knowing only a win would maintain their play-off dream, and they went some way to restoring that dream two minutes after the restart when Tarryn Allarahia threaded through for Grant. His original cross rebounded off the post but he followed it up brilliantly, slamming past Walker to equalise.

Spurred on by the goal, Wealdstone began to dictate the tempo and they subsequently found their way through again in the 56th minute when Walker expertly lobbed Walker from outside the box.

The Stones pushed on more and more after the goal, desperate to ensure the three points, and they came agonisingly close on a number of occasions through Sheppard, Godfrey Poku and Christian Smith but some resolute defending preserved the lead.

The dramatic final day victory meant Wealdstone faced fifth-placed Bath City in their play-off eliminator at Twerton Park last night (Wednesday).



Wealdstone players celebrate their victory. Picture: Dan Finill - DFinill Photography

Hat-tricks galore for Borough

GEORGE MOORE AND RYAN MOSS BOTH NET THREE GOALS FOR HARROW

GEORGE Moore and Ryan Moss scored a hat-trick each as Harrow Borough ended their Evo Stik League South Premier Division South campaign with a 6-0 win away at Salisbury City.

The result saw Borough clinch seventh spot in the table, seven points shy of Poole Town, who beat bottom side Staines Town to secure a play-off berth.

Moore opened the scoring in the 32nd minute when he ran on to an excellent through ball by Frank Keita to calmly stroke home.

That was how it stayed until the break, and it took almost a third of the second half for Borough to extend the advantage, but it came when Moss headed in from Keita's saved effort.

Moore then added his second on 73 minutes and, two minutes later, Moss completed his brace as well, finishing off another precise through ball.

Salisbury keeper Jake Hallett pulled off an excellent save in an attempt to keep the score down, but his goal was breached once more on 82 minutes as Moore completed his hat-trick.

Moss joined his teammate on a trio of goals in the final minute when Keita unselfishly squared across to him for the finish.

While they did not secure a play-off spot, Borough's total of 97 goals this season was the joint-best in the league and they secured their highest league finish for some years to offer optimism heading into the next campaign.

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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 TIMES

The Harrow Times is published by Newsquest (London) Ltd, Observer House, Caxton Court, Caxton Way, Watford, Herts WD18 8RJ part of the Newsquest Media Group Ltd, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP10 9TY, a Gannett Company. Printed by Newsquest Oxfordshire, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ.

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