

# SPORT

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## NATIONAL League South suspended due to virus



Dean Brennan says Wealdstone will take the National League South suspension day-by-day.

Picture: MontImageMedia

## Wealdstone settle for away point

STONES HELD TO DRAW AT MID-TABLE CHIPPENHAM



Wealdstone picked up a point. Picture: Adam Williams

WEALDSTONE were made to settle for a point in a 1-1 draw at Chippenham Town on Saturday on an afternoon where non-league took centre stage due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Premier League and EFL matches have all been suspended until April, but the National League opted to go ahead in all three of their divisions, meaning the Stones still had the opportunity to extend their lead at the top of the National League South.

It was a chance they did not take though, and instead they saw their lead cut to just three points after Havant & Waterlooville's win at Dorking Wanderers and Michee Efete's goal rescuing a point against mid-table Chippenham.

Despite the Stones starting strongly, it was the home side who took the lead when Scott Twine was left free at the far post to head home his sixth goal in four games.

Wealdstone's only real chance of the half came just before the break when Billy Clifford took aim from 25 yards but his effort went off target.

However, it didn't take much of the second half for the away side to get back into it as Efete got forward from full-back and slotted under Will Puddy in the Chippenham goal.

The Stones had further chances to take all of the points, but the closest they came was when Puddy pushed away Clifford's free-kick.

A point still leaves Wealdstone top of the table, but their lead is now just three points, although they do have a game in hand on Havant.

Wealdstone were due to be back in action this Saturday at home to relegation-threatened Braintree Town, but that has been postponed due to the league being suspended.

## Stones see games off

By Nat Goodlad

WEALDSTONE'S matches have been put on hold until at least the start of April after the National League announced they were suspending all games in their three divisions.

All levels of the National League went ahead at the weekend, with only a select few matches joining the Premier League and the EFL in suspending their fixtures due to the coronavirus outbreak.

In a statement, the National League said: "At its board meeting, The National League decided to use its best endeavours to keep its season going in the face of unprecedented adversity

"However, with the current coronavirus (Covid-19) reaching global pandemic levels it has to accept that the situation is now out of its own control.

"In the knowledge of the government measures now announced including not to support sporting events with emergency services workers it is clearly not practical for its fixtures to be fulfilled in the immediate future.

"In those circumstances and in line

with The Football Association and the Professional Game, at a Board Meeting today, The National League has decided that its competition is now suspended until at least 3rd April 2020."

Unlike other managers in their post-match comments, Wealdstone boss Dean Brennan did not allude to whether he agreed or disagreed with the league's decision to go ahead, instead insisting that they would follow whatever guidance was given.

He told the club website: "We'll just go day-by-day. That's all we can do, just go day-by-day and see what is going to happen.

"It's crazy what is happening. It's movie stuff really. It's all we can do.

The suspension of competition means one Middlesex Senior Cup and four league matches will need to be rearranged once the season resumes.

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