

SPORT

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NATIONAL League finally nearing a solution



Wealdstone will finally find out if they will be promoted or not. Picture: MontImageMedia

Harrow receive funding

BOROUGH ACQUIRES MONEY TO HELP DEAL WITH COVID



Harrow Borough

HARROW Borough Football Club has been awarded £10,000 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Community Emergency Fund towards pitch preparation, utility costs, insurances, retrospective losses and training facilities during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The outbreak of the virus and the consequent shutdown of businesses as of March 23rd has left the sport and physical activity sector facing a period of uncertainty.

In response, on March 31st Sport England announced a £195m package to help the sport and physical activity sector through COVID-19. Within the package is a £20m Community Emergency Fund, of National Lottery money to deliver immediate funding to those who have a role in supporting the nation to be active but are experiencing short-term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the impact of coronavirus.

The grant will allow Harrow Borough Football Club to renovate their pitch and pay maintenance and utility costs for the coming months.

Keith Loddy, Harrow Borough Football Club Director, said: "These monies are a lifeline. Like many Football Clubs at our level we are experiencing short term financial hardship and this money will certainly help us meet some of our immediate obligations. Without this cash injection it was unlikely that we would have been able to recommence football which would have been a considerable loss to the community."

Tim Hollingsworth, Sport England's Chief Executive, said: "We are proud to be able to provide vital funding to Harrow Borough Football Club in these challenging times."

Stones voting on future

By Ryan Gray

WEALDSTONE will find out in the next few days whether or not they will receive promotion to the National League.

National League clubs received an amended resolution for determining the end of the campaign, with play-off matches now back on the table for step two level clubs on Monday evening with clubs set to vote by the end of the week.

At the time of going to press, clubs were yet to vote on the proposals put to them by the league, but were expected to within the coming days.

The proposals include using an un-weighted points-per-game formula to determine final league places, which would see Barrow promoted to League Two from the National League and would see Wealdstone finish as champions of the National League South.

A 51% majority is required for the proposals to be passed.

Play-off matches would also be played in both the National League North and South divisions, provided the clubs are able to afford the protocols needed to put

those matches on safely.

The play-offs in the National League are scheduled to start on 18 July, providing the proposals are passed.

Should those games take place, it would complete a u-turn from the National League who originally put forward proposals which would have seen play-offs cancelled at step two.

The league told clubs last week they had been told 'via the FA that the government had advised its policy on the return of elite sports behind closed doors did not include step two football'.

However, were able to prove that this was inaccurate with Member of Parliament for Havant, Alan Mak, getting communications from the sports minister to confirm the government had given no official advice, saying: "the government is not intending to prevent National League South play-offs from taking place."

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