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MAYNARD in talks for new deal after two wins



Wealdstone players celebrate with their supporters after securing National League safety

Picture: Jon Taffel

Stones secure survival with back-to-back wins

WEALDSTONE secured back-to-back Easter weekend wins with Rhys Browne's fine second-half goal earning them a 1-0 Good Friday win at Southend, which they followed up with a 2-0 Easter Monday victory over Boreham Wood.

In the first of the two matches, the Shrimpers had the perfect chance to go ahead 12 minutes in when Noor Husin was bundled over, but Jason Demetriou saw his spot-kick saved by George Wickens.

Demetriou then missed another chance with the goal at his mercy as Southend piled on the pressure, while at the other end Josh Umerah was denied

By Ryan Gray

by Steve Arnold's fine stop and Shaun Hobson hooked off the line from Jerome Okimo.

Southend's Jack Bridge had a goal ruled out for handball just before the break but, as the game ticked into the 68th minute, Browne struck with a fine curling effort from 25 yards.

Wealdstone then secured the second of their two wins with goals in each half from Aaron Henry and Josh Umerah that sank Boreham Wood 2-0 on the second of the two Bank Holiday fixtures.

The Stones led at the interval through Henry's brilliant free-kick and Umerah doubled their lead early in the second period.

Wealdstone hit the woodwork twice in as many minutes early in the first half through Umerah and Nathan Ferguson and Dennon Lewis struck the crossbar for Boreham Wood.

The hosts took a 35th-minute lead when Henry curled home a superb free-kick from 30 yards and Umerah bundled home their second in the 52nd minute.

Boreham Wood were reduced to 10 men in the 70th minute when Frankie Raymond was shown a straight red card for his high tackle on Jack Cook

and their winless league run was extended to 10 matches.

The two victories ensured Stones' National League safety for another season and after the match head coach Stuart Maynard said thoughts had already turned to the future.

"For us as a management team we can only go a game at a time," he told the club YouTube channel. "We set a points tally and we set the standards really high for the lads because if you set them too low, then you aim low."

"We're in talks with the club now [about next season]. When we took the job we saw it as a long term plan."

Umerah sets sights on 15 goals

STRIKER HOPES TO ADD MORE GOALS TO HIS TALLY



Josh Umerah celebrates

Picture: Jon Taffel

WEALDSTONE striker Josh Umerah has spoken of his joy at securing National League safety with a win over Boreham Wood.

The striker bagged his 13th goal of the campaign in the match as the Stones made certain that they would not be relegated.

"I feel like I've really started to find form," he told the club YouTube channel. "I feel like the team's finding form as well and we're winning games. Obviously Friday was good against Southend and we tried to do the same and we succeeded today."

"The boys did well, we stuck to the gameplan that the gaffer set out and we can't really complain."

"Ideally I'd like to get to 15 goals, but at the same time, if the team continues winning then I'm also happy. But 15's probably the target for me for now."

Umerah was very familiar with the defenders he was up against and he said it was an enjoyable battle to be involved in.

"I think as a striker you've always got to try your luck in those sorts of positions and I guess I was lucky today but they all count, don't they," he continued.

"Knowing a few of their boys as well, both centre halves actually, they knew what I was going to play like and I knew how they were going to play, so it was always going to be a battle, but it was enjoyable. To be honest, it's good scoring against any defence, I'll take whatever goal comes my way, but they've got a really good defence, how they set up is really good."

Umerah now has his sights on next season and building on what has been a successful campaign.

"Obviously we've got to see out the last few games first and enjoy the off-season, then obviously we can look into next season," he added.