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Borough break duck in league

HARROW HOLD OFF SHOLING FIGHTBACK TO TAKE POINTS

HARROW Borough claimed their first win of the Southern League Premier South season with a 3-2 success over Sholing. But it looked like being a very long afternoon when Sholing had the ball in the home net with only 72 seconds played, only to be ruled out for offside.

It was against the run of play when Harrow took the lead in the 18th minute as Ronny Mfinda cut the ball back from the goal line and Harlem Hale finished from six yards.

And Harrow nearly doubled their lead four minutes later when Sholing keeper Gosney cleared straight to Lonit Talla, whose chip landed inches wide.

The game then turned on two penalties in seven minutes as Tyler Tobin saved to his right in the 25th minute when Kandolo was penalised for handball and Reece Mitchell converted after being fouled to make it 2-0.

Sholing had chances to hit back before the break, but shot wide, saw Tobin make several outstanding saves and Mack Miskin block another effort on the line. And Harrow came out and played some of their best football of the season for the opening 15 minutes of the second half, with Talla heading over from Mitchell's cross on 53 minutes.

It was 3-0 on the hour when Reece Cameron won the ball inside Sholing's half and found Hale on the right to cut inside and play a lovely pass for Mitchell to run on to and finish well.

But the visitors replied three minutes later when Robinson's 20-yard shot deflected over Tobin and nerves began to jangle on 71 minutes when a long ball over the home defence saw Robinson outpace Reece Yorke and claim his second.

Harry Seabrook came on for his debut alongside Yorke, while Mfinda showed a physical presence in midfield as Harrow stood tall to defend their one-goal lead.

Miskin won a host of tackles against a tricky winger, while Excellence Muhemba held the ball up well to allow for some respite. And although Elliot Poley was dismissed in stoppage time for a second bookable offence for bringing down Robinson, Hale dropped into the right-back position and the hosts survived to bank all three points ahead of a trip to Hanwell Town on Saturday.



Stuart Maynard and Tahvon Campbell celebrate. Image: Jon Taffel

Maynard delighted by Stones success

STUART Maynard was delighted with Wealdstone's dominant first-half display after they beat Ebbsfleet United 2-1 at Grosvenor Vale on a scorching Saturday afternoon, writes Tom Norton.

Tahvon Campbell opened the scoring just after the hour mark, rifling the ball beyond Mark Cousins in the Ebbsfleet net.

But the visitors responded just minutes later with a brilliantly worked corner for Joshua Wright to head home an equaliser.

Maynard's men were then awarded a penalty after Chris Solly was sent off for a challenge on Campbell, who tucked the spot-kick away to seal a much-needed win for the hosts, who saw Micah Obiero dismissed for a second bookable offence late on.

And the Stones boss was full of praise for his side, as they ended a three-match losing run in the National League.

"I thought in the first half we could have been four or five up. I thought the

lads were outstanding," he told the club website.

"It's hard sometimes with such a young group to lose that confidence so quickly. We're losing three on the bounce, but I think we've had one bad half away at Hartlepool last week.

"We had a bad half of football where we weren't even that bad but we weren't as fluent as what we have been. We didn't dominate the game as well as what we have in the first half, but today for the lads to put in a performance like that in 30-degree heat – the intensity, the press, the saves from their goalie. I think their goalie was man of the match after 20 minutes!"

Maynard then went on to suggest that he was never worried about his team's capacity to score in the game, adding: "I felt like it was one of those days that the goal was coming.

"I think half-time came just at the right time for them. If we'd had another five minutes we would've scored

– maybe one or two. It was down to us as a management team because there was a lot tactically we could say at half time. It was just keeping the lads calm and keeping that belief."

Maynard was also keen to point out Campbell's goalscoring feats after being asked about the striker's performance.

"Sometimes with goalscorers, they do get low on confidence when they're missing chances, but Tahv's a little bit unique," he said.

"He believes in himself that much because we create chances, he knows that even when the chances don't come for him, he knows he's going to create his own chances.

"If we can get good quality into his feet, he just keeps that belief and he's not going to shy away from it."

Maynard's side are now looking ahead to another home fixture up against Altrincham on Saturday, before heading to Dorking Wanderers on Tuesday.

Oakleigh Park finals prove hit



Dave Ridout celebrates.

OAKLEIGH Park Tennis & Squash Club's annual tennis tournament finals proved a smash hit in sweltering conditions. Dave Ridout and Arthur Bawcutt fought a fierce battle on one of the hottest days of the year to become the new men's singles champion.

Ridout took the first set 6-3 and was 5-2 up in the second set with match points but Bawcutt surged back to force a tie break and emerged the winner 7-6. The third set saw more high-class tennis played by the pair and Ridout clinched it 6-3 to take the title after three hours and 20 minutes.

The ladies singles competition also saw a new champion crowned as Sholape Ayanbadejo defeated 2022 winner Jane Saha, 6-3 6-4.

The new ladies doubles champions were Jane Saha and Gerry Wright who beat Jo North and Christina Wildman 6-4 6-3.

And after a short break, Ridout had to take to the court again for his second match of the day where he partnered Josh Clements against Oli Sherbini and Bertie Shelley.

It proved another hard-fought contest with Sherbini and Shelley taking the first set, before Ridout and Clements fought hard to take the second.

A tense third set produced some fantastic tennis, with Sherbini and Shelley securing the title 6-4 4-6 6-4.

Having already played five hours of tennis Ridout was back on court for the mixed doubles with Gerri Wright, as they beat Craig Grose and Monica Laczna 6-0 6-1.

Grose defeated Gary Newman 7-5 6-3 in the men's over-35 singles to avenge last year's defeat and Chris Adams won the men's plate, as Aga and Matt Roszak took the mixed doubles plate.

Bawcutt won the U18 boys' title, as Thomas Standing took U16 honours and Taylor Gahri claimed the U12 silverware. Tamara Marshall Harry won the U12 girls' event, as Robin Saha (U10), Jake Skinner (U9), Oly Overson and Freddie Goodwin (junior doubles) also won.