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FOOTBALL: Remembrance Day game at Vale



Wealdstone players train ahead of their game against Rochdale. Image: Jon Taffel

Wealdstone ready for first Rochdale meeting

WEALDSTONE return to National League action with a first-ever meeting with Rochdale at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday.

Stuart Maynard's men were left without a game last weekend, having been knocked out of the FA Cup last month.

And they slipped to 17th in the table after Dagenham & Redbridge won 3-1 at Dorking Wanderers in the only game played in the division on the day.

Dale arrive in London after a 14-day break of their own, sitting three points off the play-off places following relegation last season, after 102 years in the Football League.

And this weekend's game will be Wealdstone's dedicated Remembrance Day fixture as the club pays its respect to fallen servicemen and women.

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Supporters are asked to be inside the ground before kick-off, for a minute's silence and rendition of the Last Post.

Turnstiles will open at 1.45pm, with supporters encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

And the Vale Social Club will be open from midday for supporters of both teams to enjoy.

It is the first of two mouthwatering home games for Stones this month, as they host north London rivals Barnet two weeks later on November 25, after trips to FC Halifax Town and Southend United.

A big crowd is expected for the derby,

with the fixture having attracted over 3,000 last season, and tickets are already on sale online as the club anticipate another potential sell-out.

However, the home fixture against Aldershot Town, scheduled for December 2, has been postponed, with a new date to be announced in due course.

Aldershot will be competing in the second round of the FA Cup on that weekend, after a stunning 7-4 win at League Two outfit Swindon Town last weekend earned a home tie against Stockport County.

*Wealdstone Academy striker Jaiden Bartolo has been called up by Gibraltar for European Under-21 Championship qualifying duty this month.

They face the Netherlands in Amsterdam on November 16 and Moldova

in Chisinau five days later.

"I was born in Slough, but living in Gibraltar from around the age of two years old," Bartolo told the club website.

"I was there for 15 years and moved back here recently. The level is a lot higher. It's international football, you're playing against the best players of the age group. It's definitely great experience, good to learn."

Bartolo, 17, played for the Under-19s against Norway, Hungary and Latvia last month.

*Wealdstone were saddened to learn of the passing of former player Eric Burgess at the age of 79.

He made 117 appearances for the club between 1972-74, scoring five goals, and won the Southern League Division One title.

Harrow fall to another late defeat

SOUTHERN LEAGUE RIVALS CLAIM STOPPAGE-TIME WINNER

HARROW Borough make the long trip to Devon to take on Tiverton Town in the Southern League Premier South on Saturday.

And they will be looking to bounce back after suffering a 3-2 home defeat against Salisbury City last weekend. The visitors arrived at Earlsmead having conceded only 10 goals in 13 matches - with only Swindon Supermarine and Sholing breaching their defence twice in the same game. Harrow, meanwhile, had conceded twice in 13 of their 14 outings and included Harry Seabrook alongside Reece Yorke in central defence as Jaden Sharman returned at left-back. Victor Osobu fired straight at Josh Gould on 11 minutes, after a largely uneventful opening period.

But the visitors took the lead on 28 minutes when a ball into the box found Charlie Gunson unmarked and he fired past Tyler Tobin from 12 yards. Noah Coppin shot straight at Tobin three minutes later, before Dan Fitchett beat the offside trap and lobbed the onrushing Harrow keeper, only to see the ball bounce wide of the left post.

The hosts levelled on 35 minutes, though, when a long ball bounced for Reece Mitchell to fire a sweet strike past Gould.

Coppin sent a good chance wide soon after, but restored Salisbury's lead on 42 minutes when he was given time and space on the left and curled his shot in off the far post.

Gunson fired a free-kick inches wide soon after the restart, while Coppin curled a shot against the crossbar just past the hour mark.

And Harrow hit back for a second time on 84 minutes when Osobu beat several defenders on a skilful run and fired left-footed past Gould.

Josh Hedges sent a free-kick just past Tobin's right-hand post as Salisbury went in search of a winner, before Ross Oulton's clumsy challenge allowed the visitors to send another set-piece into the box in the third minute of stoppage time.

And an unmarked Tom Leggett headed home to seal the points, as Harrow conceded beyond the 90-minute mark for a sixth time this season.

Osobu struck a 90th-minute winner against Hanwell Town in the Middlesex Senior Cup on Tuesday and Harrow are back on the road next week as they head to Beaconsfield Town (November 14).

Harrow Borough: Tobin, Mirtahmasebi, Sharman, Lukombo (Muhemba 77), Yorke, Seabrook, Mfinda (Talla 81), Ibrahim, Mitchell, Osobu, Ofori (Oulton 56). Unused subs: Ogundega, Jawara.