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FOOTBALL: Wealdstone boss hails derby win



Charlie Barker celebrates his late winner for Wealdstone against Barnet. Image: Jon Taffel

No better way to beat local rivals - Maynard

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard claimed there was no better way of beating neighbours Barnet after their last-gasp triumph over the National League hopefuls at Grosvenor Vale.

Charlie Barker's 98th-minute goal earned Stones a 3-2 victory and the north London derby bragging rights, while condemning the Bees to a fourth successive defeat.

And Maynard was well aware of the significance of his side's success, telling the club website: "I'm lost for the words."

"This game means so much to the fans, to so many people at this football club, that worked so hard over the years to get the club to where we are now."

"To be able to deliver a last-minute winner like that, I don't think there's any better way of beating your local rivals like that. Huge credit has to go to our lads on the pitch."

Jerome Okimo put the visitors ahead

on 13 minutes, but captain Jack Cook got Stones back on terms moments later.

And although Nicke Kabamba restored Barnet's lead before the half-hour mark, Cook struck again early in the second half.

It looked like honours would finish even, until Barker's late, late intervention and Maynard hailed their home efforts and supporters.

"To go 1-0 down, then play your way back into a game against a physical team - every time the ball goes out of play, every time they get a free-kick, they crash it into your box. We had a lot to deal with, I thought there were some outstanding performances from everyone," he added.

"It's huge credit to our club to show how far we've come. They're second in the league, in the title race and we've put in a performance like that."

"But our lads have showed this sea-

son, especially at home, that we've got that."

"Away from home we've performed to a good level and I keep going on about it, we just haven't had the luck."

"At home, when we have that back end down there full and they're on the ref and appealing for every decision, I think it makes a huge difference."

Matchwinner Barker admitted it felt great to finally open his account for the club, even more so given the circumstances.

"It took long enough. I think that's 53 games now!" he said. "I should've had 10 by now but it's a good way to have your first one really, last-minute winner at the Vale against Barnet, couldn't be any better really."

"Charley [Ashley Charles] put it in a good area and I got away from my man and just thought 'throw myself at it and hope for the best'."

"We've had a couple of last-minute winners here this season but it's a good feeling when it's you that gets on the end of it."

The 20-year-old also praised the fans and the mindset of the players as Stones moved up to 13th in the table with a trip to Southend on Saturday.

"The fans stuck with us all the way through, even when we went behind," he added.

"That's the thing here, even when we go behind, we're always still in the game. Once you have one or two where you come back from behind here, it's a mentality now, we're never beaten, we'll go to the end and it's shown a couple of times this season."

"Hope it's a bit of a turn in form for us. We've been very good here, we all know that, now can we take the confidence from this away from home and build something."

Harrow left empty handed



Harrow in action at Hungerford.

HARROW Borough were left empty-handed on their Southern League trip to Hungerford Town on Saturday.

They included new signing Lucas Sindair on the bench alongside the returning Stefan Powell and Victor Osobu fired into the side netting in the opening stages, before Tyler Tobin denied Conor McDonagh at the other end.

Ronny Mfinda teed up Theo Ofori on the edge of the box on 20 minutes, but his shot lacked power and did not trouble home keeper Nick Harvey.

McDonagh found the Harrow net when Joe Shepherd headed across goal, but was ruled offside, while visiting defenders blocked two attempts in a goalmouth scramble.

Borough old boy Babs Jarra replaced the injured Rhys Tyler before half-time, with Great Evans coming on to face his former club in the second half.

And both sides went close after the restart, as Reece Mitchell saw a shot blocked after a fine run, while Elis Watts sent a low effort past the target.

Mitchell found Excellence Muhemba to turn his marker and curl a shot just too high on 50 minutes, as Harrow enjoyed their best spell yet.

Ofori set up Osobu on the hour, but his shot was into the arms of Harvey, and another effort flew over before a free-kick evaded the diving Harry Seabrook.

Sindair came on for his debut, in place of Ofori, before Mitchell played in Osobu who shot narrowly wide.

But Harrow fell behind on 74 minutes when Hungerford sent a free-kick into the box and Jack Wright guided the ball past Tobin.

Sindair was shown the first yellow card of the game before the hosts doubled their lead on 82 minutes as Sam De St Croix ran through to beat Tobin with a low finish.

Harrow struck in the fifth minute of injury time when Sindair's shot was tipped over by Harvey and Osobu's corner was half-cleared to Pap Jawara to fire home through a crowd.

But it was little consolation and Harrow will hope for better when they host Gosport at Earlsmead on Saturday.