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FOOTBALL: Frustrating times for neighbours



Wealdstone celebrate their last-gasp win over Barnet on November 25. Image: Jon Taffel

Rivals hoping to return after three-week break

WEALDSTONE and Harrow Borough will be hoping to get back to action after a three-week break this weekend.

Stones face a trip to National League rivals Dagenham & Redbridge on Saturday, having not played since their November 25 derby success over Barnet.

Their December 2 league clash at Southend United was postponed, before two attempts to stage an FA Trophy tie with Billericay Town were also foiled by a waterlogged pitch at Grosvenor Vale.

"When you win a game of football, especially how we won the game, you want the next game to come really quick and fast," Stones boss Stuart Maynard told the club's

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social media channel.

"It feels like we haven't played in ages but we've got some good training into the lads and there was a few lads with niggles and knocks that we've rested. They're back fully fit now which is good.

"I think it helped in some aspects but you feel like you've lost a bit of momentum, but it's a massive game at the weekend and we're looking forward to it."

Dagenham & Redbridge did manage to play their FA Trophy tie at the weekend, but were knocked out by National League North side Pe-

terborough Sports.

Sam Ling put Daggers ahead in the first half, but the visitors levelled after the restart and went on to win on penalties.

Should Wealdstone beat Billericay when they do get round to playing their delayed tie - now scheduled for Tuesday (December 19) - they will visit Chelmsford City in the next round.

Anyone who purchased tickets for Saturday and Tuesday that now need to be refunded must email tickets@wealdstonefc.com before the rescheduled date.

Harrow Borough will also be hoping to see some action, having not played for 21 days in Southern League Premier South.

Beaten 2-1 at Hungerford on November 25, they saw their home fixture with Gosport Borough fall victim to a frozen pitch.

And last weekend's trip to Sholing was also postponed due to a waterlogged surface.

They have gone seven games without a win in all competitions and are set to welcome Basingstoke Town to Earlsmead on Saturday.

A trip to Poole Town is set to follow a week later before Harrow host their Boxing Day derby with Hendon.

They have also been handed a home tie against Rayners Lane in the quarter-finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup, with a provisional date of January 9.

Robson: Lord's is my home

SAM Robson said he loves calling Lord's home after extending his contract with Middlesex until the end of 2026.

The opening batter had a stellar year in 2023, in what was a difficult season for openers across the country, finishing the season with a first-class tally of 856 runs at an average of 37.21.

That saw Robson end the season as the leading run-scoring opening batter in Division One of the County Championship, and the ninth highest run scorer in the division overall.

His three centuries against Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire took him 28 first-class hundreds for Middlesex since making his debut in 2008, along with 45 half-centuries.

Robson has amassed a phenomenal 11,646 first-class runs for the club and is the 22nd highest first-class run scorer of all time for Middlesex, with every chance of breaking into the top 20 next year. He holds the record for most runs scored in a single match for Middlesex, with the incredible 337 he hit against Warwickshire at Lord's in the Championship-winning season of 2016 and remains the only Middlesex player to have ever hit a double-century and a century in the same County Championship match.

Robson has also made seven Test appearances for England, which defies his brilliant record over the last decade and a half as one of the most consistent opening batters.

"Despite last season being a challenging one for the team back in Division One, I still absolutely love being a Middlesex player," he said.

"I love calling Lord's home and with some of my best innings for the club having come in recent seasons, hopefully I can continue to build on this more in the coming seasons."

Director of Cricket Alan Coleman added: "We are absolutely thrilled Robbo has put pen to paper on a deal.

"He has shown, time and time again, what a dependable, gutsy, and classy batsman he is, and his record over the last 15 years with Middlesex is exceptional.

"He has been extremely unlucky to have not played more for England as a Test opener, however I know he still maintains strong aspirations to do so.

"His form in the second half of last season showed he is coming into his best years as a batter and if he continues in that fashion has got every chance of achieving that ambition.

"Sam is a huge part of this Middlesex side, and as one of the senior players in our squad, is someone the younger players in our group take great inspiration from. He is a terrific role model for our less experienced players and always keen to give his time and wealth of experience to assist in their development.

"We are thrilled to have Sam around for at least the next three years."