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## FOOTBALL: FA Trophy win was key says Maynard



Tahvon Campbell scores Wealdstone's winner at Chelmsford. Image; Jon Taffel

# Progress is a positive for Wealdstone boss

STUART Maynard looked at the positives after a below-par away performance in the FA Trophy by Wealdstone in their 1-0 win over Chelmsford City in the FA Trophy on Saturday.

Tahvon Campbell's second-half strike proved to be the difference as the Stones progressed to the last 16 and Maynard was keen to focus on his side's ability to grind out results.

"Being totally honest, I thought it was one of our worst performances this season," he told the club's media channel.

"I said to the players before the game that performance levels when you come into the cup don't really matter. Performance levels: When you keep performing at a high level,

By Tom Norton

results come, and this was one of those games.

"The pitch - when we turned up here, it was bobbly. We knew that we wouldn't be able to be as fluent as we possibly would want to be.

"They [Chelmsford] sat in a low block, similar to how Ebbsfleet did, so the pitch being as bobbly as it was, it was very hard to get through that first phase, but once we got through that, I think we controlled the game."

Despite the victory, the performance stagnated at times, but Maynard remained firmly of the stance

that not all wins can be of significant quality.

"For us as a management team, we want to take away the random element as a game, and I think if you look at today's game, you'll see that it was very random," he added when asked whether it can be nice to win ugly.

"We probably could have scored three or four, but they probably could have scored three or four. Not as in clear efforts, but balls in the box.

"We want to take that randomness out of the game of football, and that's why when we're possession-based and we control the game from minute one, we can control that random element.

"We knew today wasn't going to be easy. Chelmsford are flying in their league, and I wish them luck. Hopefully they can get promoted, and next season we could potentially be playing against them.

"But it's not a performance that I come away from and say that it was a great performance. It's a win, and we've won a game of football - that's what matters."

Having been handed a home tie against north London neighbours Hendon in Monday's draw, Maynard's attention now turns to domestic duties as the Stones make the long trip north on Saturday to face seventh-placed Rochdale, who have lost just one of their previous five National League fixtures.

## Shot-shy Harrow sink into mire

HARROW Borough remain in deep relegation trouble after a dismal home display against Dorchester Town. They lost 2-0 to two second-half goals but never threatened to get much, with zero shots on target and just the one goal in the last five league games. Borough are still second from bottom of the Southern League Premier Division South table but are now five points behind Dorchester, the team directly above them, and seven from safety. They have also played more games than any team in the bottom four and even with a number of changes, including two debutants, there is little to suggest any sweeping changes. There was a lot of huffing and puffing in the opening 20 minutes from two sides devoid of confidence among other things.

The first real chance arrived in the 26th minute, Dorchester's Marcus Daws cutting in from the left but curling a shot a couple of yards over the bar. Nagheeb Ibrahim bent a shot over for the hosts soon after, from slightly further out and slightly higher and wider than the Dorchester effort. But as the half drew to a close, the visitors found a second gear and never really needed to go much higher to claim the win.

Harrow's best chance arrived in the first period though. A Reece Mitchell cross from the right was fired in low and evaded everyone to reach Florian Ada close to the penalty spot. But he opted to take a touch first and the shot was blocked by the defender.

Harrow keeper Tyler Tobin was forced into the first save in the 43rd minute when the hosts gave up possession cheaply inside their own half.

Daws crossed low to Jack Dickson, 10 yards out but his goalbound shot was well saved by Tobin.

It was a sign of things to come as Dickson was allowed to run into the Harrow box five minutes after the restart but hit the post with a low shot. He then turned creator to release Olaf Koszela, but the forward could only shoot straight at Tobin, with the keeper making another save from the same man moments later.

A goal was coming, though, and it arrived on the hour, with Will Fletcher lobbing the keeper from at least 25 yards.

It increased Dorchester's confidence and Koszela should have scored on 64 minutes but his effort was blocked and Daws was also denied by Tobin from the corner.

A second goal came on 68 minutes, with Fletcher's cross finding Daws with too much space in the area.

And a far better effort from Borough is needed on their trip to play-off chasing AFC Totton on Saturday.