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FOOTBALL: Former Stones boss discusses exit



Stuart Maynard talks to his Wealdstone players after their January 13 FA Trophy win at Chelmsford City. Image: Jon Taffel

Maynard: Leaving was hardest decision

STUART Maynard penned an emotional farewell to Wealdstone after his decision to take over at Notts County, writes Chris Phillips.

Maynard's three-year spell in charge of Stones ended last week as he made the move to the Magpies.

But in a joint statement alongside assistant manager Matty Saunders and first-team coach Craig Saunders, he admitted it was far from a straight-forward decision.

He wrote: "It's been an emotional rollercoaster and leaving has been the hardest decision we've had to make.

"A club that gave us our opportunity and took a chance on us when it would have been easier to look elsewhere. "For that, we will forever be indebted to [chairman] Rory [Fitzgerald].

"Without that decision, we wouldn't

be where we are now as a management team and the club wouldn't be in as good a place as it is currently.

"The support we've had from all the board, is something we're extremely grateful for. Trust them in this process, as they've shown time and time again their decision making is second to none."

And Maynard is certain the future is bright for the National League club.

"Wealdstone now is probably in its most exciting moment and there's foundations being laid behind the scenes that four years ago, seemed impossible," he added.

"To depart the club in this position, with the help of so many, is something we will always hold dear to us no matter what we achieve.

"What we've all done together, has

been deemed impossible by clubs much wealthier than Wealdstone."

But it was also how the success was secured which delighted Maynard.

"The style and manner in which we did it as a club, makes it's all the more satisfying," he said.

"Wealdstone is now the envy of so many on the outside, and every fan, staff member, volunteer and player that has contributed, should be proud of what they've done.

"You've got an identity that many clubs strive for but can't replicate.

"Wealdstone is a club that many don't understand from the outside.

"It's a club that makes the most of the things it has.

"It's not blessed with the biggest resources but it's the human element of the club that makes it so special.

"It's a place full of good human beings first and foremost, not there for the glory or credit, but for the love of their club.

"The success is built from hard work, and that's why we know that with or without us, it will continue to thrive."

Maynard saw his first match as County boss against Stockport postponed due to a frozen pitch at Meadow Lane.

Meanwhile, Wealdstone caretaker boss Alex Dyer saw Tuesday's clash with Southend United called off due to a waterlogged pitch at Grosvenor Vale.

That came after a trip to Roots Hall was postponed off due to a frozen pitch seven days earlier.

Wealdstone, who are 14th in the table, are due to host Halifax Town this weekend before also hosting Aldershot on Tuesday night.

Another blank for Borough

STRUGGLING HARROW FAIL TO FIND TARGET ONCE MORE

HARROW Borough's goal drought continued as they lost 1-0 at AFC Totton in their latest Southern League Premier South game.

Harrow were in the contest throughout but have now suffered seven successive defeats and 10 in their last 11 matches. And they have gone more than eight hours without scoring after their latest defeat.

Both teams had six players in their starting line-ups from the opening day encounter at Earlsmead, while a couple more had appeared from the bench. Reece Mitchell was away on holiday and missing from the Harrow team.

The two sides struggled to play any real football due to the surface and a constant swirling wind.

Excellence Muhemba had a sniff of goal in the third minute but was unable to control the ball and it was cleared to safety.

Lonit Talla tried his luck from 25 yards a minute later but his shot flew straight into the arms of goalkeeper Lewis Noice.

Totton were having a lot of possession down both flanks and it was clearly a tactic they thought they could exploit, especially with the areas out wide being the most difficult to change direction on.

Harrow had an effort disallowed for offside when Harry Seabrook escaped his marker and headed home Ross Oulton's free-kick at the far post. But they were forced into a change soon after half-time when Oulton limped off, having been out injured for the last six weeks.

The game was always likely to turn on a mistake and it duly arrived in the 60th minute.

Ethan Taylor finished first time left-footed past Tyler Tobin from Scott Rendell's pass, after Seabrook had completely mishit his pass on the rock-hard surface.

Harrow looked for an immediate response and almost got one when Talla's cutback was cleared a couple of yards from goal, after he had skilfully tricked his way to the byline.

Reece Yorke's left-footed effort went high and wide soon after before Totton missed the best chance of the remainder of the game when Hallett headed over Ethan Taylor's corner at the near post.

Harrow forced several corners but the closest they came to equalising was from Talla's stoppage-time 20-yard shot which curled wide.

Totton comfortably saw out the rest of the game without alarm, as the hosts claimed victory.

Harrow have the opportunity to end their 32-day, six-game and 8.5-hour goal drought at home to Hayes & Yeading, this Saturday.