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## FOOTBALL: Midfield talisman extends contract



Wealdstone's Max Kretzschmar has penned a new deal at the National League club

Image: Jon Taffel

# Max wants to maintain momentum with Stones

WEALDSTONE'S busy start to the summer continued this week as the club made two key announcements as part of a restructuring ahead of the new season.

The Stones announced midfield talisman Max Kretzschmar has extended his stay in the capital by signing a new one-year contract, while new head coach Matt Taylor gave his very first words for the club in a formal interview.

Kretzschmar, who secured his future at the club for another season at the very least, has been a mainstay in the Stones' playing squad and continues to be an invaluable member heading into the 2024/2025 season.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the club so far," he told the club.

"The support from the fans and ca-

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maraderie within the team have been fantastic. I'm really looking forward to a new era under our new manager and believe we can achieve great things together."

Chairman Rory Fitzgerald gave his thoughts about the extension, alluding to the positive impact the midfielder has made since joining the club just two years ago.

"Max has been an outstanding player for us since he joined," said Fitzgerald.

"His commitment, skill, and leadership on the pitch have made a significant impact. We are thrilled to have him continue with us as we aim for suc-

cess in the upcoming season."

Meanwhile, former West Ham and Luton midfielder Taylor vowed to cultivate a positive dressing room environment having been announced as the club's new manager after interim boss Sam Cox left the club to pursue new opportunities.

"It came little bit of the blue," said Taylor, who met chairman Fitzgerald to discuss plans for the future.

"I was impressed with his thoughts about the football club, the ambition he has and what he wants to try and implement.

"You want to work with good people, people who share the same values. That's really important to me. I listened to how passionate he is about the club and where he wants to take it.

"It's a really exciting project. I'm under no illusions that I've got to win games, but this club has a certain way of operating and that interests me. I'll bring my knowledge and experience to help.

"On meeting Rory, meeting the people who work here, it just has an unbelievable feeling. It was then an easy decision to make. It's a new challenge and one I wasn't really expecting but I'm really excited.

"The most important thing about a football club is the people and the chairman, the board, the football staff, and the ground staff, you can see everyone is pulling together and want to go in the right direction and change the way they approach things. There are really good people here."

## Middlesex get better of Glamorgan

TENSE FINISH TO LATEST COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP ENCOUNTER



Mark Stoneman impressed for Middlesex Image: Gavin Ellis/TGS Photo

MIDDLESEX secured a two-wicket victory over Glamorgan in their Vitality County Championship match in Cardiff with Mark Stoneman top scoring in a win that came right down to the last few overs on the fourth day.

Glamorgan were miles behind before 48 runs and five wickets from Mason Crane took them close to victory in a thrilling finish on the final evening.

Middlesex looked to be cruising before losing four wickets for 15, but they managed to sneak home thanks to a 52-run stand for the penultimate wicket between Tom Helm and Jack Davies.

They started their chase brightly as Sam Robson (31) and Stoneman put on 65, before Robson chopped a ball from Gorvin onto his stumps.

Crane got the ball to turn big once introduced to the attack and spun one past an attempted sweep from Max Holman to bowl him for 28.

A huge shout for lbw against Leus du Plooy was turned down, but Harris got him in the very next over when he struck his pads in front.

Crane had Higgins caught behind for one and, going into the final session, it was nicely poised with Glamorgan needing six wickets on an increasingly hard pitch and Middlesex still 93 runs short of their target.

Nathan Fernandes was caught at slip off Crane, before Gorvin had Stoneman caught by Cooke for 63.

Two wickets in two balls from Crane to dismiss Toby Roland-Jones and Hollman without scoring left the game on a knife edge before Davies and Helm sealed victory with just five overs left.

"Credit to Davies and Helm for the way they got us over the line. It was an incredible effort," said captain Roland-Jones.

Middlesex host Sussex at Lord's on Friday, before focus turns to the Vitality Blast.