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FOOTBALL: New boss meets fans in Q&A event



New Wealdstone boss Matt Taylor and assistant Paul Hughes at a meet the manager event

Image: Jon Taffel

Taylor ready to take on big Wealdstone project

NEW Wealdstone boss Matt Taylor spoke of his plans for the club at a special meet the manager event this week.

Taylor attended the Q&A session at Grosvenor Vale on Tuesday, alongside assistant Paul Hughes, to share his thoughts about the club and the 2024-25 National League season.

"I've learnt a lot about Wealdstone and what's important to the fans and football club. You play a certain type of football that really interests me," he said.

"I'm really excited to be here and to work with the team to try and be as open and honest with the fans."

As for the club's move to being more hybrid, he added: "Where I hopefully can bring some knowledge is out on the grass, but secondly helping to broaden

the staff's knowledge on what professional looks like.

"I'm trying to change the players perspective on part time. We're not just training on a Tuesday and Thursday any more. It'll take time to adapt but we have to sign players with professional aspirations."

Asled about making signings and the possibility of loan deals, the former West Ham United man said: "We've got to sign quality players. We are aware there are gambles, we have to make sure we sign the best players available to us but also sign potential which comes with risk."

"We are going to be really strong on building relationships with local clubs who make us a great option for their younger players. We've now got more

contact time and their young players will get game time with us."

Hughes, meanwhile, also spoke about recruitment but also of integrating academy players into the first-team.

He said: "If they're good enough you want to integrate them. Now it's our job to get to know their skill and attitude."

"I've spent a lot of time at lower levels, and there's a lot of accessible talent at those levels. We're always on the look out with our contacts."

"We're talking to lots of different players at the moment. So much graft has gone into it so far and we do need to sign to strengthen the team. We have to play a waiting game to sign players for a realistic fee. We have to be more clever with how we negotiate and deal."

Winger Dom Hutchinson, mean-

while, has signed a one-year extension and told the club website: "I'm glad to be staying. It's a great club with great people round it."

"I've had some really good conversations with the gaffer and I'm excited to work with him and have a good season."

Hutchinson, 22, appeared for a Watford Under-18 team who knocked a Birmingham side featuring now-Real Madrid star Jude Bellingham out of the FA Youth Cup in 2018 before joining the Stones in July 2022.

He has since made 25 appearances for Wealdstone and chairman Rory Fitzgerald said: "Dom is a great lad and a valued and popular member of the squad."

"He has done well out on loan and I'm looking forward to seeing him perform at this level again."

Borough bring in new boss Bukowski



Ben Bukowski is Harrow's new manager
 Image: Simon Grigor

HARROW Borough Football Club has announced the appointment of Ben Bukowski as the new first-team manager. The 30-year-old joins Harrow from Northwood, where he had been the first-team manager for two-and-a-half seasons. Bukowski steered the club away from what looked like certain relegation in his first term and reaching the Isthmian League Division One South Central play-offs in his second.

He therefore brings a raft of experience in the league into which Harrow have been placed for the 2024-25 campaign. Bukowski will be supported by his management team from Northwood, in the form of assistant manager Keagan Cole - known to many at The Rogers Family Stadium from his time at Hendon - joint first-team coaches Jacob Cook and Dennis Quigley and goalkeeping coach Nic Collins.

Reflecting on his appointment, he said: "Harrow Borough are one of the biggest clubs in Middlesex, respected across non-league circles and with a rich history. They've played a part in the development of some big names too."

"It's very exciting to lead the club as we prepare for life at non-league step four. We know it will be a competitive division and will want to be one of the eight to 10 teams who we think will be challenging for promotion."

Club chairman Peter Rogers added: "We had close on 30 candidates for the job and whittled down those names to a very strong short list."

"Ben emerged as a clear winner, impressing us with his ideas and ambition, and was the unanimous choice of our interview panel."

Away from his job at The Rogers Family Stadium, Ben is employed as head of football in the Chelsea Football Foundation Study Programme at Stanmore College.