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FOOTBALL: Stones face Wycombe test live on TV



Sam Ashford wheels away after scoring Wealdstone's equaliser at Eastleigh on Saturday

Image: Jon Taffel

Anything can happen in FA Cup says Garner

THE magic of the FA Cup will be alive and well this weekend for one former goal hero fondly remembered by supporters of Wealdstone and Wycombe Wanderers, writes Dan Clough.

Simon Garner – who scored an important equaliser in the Chairboys' 1994 Third Division play-off final against Preston – has happy memories of his time at both clubs.

And after the sides drew each other in the FA Cup second round this Saturday (11.30am), he couldn't help but feel excited at the prospect of the clash.

Garner, now 64 and based in Bourne End, said: "I had a great time at both clubs. Firstly under Martin O'Neill at Wycombe where we got promoted to the old Second Division and then almost went straight up the following season.

"It was at the back end of my career when I signed for Wealdstone who were by then all the way down in the third tier of the Isthmian League. I won my first league title there and then we got promoted again the following season.

"But more than the success on the field, they were great times with two great bunches of lads. The dressing rooms were very enjoyable and we had a good time together, on and off the pitch!"

The match, which will be screened live on ITV from Wealdstone's Grosvenor Vale ground, is the first time the two sides have met competitively.

While Wycombe are the favourites, Garner says anything could happen.

"I guess that's the magic of the cup," he said. "Wycombe are top of League

One and in great form. Matt Bloomfield has got a good squad together and he's doing a great job there.

"They will be expected to win, no doubt about that, but you can't write off Wealdstone. There's no pressure on them, even if they are at home, and we all know anything can happen."

Garner, who now works as a self-employed painter and decorator, remains Blackburn Rovers' all-time top goalscorer and joined Wycombe having played for the Ewood Park side for more than a decade before spending two years at West Bromwich Albion.

Last year he published his autobiography, entitled *One Last Shot*, where he reflected at length on a successful career, including cup success of his own.

Garner said: "Sadly I never experi-

enced a good FA Cup run, but we did win the Full Members Cup at Blackburn in 1987.

"We were the underdogs a couple of times, including against Chelsea in the quarter-final, and then in the final we beat Charlton who were in the league above us. So it just goes to show, anything can happen."

Simon Garner's book is available from £12.99 at www.simongarnerbook.co.uk.

*Wealdstone came from behind to draw 1-1 at National League rivals Eastleigh and extend their unbeaten run to six matches last weekend.

The hosts took the lead after just seven minutes, but Sam Ashford headed home from Jaydn Mundie-Smith's cross just past the hour to earn Stones a point.

Harrow end five-game losing run



Jethro Odumusu fires home

Image: Bruce Viveash

HARROW snapped a five-game losing run with a 3-1 win over Sutton Common Rovers in Isthmian South Central.

They dominated possession early on with Jethro Odumusu looking dangerous every time he received the ball.

A string of corners were cleared before Odumusu won a free-kick 25 yards out on 13 minutes and Keagan Cole curled the set-piece over the wall but the ball flew a few inches over.

Harrow continued to dominate and deservedly went ahead on 18 minutes as a ball over the top was misjudged and Odumusu smashed a half volley home.

They should have doubled their lead in the 36th minute when Odumusu was brought down for a penalty but Dernel Wynter blasted the spot-kick over. And Wynter also headed over from Odumusu's cross just before the break. Conditions hadn't eased for the second half but Harrow got the important second goal on 47 minutes.

Tyrese Osbourne had played against Harrow for Sutton Common in September, swapping clubs a few weeks later, and intercepted a clearance 30 yards from goal, played a one-two with Wynter on the edge of the area, before bursting through and firing home.

Sutton wasted a great chance before Harrow went 3-0 up on 68 minutes as Harry McCorkell collected the ball 10 yards outside the area and ghosted past a defender before firing a beautiful left-footed shot low into the corner of the net from 18 yards.

Former Harrow man Troy Walters pounced on a defensive mistake to score low to Andrew McCorkell's left three minutes later and Sutton sniffed a chance. They pushed more players forward, with Harrow content to play on the counter, and Odumusu and Wynter battled to keep possession when balls came their way.

Harrow held firm at the back, with Cole marshalling the troops and organising at every set-piece and McCorkell had only one save to make deep in stoppage time. Borough head to Binfield on Saturday.