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## FOOTBALL: Gibson glad to get point on the board



Alex Reid runs through to score for Wealdstone against Solihull Moors

Image: Jon Taffel

# New Stones boss draws positives in first outing

NEIL Gibson's time as Wealdstone manager started with a respectable 1-1 draw with former manager Matt Taylor's Solihull Moors at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday.

But they were hit by a 1-0 home defeat by Tamworth on Tuesday and slipped back into the relegation places, with Max Kretzschmar seeing red just past the hour mark and the only goal arriving on 73 minutes.

The prolific Alex Reid grabbed his eighth Stones goal in just 13 starts for the club after just four minutes at the weekend, but Alexander Whitmore restored parity just before half-time.

With Taylor returning for the first time since leaving the club a fortnight ago, the pressure was on Gibson to get a performance out of his players.

By TOM NORTON  
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"Could I have asked for any more effort from them? Absolutely not. Not at all," said the new Stones boss.

"It was unbelievable work from the groundstaff to get the game on. Due to the nature of the weather, the pitch played a bit heavy. But we stayed on the front foot and were really strong in terms of our fitness levels and that's where it impressed me most.

"We are asking the lads to go and press the ball to move it quickly and play with a little bit more intensity. They did that in abundance, I felt. Can we be better? Yes."

The draw reassured Gibson his

squad is capable of managing games appropriately when up against it, but he felt the fans were largely to thank for the team's confident performance.

"I thought the fans were fantastic. They made a real noise and a real occasion for the group and the players thrived off that," he added.

"The fans were making a lot of noise behind the goal, which was absolutely great.

"In the 30 minutes after that and building up to half-time, I thought we were well in the ascendancy. I thought they (Solihull) started okay for 15 minutes. We got to grips with it a little bit, and then we came on strong after the goal.

"The goal for them is the killer moment. If we get into half-time at 1-0, we

probably move on and go on to win. However, really pleasing aspects of play and lots and lots to work with."

The Stones might regret not being able to go on and win after spending long periods with the ball and creating several chances.

"When you're on top in games, you have to push to try and get the next goal. I think if we'd have sat back after the first goal, it would have played right into Solihull's hands," said Gibson.

"Ultimately, we tried to push to get the second goal. We want to create those opportunities in the final third that gets the supporters excited about what we're trying to do."

Wealdstone welcome fourth-placed Gateshead on Saturday.

## Free entry at Harrow for NHS

CLUB MAKES OFFER TO STAFF AFTER CHAIRMAN'S SURGERY



Harrow Borough are giving NHS staff free entry on Saturday

HARROW Borough Football Club are giving all NHS staff free entry to their home game in the Isthmian League South Central Division against Southall this Saturday (February 8).

The club would like to thank the staff at Northwick Park Hospital in particular, who have been looking after chairman Peter Rogers following a recent fall which required hip surgery.

Any NHS employees attending the game simply need to show their staff pass at the turnstiles for free admission.

The match kicks off at 3pm at The Rogers Family Stadium, Earlsmead, which can be found at HA2 8SS.

Harrow fell to a 2-0 defeat at third-placed Ascot United last weekend, which left them in 10th place.

Having made a bright start, it was little surprise when the home side opened the scoring after just nine minutes as Harvey Harry's run and pass set up Kickie Dzimba to beat Dan Hosier.

Harrow's best chance came on 47 minutes when Lamin Ceessay ran onto Harry McCorkell's pass and teed up Jordan Hamilton-Olise, who put his effort wide of the far post.

Kai Hamilton-Olise had penalty claims waved away before the hosts made sure of the points with four minutes remaining.

Bailey Lamb was caught in possession by Connor Holland, who ran into the box and rolled the ball past Hosier. It meant a second successive defeat for Borough - without finding the net themselves - after their 1-0 home reverse against Raynes Park Vale in midweek.

But after hosting Southall on Saturday, they are due to welcome struggling South Park (Reigate) on Tuesday.