

## No panic for Wealdstone

Wealdstone boss Gordon Bartlett insists there is no reason to panic despite his side's winless start to the season continuing after being thrashed 4-0 at home to Bromley.

The Stones are the only side yet to record a victory in the Conference South but Bartlett is refusing to worry about his newly-promoted side's chances this year.

Bartlett said: "We are not going to let Saturday worry us but there are things we need to improve on which should help us get over the hurdle in our search for our first win.

"We are taking time to settle but there is no panic on our side whatsoever."

The manager added: "We have to take the positives and learn very quickly that we can't afford to have dips in games and give presents to other teams."

Wealdstone got off to the worst possible start at Grosvenor Vale as they fell behind after just four minutes. Poor defending allowed Damian Scannell far too much space to head home the visitors' opener.

Bromley extended their lead when incisive approach play resulted in Louis Dennis firing home their second goal.

Jonathan North briefly kept the Stones in the game as he made his third consecutive penalty save this season after keeping out Adam Birchall's spot-kick.

But this only delayed further goals, which arrived when Pierre Joseph-Dubois and substitute Moses Ademola rounded off Bromley's victory.

Bartlett said: "They're one of the favourites to win the league and they punished us for every mistake that we made.

"If you look at the overall game then we probably had as much of the ball as them but they looked menacing going forward every time they went forward.

"I've no complaints because there was a gulf in class between the teams. You can't afford to make mistakes as we did against good sides. But it was a valuable lesson for us



Wealdstone are the only team in the Conference South yet to pick up a victory this season. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

and the first time we've been well beaten this season."

The Stones boss continued: "It was a rude awakening for us but that's what can happen at this level."

Wealdstone have struggled to create chances this season and the manager insists improving this is a priority ahead of Saturday's match at Hayes & Yeading United.

He said: "We have been a bit too pre-

dictable and we just have to be a bit more creative. Our lack of creativity is more of the problem at the moment.

"I would like it to be our first victory this weekend. We know it will be a tough game against one of the established sides in the division.

"But we hope to get a win sooner rather than later and I'm sure that will the springboard to more success."

## Bessborough seal Middlesex title

Bessborough wrapped up the Middlesex Championship title with one week to spare on Saturday after a six-wicket win over Perivale Phoenixians at Headstone Manor.

Bowling first, Bessborough made early inroads into the Perivale line-up and never let them off the hook, dismissing the visitors for 117 inside 38 overs.

Summing up the collective effort of the season every bowler claimed at least one wicket, with Menesh Gunalan (three for 34), Rohan Karkhanis (two for 18) and Mitesh Vyas (two for 32) faring best.

A 60-run partnership between Rishi Patel (42 not out) and Sherrick Chavda (35) helped complete the job in 25 overs.

News of defeats for nearest rivals Wycombe House and Old Actonians confirmed Bessborough's return to the Middlesex County Cricket League after a three-year absence and sparked raucous celebrations in the clubhouse.

It was a fitting send-off for departing overseas player Jigar Shah who has cemented his legendary status at the club. He scored 553 league runs this season at an average of 46 and claimed 17 dismissals.

## Late setback for Reds

Harrow Borough slumped to a 2-1 home defeat to Hampton & Richmond Borough after conceding a last minute penalty in the Ryman Premier Division on Tuesday night.

The Reds started brightly and they opened the scoring after just nine minutes. A throw-in found Steve Butterworth and his superb 25-yard volley dipped over keeper Jack Norton.

The visitors grabbed an equaliser midway through the second period when Luke Wanadio crossed for Billy Dunn to fire past Charlie Horlock.

But Michael Peacock was sent off for bringing down Ben Harris in the area. Harris converted the penalty to snatch the win.

The Reds fought back from 1-0 down to win 3-1 at East Thurrock United on Saturday.

Spencer Bellotti equalised before goals from Peacock and Butterworth completed the comeback.

Boro host Grays Athletic this weekend at Earlsmead.

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