

Stones end winless start

Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett praised his side for "showing pride in the badge" after they ended their winless start to the season with a crucial victory at Whitehawk.

The Stones failed to win their opening nine Conference South matches but upset the odds to land a 1-0 victory at third-placed Whitehawk on Tuesday night.

Bartlett said: "We didn't let things worry us and kept focused. We showed a lot of resilience and pride for the badge. I can't praise them highly enough because Whitehawk are a damned good side.

"It was made all the better by the circumstances. When you have not won a game and you're away to Whitehawk, who are on a good run, then you fear the worst.

"But our attitude, work ethic, character and commitment was all evident. They showed the passion and desire which has been questioned in the last two games and proved it was there in abundance."

The Stones produced a superb defensive effort to keep out their opponents and the winner came just before half-time when Luke Pigen fired home a free-kick.

Slade said: "The atmosphere at half-time was better than it has been all season. At the final whistle there was a great deal of satisfaction after all the endeavour and commitment was rewarded."

It was a totally different story from Saturday when the Stones went down to a 4-2 defeat at Concord Rangers.

A speculative strike from Scott McGleish fired the visitors in front but Jordan Chiedozie equalised before Steve Cawley took advantage of a poor clearance from keeper Jonathan North to make it 2-1.

Gary Ogilvie added a third goal for the Beachboys before Lewis Taaffe scored their fourth. Pigen netted a second but it could not hide a disappointing afternoon for the Stones.



The Stones were beaten at Concord Rangers but responded by getting their first win of the season. **Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC**

Bartlett, whose side will get the chance to face Concord again a week on Saturday when they host them in the second qualifying round of the FA Cup said, "We set up defensively to keep a clean sheet but we made a couple of individual mistakes and you can't legislate for that.

"We were feeling sorry for ourselves on Saturday but the same group then responded

superbly on Tuesday.

"We needed a lift and spark and we talked about getting back to feeling how we felt looking forward to the season after promotion. Hopefully this performance and result can be the catalyst to spark our season."

Former Wealdstone player James Gray brings his St Albans City side to Grosvenor Vale this weekend in the league.

Harrow Borough sunk by late goal

Harrow Borough suffered a cruel defeat after a 94th minute goal fired Ryman Premier Division leaders Maidstone United to a 2-1 victory on Tuesday night.

The late setback sent the Reds to their fourth successive league defeat but Dave Anderson's side could take plenty of encouragement from their performance.

Boro, who entertain Leiston this Saturday, had an early opportunity to take the lead but Harold Odametye's header was saved by keeper Lee Worgan.

Maidstone also threatened to grab the opening goal but Charlie Horlock managed to keep out Alex Flisher's shot.

Anderson's side opened the scoring just after the half hour mark when Marc Charles-Smith was fouled and Daniel May sent a free-kick past Worgan into the net.

Ben Long had a shot saved as the visitors finished the half strongly.

But Boro became increasingly defensive after the break as Maidstone piled on the pressure. Flisher was denied by a decent save from Horlock but he headed over from a corner.

United's attacking finally paid off in the 79th minute with the equaliser. The ball was crossed into the area and Flisher netted at the far post.

This brought the visitors to life and nearly regained the lead but Odametye's 20-yard strike was kept out by an excellent save.

There were seven minutes of injury time and Boro could not hold out as the hosts pinched the win. Flisher sent in a deliver and Franny Collin headed home to deny the Reds.

Boro will travel to VCD Athletic in the second qualifying round of the FA Cup a week on Saturday after a 3-2 win at AFC Hayes last weekend.

It took just three minutes for the visitors to open the scoring when Steve Butterworth was pulled down in the area. Charles-Smith tucked away the penalty to give Boro a 1-0 lead.

But Hayes levelled the game midway through the half when a pass released Tobi Akinjirin and he fired past Horlock.

The Reds regained the lead just before half-time when Jake Gilbert headed home.

Boro made it 3-1 when Butterworth's shot was deflected in by Spencer Bellotti before Akinjirin added his second of the game.

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