## Late blow for Stones

Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett felt his side deserved better after being beaten in injury time by Conference South leaders Basingstoke Town.

The Stones were more than a match for their opponents at Grosvenor Vale and appeared to be heading for a hard-earned point until a 93rd minute goal fired Town to a 1-0 win on Saturday.

Bartlett said: "Everyone could tell there

had been a bit of an injustice but you don't always get what you deserve in football.
"I am gutted and that really hurt. We

gave away possession right at the death and gave them a free header.

"But there were massive positives from the game. Basingstoke are top the league and we edged the game and a point was the least we deserved so I have to be bitterly disappointed.

"When you are at the bottom you don't get the rub of the green. I felt that we were better than them and we were definitely unlucky not to get something out of the

Wealdstone almost grabbed a first minute lead but Joe Turner was denied by a save from keeper Stuart Moore.

The Stones were reliant on Tom Hamblin blocking a goalbound shot from firing Basingtoke into the lead.

Scott McGleish went close in the first half on a couple of occasions but the sides turned around with the match goalless.

A risky back pass from Sean Cronin put the hosts in trouble but Jonathan North managed to make a vital save.

Turner had another opportunity but his header was kept out by Moore.
It looked as if Wealdstone were poised to

earn a decent result from their league match but they were hit by a 93rd minute suckerpunch when David Ray headed home for the visitors.

The defeat leaves Bartlett's side third bot-



James Hammond could not hide his frustration after the Stones' home defeat to Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

tom in the table with two wins from their opening 14 matches.

Wealdstone strengthened their squad this week by signing midfielder Matt Ball from Farnborough for an undisclosed fee.

The 21-year-old started off as a young ster for Norwich and is a Northern Ireland Under-21 international. Ball moved to Stevenage before joining Farnbrough and scored twice against the Stones this season.

Bartlett said: "He is a creative midfield player and since the loss of Glen Little we

have not created enough.

"Hopefully Matt can create things for us and get his fair share of goals. We're trying to make the squad better and that's what we have done.

Ball is likely to make his debut in this weekend's Middlesex Senior Cup tie at home to Hampton & Richmond Borough.

## Anderson believes side can land FA Cup upset

Harrow Borough manager Dave Anderson believes his side will play with freedom and no pressure when they face Basingstoke Town in the FA Cup on Saturday.

The Reds head into this weekend's fourth qualifying tie as big underdogs against the Conference South leaders but their boss has not ruled out an upset.

Anderson said: "People might say they're disappointed with the draw but it takes us into a situation where we're under no real pressure

"Everyone in the world would expect them to beat us and it's the easiest managerial speech in the world. The lads will be motivated and determined to put in a big performance

"They will be playing with freedom and the players won't carry any pressure into the match.

Anderson added: "It's the FA Cup so it's the best competition in the world. We are absolutely capable of an

upset.
"But to do that then we know we will have to be at our best."

Boro warmed up for the tie with a convincing 3-0 win at Clapton in the first round of the London Senior Cup on Tuesday.

Anderson selected a number of youngsters for the match and they rewarded his by guiding Boro through to the next round of

Boro took the lead after 16 minutes when John Sonuga headed home on his first appearance for the club. The visitors did not have to

wait long to add a second goal when striker Jake Gilbert was released and he took a touch before firing the ball into the net.

The Reds rounded off the scoring on the hour mark when academy striker Keiran Noel tucked the ball home

from an acute angle.

Anderson's side slipped into the Ryman Premier Division relegation zone after a disappointing 3-2 defeat at strugglers VCD Athletic on Saturday.

Boro fell behind early on through Michael Power's strike in the third minute. It got worse for them when Power struck again to extend VCD's lead.

The visitors pulled one back in the 37th minute when Ryan Hope's strike took a deflection and found the net.

But Steve Butterworth was sent off for dissent for the second match in a row to leave the Reds facing an uphill struggle.
Ten man Boro grabbed an

equaliser in the last ten minutes when Marc Charles-Smith finished sharply at the near post.

But a dramatic climax saw Power complete his hat-trick in the 93rd minute to leave the Reds shellshocked.







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