

## Stones defender Okimo agrees Stevenage move

Wealdstone left-back Jerome Okimo has agreed a move to League Two side Stevenage.

Okimo's transfer means he will join up with former Stones forward Tom Pett and is expected to go straight into their first-team squad.

Wealdstone boss Gordon Bartlett said: "We are all delighted for Jerome who thoroughly deserves to be a pro. At 26, he probably felt his chance had gone but his attitude, pace, strength and all round qualities were a massive part of our title winning side last season and it was bound to get noticed.

"Losing two players to the professional ranks is a big blow to the squad and maybe we have been victims of our own success."

Okimo's exit is a setback for the Stones as the newly-promoted side prepare to start their Conference South campaign.

Wealdstone begin with a home clash against Eastbourne Borough before travelling to Bishops Cleeve on Tuesday evening.

Bartlett said: "The timing of his departure has not helped preparations and I have turned away two very good left backs in the past few weeks knowing that Jerome had already signed.

"He will be difficult to replace but we must look on this positively as we have helped yet another player to achieve his ambition of full time football."



Stones defender Jerome Okimo has left the club after being signed by League Two outfit Stevenage.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

The Stones boss insists he is not worried about relegation this season and will be setting his sights higher.

Speaking recently, Bartlett said: "As far as I'm concerned, if we start talking about consolidation, we'll probably be hovering around the relegation spaces.

"We don't want to do that. We want to go in and we want to do well. We're approaching this year in

exactly the same way we approached the last.

"Preparation is important as we're going into a new challenge. We haven't done a lot of research on the Conference South, we've shown faith in the majority of players we had last year, we've introduced half a dozen others and pre-season has gone very well.

"As for what the season brings, I

don't know but I certainly don't want to be looking at the lower reaches of it."

Meanwhile, Harrow Borough start their Ryman Premier Division season this weekend with a trip to Dulwich Hamlet.

Dave Anderson's side follow Saturday's opener with a home game against Enfield Town on Tuesday night.

## Promotion joy

Acorn Lawn Tennis Club's men's team clinched a fourth consecutive promotion after a 2-2 away win at Hatch End Thirds.

The Canons Park-based club finished their season with a flourish as three consecutive victories, dropping just one set, clinched second place in the Slazenger Middlesex Division Five.

There was more success for Acorn as the men's seconds won Middlesex Division Nine by 39 points. It was an impressive feat by the team in only their third year together.

Acorn ladies will target a treble as they look to wrap up the Division Six title.

## Title showdown

Bessborough and Osterley will face each other level on points in the race for the Middlesex Championship title this Saturday.

The side stretched their unbeaten run in the league campaign to 13 with a winning draw at Crouch End, while Osterley lost at home to S.K.L.P.

Fast bowler Neal Patel gave Bessborough the perfect start by removing Crouch End's top three batsmen by the ninth over.

Patel's second five-fer of the season means he is their leading wicket taker in the league with 24 at an average of 13.54.

A first league defeat of the season was a distinct possibility but Vivek Patel and current skipper Rohan Karkhanis dug in to close on 195 for eight from 45 overs.

## Town beaten

Harrow Town Ladies lost by four wickets to Wanstead and Snaresbrook Cricket Club on Sunday.

Nehal Dave scored 52 as Harrow could only reach 92 for six from 30 overs. But Wanstead reached the target for the loss of six wickets.

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