

## 'Draws don't bother me'

Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett insists he is not concerned by their spate of draws after they extended their unbeaten run to 11 games.

The Stones failed to win over Christmas and have drawn their last four matches. But Bartlett is not worried and remains focused on ensuring his side maintain their unbeaten run.

Bartlett said: "It doesn't bother me at all. It's far better than earlier in the season. Full credit to the players for keeping this run going.

"The character and team spirit epitomises what we are all about. The fact we have stayed unbeaten is testament to what the lads have done."

Wealdstone's latest point came in an entertaining 2-2 draw at home to Hemel Hempstead Town in the Conference South on Sunday.

The visitors got off to a fast start and led through Oliver Hawkins before Luke O'Nien netted his first goal for the club.

Hawkins struck again after the break but Sean Cronin converted a penalty to earn a draw.

Bartlett said: "They were the better side. We had four games and looked a bit flat and tired. I'm sure they were grateful and had a bit of a break. They looked very bright for the first half hour and we were under the cosh so we were grateful to go in at 1-1.

"We had opportunities in the second half and it was end to end so a great game for the neutral."

Bartlett praised the contribution of goalkeeper Jonathan North after another exceptional display.

The manager said: "He has been a massive influence on our run. The plaudits should go to the team but he has been absolutely outstanding. If



Shaun Lucien attacks for the Stones during their draw against Hemel Hempstead.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

there was a vote for the player of the first half of the season then he would win.

"I think he is better than he was before he broke his leg although he has probably been busier than previous seasons."

The Stones started the new year with a 1-1 draw at Sutton United after Wes Parker's goal earned a point.

Wealdstone turn their attention to the second round of the FA Trophy this weekend when they host Bath City.

The Stones won at their opponents in the league last month but Bartlett expects a difficult tie on Saturday.

He said: "I thought they were a very good side when we played them last month and they have not lost

since we beat them.

"They are going very well so it won't be easy. But we would love to experience another run like a few years ago and want to extend our unbeaten run.

"In an ideal world we'd love to avoid a replay but as long as we stay in the competition that's the important thing."

## Reds advance in Middlesex Cup

Harrow Borough eased past Hayes & Yeading United after a 3-0 win in the Middlesex Charity Cup first round on Tuesday.

Dave Anderson made plenty of changes to his side but was rewarded with the opener after just 21 minutes.

Raheem Sterling-Parker sent in a cross and Kamaron English fired home for the hosts.

It did not take long for the Reds to double their lead when Sterling-Parker chased down a defender and fired the ball past the keeper.

Boro put the game beyond their opponents in first-half stoppage time with their third goal.

David Fallah broke into the area before setting up Lewis Driver for a close-range finish.

The Reds are third bottom in the Ryman Premier Division after being held to a 2-2 draw at home to Hendon on New Year's Day.

Anderson's side took the lead before the break when they were awarded a penalty for a challenge on Marc Charles-Smith.

He stepped up and slotted home to give them the lead.

But the Greens equalised seven minutes into the second half when Elliott Brathwaite turned the ball in from close range.

Boro responded strongly and regained the lead when Harold Odametey fired home although the midfield was taken off with an injury in the collision.

It looked like the hosts were going to claim a much-needed three points in their battle against relegation until an 83rd minute equaliser from Hendon through Leon Smith.

Boro return to action this weekend with a home game against East Thurrock United.

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