

Stones have top-half aim

Wealdstone boss Gordon Bartlett believes a top-half finish would represent an exceptional season for the Stones after starting the season "two months after everyone else."

The Stones saw Saturday's home Conference South clash with Havant & Waterlooville postponed due to a waterlogged pitch – a decision Bartlett agreed with. And with Wealdstone 12 points clear of the relegation zone in 12th, Bartlett is looking up the table rather than down.

He said: "Once we get into the 40s, we will be saying, 'Can we get into the 50s? Can we get a positive goal difference?'"

"Once we are out of the relegation battle I suppose we are looking at whether or not we can get into the top half. If we can get into the top half that will have been an exceptional season for us, considering we started two months after everyone else," stated Bartlett.

The Stones failed to register three points until their tenth Conference South fixture having won the Isthmian Premier Division title last season.

However, since then, Bartlett's side have flourished.

"I have divided the season into four quarters," explained the 59-year-old.

"The first quarter was disastrous but the second and third were good. Can we have a good final quarter, that is the question."

Saturday's postponement drew widespread criticism from Stones supporters but Bartlett – who admitted he was sceptical at first –



Stones boss Gordon Bartlett agreed with Saturday's postponement.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

fully backed the decision of referee Robert Massey-Ellis. He said: "The pitch looked perfect. I was astounded when the referee called it into question."

"But looks can be deceiving and it was very wet in some places and there were a couple of bad patches. It could have gone ahead but I can understand the decision," added Bartlett.

Wealdstone travel to St Albans

City on Saturday.

In the Isthmian Premier Division, relegation-threatened Harrow Borough have some cause for optimism after reaching the Middlesex County Cup final on Tuesday evening.

The Reds triumphed over Staines Town 1-0 thanks to a Marc Charles-Smith goal early in the second half.

Their reward is a final tie against Spartan South Midlands Premier Division side Hanwell Town at

Hampton & Richmond Borough's Beveree Stadium on Saturday, May 9.

Steve Baker's side were unable to make any ground in the relegation battle on Saturday as their home tie against Bognor Regis Town was postponed due to the inclement weather.

Instead, Harrow lost a friendly to tenants Hendon 6-0. Boro travel to Tonbridge Angels on Saturday.

Smith wins maiden bout

Harrow's Jez Smith felt he put himself on the boxing map after winning his first professional fight by third-round stoppage against Lukas Leskovic.

Smith, who is the brother of brother of WBO European super-light-weight Mitchell Smith, enjoyed victory on his home town debut and knocked Leskovic down in the first round at Harrow Leisure Centre.

Speaking after the bout, Smith said: "I really enjoyed the build up to my debut fight and of course there was added interest with Mitchell being my brother."

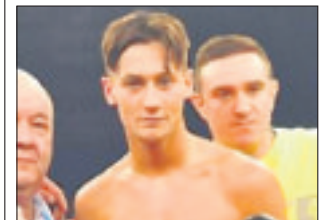
"However, I wanted to put myself on the map with an exciting performance, which I believe I did."

"I want to say a big thank you to my management team who put the show on in my home town, live on Eurosport as well as everyone who came out to support me."

"Actually it could not have gone any better for me," he added.

Smith sold 200 tickets for the bout which was put on by Watford boxing promoter Mark Prior.

Leskovic struggled to deal with Smith's heavy hands throughout the contest, resisting until round three.



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