

'My only priority is the league'

by TOM BODELL

Harrow Borough boss Steve Baker insists winning a cup will mean nothing to him if the Reds are relegated from the Isthmian Premier Division.

On Tuesday Boro set up a Charity Cup final clash with Premier Division rivals Enfield Town by beating Uxbridge 1-0 at Earlsmead.

The victory – which came courtesy of Will Turl's 78th-minute header – means Harrow will now contest a second cup final next month.

However, the win over Uxbridge was preceded by a 2-1 loss to already-relegated Bury Town on Saturday and Baker is adamant only league results matter as the end of the season looms.

He stated: "My only priority is the league. Nothing else matters.

"If we don't stay up, those cup finals do not mean anything to me."

The Reds have been reinvigorated since the arrival of the former Chipstead boss and have taken points from high-flying sides including Metropolitan Police, Maidstone United, Leiston and Wingate & Finchley.

But losing to the hands of Bury on Saturday was a bitter blow to Harrow's survival hopes and leaves Baker's side outside of the bottom three, in 19th, on goal difference alone.

"You would not have found anyone more positive than me after Saturday," Baker said.

"You have to take these results out of the context of the teams we are playing against.

"We have picked up points against the side top of the league (Maidstone United) and several sides who are in



Harrow Borough celebrate scoring against Bury Town on Saturday.

Picture by Bruce Viveash

and around the play-offs.

"But ultimately it does not matter where the points come from, they are all worth the same, it is picking them up which counts.

"We are ahead of where we expected to be at this stage," he added.

"If we can get four points from our last two games that would make us safe – probably, it might not, it might

take two points, it might take one."

However, Baker acknowledged the victory over Southern League Division One Central Uxbridge was the perfect tonic following the loss against Bury.

"Without a doubt [that was the ideal result]," he confirmed.

"We said to the lads although the game was important because it is a

rivalry, it was just as important to get back into the winning habit in time for Saturday."

Harrow host ninth-placed Kingstonian at Earlsmead on Saturday in their penultimate league fixture.

And on Wednesday Gary McCann's high-flying Hendon await in the London Senior Cup semis.

North confident Wealdstone can break into top half

Wealdstone goalkeeper Jonathan North believes the Stones can push on into the top half of the Conference South next season and says it is part of the reason for extending his contract.

The ever-present goalkeeper became the second Stones player to put pen-to-paper on a new contract for next season this week, following in the footsteps of central defender Tom Hamblin.

And speaking after signing his new deal, North said: "It was pretty simple in the end.

"I spoke to Gordon (Bartlett) and (chairman) Howard (Krais) a little while ago and I was always keen to stay at the club.

"I love the club, the fans and it was always my intention to say," he added.

The Stones were beaten 2-0 at home by Whitehawk in their final home league fixture of the season on Saturday, slipping to 13th.

Goals from Danny Mills and former Brighton & Hove Albion striker Jake Robinson sealed the win.

However, the former Watford goalkeeper stressed there is no reason why Bartlett's side cannot improve again next term after staving off the threat of relegation with weeks to spare.

He said: "We have to look to push on next year and towards the top half of the table for sure and that is a large part of the reason for signing a new contract.

"We have a core of players who can be competitive for next year and there is no reason not to be positive."

Wealdstone complete their league campaign at Maidenhead United on Saturday.

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