

## Harrow are 'not safe yet'

BY TOM BODELL

Harrow Borough boss Steve Baker has stressed the Reds are not safe yet but says keeping the club in the Isthmian Premier Division would be his greatest managerial achievement.

Boro picked up their fifth win in seven on Saturday, beating Kingstonian 2-0 at Earlsmead to move two points clear of the relegation zone.

The win almost guarantees Baker's side their place at step three of the non-league pyramid but they could still be dragged down on the final weekend of the season if results go against them.

Peacehaven & Telscombe currently occupy the final relegation berth and could leapfrog Harrow if they lose at Leatherhead.

Speaking ahead of Saturday's trip to face the Tanners, Baker said: "The exact answer is no, we are not safe yet.

"We wish we were because I wanted to be able to enjoy this week too," he laughed.

"We targeted 50 points as being enough for safety but that is not the case. We are in the best position of all the sides going into the final day and we will be going to Leatherhead to win," confirmed Baker.

The former Chipstead boss took over at Earlsmead with the Reds second bottom of the division but has taken them to 17th ahead of the final day.

And the former striker says keeping Harrow in the Isthmian Premier Division will be a personal success.

"It will be the best achievement since I moved into coaching," he stated.



Harrow Borough celebrate after Marc Charles-Smith scores from the spot.

Picture by Bruce Viveash

"I always thought we had a chance but the odds were stacked against us.

"It was a gamble for me leaving a stable job but it was a gamble for the club to give me a go because I am not a well-known coach," acknowledged Baker.

"But it is not about me, it is about these guys who have done so well since we came to the club," he added.

Harrow took the lead eight minutes before half-time when captain Marc Charles-Smith burst into the penalty area and picked out Boreham Wood loanee Ryan Hope to convert.

And the points were safe 20 minutes into the second half when Charles-Smith converted a spot kick following a trip in the K's penalty area.

"It was a fantastic result against a good team," enthused Baker. We caught them at the right time because they had a few injuries too - it is always nice to read that in the programme."

Harrow hosted tenants Hendon in the London Senior Cup semis on Wednesday before travelling to Leatherhead on Saturday.

## McGleish contract talks ongoing with others to follow

Wealdstone boss Gordon Bartlett says the club are still in discussions with Scott McGleish and will begin talks with other squad members soon.

Goalkeeper Jonathan North and defender Tom Hamblin are the only players to have signed new deals for next season, whilst talks have begun with veteran striker McGleish.

The former Leyton Orient and Bristol Rovers hitman played at centre-back in the Stones' 4-1 thrashing of Maidenhead United on Saturday - their final fixture of the Conference South season - as Bartlett faced an injury crisis.

"We are still talking," confirmed the Stones boss. "He knows my feelings and I know his.

"He even filled in at centre-back on Saturday, which says everything you need to know about the guy.

"I spoke to him prior to the game and he did a job and was excellent.

"We sorted out Tom's (Hamblin's) deal because he has to go to America with work soon but we will have a management meeting next week and begin talks with the rest."

The win means Stones are 12th heading into the final weekend of the Conference South season and they could be usurped if Bath City, in 13th, win on Saturday.

"I am delighted. I am delighted with the way we finished and the support. It was just a nice way to remember the season."

And Bartlett paid tribute to the 300 travelling Stones fans who cheered their side to an emphatic win.

"They have been brilliant all season but on Saturday I could not praise them highly enough," said Bartlett.

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