

# SPORT

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## STONES players up for National League campaign



Wealdstone players ready for National League campaign. Picture: MontImage Media

## Celebration cancelled by Stones

**CLUB UNABLE TO LIFT TROPHY WITH SUPPORTERS**



Picture: MontImage Media

WEALDSTONE postponed a celebratory event at which they were due to share their National League South trophy with their supporters after the league confirmed they would not be able to present the club with the cup.

The Stones were hoping to raise the silverware in front of supporters on Saturday, July 4, but instead cancelled the event, for safety reasons.

A statement published on the Stones website reads: "Given that we put the safety of our 'Wealdstone Family' at the heart of all our decision making and that yesterday we were made aware by the National League that we would be unable to present the Championship Trophy; we feel that it is not quite the right time to proceed as originally planned.

This has been a difficult decision to make as our players, staff and supporters deserve the chance to celebrate this remarkable landmark in the club's history.

Rest assured that we will celebrate this achievement in the coming months, but for now we feel that the reward does not outweigh the risk. We thank everyone involved in the set up of the event but especially Andrew Lavin, Paul Rumens and Leo Morris or their support."

In lieu of the event, the club opened their clubhouse and grounds under strict Covid-19 guidelines, with some players and management staff attending to support the club in its first day of being able to welcome some supporters to the clubhouse since lockdown.

The club is now preparing for its first season in the fifth tier in 32 years when games are able to resume later this year.

# Ten in for next season

By Ryan Gray

SEVEN Wealdstone players have committed their future to the club, while three new additions have been brought in to bolster the side ahead of their first season back in the National League in over 30 years.

The Stones were promoted as champions after the National League South was concluded on a points-per-game and they have been quick to tie down some of the talent that helped them claim the title.

Jerome Okimo, Billy Clifford, Danny Green, Connor Smith, Ashley Charles and Jake Sheppard all put pen to paper on new one year deals, ensuring they will play a part in a season that could see Wealdstone push for a place in the Football League, before they were joined by Ross Lafayette, who claimed the club's golden boot for the 2019/20 season, scoring 16 goals from 35 appearances.

Elsewhere, three new players joined the club, as they look to improve their chances of having a good season in English football's fifth tier.

Dan Wishart was the first to join,

with the 28-year-old full-back arriving from Maidstone United, before Charlee Hughes from Maldon & Tiptree.

The 24-year-old striker found the net a total of 29 times in the abandoned Isthmian North season, taking his side to a 14-point lead before the league was declared null and void.

Also joining from Maldon & Tiptree is striker Danny Parish who bettered his teammate Hughes by one goal, scoring 30 before the season was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking to the Stones website, Parish said: "I've seen already that the club plays great football, it's a great club with great ambition. The fans are very good and really get behind the players, which I thrive on."

Hughes added: "It's a club I definitely want to be part of and involved with. I can't wait to get started."

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