

# SPORT

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## STONES boss picks up league's managerial award



Wealdstone celebrate winning the National League South title after they were handed the trophy last week

Picture: Adam Williams

## Borough back declaration

MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED BY HARROW



Harrow Borough

Picture: Bruce Viveash

HARROW Borough have welcomed a joint declaration from the UK football family signifying its support for building a mentally healthy environment at every level of the game, as a lasting legacy of the Heads Up campaign.

The campaign will culminate with the FA Cup Final on Saturday, August 1, which will have mental health as a background theme.

The Mentally Healthy Football declaration will see the sport recognising that mental health is as important as physical health, and championing a "team approach" on the issue.

The declaration has been signed by senior figures from the sport, including the FA, the Premier League, the English Football League (EFL), Scottish FA, Wales FA, Irish FA, League Managers Association (LMA), Professional Footballers Association (PFA), Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) and League Football Education (LFE).

Steve Baker, Harrow Borough manager, said: "This declaration is very well timed. I've been all-too-aware these last five months that I am in charge of a squad of players who love being part of a team and who would normally be bouncing banter off each other two or three times a week when they come together for training or matches.

"For some, the lockdown has meant physical loneliness which they may not have experienced before, which can of course quickly have mental side-effects. It's been important to keep in touch with every one of our group, not just to check that they are keeping in shape physically, but to ask about their mental health and offer support and friendship."

## Brennan is league's best

By Ryan Gray

WEALDSTONE manager Dean Brennan has spoken of his pride after being named National League South manager of the year.

Brennan guided the Stones to their first ever National League South title last season, earning them promotion to the National League.

The Stones' boss said he would be sharing the accolade with his assistants and insisted he could not have won the title without them.

"I'm delighted to receive the National League South Manager of the Year award," he told the Wealdstone website. "This is an award I will share with our management team, Stuart (Maynard), Gary (King), Kirk (Rayment) and Matty (Saunders).

"Awards like this are rewarded with success, without our team work ethic and togetherness we wouldn't have achieved this success. Our players delivered us the National League South title by buying into our front-foot technical philosophy and our levels of performance was what

pleased me most this season."

On Friday the club were finally presented with their league trophy, which Brennan said was something he was delighted to win for the club's fans and players.

He claims he is now focused on more success next season.

"I was delighted for our supporters and our players on Friday night," he said. I was buzzing for our board and people like Fingers (Paul Fruin) and Tony (Waugh) because they are the lifeblood of the football club.

"To be honest with you, my mind is now totally focused on the new season and it has been for some time now.

"We all can't wait to get going, hopefully we will get some clarity this week of a start date. I know all our players are really excited to get started and there is no doubt our supporters are too."

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