

# SPORT

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## NATIONAL League will receive emergency grants



Wealdstone will kick off their National League campaign at home against Chesterfield on Saturday

Picture: Wealdstone FC

## Harrow humbled by the Met

**BOROUGH WELL BEATEN ON THE ROAD BY MET POLICE**



**Harrow lost to Met Police**

Picture: Bruce Viveash

HARROW Borough were on the end of a battering in their Southern League Premier Division South match away at Metropolitan Police, losing 5-2 on Tuesday evening.

Oliver Knight and Max Blackmore added to Jack Mazzone's hat-trick meaning that Frank Keita's penalty and Marc Charles-Smith's late goals were of little consequence.

Both sides ended the game with 10 men, with Louis Birch seeing red for the Met, while Borough's Chinua Cole was given his marching orders shortly after the start of the second-half.

The first goal of the game came on the quarter-of-an-hour mark when Mazzone charged towards Cole in the left-back position, played a one-two with an unmarked colleague to get inside, and drove the ball home.

Two minutes later the lead was doubled with the Met again overloading the left side of the Harrow defence. Overlapping full-back Zackary Chislett had acres of space to cross to the far post where Knight was on hand to head home.

Mazzone made it three from the penalty spot shortly after but Borough were handed a bit of a lifeline when Birch went in recklessly on Jordan Ireland and was given an instant dismissal.

However the visitors were feeling accommodating and Cole's aggressive reaction to a challenge saw him also sent for an early bath just after the restart.

Blackmore added goal number four on the hour before Keita reduced the deficit from 12 yards after Knight's handball.

Mazzone then completed his hat-trick to put the game to bed, even with Marc-Smith's late consolation.

# Help with lost gate money

By Ryan Gray

NATIONAL League clubs have been told they will receive emergency government grants in order to start their league campaigns this weekend, with supporters no longer able to attend matches.

Officials from the league have been in talks with the Government as they look to find a way to cover losses incurred by fans not being permitted to enter National League grounds due to a rise in the number of coronavirus cases.

The Government last week scrapped plans for a partial return of spectators from October 1.

Clubs from across the National League's three divisions had said they did not want to begin their league campaigns this weekend as scheduled without supporters, with matchday revenue playing an integral part in covering their running costs.

However clubs received an email on Tuesday from the league's chief executive Michael Tattersall, who explained that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) was "working at

pace... to design a package of support that will give the National League the reassurance it needs."

"This will include grants to cover essential revenue lost from fans not returning on 1 October as planned," it added.

Clubs were also told "the Government recognises the immediate pressure National League clubs are under in respect of starting their season and are committed to play resuming in a viable way".

While the size of any grant is yet to be revealed, the BBC is reporting that it could be in the region of £2 million to 3 million per month.

Wealdstone's league season will kick off as planned on Saturday with them hosting Chesterfield in their first game back in the fifth tier of English football for 32 years.

Fans will not be permitted to attend, but the game will be streamed online.

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**30%**

of residents across core local markets.\*

\*Source: Telmar Nov 2018

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**TIMES**

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