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## FOOTBALL FA hopes to get supporters back soon



Fans across Europe are returning to grounds but England has halted plans to get supporters back after a rise in Covid-19 cases

Picture: Action Images

## Stones earn point away at Yeovil

WEALDSTONE COME FROM BEHIND AT HUISH PARK



Yeovil Town's Huish Park

Picture: Action Images

WEALDSTONE got their National League campaign up and running with a 2-2 draw away at Yeovil Town on Tuesday evening.

Moses Emmanuel gave the Stones the lead in the first-half, but a second-half turnaround put the Glovers ahead, through goals from Rhys Murphy and Charlie Lee. However Michael Phillips added a final twist to the tale, scoring late on to snatch a point for the visitors.

In a game played in front of an empty Huish Park, with supporters still not permitted to attend National League fixtures, it was Wealdstone who came out of the traps fastest with some smart attacking play and when Kundai Benyu's cross was blocked by Lee's arm, the referee had little choice but to point to the spot and give them the opportunity to open their National League account from 12 yards.

Emmanuel obliged, sending the Yeovil keeper the wrong way.

At half-time, the home side introduced Murphy to try and swing the tie back in their favour and within 20 seconds of the restart, he had already made an impact, finishing off a scrappy move to bring the sides level.

Wealdstone were firmly on the back foot and Harry Istead had to react quickly to deny Jimmy Smith moments later, with a second goal for the home side looking inevitable.

It eventually arrived from Carl Dickinson's corner, with Lee in the box to head home and atone for his earlier handball that had gifted a lead to the visitors.

Stones would not be defeated however, with Phillips lashing home a chance from close range to level the match late on.

# 'Not the same without fans'

By Ryan Gray

ENGLISH football's governing bodies have called for clarity from the Government over when and how supporters will be allowed back into grounds.

It had been hoped successful pilot events would see turnstiles reopen on a limited basis from October 1, but those plans were put on hold in the wake of a national rise in coronavirus cases.

National League clubs received an offer of financial aid from the Government to help them start the season last weekend, while a support package for the three divisions below the Premier League remains the subject of ongoing dialogue.

It has been predicted playing behind closed doors could continue for at least six months, which would see many clubs lower down the leagues facing financial ruin.

On Tuesday, an open letter to supporters was published on behalf of Premier League chief executive Richard Masters, EFL chief executive David Baldwin, FA chief executive Mark Bullingham and Kelly Simmons, the FA director of the

women's professional game, issuing a collective call for action.

"We all know football is not the same without fans. Every player and manager is missing the direct connection with you and the impact that you have on our games," the letter read. "With the EFL, Premier League, Women's Super League and Women's Championship already staging 11 successful test events recently, we have demonstrated that we can deliver matches safely. The sooner we can return, the sooner we can reunite communities and support local jobs, livelihoods, regional businesses and also the national economy.

"We continue to urge Government to allow us to return fans safely to stadiums. It is positive progress that major arts and music venues have been told they can run socially-distanced events indoors. Football should be allowed to do the same."

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