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WEALDSTONE go five matches without a win

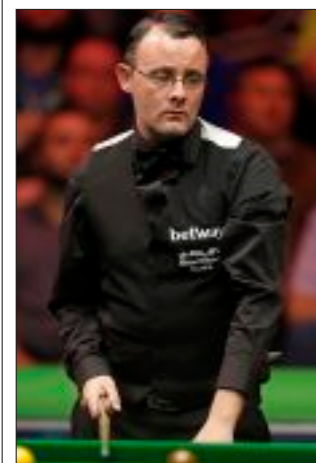


Wealdstone drew 0-0 with Barnet on Saturday taking their winless run in the National League to five matches

Picture: Action Images

Tian puts Gould out of Open

PINNER POTTER KNOCKED OUT IN ROUND ONE



Martin Gould was beaten by Tian Pengfei

Picture: Action Images

MARTIN GOULD'S Milton Keynes misery continued as he went down to a third first round defeat of the season at the Scottish Open.

The Pinner Potter slumped to a heavy 4-1 loss against world No.54 Tian Pengfei as his struggles showed no signs of abating on the Marshall Arena baize.

Gould, the world No.33, reached the final of the European Masters in the first event of the season but has failed to follow it up with any form of consistency.

And that pattern continued against China's Tian as breaks of 129, 104 and 69 thwarted his hopes of progression in Milton Keynes.

The Asian opened up with a first frame visit of 69 before a punchy 51 riposte from Gould, the 2016 German Masters champion, levelled the scores.

But Tian then found some clinical potting fluency as two brilliant centuries left the struggling Gould slumped in his chair.

Gould went down to Mark Selby in the European Masters final but has slipped to a string of premature exits at ranking events ever since.

He reached the last 16 of the Northern Ireland Open but has failed to progress past the second round at the English Open, UK Championship and Scottish Open.

Gould, a former world No.11, will now take a break away from the baize over the festive period before ramping up preparation for the return of competition in the new year.

Stones' run continues

By Ryan Gray

TWO winless sides, Wealdstone and Barnet, stretched their runs without victory to five and seven matches respectively with a 0-0 draw at the Hive on Saturday.

It took a superb save from Scott Loach to deny Dean Parrett in just the fifth minute to prevent Barnet going behind early on.

And at the other end Inih Effiong headed narrowly over before Ephron Mason-Clark flashed another effort just over the bar.

Mason-Clark fired just wide on the hour mark as Barnet pushed again and Loach had to be aware to make another save save to deny Jerome Slew.

Wealdstone goalkeeper Stuart Moore then had to make a brilliant point-blank save from Effiong at the far post from a corner with five minutes remaining.

The result saw Stones climb briefly into seventh place, before midweek results saw them drop back down into ninth.

They return to action this Saturday, December 12, when they host Weymouth at The Vale, in a 3pm kick off.

Wealdstone were defying expectations at the top end of the league table with five National League wins in a row against the likes of Wrexham, Chesterfield, Kings Lynn, Altrincham and Halifax Town pushing them up into the play off places.

However, since then, they have suffered three defeats at the hands of Eastleigh, Notts County and current leaders Torquay United, as well as draws with Barnet and Sutton, and have started to slide towards the middle of the table.

This weekend's clash offers them a good chance to get back to winning ways, with Weymouth languishing at the wrong end of the table, having won just two matches from ten so far this season.

Meanwhile Stones' home fixture against Dover Athletic, which was due to take place on Tuesday, December 15 has now been moved to January 19.

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