

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE games set to continue in lockdown



Wealdstone matches will be played behind closed doors again as the country is put under lockdown restrictions

Picture: Jon Taffel

Stones register defender

BRENTWOOD CENTRE BACK SIGNS UP FOR STONES



Wealdstone have a new defender
Picture: Jon Taffel

Stones able to play on

By Ryan Gray

WEALDSTONE'S season will continue after elite sport was given the green light to keep going through the latest coronavirus lockdown.

Divisions from the Premier League through to the National League, in which Wealdstone play, are permitted to continue, once again behind closed doors after the Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced national lockdown restrictions once again on Monday evening.

A March-style full lockdown due to concerns of rising Covid-19 cases means outdoor gyms, swimming pools, tennis courts, archery/driving/shooting ranges and riding arenas must all close.

Outdoor team sports and golf will be prohibited in England, although the latter will be allowed to continue in small groups in Scotland.

England Golf, which campaigned hard for the reopening of courses when they were closed first time around, expressed disappointment.

This means that Wealdstone's upcoming matches will all take place as sched-

uled, including the postponed National League fixture at home against Maidenhead United, which has now been rearranged to take place on Tuesday, February 2 with a 7.45pm kick off.

The tie was originally meant to take place on Saturday, January 2 but had to be postponed due to a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Wealdstone squad.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the new national lockdown on Monday night, falling into line with Scotland, who earlier in the day said its football and rugby clubs could carry on training and playing as normal after introducing new restrictions for the general public north of the border.

Elite sportspeople and their coaches will still be able to compete and train. Organised outdoor sport for disabled people is also able to continue while grassroots games will be put on hold once again.

WEALDSTONE have announced the signing of Brentwood Town defender Rob Swaine, who joins on dual registration terms.

This means Swaine is technically eligible to play for both sides, as dual-registered players can play for two sides, provided they are not in the same division.

Brentwood currently play in the Isthmian League North, meaning Swaine is able to play for the Stones while still being registered with the lower league side.

Dual registration is only available for non-contract players not those on contract.

The club announced Swaine's arrival via a statement on their website that reads: "Centre-back Rob Swaine has joined Wealdstone on dual registration terms from Isthmian League North Division side Brentwood Town.

"The experienced defender captained Welling United last season and has also captained Bromley and Billericay Town to promotions.

"He began his career at Thurrock and can also include Chelmsford City and Maidstone United as his former clubs.

"Rob will wear the number 29 shirt and will be available for the Hartlepool United fixture, once we've completed our period of self isolation."

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