

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE progress to FA Trophy round five



Danny Green scored from the spot for Wealdstone as they beat Gloucester City in the fourth round of the FA Trophy

Picture: Jon Taffel

National League in doubt

LEAGUE TEAMS MEET TO DISCUSS MONEY ISSUES



Wealdstone celebrate promotion
Picture: Adam Williams

THE National League season could be declared null and void before the end of this week, with clubs meeting on Wednesday to discuss funding issues.

The problems stem from talks held between the league and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) with clubs expecting a second wave of grants to be handed out by the government, with non-league sides struggling without supporters in grounds.

However, it is now expected that the best non-league clubs can hope to obtain is a loan rather than a grant, leaving some in difficult positions.

This is not the first problem the league has encountered with funding from the government, with a number of clubs from across the National League's divisions writing to the DCMS to protest against what they considered to be the unfair allocation of £10million worth of funding handed out as grants last year.

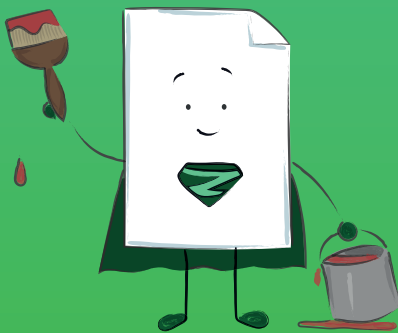
The National League created a method that saw Step One clubs (National League) receive £95,000 or £84,000 while Step Two clubs (National League North and South) were handed £36,000 or £30,000.

Those clubs included some considered to be better supported, who were unhappy that the money was not being handed out proportionally to their gate receipts and argued that they would still be missing out on vast sums of money.

The National League's board met on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the issues and, at the time of going to print, the league's member clubs were meeting to discuss the next step forward.

A vote on cancelling the season could be called in the coming days.

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Stones set up Darlo clash

By Ryan Gray

WEALDSTONE will face Darlington away from home in the last 16 of the FA Trophy after defeating National League North leaders Gloucester City 3-1 in round four of the competition at Grosvenor Vale on Monday evening.

First half goals from Alex Dyer and Moses Emmanuel had the Stones in the driving seat before Danny Green added a third from the spot after Jack Burroughs had halved the deficit with a stunning 35-yard strike.

Prior to that Kundai Benyu had missed a penalty for the Stones, but his teammates spared his blushes and saw the game out.

The game had originally been due to take place on Saturday, January 16, but had to be rearranged because of a waterlogged pitch.

The rescheduling means that Wealdstone's game against Dover Athletic, which was supposed to take place on Tuesday evening, has now been postponed.

With the Stones sitting a league above

the Tigers, expectations on them progressing to the next round were high and they did not disappoint, taking the lead in the 21st minute through Dyer, with a cleverly fashioned shot on the turn that Rhys Lovett could not keep out.

That lead was doubled five minutes before the break with Emmanuel rounding the goalkeeper and stroking the ball into the empty net.

The hosts had a chance to put the game beyond doubt when debutant Josh Meekings had a shot cleared on the line by a Gloucester defender's hand, but Benyu squandered the opportunity from the spot.

Burroughs threatened to set up a nervy finish to the match with his long range goal, but Green converted a second penalty late on to seal the win. They will now travel to Darlington's Blackwell Meadows stadium on February 6.

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