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WEALDSTONE take a point from league leaders



Jacob Mendy opened the scoring for Wealdstone

Picture: Jon Taffel

Stones' Brennan explanation

WEALDSTONE EXPLAIN
 BRENNAN DEPARTURE



Dean Brennan left Wealdstone
 Picture: Jon Taffel

WEALDSTONE have provided an explanation for the departure of manager Dean Brennan, who departed the club last week.

A statement posted to the Stones' website claimed that the board were concerned by "controllable aspects of the first team" over the last month that had led them to the decision not to offer Brennan a contract beyond the current season. Because of that, Brennan felt his position at the club was untenable.

The club statement reads: "The step up to what is mainly a full-time league against teams with access to greater resources both on and off pitch would be challenging.

"We started the season strongly and despite a recent run of league defeats, we still find ourselves with an excellent opportunity to stay in the league and also progress further in the FA Trophy.

"Despite this, over the last couple of months the Board were concerned over some controllable aspects of the first team.

"Whilst these were not enough to consider Dean's immediate future, it did convince the Board that we would not currently be offering him a new contract in the summer. Given this decision Dean felt that he was not in the position to continue in his role and upon discussion, Dean left the club with immediate effect.

"None of the above should detract from the last 18 months. Led by Dean and Stuart, being crowned National League South Champions, quite rightly, ranks amongst our greatest achievements. The style of football was very pleasing to the eye and some of the performances both home and away will live long in the memory."

Stones draw at Torquay

By Ryan Gray

WEALDSTONE forced National League leaders Torquay into a late fight back, as they earned a hard-won 1-1 draw, with the hosts only salvaging point with a stoppage-time equaliser at Plainmoor.

Jacob Mendy had the visitors on course for a famous victory down in the South West when he opened the scoring in the 37th minute, but Billy Waters nabbed an equaliser in the dying moments of the match to force the Stones to settle for a point.

It was a sixth league game without a win for the Stones, who had recently parted ways with manager Dean Brennan, but showed improvement, with the previous five matches ending in defeat.

What's more, they did it against a team who are looking comfortable at the top of the National League table, eight points clear of Hartlepool United in second.

The hosts made nine changes from their last game, which may have affected their team, while Wealdstone's interim boss Stuart Maynard made four changes to his team, handing a debut to Arse-

nal loanee Joseph Olowu, while Ashley Charles, Dan Wishart and Jack Cawley also returning to the starting XI.

Wealdstone almost took the lead in bizarre fashion in the 32nd minute when a free kick from Mendy caught the wind and flew against the crossbar.

The visitors, though, did get themselves ahead five minutes later after Dennon Lewis broke and fed the ball to Mendy, who cut inside to drill a shot past the Seagulls' goalkeeper, Shaun MacDonald, and into the far corner.

Torquay, beaten by Altrincham in their last league game, pressed for an equaliser in the second half, with Josh Umerah's effort cleared off the line and midfielder Adam Randell hitting a post late on.

The home side's pressure finally told in the first minute of stoppage-time when Waters slotted the ball in after Asa Hall's shot was blocked.

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