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WEALDSTONE hope for league resolution soon



Wealdstone are looking for a financially viable way of concluding the current season

Picture: Jon Taffel

Mixed fortunes for Stones

WEALDSTONE THRASHED BEFORE HOME DRAW



Ross Lafayette tussles

Picture: Jon Taffel

Wealdstone recovered from a 4-1 thrashing at the hands of Sutton to frustrate promotion hopefuls Eastleigh with a 0-0 draw.

Sutton scored three times in the first half to heap misery on 10-man Wealdstone on Saturday and keep the pressure on National League leaders Torquay.

Isaac Olaofe, Ben Goodliffe and Louis John found the net before half-time and Tobi Sho-Silva added a late fourth to round off a third straight league win.

Millwall loanee Olaofe struck the opener in the 20th minute and 20 minutes later Wealdstone had Ashley Charles dismissed for a second booking.

Sutton took full advantage, with Goodliffe heading in his first goal of the season two minutes later before his fellow defender John scored for the second game running.

Danny Parish got Wealdstone on the scoresheet 10 minutes after the interval but Sho-Silva restored the three-goal cushion in the 82nd minute.

Things were much more positive on Tuesday evening however.

Tyrone Barnett was the first to threaten after two minutes as Eastleigh started strongly but his volley from a corner was just over the bar before Sam Smart dragged wide from Barnett's knockdown.

Eastleigh keeper Joe McDonnell saved with his outstretched foot to deny Danny Green who shot from inside the area following a fine solo run and as half-time approached Connor Smith forced another save out of the keeper.

Smart and Dan Smith both had shots saved by Harry Istead as the Stones held on for a draw.

Stones look for solution

By Ryan Gray

WEALDSTONE are considering placing the majority of their playing staff on furlough and seeking permission from the National League not to fulfill their remaining fixtures as they look for a financially viable way of concluding the current season.

In a statement to the club's fans from chairman Rory Fitzgerald, they confirmed that their only other option would be to get the club further into debt via loans and continue playing this season as they have been, without financial support from fans.

However, Fitzgerald also confirmed that they are awaiting clarification about the position of clubs in the National League, now that the leagues below, National League North and South have been declared null and void.

"We understand that a number of other clubs are contemplating options 2 & 3 (furloughing players or asking permission not to complete the season) however as a proud club and founder member of the National League in its original guise

of the Alliance Premier League, options 2 and 3 are hugely unpalatable to us, however unlike option 1 [taking out loans to continue], they do not risk the future of the club in its current form. Options 2 and 3 also clearly impact the sporting integrity of non-league footballs top tier, especially if this approach is taken by a number of clubs.

"Decision making in the current environment is incredibly difficult, and at times, feels almost impossible given the lack of clarity and the changing landscape. Having returned to the National League for the first time in 32 years this season, one of our principal aims was to ensure we maintained our status for next season. We are awaiting clarification as to what impact the decision to null and void the National League North and South divisions will have in relation to relegation from the top division."

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