

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE beaten on the road at Aldershot



Wealdstone manager Stuart Maynard praised goalkeeper Jake Askew after their defeat to Aldershot

Picture: Jon Taffel

Social media boycott

ENGLISH FOOTBALL UNITES AGAINST ONLINE RACISM



Wealdstone will join boycott

Picture: PA

WEALDSTONE and the National League have both announced that they will join English football authorities and organisations in a social media boycott to protest online discriminatory abuse.

A joint statement released on Saturday confirmed that from 3pm on Friday, April 30 until 23.59 on Monday, May 3, the country's leagues and authorities will be avoiding all social media platforms in a bid to show that they are "willing to take voluntary and proactive steps" to tackle the problem.

The statement reads: "The FA, Premier League, EFL, FA Women's Super League, FA Women's Championship, PFA, LMA, PGMOL, Kick It Out and the FSA will unite for a social media boycott from 15.00 on Friday 30 April to 23.59 on Monday 3 May, in response to the ongoing and sustained discriminatory abuse received online by players and many others connected to football.

"This has been scheduled to take place across a full fixture programme in the men's and women's professional game and will see clubs across the Premier League, EFL, WSL and Women's Championship switch off their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

"As a collective, the game recognises the considerable reach and value of social media to our sport. The connectivity and access to supporters who are at the heart of football remains vital.

"However, the boycott shows English football coming together to emphasise that social media companies must do more to eradicate online hate, while highlighting the importance of educating people in the ongoing fight against discrimination."

Stones 'dead on their feet'

By Ryan Gray

HARRY Panayiotou maintained his scoring streak as Aldershot beat Wealdstone 2-0 in the Vanarama National League.

Panayiotou made it three goals in four games with a well-struck 35th-minute shot after the ball had come off the head of defender Joseph Olowu.

Substitute Chike Kandi converted Jon Nouble's cross in the fifth minute of stoppage time to seal victory and move the Shots to within six points of the play-off places.

Wealdstone's Dennon Lewis had the ball in the net just before half-time but his effort was ruled out for offside.

Aldershot were the better team and Jermaine Anderson's 30-yard effort flew just wide before Wealdstone goalkeeper Jake Askew denied Ricky Miller and George Fowler with fine stops.

Manager Stuart Maynard said his players had given everything during the match despite them ending up on the wrong side of the scoreline.

"The lads have given everything they're just dead on their feet," Maynard

told the club Youtube channel.

"We were short on numbers today, Dennon's played injured for us, Green has played injured and Wishart's not played for god knows how long and he's got through it. The lads have dug deep again today and they've given a good account of themselves today.

"The lads have given everything today, they've put their body's on the line and I couldn't ask for any more."

Maynard also singled out 19-year-old goalkeeper Jake Askew for praise after full time.

"I didn't think both goalies had anything really to save except for the last 10 minutes and Jake has pulled off probably two or three great saves in the last 10 minutes when the lads literally are dead on their on their feet, so we can't ask any more than that. We've got a week now, to prepare and to recover."



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