

SPORT

Read the latest sports news at
harrowtimes.co.uk/sport

STRIKER departs after previous bids were rejected



Josh Umerah has joined Hartlepool United for an undisclosed fee. Picture: Jon Taffel

Umerah fee to bolster Stones' firepower

By Anthony Matthews

CHAIRMAN Rory Fitzgerald has vowed to use the money from the sale of Josh Umerah to ensure Wealdstone have the "necessary firepower in attack this season".

The 25-year-old, who scored 17 goals in 45 appearances for the last season, has joined League Two side Hartlepool United for an undisclosed fee. The club said it had turned down three previous bids for one of their prized assets.

Fitzgerald told the club website: "When it became clear Josh would not extend his stay beyond the end of next season, the board felt it was its duty to the club and the fans to obtain the best possible fee for a player we did not

want to lose - and we feel we've done that.

"We will never stand in the way of a player and his aspirations to play at the highest level possible and we wish Josh all the best on his move back to the Football League and thank him for his goals last season.

"While we very much understand as a part-time club we will always have to sell our best players, any wantaway player will largely leave on our terms, and in no way does any player departure detract from our desire to con-

tinue to establish ourselves as a National League club.

"Money from the sale of Josh will be reinvested in the playing budget and we will back our recruitment strategy to unearth the next one and or use the loan market to ensure Stuart (Maynard) has the necessary firepower in attack this season."

While Umerah has departed, the Stones have made two more additions to their squad with the signing of Malachi Napa and Jordy Mongoy following a successful trial spell.

Former Oxford United and Woking winger Napa joins after featuring for Maldon & Tiptree last season where he scored six

goals in 26 appearances.

A striker who can also play out wide, Mongoy played for Totternhoe, Bognor Regis Town and Walton Casuals in the 2021/22 campaign, having formerly been at Billericay Town when Wealdstone boss Maynard was assistant manager.

The Stones were preparing to continue their pre-season preparations as the Harrow Times went to press against Championship side Queens Park Rangers at a sold-out Grosvenor Vale.

Maynard's side suffered their first friendly defeat of the summer on Saturday when they were edged out 1-0 by Charlton Athletic Under-23s.

Boro bring in three new signings

BOSS DELIGHTED BY ADDITIONS TO SQUAD



Billy Leonard and Montel Brown with Steve Baker

Picture: Harrow Borough FC

Harrow Borough boss Steve Baker has strengthened his squad for the new season with three new signings.

Midfielder Billy Leonard, striker Montel Brown and left-back Jaden Sharman have all moved to Earlsmead, and Baker is delighted to have the trio on board.

Leonard has signed a one-year contract and Baker said: "Our head of recruitment Byron Walton watched Billy several times last season and felt he had every attribute to move up.

"Since he's come in I've been hugely impressed with Bill. His attitude, work rate and ability is top drawer.

"He's got a big future ahead of him.

"Considering he's only just turned 20 he's a real leader on the pitch, and has been very impressive in all our friendlies so far".

Turning to 22-year-old striker Brown, Baker told the club website: "Montel is exactly the kind of striker that we've been trying to get in. He's a proper number nine who has great strength and hold up play, as well as pace and a is real goal threat.

"He's looked a real handful since coming in and will really add something to the team".

And on Sharman, who spent time at Potters Bar and Northwood last season, Baker said: "Jaden played against us last season and impressed me.

"When I found out he was available I was keen to get him in ASAP. I want competition in all areas and his style of play will certainly suit us".