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SIDE will take time to gel, admits Stuart Maynard



Jack Cook and new signing Mason Barrett challenge for a header during the loss to Chelmsford City. Picture: Jon Taffel

‘We’ll keep getting better,’ says Stone boss

STUART Maynard has said his Wealdstone side will get more cohesive as the season wears on, after a loss in their final pre-season friendly.

The Stones went down 3-0 at home to National League South side Chelmsford City on Saturday, but the manager said the result will serve to refocus minds and that these types of things can happen when you are bedding in so many new players, particularly in the backline.

“We are a couple of weeks behind, not in fitness but just in terms of gelling,” he said. “There is a process and it takes a bit longer for new players to settle in because of the way we play, but we are ex-

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cited about this squad we have.

“The result against Chelmsford wasn’t ideal, but there are lots of factors as to why, but we don’t have a blame culture here. We never will.

“We are all in it together - and when you have days like this, that is when you see the character. I’d much rather have these tests now than on Saturday against Bromley.”

He said by the time the home match against FA Trophy winners Bromley comes round, new defenders Mason Barrett and Deji Elerwere will have had another couple of sessions to work alongside each

other.

Maynard also hopes the combinations in midfield will be more fluent, while he and Matt Saunders will have had another week to drill their ideas and patterns of play into the squad.

He added: “We have a full week to prepare and we’ll make sure we get the prep right.

“We still won’t be as fluent as we would like, but I don’t think any team in the league will be at this stage.

“We feel we are in a good place. We are working really hard and the lads will give everything and leave everything out there. I can assure fans of that.”

Meanwhile Wealdstone have an-

nounced that Nick Symmons has rejoined the club’s board of directors.

The former chairman, 66, joins the board for the third time and adds valuable operational and IT expertise as well as considerable club knowledge, having first seen the Stones play in the 1966 FA Amateur Cup Final.

Symmons is also the nominated board director on the board of the Ruislip Manor Sports & Social Club.

Meanwhile Richard Hopwood has been appointed as the new general manager of the club, with responsibility for commercial development and day to day management of non-footballing activities.

Harrow squad is boosted

NEW ARRIVALS FETED



Kevin Songolo (left) and Lanre Ladipo of Harrow Borough

HARROW Borough lost their final pre-season friendly against Chertsey Town having led at half-time.

The Reds were 2-1 up at the break after goals from new signing Josh Williams and James Ewington sandwiched a Chertsey penalty.

But home side Chertsey came back with two goals in the second half to take the game on Tuesday evening 3-2. However there was some good news for Boro, who start their Southern League Premier South campaign on Saturday away at Tiverton Town, in the form of new signings.

On Wednesday morning the club announced the signings of midfielders Kevin Songolo and Lanre Ladipo.

Harrow fans may remember Ladipo from scoring a superb winner for Kings Langley in their 1-0 win at The Roger Family Stadium last season, while Songolo is a product of last season’s successful under 23s side. Manager Steve Baker said Lanre has “tremendous energy and fitness” and “is an excellent ball winner and is also technically strong”.

Earlier this week Boro also announced the signings of attackers Wesley Tobino and Josh Williams, along with full-back Taishan Griffiths.

Tobino, 22, can play wide or off the main striker, and has contributed five assists and two goals in pre-season. Williams, 23, is also a winger or attacker who has previously had spells with Royston and Ware.

Griffiths, 25, joins having had previously played for Biggleswade United, FC Romania and Hendon. Meanwhile last season’s First Team Management and Player’s Player of the Year, George Moore, has signed a new contract for the upcoming season, while Kunle Otudeko has left the club.