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TWO sides trade blows in breathless curtain-raiser



Clincher - Jack Cook celebrates his winning goal against Bromley on August 6, 2022. Pic: Jon Taffel

Stones fight back to win five-goal thriller

WEALDSTONE thrillingly fought back to earn a well-deserved three points against Bromley in a cracking first league game of the season.

Goals from Olufela Olomola, Rhys Browne and Jack Cook saw the Stones battle from 2-1 down to defeat Bromley 3-2 in a thrilling contest at Grosvenor Vale.

The Stones raced out of the blocks quickly and almost found themselves ahead just three minutes into the game when Max Kretzschmar saw his acrobatic volley brilliantly saved by Bromley keeper, Reice Charles-Cook.

Once the game began to settle, Bromley started to see more of the ball and saw two efforts from both Michael Cheek and Corey Whitely

By WILL BEAMAN

go agonisingly wide of Sam Howes' goal.

Bromley continued to dominate the ball, but the Stones looked dangerous on the counter and managed to break the deadlock on 17 minutes, when Olomola smashed in a rebound, after Kretzschmar forced another fantastic save out of the Bromley keeper with a header.

Needing a response to the Wealdstone goal, Bromley began to pile on the pressure and found their equaliser on 34 minutes when Omar Sowunmi powered a bullet header past Howes from a corner.

Ten minutes later Andy Woodman's side went ahead when a pinpoint cross from Whitely was converted expertly by Cheek with a header into the far corner.

The Stones began the second half in spectacular fashion and would have gone ahead just five minutes into the second period if it wasn't for two more incredible saves from Charles-Cook to deny Olomola, once from a direct free-kick and again from a header in the centre of the box.

The pressure finally paid off on 66 minutes when substitute Rhys Browne was taken down inside the box by Charles-Cook to earn the Stones a penalty, which Browne slotted home into the bottom left

corner.

With 10 minutes to go, Wealdstone continued to attack the Bromley box and took the lead when Kretzschmar lifted the ball into the area, finding Stones captain Cook, who powered his header into the back of the net.

Bromley thought they'd levelled the scoring in the final minutes of injury time when a corner was flicked on at the near post, but the ball was kept out spectacularly by Howes from point-blank range.

Wealdstone: Howes; Barrett, Cook (C), Elerewe, Kinsella (Mundle-Smith 52'); Charles, Ferguson, Allarakhia (Browne 66'), Napa (Hutchinson 60'), Kretzschmar, Olomola. Not used: Sesay and Mongoy.

Boro forced to sweat to earn draw

SEASON OPENS WITH A GOALLESS TRIP TO DEVON



Key - James Taylor makes vital interception. Pic: Viv Curtis

HARROW were made to dig in for a point in their season opener, with several efforts cleared off the line.

But Boro were able to return from a very hot Devon with a point from a hard-fought goalless draw.

There were five debutants in Steve Baker's starting line-up: Jacob Knightbridge, in goal on a season-long loan from West Ham United; full-backs Taishan Griffith and Jaden Sharman; midfielder Billy Leonard; and wide forward Josh Williams. Three more – Montel Brown, Kevin Songolo and Keegan Bloom – were to make their debuts from the bench.

On a pitch that looked in need of lots of water, Knightbridge was called into action early on to keep out both Niall Thompson and Louis Morison as the home team applied the early pressure. Harrow's best move of the match came from Sharman breaking forward, exchanging passes with Moore, and bringing a super tip-away from keeper Lewis Williams with his shot.

Boro survived a scare on the stroke of half time when Tivvy's Josh Jones, who was unmarked at the far post from a corner, headed straight at Knightbridge. In the second half a long period of home pressure led to Tom Purrington having two efforts blocked on the line by Shaun Preddie and James Taylor, the latter also making a crucial clearance to keep out Simpson, but Boro held on for the draw. Next up for Harrow is Winchester City at home on Saturday.

Harrow Borough: Jacob Knightbridge, Taishan Griffith, Jaden Sharman, Shaun Preddie, James Taylor, Billy Leonard, George Moore, Ahmet Biler (sub Montel Brown, 67 mins), James Ewington (sub Kevin Songolo, 90 mins), Michael Bryan, Josh Williams (sub Keegan Bloom, 90 mins). Unused subs: Wesley Tobino, Lanre Ladipo