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## BROWNE goal the difference as fine start continues



The Wealdstone players applaud the fans as they celebrate a third victory of the season

Picture: Jon Taffel

# Maynard's clean sheet joy as Stones go second

BOSS Stuart Maynard hailed a "massive" clean sheet as Wealdstone moved up to second in the early-season National League table with a 1-0 victory over FC Halifax Town on Saturday.

The shut out was Stones' first of the campaign and the manager was delighted to see that defensive solidity return to enable his side to continue their impressive start to the campaign.

"The clean sheet is massive," Maynard told the club website. "We got 14 last season and I'm a firm believer that they bring you success. And we deserved it. I'm absolutely delighted with it as we had to dig deep for it."

"The first half was an out-

By ANTHONY MATTHEWS

standing performance from the lads. And I think we scored another goal like we did at Oldham, probably 15 to 20 passes. It's great for the lads to be playing some of the football they are playing and to be able to put their foot on the ball and be brave.

"We had to be patient today. We knew we'd get possession around the back and we knew we had to be patient, using the goalie to get us out and then the gaps eventually open up. Some of the movement from the lads

was unbelievable."

The decisive moment arrived after 39 minutes when Max Kretzschmar played in Rhys Browne with a superb flick and the number 10 finished with a cool finish in the bottom corner.

Browne had further opportunities to extend his side's lead in the second half, but the visitors also had their attacking moments with Jordan Keane firing two shots narrowly wide of Sam Howe's goal.

Maynard believes the experience of the likes of Kretzschmar and Sam Habergham will be key to keeping the Stones grounded after their fine start to the season.

"Winning breeds confidence which is good," said the Stones boss. "Our job is to not look too far ahead as you can't afford to do that in this division. You can lose seven on the bounce quite easily."

"Grimsby came here last season as a top team. We beat them and then after that, they didn't win a game in nine. It can happen to anyone, so we've just got to keep focusing on one game at a time."

Wealdstone will be seeking a third straight win when they make the long trip to Gateshead on Saturday before entertaining Yeovil Town on bank holiday Monday.

## Borough suffer late Hanwell loss

HARROW BEATEN BY A GOAL IN THE LAST TEN MINUTES



Shaun Preddie leaps

Picture: Harrow Borough

HARROW Borough will be hoping for an upturn in their injury and health fortunes for the busy bank holiday schedule after they suffered a late 1-0 defeat to Hanwell Town on Saturday.

Manager Steve Baker remained unwell and coach Marc Charles-Smith also missed the game due to illness in his family. This meant Darron Wilkinson was again in charge of the team, but he was denied the services of several first team players due to a combination of injury and sickness.

Ahmet Biler hit an early shot and James Ewington almost got on the end of a James Taylor pass but Hanwell keeper Hugo Sobte dived at his feet. Adam Lareef was to become an increasingly important figure for the visitors, having a couple of shots before setting up opportunities for Conrad Lucan and Connagh Wilks.

At the other end Montel Brown saw a 20-yard drive well held by Sobte, while Ewington was unable to get a strong enough touch on a Biler cross to divert it past Sobte.

Borough offered more of a threat at the start of the second half and went close to taking the lead when Taylor's header from a Biler free-kick hit the post.

However, that was as close as the hosts were to come and their problems intensified when captain Shaun Preddie, who was anticipated unlikely to finish the game, was taken off after an hour. He was then joined on the sidelines by central defensive partner Taylor following a nasty clash of heads.

Although Biler and Brown shot wide for the hosts, there was mounting concern every time Hanwell attacked and in the 81st minute when full-back Isaac Olofunfemi ventured forward again to fire past Jacob Knightbridge.

The defeat leaves Harrow with two points from their first four league games.