

# SPORT

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## HOSTS unable to break down defence in 1-0 defeat



Rearguard action - Wealdstone defend their box in the game against Southend. Picture: Jon Taffel

# Stones beaten at home by 10-man Shrimpers

WEALDSTONE were narrowly edged out by ten-man Southend United, who held firm with a resilient defensive display to secure their first win on the road this season.

A composed second half penalty from Marcus Dackers was the difference between the two sides at Grosvenor Vale.

Wealdstone started brightly, coming close to scoring within the first ten minutes of the match when Nathan Ferguson held the ball up nicely before teeing up Rhys Browne, whose volley went just wide of the far post.

Southend had the better of the first half and went close through Dackers and Scott-Morriss, the latter's header drawing an important save from Stones stopper Sam Howes.

By NICOLE CHO-YEE

The home side did threaten when Tarryn Allarakhia beat two defenders and then shot on target, with Collin Andeng-Ndi saving the deflected effort.

The Shrimpers continued to probe for an opening and were nearly fruitful in the 31st minute when forward Jake Hyde missed a sitter, volleying over the crossbar from close range from Dackers' square ball.

Five minutes before the stroke of half time, Southend won a free kick in a dangerous position, but Noor Husin's strike was straight at Howes.

Wealdstone returned from the interval in a galvanised fashion and were

close to taking the lead when Browne superbly spun his man and played through the lively Dom Hutchinson, but Andeng-Ndi produced a fine save to palm the winger's effort away.

However, against the run of play, the Shrimpers broke the deadlock in the 62nd minute when Dackers coolly fired home; sending Howes the wrong way from the penalty spot, after referee Scott Tallis adjudged that Olufela Olo-mola had handled the ball in the box.

With 19 minutes remaining, the visitors were reduced to ten as Scott-Morriss was shown a second yellow card.

The Stones nearly benefitted from their numerical advantage immediately when substitute Max Kretzschmar whipped a cross onto the head of Sam Habergham, but Andeng-Ndi responded

with a solid save.

As the match entered the final ten minutes, Southend were close to doubling their lead when Kacper Lopata headed the ball across to substitute Chris When, who smashed his effort just over Howes' goal.

The hosts continued to rally for a late equaliser and were nearly rewarded for their persistence when Browne and Kretzschmar combined, with the latter firing just over the crossbar, with four minutes to go.

Two minutes later, Kretzschmar popped up again, drilling a low strike towards goal from inside the box, but Andeng-Ndi was equal to the effort.

Despite seven additional added minutes, Maher's tenacious side defended stoically to ensure all three points.

## Two wins on the trot for Boro

HARROW MOVE OUT OF RELEGATION ZONE



Billy Leonard celebrates his hat-trick against Beaconsfield.

A HAT-TRICK from Billy Leonard got Harrow Borough their second win in three days and moved them out of the relegation zone on Monday night. The win away at Beaconsfield followed Boro picking up their first three points of the season at home to North Leigh on Saturday.

The 1-0 win flattered the visitors as Boro failed to convert a number of changes, but claimed the win thanks to Billy Leonard's drive from the edge of the box in first half stoppage time.

And Harrow pulled themselves up to 16th in the Southern League Premier South after coming from behind to beat Beaconsfield, who are now just one place above them in the table.

The home side took the lead through Nathan Minhas, a past thorn in Harrow's side, in the 30th minute. With his back to goal, he was allowed to half-turn onto a near post corner, flick the ball up and volley it into the far corner. But Harrow equalised on the stroke of half-time when Isiah Noel-Williams got in front of a defender to lay the ball off to Lawal.

He squared for Leonard, coming in on the edge of the box, who clipped a beautiful finish past 'keeper R'Avan Constable's left hand and into the corner of the net with his weaker left foot.

It took just five minutes after the restart for Boro to take the lead. This time Leonard used his right foot to finish low into the corner from the edge of the area.

Leonard was presented with the chance to complete his hat-trick when Lawal was brought down in the box after cutting in from the left. He duly converted the penalty to put the game beyond doubt.

Boro's next fixture is a trip to Dorchester Town on Saturday.