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FOOTBALL: Maynard praises side for point



Wealdstone celebrate Micah Obiero's goal at Chesterfield. Pic: Jon Taffel

Stones deserve credit for Chesterfield draw

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard praised his side after a battling 1-1 draw at National League high-flyers Chesterfield in midweek.

After goals from Corie Andrews, Tarrelle Whittaker and Tarryn Allarahkia sealed a 3-1 home win over York City on Saturday, Stones took the lead after 24 minutes against the Spireites on Tuesday.

Micah Obiero was on hand to fire home a rebound after Ashley Charles saw his effort tipped onto the crossbar by Ross Fitzsimmons to put the visitors on top.

And Ryan Colclough hit the woodwork early in the second half, before the hosts levelled on 65 minutes when substitute Armando Dobra curled home a shot from the edge of the box.

By Lee Power
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Chesterfield's Darren Oldaker had claims for a late penalty turned down, before Paul McCallum fired over in stoppage time.

And after picking up a point in front of a crowd of 5,472, Maynard told the club website: "I thought in the first half we were excellent, we controlled the game, we came here and knew we had to try and silence the crowd with the ball and we did it."

"We were excellent. We could've gone 2-0 up at half-time, their goalie has made an unbelievable save from Charles."

"Huge, huge positives from the game,

but when you reflect back on it, it's disappointing not to get all three [points].

"When you're leading for as long as we did, I think they equalised in the 65th minute and they've come inside, when you come inside they've got to meet someone and they just didn't."

"The lads are tiring a bit, they're a very good team, they move the ball well. It was a very good footballing game, an enjoyable game if you're a neutral watching this."

"You can see why they're in the league position they're in. Cookie [Paul Cook] has done an unbelievable job, he's assembled a really good team."

"You can see why they've competed against Football League clubs, because they've got Football League players in their squad. It's huge credit for our lads

going toe-to-toe with them."

Stones slipped to 11th in the table behind Dagenham & Redbridge, but have a game in hand.

And they head to Woking on Saturday, before making another long midweek journey up to FC Halifax Town on Tuesday.

*A youthful Wealdstone side travelled to Northwood for a Middlesex Senior Cup tie on Tuesday.

And Armani Adams headed them into a first-half lead, before Lewis Kinsella struck from the penalty spot.

But the home side, despite being reduced to 10 men in the penalty incident, hit back through Micah Jackson and Dan Williams to force a 2-2 draw, then won 7-6 on penalties to send Stones out of the county competition.

Harrow hurt by mistakes

TWO defensive calamities inside 21 minutes, pretty much ended Harrow's hopes in a 3-1 loss to Swindon Supermarine, writes Simon Grigor. Losing Isiah Noel-Williams to illness and Ezra Ikebuasi with a groin injury were a massive pre-match blow.

But Harrow immediately put a nice move together, with Johnny Allotey, Billy Leonard and George Moore involved in creating a chance for Kai Omoko Brosnan, which was saved. The visitors had a strong wind at their backs in the first half and on three minutes, a long ball forward was caught under his own bar by home keeper Jacob Knightbridge, who crashed into the post and spilled the ball for McDonagh to score.

Knightbridge atoned slightly minutes later when he made a point-blank save to stop McDonagh at close range, while Gould batted away a shot from Anointed Chukwu and saved with his feet from Allotey's angled drive.

Knightbridge denied Williams, the league's top scorer, before Chukwu's shot was blocked, and Sonny Hart blocked Campbell's effort before a mix-up on 21 minutes.

Jaden Sharman chased back to, it seemed, shepherd out another long ball, but poor communication with Knightbridge saw him head it out for a corner, delivered by Spalding to the far post for Liddiard to head home unchallenged.

Brosnan got the ball caught under his feet when Allotey picked him out and Moore's 25-yard shot was saved, before Chukwu swapped passes with Leonard to test Gould, but Samuel Adenola stumbled when Brosnan got to the byline and picked him out.

Harrow began the second half brightly and scored in the 48th minute, as Allotey got to the left byline and saw his cross turned in at the far post by Brosnan. Chukwu, using his strength to better effect, turned on the edge of the box to fire just past the post, but Swindon dropped deeper and organised well to minimise Harrow efforts, killing off the contest in the 73rd minute.

The Borough defence wasn't tight enough on Williams as he collected the ball with his back to goal on the edge of the box and he performed a couple of twists, and a sharp turn to hammer a shot past Knightbridge.

There was plenty of effort from every Harrow player, but they sit one place above the relegation zone on goal difference below the point-per-game total that has to be the bare minimum requirement in a survival battle.

Given their illness and injury list, a blank midweek was massively welcome, ahead of away games at third-placed Chesham United on Saturday and Hanwell Town on Tuesday (February 28).