

SPORT

Read the latest sports news at
harrowtimes.co.uk/sport

FOOTBALL: Supporters thanked at Southend



Stuart Maynard talks to his Wealdstone players after defeat at Southend. Image: Jon Taffel

Maynard praises Stones fans after closing defeat

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard paid tribute to the club's supporters after seeing his side end their National League campaign with a 2-1 defeat at Southend United.

The first-team squad wore T-shirts in memory of Wealdstone Youth U14 Reds player Teddy Disson-Meade, who had sadly passed away earlier in the week, with a minute's silence held before the game.

And Stones took the lead at Roots Hall in front of a crowd of 8,434, thanks to Charles Clayden's third goal in three games, before Wes Fonguck got Southend back on terms early in the second half.

And Stones were then reduced to 10 men when Nathan Ferguson was dismissed for a challenge on Cavaghn

By Lee Power
lee.power@newsquest.co.uk
Twitter @Recorder_Power

Miley and Harry Cardwell netted a late winner for the play-off chasing Shrimpers.

That left Maynard's men in 13th place in the final standings, their highest finish in 37 years, after another memorable season.

And the boss said: "Huge credit to our fans again, 400-odd there, sung their hearts out, did not stop singing from minute one until the end.

"It's a huge credit to them because they've supported us all year and I really just want to thank them for coming out to Southend.

"Realistically we had nothing to

play for but they have come in their numbers to support the team, they've backed the boys all year when we've had dips in form.

"They've really got behind us this season and that's what we've got to make sure next season that we all stick together and go again.

"It's going to be relentless again next season, this league is just relentless, and you've got teams getting promoted now that are already full-time.

"It's going to be even more harder so we'll stick together and we'll go again."

Dom Hutchinson hit the crossbar after just five minutes after good work from Jaydn Mundle-Smith, but crossed for Clayden to beat Stuart Arnold with a deft flick to open the scoring.

Arnold denied the lively Hutchinson a second with a solid save low down, while Sam Howes produced a brilliant double save to deny Cardwell four minutes before half-time.

It was all square five minutes after the restart, though, as Fonguck tucked his shot past Howes from 25 yards.

And Ferguson was shown a red card two minutes later for a lunging challenge on Miley, leaving the visitors to defend doggedly.

Howes dealt comfortably with half chances from Louis Lomas and Dan Mooney, but was beaten for a second time with only eight minutes left when Noor Husin evaded Micah Obiero and Sonny Lo-Everton on the right and crossed for Cardwell to convert from close range.

Packer: We want world title at home



Marlie Packer celebrates Six Nations success. Image: PA

SARACENS' Marlie Packer reckons resurgent England can cap a rousing rise from playing in front of 'a couple of hundred people and a dog' to being crowned world champions at a sold-out Twickenham.

The Red Roses romped to a fifth TikTok Women's Six Nations title on the spin with a 38-33 win over rivals France in front of a world-record 58,498-strong crowd in south-west London.

Talismanic captain Packer, 33, racked up a whopping 26 tackles as the hosts clinched another Grand Slam title to end Simon Middleton's era as head coach on a high. England will host the World Cup on home soil in 2025 and Packer believes the meteoric rise of the women's game will reach a capacity crescendo on the biggest stage of all.

"I can remember a couple of hundred people and a dog watching us but to sell over 58,000, it's been absolutely incredible," she said.

"In 2025 the World Cup is here at Twickenham we will sell it out and we want to be world champions.

"The crowd was with us every step of the way and it's been amazing. I hope you all want to come back and watch us because we're only growing as a squad."

Packer, Abby Dow, Alex Matthews, Zoe Aldcroft and a penalty try saw England run riot in the first half.

Les Bleues launched a bold fightback after the break but Lark Davies' fifth and final try fired the Red Roses to a convincing victory.

"I'm so proud and the girls put everything out there," added flanker Packer.

"I'm super proud of this squad, every player has played a part to get us to this Grand Slam it's amazing.

"We knew we were going to have a tough day, a tough game on our hands, they've grown over the tournament and full credit to them they kept on asking questions of us."

"For all the latest TikTok Women's Six Nations news, information, and details on how to watch the Championship, visit: <https://womens.sixnationsrugby.com>.