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## FOOTBALL: Derby date at Barnet ends all square



Harrison Sohna (centre) celebrates scoring for Wealdstone against Barnet

Image: Jon Taffel

# Stones deserved point at leaders says Gibson

WEALDSTONE boss Neil Gibson was left thrilled by the determination shown by his side as Harrison Sohna's late equaliser snatched a 1-1 draw at Barnet.

After Adebola Oluwo had given the hosts an early lead, Cheltenham Town loanee Sohna got on the end of an Enzo Boldewijn cross to fire past Owen Evans as the National League derby spoils were shared at the Hive.

"I thought the players really deserved the point and even though it was a point, it feels better than that because of the circumstances in it," Gibson told the club website.

"You come to Barnet. There's a reason they're top of the league. I've watched a lot of the league this season and I think they're the best team in the league. I think they'll ultimately end up

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getting promoted as champions.

"So, for us to come here in such a close local derby with the game meaning so much to them as it does to us and to go behind in the manner we did, to find that character and belief and resilience to come back into the game.

"I thought we had moments where we could've won it. Obviously they're going to have lots of time in possession and were going to have to suffer, but I thought the players' character was fantastic. The belief was fantastic, and they thoroughly deserved the point they got."

While the performance was strong, Gibson was keen to point out how im-

portant it was to match Barnet physically and adapt to the slick passing game which has fired Dean Brennan's side to within touching distance of the Football League.

He added: "We were aware Barnet play in a certain way. They're full of confidence, have lots of rotations, and they obviously have the two tens that drop inside. Their wing-backs go really high and cause you problems. So we knew they'd cause us lots of problems.

"We knew they'd dominate the ball, but we knew if we kept our shape really well and defended as we can, we had players on the pitch capable of moments that could win us games of football, and obviously we created enough chances to get something.

"We came away with a point, and

we'll be more than happy with that to move on because of the context of it more than anything."

A much-needed point leaves the Stones in a great position going into the final weeks as Dagenham & Redbridge's draw with Hartlepool leaves them five points clear of relegation.

"We know today's point is really important for us in the context of what it's about. However, we know we've got to get to a tally we know makes us safe," he added.

"We've got to try and do that as soon as possible, and we know every game is really, really difficult."

Stones travel to fellow relegation rivals Boston United tomorrow and host Maidenhead United, who are almost inevitably facing the drop, on Monday.

## We missed our chance says captain

MIDDLESEX LET KENT OFF HOOK IN COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP LOSS



Blake Cullen appeals

Image: PA

MIDDLESEX captain Toby Roland-Jones looked for positives after an eight-wicket Rothesay County Championship Division Two defeat at Kent.

Tawanda Muyeye (125) and Ben Compton (124) both hit unbeaten centuries as the hosts coasted to victory at Canterbury on Sunday.

They put on a record-breaking partnership worth 225, after Middlesex were all out for 311 and set Kent what looked like a stiff target of 316. Ben Geddes made 75 and Zafar Gohar 57 down the order, but Gohar was the only visiting bowler to enjoy any success, claiming two wickets in two balls to reduce Kent to 91-2.

That was as good as it got for the visitors and Compton hit the winning run with 5.4 overs of day three remaining.

Dismissed for 222 in their first innings, Middlesex reduced Kent to 79-6 before they recovered to reach 218 as Blake Cullen (4-60) and Ryan Higgins (3-37) impressed with the ball.

And Roland-Jones said: "Credit to them for the way they played, but obviously we're pretty disappointed with how the game's ended up.

"The standards of the group remain extremely high and there have definitely been some excellent performances (over the past two games.)

"We set a really good standard with the ball against Lancashire [in opening draw] and even though we had them I think 70-odd for five in the first innings we were still a bit below our best in that instance.

"Ideally you find a bit more of an opportunity to click and a bit more of a cutting edge to maximise the opportunity we had.

"That would obviously have given us a chance to drive the game a bit more." Middlesex host Glamorgan at Lord's on Friday.