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## WEALDSTONE



Wealdstone fans ahead of the Isuzu FA Trophy final at Wembley Stadium, Image: PA

# Waddock predicts a bright future for Stones

GARY Waddock quickly parked his upset over Wealdstone's Wembley defeat to predict a bright future for his plucky part-timers.

Appointed in late February on a two-and-a-half-year deal with the Stones too close for comfort to the National League drop zone, the ex-Aldershot Town manager and Walsall assistant soon inspired safety through some strong showings, particularly on home soil.

In between all that, National League North pair Kidderminster Harriers – with Waddock watching from the stands – and Marine were seen off to bag a first trip to the home of football since lifting the FA Trophy at the old Wembley in 1985. While Southend United hit

By Andy Mitchell

the woodwork twice, Wealdstone enjoyed the better chances only to lose out in a penalty shoot-out.

But Waddock, who magnanimously waited to congratulate opposite number Kevin Maher and his staff halfway down the Wembley steps, was quick to look to the future and the prospect of defying the odds in a mostly full-time league next term.

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Waddock told The NLP: "We have some really talented players within the group, they have taken on board what we have put in place and went toe-to-toe with a good Southend side.

"The club is local to me and I knew the group when I came in. I touched on what a good job Sam Cox had done and the recruitment guy Booney (Steve Booney) has done brilliantly. To see that talent there, I was pleasantly surprised and they have kicked on again.

"With a couple of additions and if we hold on to the core group, there is every reason to think we can have another good season.

"We don't want to keep looking over our shoulders and if we can keep the group together, we won't have to. We can look in a different direction."

Waddock's wait to shake Maher's hand was not the only touch of class either, with him handing over the chance to walk his side onto the hallowed turf to Stones chairman Rory Fitzgerald.

"He's been through the thick and the thin here and I wanted to show him what an important part of this club he is," said Waddock. "We came for a visit on Thursday and I said I would like him to lead out the team. He said it would be an honour and I was delighted that he accepted."

## College student wins Capital Cup

BOXING



Mohammad Shah Hussain

A boxer has clinched the Capital Cup London title after just three-and-a-half years in the ring.

Mohammad Shah Hussain, 18, a student at Stanmore College who trains at Islington Boxing Club, won the 57kg division after fighting back-to-back through tough competition. He dreams of one day representing Team GB.

He wants to make his mother, his family, Stanmore College, Islington Boxing Club, and his community proud.

The win is especially impressive given not only his short time in the sport but also the sacrifices he and his family have made.

Mr Hussain travels two-and-a-half to three hours daily for training, and his mother has provided significant financial and emotional support despite personal challenges.

Hussain's mother said: "I'm very proud of him. The struggles he has been through, it's all his work. I hope he finally gets a sponsor, which he really needs to go to the next steps and make his country proud."

Mr Hussain hopes that sponsorship from the community will help him progress nationally and achieve his dream of representing his country.

He also aims to continue making his family, college, club, and community proud as he develops further in the boxing world.