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Joe Newton and Jack Wells-Morrison in action. Image: Jon Taffel

Wealdstone fight back twice before snatching victory

FOOTBALL

By SPORT REPORTER

THE Stones scored a last-minute winner to beat Southend United 3-2, in a rematch of last season's FA Trophy final.

Wealdstone twice equalised after going behind – through Fejiri Okenabirhie's first-half penalty and a second-half header from sub Luke Norris – before sealing all three points with virtually the game's last kick when Olufela Olomola arrived unmarked at the back post to stroke home.

The Stones had a similar horror start to the Solihull game in midweek, as they conceded an early goal from a free-kick. In just the fourth minute, a set-piece from the right-hand side was whipped into the box and deflected into Leon Parillon, who volleyed a fierce strike past the helpless Baptiste.

A few minutes later, the Stones had their first chance of the game. Olomola found Okenabirhie on the edge of the box, who took a touch inside and tried to find the near bottom corner, but Joe Duncan in the Southend goal was equal to it.

In the 21st minute, the Shrimpers had an excellent chance to double their lead. Promise Omochere was played in down the right wing and drove into the box before squaring it to Oli Coker. Aidan Francis-Clarke rushed back and made a crucial last-ditch slide tackle to block the shot.

Just a minute later, the Stones went up the other end and got an equaliser through a penalty. Joe Newton engineered a brilliant switch of play over to Kadji on the right wing. He drove into the Southend box before he cut inside and got taken out by the sliding challenge of Kyle McAdam. Okenabirhie stepped up to take the penalty and calmly slotted it into the bottom right corner, sending the goalkeeper the wrong way.

The Shrimpers eventually retook the lead, as Parillon scored his second of the game. McAdam was played in down the left wing, where he put a cross in which again deflected towards Parillon in the middle of the box, who floated a shot into the right corner of the goal.

Wealdstone enjoyed a strong start to the second half, making their intentions clear, and came close to scoring an equaliser just three minutes in. Aaron Henry picked the ball up on the edge of the box and floated a chip towards the back post. It hit bounced off the bar and started a goalmouth scramble, but the Shrimpers managed to clear it.

In the 56th minute, Waddock made a triple substitution which completely change the game. He brought on Norris, Oni and Tyrelle Newton – two of which contributed to the equaliser six minutes later. Oni played a pass out wide to Joe Newton, who floated it to the back post where Norris planted a header back across goal into the bottom corner.

After keeping the Shrimpers in their half and applying pressure, the Stones scored a dramatic late winner in the third of four added minutes. Norris did well to bring down a long ball before he flicked it forward to Tyrelle Newton. He drove forward into the box and sent a low centre skimming across the six-yard box. Missed by covering defenders, it reached Olomola who was waiting to tap it into an empty net at the back post. The Stones fans in The Vale erupted and the players ran over to celebrate.



John Scott in action during the 2022 World Darts Championship

Scott mises out but happy that he's still competitive

DARTS

MILL Hill's John Scott proves he can still compete at top level despite failing to qualify for the forthcoming 2026 WDF World Darts Championship, writes Ziad Chaudry.

The 45-year-old, who is currently ranked number 313 on the WDF world circuit and plays locally for Middlesex County and Mill Hill Services Club, was eliminated in the last 32 by South Londoner Pat Scurfield 4-2 - who eventually qualified for the world's which takes place at the iconic Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, Surrey between November 27 and December 6.

"I haven't done much of the tour this year but decided to have a go at the Lakeside qualifier nonetheless," said Arsenal fan Scott in his official Facebook page.

"Thought I played pretty decent averaging 80+ for the whole day and just lost out in a tight game with Pat Scurfield in the last 16. This does give me confidence to know my game is still there or thereabouts despite not travelling and consequently not practising as much."

With Netherlands Jimmy Van Schie not defending the title this year as he is now plays on the PDC, Scotland's current world number one 15-year-old darts prodigy Mitchell Lawrie is favourite to win along with Jenson Walker from Coventry, Chester's James Beeton, Paul Krohne from Germany and USA's very own dancing darter Leonard Gates.

Harrow extend unbeaten run with Westfield draw

FOOTBALL

HARROW extended their unbeaten run to five games with a thoroughly deserved point against a Westfield side who had only lost once in their last ten league games, and you would expect to feature in the play-offs at the end of the season.

In the seventh minute Harrow went in front. A surging run from halfway by Bola Okewoye, making his full debut in midfield, saw two Westfield players attempt to haul him down. The first challenge knocked Bola off balance, but he kept possession and Mr Griffiths played a good advantage. The second challenge resulted in Harrow being awarded a free kick 25 yards from goal a few yards left of centre.

Up stepped Prince Mbengui who curled an unstoppable right footed effort into the top corner.

In the 59th minute, Harrow came close to doubling their lead. Tade did well to win the ball on the right touchline and after squirming away he fired a cross to the back post that had just too much pace on it for the unmarked Will Bailey to bring down and shoot in one motion.

The hosts were level a minute later.

The ball was played into the right side of the Harrow area. Reuben put a challenge in just outside the six-yard box and Mr Griffiths pointed to the spot.

James Roberts sent Trent the wrong way from the spot.

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