



Midweek Update – Season 2012/13 No.37

2nd May 2013

By Peter Butcher – Ryman League Communications Administrator

Ryman Premier

SAVED by a scrappy last-gasp equaliser, Concord went on to reach the Ryman Premier play-off final with a 2-1 extra-time victory at Wealdstone on Wednesday.

Stones dominated the first half but could not break the deadlock, foiled by the woodwork and by outstanding Beachboys keeper Luke Chambers.

Concord offered little threat, though they did hit the bar early in the second half with a Steve King header. It seemed, however, that the script had been written when Richard Jolly headed home a free-kick in the 63rd minute to give Stones the lead. It was his 194th goal for the club in his 279th appearance and it looked as if he had given himself the chance to extend both totals before he retires at the end of the season.

Concord's key forward Tony Stokes had been unable to start the game after being taken ill on the journey but he entered the action in the 76th minute and the Beachboys began to apply serious pressure for the first time.

The game had just gone into its 90th minute when the men from Essex drew level. A shot from Leon Gordon was blocked on the line and an attempted clearance cannoned back into the net, apparently off a Stones defender although King was awarded the goal.

So that meant an extra half-hour and the winner came three minutes into the second period. It was another untidy affair, with a King effort coming back off a post and, as the home side failed to clear the ball, Stokes hooked it over the line.

Concord held out in reasonable comfort and at the final whistle Jolly slumped to the ground in despair, knowing that his career had been ended by Wealdstone's second successive play-off semi-final exit.

The clubs' previous meeting had ended on a somewhat sour note so it was good to see the Concord players gathering by the tunnel to applaud their opponents off the field.

Their task in Monday's final will be a trip to Lowestoft after the Trawlerboys reached the final with a 1-0 home victory over a resilient East Thurrock side. Chris Henderson prodded in the 80th-minute winner, ending the prospect of an all-Essex final.

It will be Lowestoft's third successive appearance in the final. They were beaten at Tonbridge and Hornchurch in the previous two but they will hope to go one better with home advantage.

Both games attracted four-figure crowds, with 1,182 watching at Lowestoft and 1,055 at Wealdstone, taking the total attendance for the six semi-finals to 5,478.

Ryman North

THE play-off final on Sunday will be between Maldon and Thamesmead after both teams won their home semi-finals on Tuesday.

League runners-up Maldon will have home advantage from the final after the much-travelled Lee Boylan scored twice in their 3-1 victory over Aveley.

Aveley had a slight edge for much of the first half but the game turned Maldon's way in the last seven minutes before the interval. Boylan gave them a 38th-minute lead and Aveley's Junior Appiah received his second yellow card four minutes later.

The ten men seemed unlucky not to be awarded a penalty early in the second half when Jack Stevenson was brought down in front of goal but it turned out not to matter as almost immediately, in the 54th minute, Petrit Elbi drilled in their equaliser.

Maldon regained the lead in the 69th minute when a free-kick by Jack Cawley found its way into the net, probably with the help of an Aveley defender.

Millers tried hard to draw level again and it was not settled until the third minute of added time, when Aveley keeper Jack Giddens came up for a corner and was stranded as the ball was cleared for Boylan to find the unguarded net.

Thamesmead were twice hauled back to level terms before edging out Witham 3-2. So often it is the team that makes the late run into the play-offs that continues that form through the knockout stages, and on that basis Witham must have fancied their chances.

They fell behind in the 21st minute when Baff Addae was fouled and Chris Edwards converted the penalty for the only goal of the first half.

Witham replied, also from the spot, in the 54th minute, Rob Whitnell obliging after Lewis Godbold was brought down, and they looked the more likely side to take the lead.

But it was Thamesmead who went ahead again in the 71st minute through Addae, who pounced on a weak clearance and lobbed the ball into the net.

This time their lead lasted only two minutes before Sam Taylor forced home Danny Emmanuel's cross at the second attempt to make it 2-2.

The winner came in the 80th minute when a long ball over the defence picked out Mead's top scorer Stuart Zanone, who held off a defender and shot home.

Ryman South

THE all-Kentish Ryman South play-off semi-finals both went with home advantage and so Maidstone will host Faversham in an all-ticket derby final on Saturday.

Stones had the upper hand for most of their clash with Folkestone in front of 2,195 at the Gallagher Stadium but they had to wait until deep in the second half for the only goal of the game.

It came in the 76th minute from veteran striker Paul Booth. The 36-year-old left them for Cray midway through the season but returned shortly before the transfer deadline.

The other semi-final at Faversham, watched by a crowd of 606, was settled in a six-minute burst late in the first half during which the Hythe defence was breached three times.

Matt Bourne, who scored only one league goal all season, opened the scoring in the 34th minute, then struck again two minutes later.

Renford Tenyue made it 3-0 in the 40th minute and that proved to be the final score as Faversham reached the play-off final in their third season of Ryman League football, a year after finishing a lowly 17th in the table.



Results

Tuesday 30th April 2013

Ryman North play-off semi-finals

Maldon & Tiptree Boylan 38, 90+3 Cawley 69	3 - 1 Aveley Elbi 54	234
Thamesmead Town Edwards 21 (pen) Addae 71 Zanone 80	3 - 2 Witham Town Whitnell 54 (pen) Taylor 73	206

Ryman South play-off semi-finals

Faversham Town Bourne 34, 36 Tenyue 40	3 - 0 Hythe Town	606
Maidstone United Booth 76	1 - 0 Folkestone Invicta	2195

Wednesday 1st May 2013

Ryman Premier play-off semi-finals

Lowestoft Town Henderson 79	1 - 0 East Thurrock United	1182
Wealdstone Jolly 62	1 - 2 Concord Rangers King 90, Stokes 108 After extra time	1055

Fixtures

Saturday 4th May 2013

Ryman South play-off final

Maidstone United v. Faversham Town

Sunday 5th May 2013

Ryman North play-off final

Maldon & Tiptree v. Thamesmead Town

Monday 6th May 2013

Ryman Premier play off final

Lowestoft Town v. Concord Rangers