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New kit launch date set for July

BLUES' NEW KITS TO BE REVEALED ON SAME DAY AS HALF MARATHON

WYCOMBE Wanderers will unveil their new kits for the 2016/17 season in a formal launch at Adams Park on Sunday, July 10.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth and his squad will be in attendance at the event which will give fans their first glimpse of the debut offering from Wycombe's new kit supplier O'Neills.

Both home and away strips, as well as the new goalkeeper kits, will be on show and fans will be able to purchase the new designs from the club shop on the day.

Adams Park plays host to the Wycombe Half Marathon on the same day and the launch will take place at 1.30pm after competitors have finished the run.

Further entertainment will also be available at the free event including stadium tours, skill-based football games and autograph and photo sessions with players.

Season ticket holders will also have the chance to collect their cards for the new campaign and season tickets will also be on sale to fans yet to purchase theirs.

O'Neills have vowed to stay true to the dark and light blue quarters of the home kit, while the away kit is set to be simple and sleek.

French friendly

WANDERERS TO FACE LE HAVRE IN CLUB'S FIRST PRE-SEASON GAME

BLUES will begin their pre-season campaign with a friendly against French Ligue 2 side Le Havre.

The match, at the Parc Des Sports in Sarzeau on July 12, kicks off at 7.30pm local time.

It will be the first of Blues' pre-season fixtures and the club is not expected to announce any others.

Wanderers enjoyed a similar trip to the continent last season where they took on US Avranches.

This year's match represents a step up in quality though, as Wanderers will take on a Le Havre side which finished fourth in the second tier of French football last year.

Wycombe are now set to play five games before commencing their 2016/17 campaign having already arranged friendlies on home soil with Brentford, QPR, Aldershot Town and Maidenhead United.

WANDERERS: Hard work so important for O'Nien Trust of gaffer pushes Luke after 12-month turnaround

By Harry Gray

A YEAR is a long time in football, and for Wycombe Wanderers midfielder Luke O'Nien the past 12 months have been truly transformative.

After being released by Watford in the summer of 2015, the 21-year-old was left in the footballing wilderness and searching for a route back into the professional game.

Fast forward to June 2016 and O'Nien, who signed a three-year contract extension in April, is firmly established as a central figure at Adams Park. It is a change of circumstances he can hardly believe himself.

O'Nien said: "It is an odd one. A year ago I was unemployed and I didn't really know where I was going to go or what I was going to do."

"The one thing I did know was that somebody could say no to me but they couldn't stop me from working hard."

"Every single day I worked hard. Nobody can stop me doing that and when the chance came around I was ready to take it."

O'Nien's appetite for work certainly hasn't diminished since earning his move to Wanderers and his commitment has endeared him to the Wycombe fans.

He has adapted to the demands of League Two football with ease and looks set to be an integral part of manager Gareth Ainsworth's plans for the foreseeable future.

His three-year contract represents a strong showing of faith from Wanderers and Ainsworth has previously suggested O'Nien is the sort of player he could build a squad around.



Luke O'Nien was able to celebrate scoring five goals for Wanderers last season.

Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

Of course, O'Nien must now repay the club's confidence in him, but the former Wealdstone loanee has no concerns about coping with the added responsibility.

"It is great to have the trust from the gaffer and all I can do is thank him by working hard day in, day out," O'Nien explained. "There is always personal pressure that you put on yourself and it is always good to have that. It shows you care and you are passionate about the game."

"It [Ainsworth's praise] won't change my mind-set and I am going to continue to work on my game. We will be an exciting team if everyone focuses on their jobs next season."

The pain of being let go by Watford, a club he spent 14 years at, still rankles somewhat with O'Nien and the drive to prove his doubters wrong also feeds the midfielder's will to succeed.

"Any sportsperson, especially at the top level, has set-backs and it is

how you deal with the set-back that matters," he said.

"It is one person's opinion and I think being released has made me stronger and made me more motivated."

"You always want to prove people who maybe didn't put faith in you wrong."

"You are never going to be everyone's cup of tea and it is good to show those people what you can do," he added.



England boss Mark Sampson.
Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

Support at Adams Park was brilliant: Sampson

FROM the 5,903-strong crowd in attendance as England dispatched Serbia at Adams Park it was clear to see women's football is alive and well in Wycombe.

Saturday's match itself was a formality as a Karen Carney hat-trick and strikes from Alex Greenwood, Rachel Daly, Ellen White and Isobel Christiansen wrapped up a 7-0 trouncing.

In the stands, however, it was clear to see the growing popularity of Mark Sampson's Lionesses shows no sign of slowing, and the England manager is fully aware of the growing influence his side is having.

"We are just so happy, proud and

honoured that these people have come today and have taken their time to come and support the team," Sampson said.

"The crowd were brilliant. From start to finish they made some noise and I thought the players responded to that with a performance full of heart, of work ethic and real insatiable appetite."

The popularity of Sampson's side undoubtedly hit fever pitch during last year's Women's World Cup in Canada, where they reached the semi-finals.

The Lionesses have gone from strength to strength since and Saturday's attendance, which was bigger than any at a Wycombe

Wanderers league game last season, is an indication of the journey Sampson's players have been on.

The England boss can scarcely believe how far women's football has come and says the rise in popularity gives inspiration to players.

"Before we start dinner every night the players talk about their first-ever club experience and how it has helped to get them to where they are today," Sampson explained.

"A lot of them talk about the challenges they have had to overcome, so to get the recognition they get and the genuine support, seeing the young faces in the crowd and the noise level is amazing."