

THE REALLY WILD SHOW

Blues perform great escape act

WYCOMBE Wanderers' 3-0 victory over Walsall kept them on course for promotion – but only after one of their most unlikely turn-arounds of the season.

A dire performance for the first hour pointed to a 0-0 draw at best for Martin O'Neill's men on Saturday. They remain in third place on 67 points.

Three goals in the last 20 minutes put Wanderers back on track after Simon Garner broke the dull deadlock on 73 minutes.

Dave Carroll added a second and substitute Tony Hemmings wrapped things up after Walsall keeper James Walker gifted a clearance to him in stoppage time.

Wycombe trail leaders Chester by just three points and sit one point behind second-placed Shrewsbury. Is perhaps the championship on the cards as well as promotion?

The Wycombe manager thinks not. "Automatic promotion is all we want. With Crewe dropping points it has given us a gap."

"We have got five games left. If we win four of those we will win promotion," said O'Neill, who believes 77 points will earn a top slot.

Crewe (fourth) and Preston (fifth), who Wycombe play in all-ticket back-to-back clashes at the end of the season, lost ground, with Crewe drawing and Preston losing.

Wycombe's efforts in getting this far in such a strong position, however, have been recognised by the Professional Footballers' Association which selected Jason Cousins, Steve Guppy,

and, for his huge contribution before he was injured, Terry Evans, in its Division Three Select XI on Sunday. Wanderers are the only side to have three players in the line-up.

Division Three select XI: Martin Hodge (Rochdale), Jason Cousins (Wycombe), Terry Evans (Wycombe), Alan Reeves (Rochdale), Roger Stanislaus (Bury), Steve Guppy (Wycombe), Tony Rigby (Bury), Neil Lennon (Crewe), Tony Ellis (Preston), Dean Spink (Shrewsbury), David Reeves (Carlisle).

Other Division Three results: Bury P, Gillingham P, Carlisle 1, Hereford 2, Chester 2, Colchester 1, Doncaster 0, Crewe 0, Mansfield 2, Torquay 1, Northampton 1, Rochdale 2, Scarborough 2, Lincoln 2, Scunthorpe 3, Preston 1, Shrewsbury 0, Chesterfield 0, Wigan 2, Darlington 0.

HOW THEY STAND

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	Pts
Chester	38	12	5	2	31 15	8	5	6	33	26	70
Shrewsbury	36	9	7	3	26 16	10	4	3	28	18	68
Wycombe	37	11	3	4	30 17	8	7	4	31	27	67
Crewe	37	10	3	5	39 28	8	6	5	32	28	63
Preston	37	12	5	2	44 20	4	6	8	28	34	60
Torquay	38	6	10	8	25 22	8	5	8	31	30	57
Chesterfield	38	7	7	5	27 21	8	5	6	22	24	57
Walsall	38	7	5	7	27 22	9	4	6	18	24	57
Scunthorpe	38	9	7	3	38 19	5	6	8	19	26	55
Mansfield	38	9	3	7	28 26	5	7	7	23	31	52
Carlisle	37	7	4	7	28 22	7	5	7	19	19	51
Rochdale	36	9	5	4	33 16	4	6	8	22	28	50
Bury	37	9	4	5	32 20	5	4	10	21	32	50
Scarboro	38	7	3	9	25 26	6	4	9	22	31	46
Doncaster	38	7	6	6	23 22	5	4	10	16	27	46
Gillingham	36	7	6	5	23 20	4	6	8	17	24	45
Lincoln	38	7	3	9	25 27	5	6	8	23	30	45
Colchester	38	7	4	8	27 30	4	6	9	23	35	43
Hereford	38	5	3	11	30 31	6	2	11	25	42	38
Wigan	37	4	7	8	30 33	5	4	9	17	30	38
Northampton	38	5	7	7	24 22	3	4	12	18	37	35
Darlington	38	6	5	8	23 26	1	6	12	13	35	32

WYCOMBE (0) 3 WALSALL (0) 0

ATT: 5,512

► **GOALS** WYCOMBE Garner (73) capitalised at the near post after Walker missed his punch to clear Carroll's corner; Carroll (82) drilled home after a fine build-up by Thompson and Hemmings who delivered the final pass; Hemmings (90) was gifted a goal by Walker who hit his clearance straight to the striker.

► **TEAMS** WYCOMBE Hyde 6, *Cousins 8, Titterton 7, Brown 5 (sub 67 mins Thompson 7), Creaser 7, Ryan 5, Carroll 6, Stapleton 5, Cunningham 5 (sub 62 mins Hemmings 7), Garner 7, Guppy 6. Sub not used: Moussaddik.
WALSALL Walker 5, Evans 6, Marsh 5, Watkiss 6, Ntamark 5, *Smith 7, O'Connor 6, Lightbourne 5, Butler 5 (sub 82 mins Wright), Peer 5, McDonald 5. Subs not used: Keister, Livingstone.

► **REFEREE** R. Groves (Weston-super-Mare) 6.

► **BOOKING** Walsall: Watkiss 35 mins (foul).

► **ON TARGET** Wycombe 5, Walsall 3.

► **CORNERS** FOR Wycombe 4, Walsall 6.

► **MATCH RATING** ●●

Wycombe stay on course for promotion. They looked unlikely to gain any reward in a hard-fought game after Walsall made all the first-half running, but there was no stopping them once they broke the deadlock. Walsall, chasing a play-off place, will rue not making the most of their first-half chances.

WYCOMBE (0) 3 WALSALL (0) 0
Garner 73
Carroll 82
Hemmings 90

WYCOMBE: Hyde 6, Cousins 8, Titterton 7, Brown 5 (Thompson 8), Creaser 7, Ryan 6, Carroll 7, Stapleton 6, Cunningham 6 (Hemmings 7), Garner 6, Guppy 6.
WALSALL: Walker 5, Evans 6, Marsh 6, Watkiss 6, Ntamark 6, Smith 6, O'Connor 7, Lightbourne 6, Butler 6 (Wright 6), Peer 6, McDonald 6.



Jason Cousins:
Picked for select XI