

Miquel's Christmas cracker is fine for Blues boss

MIQUEL Desouza's 30-yard thunderbolt inched Wanderers a little closer to their 52-point safety target, but landed him in trouble with the boss.

John Gregory fined him £5 for breaking the club rule of shooting from long range – even though it is the second successive league game Wanderers have won 1-0 with that tactic, following Mickey Bell's screamer against Millwall.

Gregory said: "I'm still going to fine him a fiver. I don't want it becoming a habit shooting from there. They normally end up in Row Z."

Desouza said: "I'd pay £5 every week if I could continue scoring goals like that. I needed that one because I was having a pretty poor game. I thought the gaffer was going to take me off because I was doing so badly. Hopefully I've redeemed myself with that one."

But Desouza's winner could not upstage man of the match Michael Simpson. Making his debut on loan from Notts County and playing in a midfield missing John Cornforth, who failed a fitness test after pulling his hamstring in training, Simpson's clever passing and vision was behind Blues' best moves, and, when they lost the ball he was usually the one getting it back.

Simpson said: "Hopefully John Gregory will buy me. The manager at Notts doesn't

fancy me, but I'd love to come here."

Wanderers won without playing well. They were thankful for some splendid saves from John Cheesewright, a clearance off the line from Bell, and the referee missing Steve McGavin's handball in his own area.

Gregory said: "It wasn't the greatest performance but we got the win and I'm delighted we kept a clean sheet."

Chesterfield did not fancy the game. They were unhappy when the referee passed the frosty pitch fit at midday and Wanderers started the livelier. Simpson found Neil Davis, who wasted the opportunity by pulling the ball back to no-one. Bell then crossed for Davis but the luckless striker's header went inches wide.

Chesterfield, on one of their rare forays forward, came closest to scoring in the 25th minute. Jamie Hewitt's corner was headed on by Tony Lormor and Andy Morris smashed the ball against the underside of the bar and into Cheesewright arms.

Four minutes later McGavin wasted a glorious chance. Simpson began the move which ended with McGavin's weak volley, from Bell's cross, being parried away by Chesterfield keeper Billy Mercer. Cheesewright then clawed away Lee Rogers 25 yarder.

Chesterfield introduced Kevin Davis in attack at half time and the effect was immediate. Cheesewright's legs saved Hewitt's shot and Bell cleared Mark Jules' effort from the rebound off the line. Cheesewright rescued Wycombe again, on the hour, denying Kevin Davis.

Wycombe's attacks were rare. Bell's shot was turned around the post before Desouza showed him how it was done. From wide on the left he cut inside and fired an unstoppable shot to give the Blues an unlikely goal.

In the remaining ten minutes Wycombe rode their luck. Hewitt and Lormor went close with headers and in injury time the referee missed McGavin's handball.

Wycombe: Cheesewright, Cousins, Bell, McCarthy, Crossley, Kavanagh, Carroll (Williams 61), Davis (Patterson 89), Desouza, McGavin, Simpson. Sub not used: Farrell.

Chesterfield: Mercer, Hewitt, Jules, Curtis, Williams, Dyche, Rogers, Gaughan, Lormor, Morris (Davis 45), Perkins. Subs not used: Carr, Lomas.

Attendance: 4,610

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