



In or out: Wrexham attempt to clear the danger of a Wycombe attack at Adams Park last Saturday

Ref: 01-996AF6

Yellow peril proves no problem for Blues as they earn draw

A STEWARD'S bright yellow jacket inched Wanderers closer to second division safety and left Wrexham seething last Saturday.

Referee Ray Olivier ruled out Andy Morrell's perfectly legitimate first half opener for the Welshmen after mistaking the steward's luminous coat for the linesman's offside flag.

Blues then went on to draw the clash 1-1.

The embarrassed official said: "I didn't realise what I had done until half time when my assistant told me he didn't put his flag up but it was too late by then."

His stunned linesman Gary Lewis said: "I thought he must have seen something else. I just assumed he had seen a foul

and just got on with it."

The bizarre incident - and Chris Vinnicombe's last gasp equaliser - helped Wanderers to a fortuitous draw and left Wrexham cursing their luck.

Morrell fumed: "I've had a perfectly good goal disallowed and I'm a bit annoyed to say the least. I have never known anything like it."

Now Olivier wants Wanderers to change the colour of their stewards jackets to prevent officials like him making any more cock-ups.

He said: "I looked across saw something yellow and automatically thought that the flag had gone up."

"In some grounds I have told the stewards to remove their jackets. Maybe Wycombe's stewards should change the

colour of their coats. Orange would be okay."

But Wanderers secretary Keith Allen has ruled that out.

He said: "It's never happened before and I'm sure it will never happen again. It was a one-off act of God which we've benefited from."

Olivier's gaffe was just the stroke of luck Wycombe needed because they would not have been capable of clawing back a two-goal deficit.

Former Wycombe transfer target Craig Faulconbridge fired Wrexham ahead with a 20-yard bullet in the 52 minute and Wycombe never looked like recovering from that until Vinnicombe emerged as Blues' unlikely hero.

After 131 games without a goal the

former Glasgow Rangers left back smashed an 86th minute 30-yard free kick in off the post to rescue a point Wycombe hardly deserved.

Wanderers boss Lawrie Sanchez could not believe his side's luck.

He said: "We got out of jail. It was very brave of the ref to admit he got it wrong when he disallowed their goal. It was a stroke of luck we needed."

"Doing it is one thing but then admitting it is something else but that's not our problem to worry about."

Goal hero Vinnicombe said: "I'm always the one who stays at the back when the others go up for free kicks and corners so when I score it is once in a blue moon. It missed everybody, hit the post and went in but I don't care."