

Even Grimsby didn't expect anything

GRIMSBY boss Mike Newell admitted his Mariners turned up at Wycombe more in hope than anticipation after seeing his side produce the upset of the day.

His Town team turned the formbook upside down by notching a surprise 1-0 win over Peter Taylor's table-toppers.

He said: "When you are in our position and you come to the top of the league team you are not expected to get anything, and after the Christmas we had hav-

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ing our matches cancelled this couldn't be a better start to the year for us."

Although Town have been inactive on the pitch in 2009 they have been active off it in the transfer market and Newell reckons his new men were key to their improved performance.

He said: "The new blood has given us a massive lift. They worked really hard and I couldn't pick a bad player out of the 11."

"It was a fantastic result and a fantastic performance and it is made even better because it was against the top of the table team."

"We had to ride our luck at times and they had a spell for 20 minutes but we had a couple which they cleared off the line and we could have won by a few

more - but we can't be greedy.

"I would take a 1-0 win here any day."

"This is a fantastic result for us and it should give the lads a real lift because no-one expected us to get anything here."

"We were 7-1 at lunchtime and that's big odds. We've had a dire 2008 and not get many points, so to come here and be the first team to beat them here should give us a big confidence boost for the rest of the season."

Taylor: We will learn from our Grimsby defeat

BLUES boss Peter Taylor says his team will learn from Saturday's first home league defeat.

The gaffer put it down to a rare bad day at the office and says he will be working hard on the training pitch to make sure it's a one-off.

He said: "Certain players didn't have their best performance. That happens and we will learn from it."

"Today has not been a great football day for us and the result is disappointing but it doesn't mean any player out there is not a good player, and that they are not going to be great next week."

"It was a bad day but I still think there was enough to be positive about and as long as we know and learn from the areas where we were disappointing than that's fine."

He was not happy to see his side snatch at wildly over-ambitious shots and disappointed with The Mariners first half goal which ended his side's unbeaten home league record.

He said: "It was a very poor goal for us to concede. Mike Williamson mis-timed the first header and then it was disappointing that we left the player on his own on the back post to score."

But while Taylor did not get carried away when his team opened up a nine-point lead at the top of the table he isn't going to get too downbeat after presiding over just his side's second league defeat all season.

He said: "In any division anyone is capable of beating anybody and fair play to Grimsby."

"They were better than us in the first half."

"We went for it at the end but it wasn't a good day for us. We can play a lot better than that."

"Looking at the other results it hasn't hurt us as much as it could have done."

Taylor's team have the ideal opportunity to try and bounce back next weekend when they travel to the South Coast to take on second-from-bottom Bournemouth.

The Cherries are fighting to stay in the Football League and yesterday appointed caretaker boss Eddie Howe their manager until the end of the season.

Returning McGleish provides the bright spot for Wanderers

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SCOTT McGleish provided the high-point of Wanderers' shock 1-0 reversal against lowly Grimsby Town with an all-action performance to show there is no hangover from his public row with boss Peter Taylor earlier in the season.

Taylor farmed last season's 26-goal top scorer out on loan to Northampton Town for two months after a breakdown in their relationship.

But the pair have kissed and made up since and McGleish demonstrated in his first game back on Saturday that there are no lingering hard feelings as he produced a Man of the Match performance.

He said: "There is no hangover and there was never going to be."

"We are both professional people. The gaffer has told me he wants me to come back, try and work my way into the team and score some goals to benefit the team in the second half of the season and that's exactly what I want to do."

"We had a chat when I came back and we both said what had gone on before was all cleared and forgotten."

McGleish went closest to scoring for Blues, flashing a volley from a second half Chris Zebroski cross just wide, and he also looked the man most likely to create a goal for someone else.

He delivered a pin-point low cross to set up team-mate Matt Harrold in the first half and then defied logic, jumping highest to cushion a header into Harrold's



BACK IN HARNESS: Scott McGleish returned to the team on Saturday

path which again the former Southend man was unable to make the most of.

McGleish was here, there and everywhere, even popping up on his own goaline to clear a second half Grimsby effort off the line.

He told *Midweek*: "I was very pleased to get a start in the team today and hopefully I've justified it by working hard."

"I was disappointed not to score but I was pleased with my overall game and I think there is more to come from me."

He was delighted with the reception he received from the

supporters who welcomed him back with open arms.

McGleish said: "I was very pleased with the response I got and that made it easier."

"As soon as I left to go on loan at Northampton what had gone on in the past was forgotten as far as I was concerned. That is what football is like."

But McGleish knows he has got a fight on his hands just to stay in the team.

He said: "Now I'm back. I would love to play every game but I know that's not possible because we have got so many people fighting for positions."

"Things are going to change, the manager is going to want to freshen things up and I know I am going to have to battle for a place like everyone else."

But he believes he can build up a rapport with Harrold who took over the mantle of scoring during his two-months in exile up the road at Northampton.

He said: "The partnership will come, we're both intelligent enough players to make it work."

"I had one good chance, the ball was behind me and had to stretch a bit and guide it onto the target and it went just wide of the post."

LEAGUE TWO

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	25	5	12	8	5	1	13	6	48			
Brentford	24	6	5	13	9	5	3	2	19	39		
Darlington	24	7	4	22	12	4	4	3	17	12	41	
Bradford City	25	6	7	12	15	5	1	5	16	13	41	
Bury	26	6	2	4	18	11	5	5	4	18	16	40
Dagenham	24	6	3	12	6	5	3	6	21	19	39	
Shrewsbury	25	6	4	12	28	7	1	4	11	14	39	
Exeter City	24	4	2	26	14	3	5	3	14	16	37	
Gillingham	24	7	4	12	7	3	3	6	10	26	37	
Aldershot	23	7	5	12	16	3	0	7	11	20	35	
Lincoln City	25	4	4	17	16	4	7	13	18	32		
Chesterfield	24	3	4	18	17	5	5	22	19	31		
Notts County	25	3	5	11	16	3	5	4	17	21	28	
Macclesfield	24	4	1	7	14	26	4	3	5	16	22	
Port Vale	24	4	2	7	13	22	4	1	6	12	27	
Morecambe	24	4	5	3	16	13	1	5	6	22	25	
Chester City	25	4	3	6	19	17	2	3	7	10	24	
Rotherham Utd	24	6	3	3	17	12	5	4	3	15	23	
Accrington S	24	4	1	6	16	16	2	4	7	11	23	
Barnet	25	1	4	7	10	23	3	4	6	17	26	
Grimsby Town	24	1	4	6	10	17	2	4	7	10	25	
Bournemouth	25	4	4	10	9	1	5	7	16	28	7	
Luton Town	25	4	4	4	20	19	3	5	5	13	21	0