

'The table still looks very healthy for us'



STAYING FOCUSED: Blues boss Peter Taylor

LEAGUE TWO		
	P	PTS
Brentford	30	53
Wycombe	28	53
Bury	30	50

Rochdale	28	48
Bradford	29	48
Darlington	27	47
Exeter	30	47

Shrewsbury	30	46
Gillingham	29	46
Dag & Red	29	44
Lincoln City	29	38
Chesterfield	27	37
Aldershot	27	36
Morecambe	29	33
Notts County	29	32
Macclesfield	28	32
Port Vale	28	31
Acc Stanley	29	28
Rotherham	27	26
Chester	30	25
Grimsby	29	23
Barnet	29	23

Bournemouth	29	15
Luton	28	2

A GOAL four minutes into injury time knocked Blues off the top of League Two for the first time since mid November.

Brentford striker Jordan Rhodes struck a 94th-minute equaliser at Accrington on Tuesday night to take the Bees above Wycombe on goal difference, but Peter Taylor hardly batted an eyelid.

The Wanderers boss said: "I'm not at all worried about that. I still think any one of the top ten can go on and do well."

"If you look at the league table I think it looks very healthy for us."

"If you had offered me this position in July I would have bitten your hand off."

"I know people like to be top, but it's not the be all and end all at this stage of the season, and it could even take the pressure of us."

Wanderers have picked up 13 of the last 30 points available, allowing Brentford to gain five points on them in that time.

Bradford v Wanderers Tomorrow, 3pm

Taylor said: "Brentford have been on a very good run and deserve to be there, but we've got two games in hand on them and hopefully we'll get some points from that."

What it does though, is turn up the heat on Blues ahead of a daunting trip to promotion rivals Bradford City tomorrow.

Taylor said: "It was a very tight game at home and I'm expecting another tight game at their place."

"We looked at them last week against Gillingham and they're a very good team."

That is especially true at Valley Parade, where they have been beaten just once in 15 League Two games.

Taylor said: "Away from home at Bradford, a draw would be a good result for us."

"But we don't fear anybody. We'll go there and try to win the game."

Blues beat the weather under Arsenal's dome

PETER Taylor and Blues pulled off a masterstroke on Tuesday when they were given access to Arsenal's exclusive training facilities.

With Wycombe on ice, Wanderers arranged to move their training to London Colney, where the England national team often base themselves.

Facilities include a synthetic pitch inside a huge dome, allowing Blues players to go through their paces completely untroubled by the weather. It was a huge improvement on Monday's session.

Striker Matt Harrold said: "On Monday the sun was shining when I left Essex but the closer I got to Wycombe the worse the weather got. There was six inches of snow on the ground when I arrived at training and I saw some of the youth team clearing a patch for us to train on."

"Half of us were indoors and half of us were outdoors. It was better than nothing."

Harrold still hot despite the chill

MATT Harrold is ready for Bradford and has told fans: Don't worry, the big freeze hasn't cooled my hot-streak.

Eleven of Harrold's 12 goals this season have come in the last 15 games, but arctic conditions have slowed him down with games and even training sessions having to be cancelled.

But Harrold is not worried he's lost his touch in front of goal.

He said: "The last few weeks we've not trained as much as we'd have liked."

"For a striker, it's all about your sharpness in and around the box so it can be hard, but I haven't lost it."

"If we had another few games called off and also couldn't train, then maybe I'd start to feel it."

"But I do extra work on my finishing. I've done it my whole career. You have to be confident in front of goal so I'm working on my finishing all the time."

"I like to stay back after training and do a bit extra. You either get a lad to swing a few crosses in, or Junior [Lewis, first team coach] lays it off for you to have a few shots so you can work on right foot, left foot, half volleys. The keepers stay behind with us too."

All those extra hours could pay dividends tomorrow at a Bradford City side which has lost just one of their 15 home games.

Harrold said: "Shrewsbury also had a very good home record and we went there and won earlier in the season."

Wanderers by Alan Feldberg

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And Harrold says losing top spot to Brentford during the week will only make them more determined.

He said: "It's always nice to look at the table and see you're top, so I was devastated. I looked at the Brentford score after the Brazil game and thought they'd lost 1-0, then saw it a bit later that they'd equalised in the last minute."

"It was a bit annoying, but we've still got two games in hand on them and we need to make sure we go out and win them."

"It will only make us more determined to get a result at Bradford now."

Harrold's most recent partner has gone though after Angelo Balanta was recalled by QPR.

Harrold said: "You're always going to miss a player like Angelo, he brought something different to the team and I enjoyed playing with him."

"But the gaffer has brought in other players like JP [Jon-Paul Pittman] so it's like one door closes and another opens."



IN FORM: Matt Harrold has scored 11 goals in his last 15 games

No winter break

PETER Taylor says a winter break would not work in England even though last weekend's fruitless trip to Darlington and back was still fresh in his mind.

He said: "It would never work, especially during this financial climate. You couldn't ask a company to close up for two weeks and in this country you just never know with the weather, so when would it be?"

Blues felt the full force of winter football last Saturday, when their match at Darlington was only called off on the morning of the match.

Taylor said: "We travelled 500 miles and spent eight hours on a coach plus an overnight stay in a hotel - and all for nothing. Where such long distances are involved, I think it's only fair to everyone to make the pitch inspection the day before the match."

"Darlington will have to cover the team's travel expenses, but the fans will have wasted their time and money."

A spokesperson for Darlington said:

"The pitch was perfectly playable on Friday. However the temperatures plummeted on Friday night and the pitch was deemed unplayable during an inspection on Saturday morning."

"Football League rules do not allow games to be called off early solely on a weather forecast."

The match will now be played on Tuesday, April 7.

Other rearranged games include a trip to Dagenham & Redbridge on February 17 and a home match with Barnet on Tuesday, March 31.

To allow for the Barnet game, Blues' reserve game with Watford has been moved from March 31 to April 1.

● Wanderers will play Didcot Town in the Berks and Bucks Cup on Monday evening, after Tuesday's game had to be postponed

Becks deserves it

WANDERERS boss Peter Taylor says David Beckham deserves to equal Bobby Moore's record number of England caps for an outfield player.

Beckham earned his 108th cap against Spain on Wednesday to draw level with the 1966 World Cup winning captain, although critics said his achievements did not compare as some of his caps were as substitute.

Taylor, who appointed Becks England captain for the first time in a friendly against Italy when took temporary charge of the national team, said: "I know some of the older generation haven't been happy to see him closing in on Bobby Moore's record if he's only playing for a few minutes as a sub."

"But if he clears a shot off the line, or sets up a goal, is the cap less worthy?"

"He deserves every single one of his caps. We should think ourselves lucky we've got people like this who still want to play for their country instead of retiring from international football."

"I always felt he wanted to be there all the time, which wasn't something that could be said of every player."

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