

Adams Parky

...but stewards and fans mix in to get the game on



A HANDFUL of hardy fans can expect a personal thank-you from the club after giving up their Saturday morning to ensure Blues' game with Oldham survived the arctic weather at the weekend.

Wanderers had already called in an army of stewards before asking fans to lend a hand as well as the worst weather of the winter gripped Wycombe.

Head of Safety Richard Stanford, *inset*, said: "We knew the weather was going to be bad so we started preparing [on Friday]."

"We texted and emailed all the stewards to get as many in as possible and when we started at 7am this morning there

were about 15-20 guys.

"They are local stewards and most of them walked here. It was a great effort but they care about the club and they're behind the gaffer 100 per cent.

"We asked for supporters to come down too and I'll be trying to get their numbers so I can ring them and thank them personally."

And it was all worthwhile as Blues scored a late penalty to earn a 2-2 draw.

Manager Gary Waddock said: "I wanted to start off my press conference by saying a big thank you to everybody who got down here and got the game going.

"It's been a fantastic effort and we got something from the

game because of their efforts.

"It's a point more on our total, a point closer to where we want to be, so it's a valuable point and we thank everybody for putting in the effort to get us a game."

With under-soil heating at Adams Park, the playing surface itself was actually the least of their worries.

Stanford said: "From a safety aspect, the car park was my biggest concern, not the pitch.

"We were quite confident that the pitch would be playable because of the under-soil heating and we timed it really really well on that front.

"We came inside about 10.45 and started scraping the top surface of ice off the pitch.

"The referee came at 11am, did the key test and said that's playable, so it was a real confidence boost."

Wanderers closed the top car park and limited spaces in the lower car park, opening the JFC and McKenzie Morris car parks on Hillbottom Road to help pick up the slack.

Stanford said: "It was good planning from start to finish and we made the right decisions, but I must admit my arms and legs are aching.

"I've spread so much salt I could open a chicken farm."

A council gritter arriving at about 11.30am finally tipped



the cales for Stanford and his crew.

He said: "As stadium manager, I don't want any game called off. We want to play and we want to play on time. The gaffer was ready, the team were ready and we had to show that we could deliver."

■ Match report - pg 39