

Bookmakers give Blues the thumbs up for promotion

BOOKMAKERS have installed Wanderers as joint third favourites for the League Two title this year, and joint second favourites to win promotion.

Gillingham, the team Blues consigned to relegation with a 3-0 victory on the final day of last season, are firm favourites at 5-2, with Rotherham and Wycombe 11-4.

Peter Taylor's new team Bradford are also tipped to go

TITLE FAVOURITES	PROMOTION FAVOURITES
10-1: Gillingham	5-2: Gillingham.
11-1: Bradford	11-4: Rotherham, Wycombe .
12-1: Bury, Chesterfield, Northampton, Oxford, Rotherham, Stevenage, Wycombe	3-1: Bradford, Bury, Chesterfield, Northampton, Oxford.
14-1: Southend, Port Vale	7-2: Stevenage, Port Vale, Aldershot.
16-1: Aldershot, Morecambe.	4-1: Southend, Morecambe, Shrewsbury.
20-1: Burton, Crewe, Shrewsbury.	5-1: Crewe
25-1: Accrington, Torquay,	6-1: Burton, Torquay.
33-1: Lincoln.	8-1: Accrington, Lincoln.
40-1: Hereford.	9-1: Hereford, Stockport.
50-1: Stockport, Barnet, Cheltenham, Macclesfield.	11-1: Cheltenham.
	12-1: Barnet, Macclesfield.

well. They are 11-1 for the title and 3-1 to go up.

Blues' favourable odds reflect positively on manager Gary Waddock despite relegation last year.

They finished the season as one of the form teams in League One and the bookies are also unconcerned by the few comings and goings at Adams Park this summer.

Odds compiled by William Hill.

I am just pleased we are starting at home

Wanderers
by Alan Feldberg
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WYCOMBE Wanderers will kick off the 2010/11 season with the same fixture that launched their last promotion-winning campaign.

They will host Morecambe on August 7 and Gary Waddock and co will hope it's a happy omen.

Two years ago the teams battled to a 1-1 draw in Wycombe on the first day of a season that ended with dramatic scenes at Adams Park, when Blues lost to Notts County but still went up on goal difference.

Waddock would take promotion by any means right now.

He said: "I wanted to see who we'd get first and I'm pleased we've got a home game to start with.

"It's always nice to start at home in front of your own fans but Morecambe will be a tough game.

"We know they are a good side and they'll want to progress from what they did last year."

Sammy McIlroy's team finished fourth in League Two, one place outside of automatic promotion.

Wycombe are also at home to Oxford United in the first month, in between away days to Stockport County and Northampton.

Meanwhile, if the bookmakers are to be believed the first few weeks of November could be a defining time for the Blues as



HOME GUARD: Gary Waddock's Blues kick off the new campaign at home to Morecambe. The game comes with some promising portents for Wanderers

they take on two of their main promotion rivals in successive matches.

First they go to title favourites Gillingham on November 2, and their next league match is a mouth-watering return to Wycombe for Peter Taylor and his Bradford City side comprising Tommy Doherty and Luke Oliver.

It doesn't get any easier during the festive period either, when seasons can come apart or kick on.

Hereford and Gillingham come to Wycombe but crammed between those matches are away trips to Chesterfield and, three days later, Cheltenham.

Waddock said: "That's the way it is. Christmas and New Year is always a busy period but you can pick up a lot of points. It's too early to say what we'll do in terms of travelling."

Other fixtures of note include clashes with Waddock's former club Aldershot Town on September 18 (a) and March 5 (h), while their regular season ends on May 7 when Southend are the visitors to Adams Park.

With Stockport, Oxford, Northampton, Torquay, Crewe and Bury in April, the run-in doesn't look unkind.

Waddock said: "I'm not even thinking about that. The end of the season is a long, long way away.

"We've got a home game to start with and a home game to finish the season off, but in between we've got a lot of difficult fixtures."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIXTURES 2010/11	
AUGUST	
7	Morecambe(H)
14	Stockport(A)
21	Oxford Utd(H)
28.....	Northampton(A)
SEPTEMBER	
4	Accrington Stanley(A)
11	Macclesfield(H)
18	Aldershot(A)
25	Shrewsbury(H)
28	Barnet(H)
OCTOBER	
2	Stevenage(A)
9	Burton Albion(A)
16	Chesterfield(H)
23	Rotherham(A)
30	Lincoln City(H)
NOVEMBER	
2.....	Gillingham(A)
13	Bradford(H)
20	Port Vale(A)
23	Torquay.....(H)
DECEMBER	
4	Crewe(A)
11	Bury(H)
18	Southend(A)
26	Hereford(H)
28	Chesterfield(A)
JANUARY	
1	Cheltenham(A)
3.....	Gillingham(H)
8	Burton Albion(H)
15	Lincoln City(A)
22	Rotherham(H)
29	Hereford(A)
FEBRUARY	
1	Cheltenham(H)
5	Port Vale(H)
12	Bradford(A)
19	Accrington Stanley(H)
26	Macclesfield(A)
MARCH	
5	Aldershot(H)
8	Barnet(A)
12	Stevenage(H)
19	Shrewsbury(A)
26	Morecambe(A)
APRIL	
2	Stockport(H)
9	Oxford Utd(A)
16	Northampton(H)
23	Torquay.....(A)
25	Crewe(H)
30	Bury(A)
MAY	
7	Southend(H)

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