

Beavon scores for the reserves to impress both managers

STRIKER Stuart Beavon scored for the reserves in a 3-1 behind-closed-doors win over AFC Bournemouth on Tuesday to win the approval of both managers.

Beavon impressed as he continued his recovery from a broken leg with a goal and another 90 minutes under his belt following his first game against Brentford a week ago.

Beavon is understood to be among the names Bournemouth are considering as they hunt a replacement for striker Brett Pittman.

The prolific Pittman joined Bristol City in a big money deal this week, leaving the

Wanderers by Dave Peters

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League One Cherries with a big gap to fill.

They have drawn up a hit-list of men they want and Beavon is thought to feature somewhere on it.

Howe was disappointed not to get him when Wycombe snatched him from Weymouth.

Bournemouth thought they were leading contenders to land him off the cash-strapped club until Wycombe beat the field by offering

Weymouth cash before Beavon officially became a free agent.

Beavon scored 26 goals for Weymouth under Jason Tindall, who is now the assistant manager at Bournemouth, and a self-confessed Beavon fan.

Meanwhile Waddock is delighted with Beavon's progress.

He said: "He needs a couple more games but he's getting sharper as the days go by."

"He scored and got another good 90 minutes under his belt."

But Beavon wasn't the only striker that caught the eye. First team professional

Matt McClure, who was an unused substitute for the first team last week, netted twice.

Waddock said: "Matt's been on the bench and he's done very well in training with the first team players."

"He's still learning his trade but he could possibly make an impression from the bench if he's on it again."

Blues hastily arranged the Bournemouth match after planned opponents AFC Wimbledon pulled out.

Waddock said: "We sent a fax round to clubs asking teams if they wanted a game and Bournemouth came back to us late on Monday."

Red light stops centre half Bennett yet again

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CENTRE HALF Alan Bennett has been ruled out for three weeks as his stop-start Wanderers career hit the red light again.

The unlucky former Republic of Ireland international lasted just six minutes of last weekend's goalless draw with local rivals Oxford United before pulling up with a hamstring strain.

He will now miss tomorrow's clash away at Northampton Town and the following two weeks of the season.

Boss Gary Waddock said: "It is very frustrating for him."

"He has not had a lot of luck recently. He had the injury at the end of last season and now he has got one at the start of this."

"It is one of those things that sometimes happens that players pick up one injury and then get another niggly one, but it is nothing more serious and he should be back soon."

"You've got to be able to deal with that, it's part of the job and we've just got to get on with it."

Waddock added: "It's a blow to be without him but we've got other players in that position and that's why we've got a squad."

"I'm happy with the cover we have got there."

Leon Johnson looks set to carry on deputising for him there.

He took his place in the heart of the defence last weekend and helped the stubborn Blues to keep



GROUNDING AGAIN: Alan Bennett will be out for three weeks

their third successive league clean sheet despite coming under severe pressure.

Bennett's Wanderers career has been on-off ever since joining the Blues from Brentford, initially on loan last season.

His first stay at the club was cut short when he damaged his ankle ligaments in a training ground accident and had to

return to the Bees.

He then recovered in time to come back to Adams Park and return for the final game of the season against Gillingham.

Wycombe then tried to turn the deal into a permanent one during the summer but their moves to sign him were blocked by Brentford manager Andy Scott, who wanted to keep hold of his

former captain.

Wanderers spent the summer looking elsewhere for centre halves, trialling Mark Phillips in that position.

But Brentford boss Scott then committed a surprise U-turn and allowed 28-year-old Bennett to leave Griffin Park and pen a one-year contract with Waddock's team.

Irons keeper arrives

WEST Ham kid keeper Jake Larkins looks set to be in goal for the youth team tomorrow when they visit Peterborough United.

The Irons have lent Richard Dobson's side their young stopper as cover for Wanderers' keeper Matt Ingram, who is nursing a hand injury.

Larkins looks set to replace Reece Samuel who kept a clean sheet for the U18s in last week's 3-0 win over Northampton at Bisham Abbey.

Samuel was on trial from Tottenham.

Appearing on the telly

WANDERERS' media man Matt Cecil was a contentant on Countdown this week but couldn't pull off a victory as he was beaten by 21 points.

Cecil, who has just graduated from Leeds University, said: "The pressure got to me a lot more than I thought it would. I went there feeling quite relaxed but as soon as you sit in the chair you realise how real it is. I was looking at the letters but they weren't making any words."

But Cecil, who was dared to apply for the show by his student friends, recovered to produce a strong second half showing, but it wasn't enough to earn him the win.

Paying their respects

THE funeral of former Wanderers secretary John Goldsworthy will be held at Amersham Crematorium today at 2.30pm.

He died at Wycombe Hospital aged 90 and Blues players and fans remembered him with a minute's silence before last weekend's game with Oxford United at Adams Park.

Cobblers is all-ticket

WANDERERS' match at Northampton Town tomorrow is all-ticket for visiting fans.

Blues have been allocated 900 tickets for the match, priced £19 adults, £15 for seniors and £6 for U18s. They are available on 01494 441118.

Blues in the news in Midweek

MANAGER Gary Waddock accused his players of not wanting it enough as the Blues drew 0-0 at home to Oxford United last Saturday.

The Blues twice needed the woodwork to come to their rescue and were also bailed out by keeper Nikki Bull on two occasions.

Waddock said: "We nicked a point. We are miles better than what we showed."

"If that's battling that's not good enough for me. Who wanted it more them, or us."

■ Wanderers first team stars spent the hours before Saturday's derby by cheering on the youth team in their 3-0 win over Northampton.

■ Assistant manager Martin Kuhl reveals that he turned down the chance to become Aldershot's full time manager to join Wanderers instead.

■ Football chiefs ruined the World Cup by introducing a football that was too light says Blues assistant manager and former Hong Kong player Martin Kuhl.

All these stories and much more were in Tuesday's new-look Bucks Free Press Midweek which now has five pages of Blues coverage every week.

See Tuesday's paper to read manager Gary Waddock's thoughts on the transfer window.

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