

Rendell scores but can't stop the reserves falling to defeat

STRIKER Scott Rendell scored for the reserves but it wasn't enough to save Richard Dobson's second string from falling to a 3-1 defeat at Gillingham on Wednesday.

The £125,000 summer signing, who has been dropped from the first team after losing his form, began rebuilding his confidence by latching onto a ball from Matt McClure and tucking it into the net in front of watching boss Gary Waddock to give Blues a lifeline in the game.

Waddock said: "He finished it really well and he needed that."

"He's a centre forward and he lives off goals and that one will help him."

"As a striker he needs to be hitting the back of the net and that's what he's done."

"But it wasn't just his goal. I was pleased with his performance. He led the line and I thought he did well."

But Waddock was disappointed that his strong side could not add to his strike and despite Ian Westlake and Marvin McCoy having good chances, it was the Kent outfit who scored the next

goal to make it 3-1.

Waddock said: "I was disappointed with the scoreline although not necessarily with the performance."

Blues: Arnold, McCoy, Federico, Winfield, Stewart, Harris (Olukanmi 69), Murtagh, Davies, Westlake, McClure, Rendell.

● **Former Welsh international goalkeeper Paul Jones is joining Wanderers on a part time basis.**

The 43-year-old, who won 50 caps for his country will help Martin Brennan to coach the keepers at Adams Park.

Jones played for Wolves, Southampton and QPR and even had two games on loan at Liverpool during his playing career.

Boss Gary Waddock said: "It's nice to have a person of his experience and the knowledge he's got will help the goalkeepers we've got."

"It will be a different voice and different ideas and it will keep everything fresh."

"We don't know how long he will be here for but it can only help."

Boss won't be popping any anniversary corks

**Wanderers
by Dave Peters**

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WANDERERS boss Gary Waddock celebrates his first anniversary in charge of the Blues tomorrow – but he won't be popping any champagne corks even if the Blues beat Chesterfield to register their fifth straight win.

He told the *Free Press*: "I will know when the time is right to celebrate and it isn't now."

"I won't be celebrating anything tomorrow because we haven't achieved anything yet."

"Getting relegated last season really hurt me and it still does. This season is all about going back up."

Promotion is the goal and it hasn't happened yet, so I have got nothing to celebrate."

"All we have done so far this year is have an OK start."

Waddock is hell-bent on restoring the club's League One status after he failed to save them from the drop last season.

And he is heading in the right direction with four straight wins and just one defeat this term as he bids to right the wrongs of last season when he inherited a club marooned in the relegation spots.

He had 34 matches to save them but couldn't pull it off despite staging an impressive late rally.

He describes the day their relegation was confirmed at Leyton Orient as the worst day of his first year in Bucks.

And he is unhappy with his own managerial statistics from his first 12 months at Adams Park.

They read: Played 49, won 14, lost 16 and drawn 19.

Waddock said: "I'm not happy with it because I am here to win football matches and I haven't won enough."

"That record is there. I can't change it. It's what it is but I don't like it."

"I don't like losing, I don't like losing at anything. I am a winner, I want to be a winner and win the games in a certain style."

He added: "I knew when I came in to a struggling club that overnight I wasn't going to win 20 games on the trot."

"It has taken longer than I thought in terms of getting the right players in and achieving the right style of play."

"Towards the end of last season we reached the turning point and if we'd had a couple more games I think we would have saved ourselves."

Blues' recent run, which has lifted them into the play-off spots, suggest he is getting it right.

He said: "Things are heading in the right direction now, but we can get even better."

Waddock, who has brought 20 players into the club since succeeding the sacked Peter Taylor, refuses to give himself a mark for his first year's work.

He said: "That is for other people to do. My aim when I came in here was to try and keep the club up and we didn't achieve that. Now I want to put it right."

"All I am trying to do is to work hard to improve the club from the top to the bottom."

"I want to get the young players through the system but within that we have to make sure we win games and achieve things at first team level."

QUICK-FIRE Q&A WITH WADS

Best Wycombe moment? "I haven't had it yet."

Worst Wycombe moment? "Getting relegated."

Biggest tear-your-hair-out moment? "Losing 6-0 at Huddersfield live on telly. It was the rock bottom moment."



PROGRESS: Gary Waddock applauds his fast-improving team after Saturday's 2-1 win at Burton

Green's luck takes another bad turn

STUART Green's miserable 15 months at Adams Park took another turn for the worse this week when he injured his ankle ligaments in training.

The 29-year-old, who has yet to feature for the first team this season, will be out for up to six weeks.

Green has managed just 15 appearances since signing from Blackpool two summers ago.

Protest planned

A GROUP of fans are planning a peaceful protest before the Lincoln City home game on October 30 against the club's plans to move to a new shared stadium at Booker with tenants Wasps RFC.

Meanwhile there was uproar at Lane End Parish Council's extraordinary meeting which was called to discuss the stadium plans.

After the meeting a straw poll show of hands vote was taken and out of a crowd of more than 250 people, only two were in favour.

Meanwhile today's *Free Press* has secured an exclusive Q&A with the movers and shakers behind Wanderers' and Wasps' plans to relocate to a shared stadium at Booker Air Park.

To read the results of the Q&S see pages 4 & 5.

Cut-price cup clash

WANDERERS will entertain League One Bristol Rovers on Tuesday November 9, 8.30pm, for a place in the area semi-finals of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

The club have slashed prices for the meeting which sees Blues battling to turnover higher league opposition for the second match running after beating League One Colchester United in the last round.

Wanderers are offering free admission to anyone under 16 and have cut adult prices to a tenner or £5 senior citizens and £1 for juniors.

But fans will only have the choice of two stands with the Frank Adams and Family stands both being closed for the match.

Midweek Blues

MIDFIELDER Matt Bloomfield told Tuesday's Bucks Free Press

Midweek that he is having the time of his life after being switched back to a central midfield role.

He said: "I've played a lot of games wide doing a job for the team in the past but I have always wanted to play in the middle and I've now been getting a run of games where I have been able to do that."

■ Boss Gary Waddock hailed it as the best first half of his year in charge of Wycombe after the Blues won 2-1 at Burton on Saturday.

He said: "That first half was as good as anything I have seen from us."

■ Wannabe rock star Gareth Ainsworth celebrated his 100th professional goal by staging an impromptu air guitar concert on the pitch.

For more Blues news like these see Tuesday's Bucks Free Press Midweek newspaper and our daily online sports edition www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport

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