

01>

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Gaz rules out top job at Vale

Page 39

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Festive fixtures leave Wanderers and Wasps in prime positions going into 2011

Pictures by ANITA ROSS-MARSHALL/ARM IMAGES



HARD RUNNING: Andy Powell inspired Wasps' 33-16 win over Newcastle



RIDING HIGH: Kevin Betsy celebrates Dave Winfield's winner against Gillingham

WASPS began 2011 firmly set on the front foot after smashing Newcastle at Adams Park on Sunday to storm into the Aviva Premiership play-off places for the first time this season.

The black and golds scored three tries, including a mammoth 45m rolling maul, to run out 33-16 winners.

Director of rugby Tony Hanks said: "That try was fantastic. By the end of the night it will probably have been from our 22, but what a drive and Trevor [Woodman, forwards coach] was just asking why a 45m forwards drive try get a

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP		
	P	PTS
Leicester	12	40
Northampton	10	38
Saracens	12	34
Wasps	12	32
Irish	12	30
Harlequins	12	30
Gloucester	10	27
Exeter	11	23
Bath	10	23
Sale	11	18
Newcastle	10	10
Leeds	10	3

bigger cheer than a fancy backs move."

Ben Jacobs, a penalty try and 18 points from the boot of Dave Walder completed the win which moves Wasps into the play-off places.

Hanks said: "This was a really important result for us. Other results went our way this week – providing we won – and we did that.

"But I said it when we weren't in the top four, there is just so much rugby to go.

"We've got ten games left. The good thing is half of them are at home."

■ Match report – Page 37

WANDERERS will be happy to keep what they have until May after establishing themselves inside the automatic promotion places during a run of festive fixtures that could hardly have gone any better.

After grinding into gear with a battling 2-1 victory over Hereford on Boxing Day, Gary Waddock's team have really cashed in this Christmas by taking six points from two of their closest promotion rivals.

On Saturday they went to Cheltenham and came home with the points from a 2-1 victory and yesterday they com-

LEAGUE TWO (top 12)		
	P	PTS
Chesterfield	21	42
Rotherham	21	40
Wycombe	22	40
Port Vale	22	39
Bury	21	35
Shrewsbury	21	34
Cheltenham	22	33
Crewe	21	32
Gillingham	22	30
Bradford	22	30
Torquay	21	29
Oxford Utd	22	29

pleted their post-Christmas party with a 1-0 victory over Gillingham.

Defender Dave Winfield secured the win, Wanderers' fourth in the row in League Two, with a close-range finish in the 64th minute after Andy Sandell had headed Matt Bloomfield's corner against the woodwork.

New loan signing Scott Donnelly was an unused substitute for the game, after completing his switch from Swansea City last week.

Blues are now two points behind leaders Chesterfield.

■ Match reports – Page 38/39