

Hayes: Everybody is right behind Gary

WANDERERS owner Steve Hayes says the club are reaping the benefits of putting their faith in Gary Waddock when they appointed him as manager in October 2009.

Waddock was Hayes' first choice to replace the departing Peter Taylor and after overseeing wholesale changes to the squad he inherited, the 49-year-old has turned the Blues into genuine challengers for automatic promotion.

"I'd known about Gary for a long time before he came to the club and everybody I spoke to had only positive things to say about him," said Hayes.

"He had an excellent reputation from working with both the youth and senior teams at QPR and then took Aldershot into the Football League, so I knew he was the right man for the job.

"No manager can be expected to turn things around immediately but Gary, along with his assistant Martin Kuhl, has carefully assessed what needed to be done to achieve success, and implemented his methods in the right way.

"We're a club which is on the way up and everybody at the club is right behind Gary as we look to climb the leagues with him at the helm.

"He has all the qualities you would look for in a manager; he's astute in the transfer market, he's very tactically clever and he brings the best out of his players.

But he's also a terrific leader of the club off the field as well, and he has a fantastic rapport with the staff and the supporters, which helps bring people together and keep everyone pulling in the right direction."

Hayes added: "We're lucky to have someone of Gary's calibre



Picture by ANITA ROSS-MARSHALL/ARM IMAGES

PAST AND PRESENT: Gary Waddock welcomed his predecessor to Adams Park last year

at the club and I'm sure that when the day comes that he leaves the club, it will be an upward move for him because I'm convinced he has what it takes to manage at a higher level.

"We take pride in seeing people progress in their careers, whether it be a manager like Paul Lambert or players such as Matt Phillips, and I've always said we wouldn't stand in their way."

Lambert's achievements with new club Norwich City have taken the club to the brink of the Premier League after enjoying a superb first campaign back in the Championship, and Hayes says he knew the former Scotland international was destined for bigger things.

"Paul has worked wonders at

Norwich and I'm pleased to see him doing well after everything he did for the club here.

"People forget that he came in at an extremely difficult time, after we had just missed out on the play-offs and lost some key players such as Roger Johnson and Danny Senda, and he took us to the semi-finals of the Carling Cup in his first season before reaching the play-offs the year after.

"He earned the respect of all the players straightaway due to his achievements during his playing career, and he was very meticulous in everything he did.

"He knew how to manage players – just look at Jermaine Easter, who had struggled for goals at the start of his Wycombe career and then

scored 23 goals in a season under Paul.

"People often talk about being a born winner but Paul was exactly that – he never settled for second best and that's why he's doing so well."

And as Lambert's Norwich side prepare for a sustained push for promotion in the closing weeks of the season, Hayes is confident that Wanderers can secure their own glory and return to League One at the first attempt.

He said: "Over the course of the season, we've performed extremely well and that's why we are where we are in the league.

"Gary has done a fantastic job this season and we are in a great position to cross the finish line."

Ruthless edge gives Waddock reason to smile

GARY Waddock felt Wanderers were more ruthless than usual as they punished Morecambe mistakes in a 3-0 win at the Globe Arena.

Scott Rendell took his season's tally to 14 after notching a brace in a first half that was actually shaded by the home side.

But Wycombe dominated the second half and the manager was delighted with a perfect awayday result.

Waddock said: "You can't ask for any more than that really. In the second half we played some good stuff. I thought some of our forward play during the course of the game was very good.

"We were a bit more ruthless today, a bit more clinical, and I'm glad we won."

Wanderers couldn't add to the three goals they netted in the first half but Waddock said: "If you'd have said to me before, would you take 3-0, I'd have said yes so I'm quite happy with 3-0 thank you."

The Blues boss backed his strikers to get on the scoresheet more regularly and singled marksmen Rendell and Stuart Beavon for praise after their showing against Morecambe.

He said: "We've asked the strikers to get goals and Rendell has come up with two today. Bevs worked his socks off again, JP [Jon-Paul Pittman] scored a couple in the reserves in the week. The strikers hopefully are banging in the goals at the right time."



BLOCK STAR: Marvin McCoy gets in the way of a Morecambe shot at goal

Top scorer says it's the defenders who deserve all the credit this season

STRIKERS grab the headlines for their goals but Wanderers' top scorer Scott Rendell says his side's defence was the reason for success at Morecambe.

Wycombe's number nine said his side's defenders played a vital role in the 3-0 win, adding goalkeeper Nikki Bull is the best in the division.

He said the efforts of defenders Marvin McCoy, Dave Winfield, Leon Johnson and Danny Foster

were 'fantastic'.

Rendell said: "They were throwing their bodies on the line, blocking everything and clearing things. When you play like that it's a pleasure to play with them.

"Once you beat a centre half or one of our full backs you've still got the goalkeeper to get past, or another defender, which shows the spirit we've got back there. Hopefully we can carry this on to

the end of the season.

"You're not going to stop teams having attempts on goal but we got Morecambe where we wanted. They have got to get past Bully and I think he's the best keeper in the league by a mile, and I think the back four and Bully showed a great effort today."

Wanderers are now back up to second in the table after picking up four points from two away

games, and Rendell says they are getting back to their best.

He said: "Last week we turned a corner. We played a lot better last week and ended up with a point. Today we were 3-0 up inside the first half and to be fair we were very average. But that's the way football goes. We just need to carry on winning games, that's the main thing.

"We need to pick up as many points as we can and leave the

rest to the rest. We need to do our jobs, then it's in our hands."

Manager Gary Waddock was also delighted with a clean sheet – the 13th of the season.

He said: "In the team talk before the game we asked the players how determined they were to keep the clean sheet. The back four have been solid, they tackled, they made headers at important times and we got a clean sheet."