

Blues fall on Harding times

Waddock returns to Shots for first summer signing

WANDERERS boss Gary Waddock has returned again to former club Aldershot Town as he begins League One preparations with his first signing of the summer.

Central midfielder Ben Harding, 26, joins former Shots Andy Sandell and Dave Winfield at Adams Park. Waddock has also gone back to The Rec for Scott Donnelly, Adam Hinshelwood and Anthony Straker.

But no one will complain if Harding is as big a hit as Winfield, Sandell and Donnelly.

The cultured midfielder said: "I think the majority of players that played under Gary would want to play for him again.

"He gets the best out of his players. When I was at Aldershot with him he gave me the license to play my

By Alan Feldberg

own game. He lets players express themselves while a lot of managers want you to play their way or not at all.

"So it wasn't a difficult decision. Aldershot's budget had been cut and they couldn't do anything for me, but I'd been there for a while and needed a new challenge."

This will be Harding's second bite at League One, after playing in the MK Dons side that freefell through the divisions.

That squad included players like Nigel Reo-Coker, Jason Puncheon, Izale McLeod and Jamie Mackie.

Harding said: "That team was very young, and the experience we did have was foreign. We had a decent squad, but we couldn't string

results together and I just remember us struggling.

"I know a lot of the players at Wycombe and personally I think it's a better squad.

"There is a good mix and they are all good footballers with good football knowledge – they're not going to just get it and smash it."

Meanwhile, Wrexham are hoping to snatch centre back Chris Westwood.

Manager Dean Saunders said: "I have been in talks with Chris and am close to agreeing a deal with him.

"I had Chris lined-up last year but hopefully I get him this time. He is an experienced player and I would love to have him at Wrexham.

"But obviously he has got contract offers from higher up and Wycombe want to keep him so we will have to see what happens."



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