

Rendell: Benyon is the best I've played with

Blues' top scorer eager to reunite with former strike partner

By Andy Carswell

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SCOTT Rendell says new loan signing Elliot Benyon is the best strike partner he's ever played alongside.

The pair scored 27 goals between them for Torquay United in the 2009-10 season after Rendell joined the Gulls on loan, with the pair striking up a good partnership on and off the pitch.

And last season's top scorer for Blues is hoping he and High Wycombe-born striker Benyon can repeat their past successes for Wanderers in League One this season.

Rendell said: "It'll be good to link up with him again. He can improve us going forward next season. We've got a good squad and all the strikers can work together."

"We understood each other a lot and we didn't shirk our responsibilities and worked hard for each other. We knew where we'd make our runs and it becomes a lot easier for the rest of the team if they know where the front two are going to be."

'The goals we both got at Torquay shows for itself how good the partnership was. Hopefully we can recreate that this year...'



PARTNER IN LINE: Scott Rendell hit 19 goals for Blues last season but can't wait to get going again alongside Elliot Benyon

"The goals we both got at Torquay shows for itself how good the partnership was. Hopefully we can recreate that this year, on top of all our partnerships. With Strevs [Ben Strevens], Bevs [Stuart Beavon] and Matt McClure we've got a good group and any two of the five can play together."

Benyon told the *Bucks Free Press* on joining Wanderers from

Swindon Town that he and Rendell lived on the same street when they were at Torquay.

Wanderers' number nine said: "He's a good friend. I've kept in touch with him since being at Torquay."

"He was saying Wycombe were interested and he asked me about the club."

"He had a couple of offers on the table as well as Wycombe,

which proves where the club is going. I don't know if I had any influence but I told him I'd like him to come here."

Rendell scored 19 times for Blues last season and is expecting to have a little wager with his friend and team-mate on who will net the most in the coming campaign.

He said: "We'll probably have something silly like that."

Play-off chances

STRIKER Scott Rendell believes Wycombe Wanderers' squad is good enough to challenge for the League One play-offs.

Blues have just been promoted into the third tier and will face the likes of the two Sheffield clubs, United and Wednesday, Preston North End and Charlton Athletic in the coming campaign.

But Rendell thinks Blues have nothing to fear this season and can be up at the top again.

The 24-year-old said: "I genuinely think we could be up there. I don't see why we shouldn't be. The way we play football suits League One better than League Two and the gaffer's brought in some good players which can only help. If we carry on playing as we ended the season we've got a chance of the top six."

Knight rides to Swindon

ONE-TIME Wanderers striker Leon Knight has joined Swindon Town on trial.

The former Chelsea trainee netted five times in an eight-month stay at Adams Park as part of the side that lost out in the League Two play-offs under Paul Lambert in 2008.

Since leaving Wycombe he has had spells playing in Scotland, Ireland and Greece.

The 28-year-old forward is one of three players to be handed a trial by new Robins boss Paulo di Canio before they go to Italy on a pre-season tour.

He could be a direct replacement for Elliot Benyon, who has joined Wanderers on a season-long loan from recently-relegated Swindon.

Good Friday switch

WANDERERS' home match with Carlisle United has been moved to Good Friday, the club has announced.

The game was originally due to take place on Easter Saturday but following consultation with both clubs it has been brought forward 24 hours.

Blues say this will give both teams longer to prepare for their matches on Easter Monday. Wanderers travel to Chesterfield on that day.

Ex Blue in U20 squad

MATT Phillips has been named in England's U20 World Cup squad.

The former Wanderers winger, now at Blackpool, is one of 21 players to have been called up by head coach Brian Eastwick to take part in the tournament, which takes place in Colombia.

Their first match is against North Korea on Friday July 29. England also face six-time U20 champions Argentina and Mexico in their group.

Halls: Sorry Blues fans

JOHN Halls hopes Wanderers fans will forgive him for scoring against his new team last season.

He scored a late equaliser for Aldershot Town against the Blues at a time they were going through a sticky patch in March – the only goal he ever netted for the Shots in 46 games.

He said: "It's not really been mentioned but it didn't hamper them so hopefully I will be forgiven."

Seven Shots in the arm can give Wanderers impetus

HAVING so many former Aldershot team-mates in the Wycombe Wanderers side will benefit Blues this season, believe John Halls and Scott Rendell.

No fewer than seven of the current Wanderers squad played under manager Gary Waddock at The Rec, with Halls the latest to arrive at Adams Park.

But he thinks that will help

team spirit, adding the Aldershot team were close to going on to bigger and better things.

Former Arsenal youngster Halls said: "That's one of the reasons I joined Wycombe, because of Gary and the way he plays and his methods. We had the players that could play football."

"When I was with Gary I thought we had a chance of the

play-offs."

He added: "At Aldershot we played three in the middle with me sitting with Ben [Harding] alongside and Donners [Scott Donnelly] running on and getting in the box."

"I think my best position is central midfield but I just want to be on the pitch. I briefly spoke with him [Waddock] when I signed and he was looking forward to getting

going, he didn't speak in depth about positions."

Striker Rendell said: "They started coming in last year with Bully [Nikki Bull], [Dave] Winfield, Sands [Andy Sandell]. They knew each other and that helps if three of the back four know each other."

"Scott Donnelly came in and fitted in well really easily and the new boys from Aldershot will fit in just as easily."

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