

The last straw

It was meant to be a party at Adams Park on Saturday as Wycombe Wanderers celebrated its 125th birthday.

Instead, Gary Waddock's team stunk the place out.

The players were roundly booed by their own fans and shortly after the match Waddock was axed, ending a tenure that has nosedived since he led Blues to promotion two seasons ago.

BFP reporter **ANDY CARSWELL** was there to witness the last rites.

WANDERERS' birthday celebrations turned into a wake as they stumbled to defeat despite Elliot Parish's penalty save.

What should have been a day of celebration for Blues fans turned into a nightmare and it was the visitors who went home with smiles on their faces thanks to Sammy Moore's stunning strike.

His fierce first half effort was enough to separate the two sides and it would have been worse for Wanderers had Parish not kept out Byron Harrison's spot-kick.

Former playing heroes were paraded on the Adams Park pitch before the game but afterwards supporters were left to contemplate where their side go from here, with Blues still without a home win since March and now in the Football League's bottom four and managerless.

There were promising early signs as Jo Kuffour, who looked the most likely to create something, fed Richard Logan but he scuffed his weak effort wide of the target.

Then from a corner Gareth Ainsworth had a header blocked and Gary Doherty was unable to force the ball over the line from the rebound.

Back came the Dons and they should have gone in front when Rashid Yussuff headed wide after good interplay between Stacy Long and Luke Moore, before Long's effort whistled over the

Wycombe Wanderers 0, AFC Wimbledon 1.

bar via Parish's fingertips.

The Dons were then given an extremely dubious penalty when a shot from a matter of feet hit Danny Foster on the arm and a spot-kick was harshly awarded. Justice was done as Parish dived to his left to keep out Harrison's poorly-struck penalty.

It should have woken Blues up but instead it stung their opponents into action and it was no surprise that they took their lead as Moore's thunderous shot from distance crashed into the net via the underside of the bar.

Blues should have levelled before the break as Logan headed Matt Spring's left wing delivery wide of the post, before Dean Morgan and Ainsworth were off target in the opening minutes of the second half.

That was all Wanderers could muster however and it was the Dons who came closest to scoring when Parish made a good save to deny Harrison in a one-on-one, before Huw Johnson sent the rebound into the side netting.

Wanderers: Parish, Foster, Johnson, Doherty, Dunne, Ainsworth (sub Taylor), Lewis (sub Kewley-Graham), Spring, Morgan, Logan (sub Angol), Kuffour. Substitutes not used: Winfield, Thompson, Parsons, Morias.

Attendance: 4,260 (695 away)

Waddock's last words wasted blaming players

IN his final post match press conference as Wycombe Wanderers manager Gary Waddock said he felt let down by his players.

Waddock said: "They have let the club down, they have let themselves down and they've let me down. We just didn't show up. When you look back a couple of days ago away at Exeter where we did perform, what's happened in those few days?"

"There were a number of things that went wrong. If you can't pass to a team mate and you can pass to the opposition, it makes it difficult.

"If they feel sorry for themselves, who's going to

get them out of it? They are the only ones who can get themselves out of it, but what do you achieve by feeling sorry for yourself?"

On that sombre note Waddock's press conference was over – and soon afterwards so too was his time as manager of Wycombe Wanderers.

He'd already delayed the start of his conference by 45 minutes to compose himself before facing the media but apologised for keeping reporters waiting.

From there he went to have his fate confirmed, as the axe fell on his three year tenure as Wycombe Wanderers manager.

