

WANDERERS



Woodward: We've picked Blues up off their knees

In an exclusive interview with the Bucks Free Press, Wycombe Wanderers chairman Don Woodward reveals the club are on target to break even

CHAIRMAN Don Woodward said Wanderers are on track to break even on their budget this season.

The Wycombe Wanderers Trust inherited a financial mess when they took over control of the club last season, with Blues on the verge of going into administration.

Woodward said the club had managed to boost its income streams in the year since the Trust takeover – but he added Wanderers won't be spending money they can't afford.

He said: "Finances have taken a turn for the better. The whole rationale for the budget and giving Gareth a little less to play with this year means we're heading towards our break even tar-

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get for the year.

"We've had season ticket income, we've had new sponsors and we've seen a big improvement in corporate spending. We've sold more boxes and more sponsorship around the ground. We've seen a lot of returning sponsors' income, which has boosted us.

"There was a bit of a backlog of creditors and our aim is we shouldn't get back to that situation.

"We've got a squad that's affordable. It's within acceptable terms. That's where we are, as

opposed to we've been pushing treacle uphill for most of last year whilst still running down contracts.

"This season we don't have that situation. We've set out what we are going to spend."

The combined £450,000 received from the sale of Charles Dunne and the sell-on clause in the deal that took Matt Phillips to Blackpool has also enabled the club to pay off some of its outstanding debts ahead of schedule.

And Woodward said he wants to make some subtle changes to Adams Park to improve things for supporters when the time is right.

Many of the facilities were

built when Wanderers were still a non league club and Woodward wants to bring things up to scratch.

He said: "I'd like to put some more toilets in. When we get seven or eight thousand – which we get occasionally, like the Port Vale game last season, or a good Wasps game – we are struggling a bit for kitchen space, we're struggling for toilet space, we're struggling with the layout of the kiosks.

"The ticket office design was designed for a ground that was non league. We didn't have a capacity for 10,000. If you try to buy a ticket or pick up a pre-arranged ticket, there's a bit of a re-think there."

Wood fire sparks Wycombe

WANDERERS moved into fifth in the table as Matt McClure inspired them to a third league win on the trot.

Neither side had looked like breaking the deadlock in a match short on chances until the introduction of McClure from the bench, as the striker set up goals for Sam Wood and Dean Morgan.

Billy Knott then celebrated extending his loan spell with Wanderers with a classy late third, to add to Wood slamming home from distance and Morgan converting a coolly-taken one-on-one chance to keep propelling Wanderers in an upwards direction as they clocked up a hat trick of wins.

Blues had the better of the opening period as Wood volleyed wide and Gary Doherty hit the bar with a header, but goalkeeper Matt Ingram had to make a superb fingertip save to turn the offside Reuben Reid's header onto the woodwork.

McClure, who scored home

PLYMOUTH 0 BLUES 3
ANDY CARSWELL reports

and away against Plymouth last season, set up the opener as his pass opened the space for Wood to thump a searing shot into the top corner from fully 25 yards.

The striker then hoisted a speculative ball forward and the statuesque Plymouth defence stood around waiting for the offside flag to be lifted.

It never came and Morgan he raced clear of the flatfooted back four and calmly roll the ball past stranded keeper Luke McCormick for his fourth goal of the season.

Then in stoppage time Knott wrapped things up as he collected an incisive pass from substitute Jo Kuffour and coolly lobbed the ball home.

Twitter man of the match:
Billy Knott

Tweet your man of the match votes to @WWFC_AndyC

Manager pulls an all-nighter

BEING up all night thinking about tactics and team selection paid off for Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth as he watched his side put in one of the most convincing away displays of his managerial career.

He boldly chose to change a winning line-up but that didn't disrupt the flow of his side as an excellent performance in the second half saw Blues cruise to a 3-0 win at Plymouth.

Ainsworth said: "I was up all night thinking about how the changes were going to happen and who to play – does Dean Morgan play with Nick Arnold, does Max Kretzschmar come in? The three of us, me, Lee

and Dobbo, we got the selection and the subs spot on today.

"I was up early this morning thinking about different permutations, reading match reports and seeing how Plymouth would play against us. That had a bearing on my selection.

"The players deserve the credit. I can only put them on the pitch and ask them to do what I've asked them.

Matt McClure, Jo Kuffour and Matt Bloomfield played a big part coming off the bench and seeing the game out for us.

"It was a very convincing away performance – one of the best away performances so far, and we scored some fantastic goals.

"It was going to take something special to open it up because it was a very even game. Sam's opening goal opened the floodgates for us and that really deflated Plymouth. From then on, I thought there was only one team in it."



No tongue lashing

SAM Wood said his long range goal against Plymouth owed much to not wanting to get told off by manager Gareth Ainsworth.

Wood scored only his fourth ever goal for Wanderers as he lashed home a 25 yard screamer to get his side off and running in the 3-0 win at Home Park.

Ainsworth told the Bucks Free Press last week he encourages his players to shoot from anywhere and Wood heeded his words with Saturday's opening goal.

The midfielder said: "He goes mad if you don't shoot, which isn't a bad thing. He's all about shooting and crossing. If you don't, you get told off.

"Everyone puts balls in the box and we shoot. It's all about taking chances – if you don't shoot, you're never going to score."

Focus is ship shape

GARETH Ainsworth compared the concentration levels of his players during Saturday's win at Plymouth to their pre season rowing.

As part of the preparations for the new season Ainsworth took his men to Marlow Rowing Club and Wanderers spent the day on the River Thames with oars in hand instead of kicking balls around the training ground.

He said while rowing the players had to focus in a different way compared to when they're on the football pitch, but that training came to the fore as Wanderers won 3-0 at Home Park.

Ainsworth said: "I said at half time, 'Keep your eyes in the boat' – a reference to the rowing we did earlier in the season.

"When you're in that boat, you can't think of anything else. You can't be looking outside that boat and checking to see what's happening around and getting distracted. You keep yourself focused and that's what we did in the second half."

Famous faces return

SERGIO Torres and John Gorman return to Adams Park next week – and we've got a competition giving you the chance to attend.

The popular former Blues duo are back for an evening of reminiscing on Wednesday September 25 from 6.30pm.

Team mates Matt Bloomfield, Russ Martin, Jonny Dixon, Steven Gregory and Tom Cadmore will also be there to chat with fans.

Tickets are available to buy from the club – but we've got a pair to give away in our competition.

Not only that, but we've got a signed copy of 'The Sergio Torres Story', the Argentinean midfielder's new book, to give away as well.

Simply send your answer to the question below, along with your name and a daytime telephone number, to acarswell@london.newsquest.co.uk by 10am on Wednesday September 25.

Question: What nationality is Sergio Torres?

The attack is back

JUNIOR Morias and Lee Angol are both back in contention for the Wanderers first team squad after their loan spells with Hendon finished.

The two attackers had a month on loan with the Ryman Premier League outfit and signed off with a 3-1 win over Harrow.

However goalkeeper Charlie Horlock will remain with the club until January, and helped them into the next round of the FA Cup this week with an emphatic 7-1 win over Biggleswade United.