



Danny Foster is presented with a farewell gift by Blues manager Gareth Ainsworth and captain Stuart Lewis.

KEEP OFF THE GRASS

Bowls club votes to close after 60 years

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NO MATCH FOR THEM

HWRUFC forfeit Bucks Shield semi-final

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‘Stepping out at Adams Park one last time was very special’

DANNY Foster says he was given a brilliant reception from the Wanderers fans as he stepped onto the Adams Park pitch for the last time after announcing his retirement.

A knee injury sustained a year ago has now forced the 29-year-old defender to hang up his boots.

His former team-mates formed a guard of honour for him as he stepped onto the pitch, where he was presented with signed framed photos of his career by close friend Stuart Lewis and manager Gareth Ainsworth.

Despite coming to terms with not being able to play football any more, Foster says he will miss being part of the Adams Park family.

He said: “When you’re playing you don’t realise sometimes the effect you’ve had on others and that’s been apparent today.

“I felt very proud – stepping out

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on the pitch at Adams Park for one last time was very special. It’s just a shame I can’t be out there with the boys and fighting on the pitch with them.

“I tried to come here and be positive and celebrate stuff and think of the good times, but it’s still the hardest thing, not being out there on the pitch and being part of the team.”

But he added: “A lot of players will sit in a chair at the end of their careers and say, ‘I probably had more downs than ups’. I’m one of the lucky ones. I’ve had a couple of promotions and many, many good memories and good times. I’ll remember the good stuff over the bad stuff, that’s for sure.

“When I signed here, that first

year we had when we got promotion under Gary Waddock was immense.

“The Southend game stands out, Bury away – you never forget that. There’s some great memories and some great people around this club.

“I met some great people through football that are now friends away from the football pitch as well.”

Wanderers were subsequently beaten 2-1 by Cheltenham Town on Saturday but Foster – who gave a pep talk to his old team mates in the dressing room before kick off – says that didn’t put too much of a dampener on the day.

He said: “I would have liked to have had a win to top the day off, from a personal, selfish point of view. On the whole it’s been an amazing day. I’m very pleased to come down and see some faces and the reception I got was brilliant. I won’t forget it.”

Foster says Wanderers are in

good hands with Ainsworth at the helm, saying the now-manager was an inspiration while still a player.

He said: “Day one when I walked through the door, Gaz inspired me. I think he was about 54 [sic] at the time and he was still training, he was flying around with the most enthusiasm and passion that anyone could have – even more so than a 17 or 18 year-old, and he inspired me.

“I wanted to be like that. I always try to be an honest, hard working team player.

“I’ve built my career around that and trying to be reliable.

“My football schooling was very old school. Playing for the guy next to you, for your team was the most important thing.

“I tried to bring that to every game I played and hopefully I’ll be remembered for that.

“It was never going to be a double

stepover and beat a man twice and score from 35 yards from me, but I could bring other positives and benefits to the team and hopefully I’m remembered for those things.”

Asked about his plans for the future, Foster said: “I don’t know to be honest. I’d love to stay in the game, you never shut the door on anything in life. Maybe coaching, who knows – we’ll see.

“There’s always someone out there who’s worse off than yourself and I’ve got enough things good going on. I have a young family, they’re my life now.”



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