



Steven Craig responded to criticism from some sections of supporters with a goal in Wanderers' 2-0 home win last weekend.

Team-mates rally round striker after fans' boos

- Twitter trolls target Craig after bonuses comments
- Players back him and call for unity from supporters

WANDERERS players have called for team and fans to present a united front in the season's final month after Steven Craig suffered at the hands of Twitter trolls this week.

The striker drew a frosty reception from sections of the Adams Park crowd on Saturday after voicing his concerns over the club's financial situation, saying players had been told bonuses wouldn't be paid on time.

The Scot also received a number of abusive messages on Twitter in the run-up to the weekend tie against Dagenham and Redbridge.

But he rammed those words down their throats with an all-action display, scoring his first goal since November from the penalty spot as the ten-man Daggers were downed 2-0. He finished with a standing ovation from the home fans when he was substituted ten minutes from time.

Team mates Sam Wood and Stuart Lewis have given the 32-year-old their full backing – and said it's crucial supporters stay united with the players.

Lewis said: "When there's been promotions here and at other clubs, you need everyone pulling in the same direction and I think that's key to a successful club.

"At this time of year it's so important that happens. That extra bit of support and feeling can really push you on."

The club captain added: "Stevie's a real team player and he was caught up in the emotion of it all. He was putting his point across at a tough time.

"With emotions after a game, you can say things in the heat of the moment. It didn't come across how he wanted.

"As a bloke and as a player he's wholehearted. I think his performance on Saturday was excellent and that's the main thing. He could-

by **ANDY CARSWELL**

acarswell@london.newsquest.co.uk

n't have done any more and it was great for him to score.

"I back Stevie as a person and a player because he's a great lad to have around. In these situations you need people like that and I think he showed what he's about as a character.

"He worked his socks off and deserved his goal. He was a constant threat and played with a purpose – maybe that's come from that bit of stick he's got. Whatever it was, it doesn't matter – his performance was really good."

Wood said: "Stevie was excellent. He stood up to the abuse he was getting and he proved everyone wrong.

"To step up for the penalty, it's a lot on his shoulders and he stepped up.

"That's the kind of character he is. He faces it all the time and does what he's got to do.

"He said what he said. It didn't affect his performance on the pitch, which is what Stevie's all about.

"Hopefully everyone will get behind him now, and the team, and we all stick together."

Craig tweeted after the game: "Like to thank all the true fans and my team-mates for their support in the last two days. Great result and performance from the boys."

More Blues news on pages 140 and 141.

