

45-year-old nearly rushed into Wanderers service

BLUES were almost forced into fielding their oldest-ever player on Saturday after goalkeeper Matt Ingram was injured in the build-up to the game's opening goal.

Goalkeeping coach Barry Richardson, 45, was primed and ready to come on for Ingram after he came off worst in a heavy challenge against Stevenage striker Darius Charles.

But after an extended period of treatment Ingram – who, at just 20, is less than half

Richardson's age – was able to continue.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said he would have been asking serious questions of the decision to allow the goal had Wanderers not gone on to win 3-1.

He said: "It seemed to be a nasty collision. Whether Matty got the ball first or whether the forward's put in a legitimate challenge, I don't know.

"I probably would have been questioning it more if that had been the only goal of the game."

Had he been pressed into action, Richardson would have been the oldest player to turn out for Wanderers since they joined the Football League.

Former international Rob Lee is the record holder, making his last Blues appearance at the age of 40 years and 87 days.

Richardson last played in a competitive fixture nearly a decade ago, keeping goal for Doncaster in a 2005 Football League Trophy defeat by Cambridge United.