

battling win at Oxford

But it was Oxford who went in front as Jacobson tripped Hylton as he wormed his way into the area, leading to a penalty that the striker took himself and slammed past Ingram.

Jacobson almost atoned for his error as his corner early in the second half found the forehead of Aaron Pierre, but an Oxford defender was in the way.

Gareth Ainsworth decided to bring on his new signing Hogan Ephraim to add a bit of guile to the Wanderers attack, and his first contribution laid the foundations for an equalising goal.

The former QPR man scampered clear down the right, United couldn't clear their lines and eventually Murphy poked the ball

the Oxford Mail/Ed Nix



through a gap and Hayes reacted quickest to slot it past Clarke.

Clearly in the mood for more Hayes outmuscled his man with some skilful ball juggling before

sending a near post shot rising high off target as Blues' confidence and belief was restored by the equaliser.

Then it was down to a tried and trusted combination to put Wanderers into the lead.

Scowen's cross was overhit and Clarke elected to leave it; Wood appeared out of nowhere to snaffle back possession and sent over a cross that Murphy came charging forward to stoop and head in.

Tails were now up amongst the visitors and Scowen nicked possession off Andy Whing before driving forward and over enthusiastically blasting a shot over the crossbar as the boos of desperation started to echo around the Kassam Stadium.

Having scored himself, Hayes almost managed to provide Ephraim with a debut goal, but Clarke was swiftly off his line to stop the new boy's low shot.

Then, just as the game entered five minutes of stoppage time, Wood was judged to have pushed over substitute Callum O'Dowda and for the second time the referee pointed to the spot.

Once more Hylton stepped forward – but this time he skied it and Blues were off the hook.

Wanderers: Ingram, Jombati, Pierre, Mawson, Jacobson, Scowen, Murphy, Bloomfield (sub Kretzschmar), Wood, Hayes (sub Rowe), Craig (sub Ephraim).

Attendance: 7,552 (1,690 away)

Twitter MoM: Josh Scowen

Captain leads by example

GARETH Ainsworth praised his captain Paul Hayes for the way he led Wanderers into battle against Oxford United.

The Blues boss said the striker gave a skipper's performance as he inspired his team mates to a 2-1 win after falling behind in the first half.

He said: "When you talk character, you talk captains and you talk Paul Hayes – he was outstanding."

"He's got a group of boys who will work hard with him, work hard for him and for me."

"It's a great way to win a derby. If it was scripted, you'd go 1-0 down at half time and come back second half and win 2-1."

"I thought we were the better side and created the majority of the chances."

"Some of our moves, if we'd have scored goals at the end of it, they would have been fantastic moves."

Asked for his views on the two penalties awarded against his side, Ainsworth said: "JJ [Joe Jacobson] said he's dangled a leg."

"The second one is [a penalty] – Sam's very clumsy and pushed him."

Wanderers aiming to cut Barnet down to size – despite the return of a familiar face

FORMER Wanderers manager Gary Waddock crosses swords with the club who sacked him for the first time tomorrow after being appointed as a coach at Barnet.

Waddock, who led Blues to promotion from League Two in 2011, had been working as a coach with the Conference leaders on a casual basis since the summer.

But it was confirmed this week he has joined the club permanently on a rolling month-to-month contract – just days before the Bees face his former employers.

It's the first time Waddock's path has crossed Wanderers' since he was sacked in 2012 and replaced by Gareth Ainsworth.

The current Blues boss – who was a player under Waddock's stewardship at QPR as well as Wanderers – admitted it would be strange seeing him in the opposing dugout but was glad to see him back in full-time employment.

Ainsworth said: "I think Gary's had a big part to play in Barnet being where they are now."

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"I'm personally glad to see him back in football, because he deserves to be. He's got a wealth of knowledge to pass on."

"It'll be me looking at a good friend and a good colleague of mine back in the game."

"We've always been together in the same dugout. This will be the first time he's been in the opposite dugout."

"Knowing Gary the way I do, there will be a few smiles, there won't be any bad feeling. But we both know this game and we have to be professional."

"I'm sure at the end of the game we'll have a nice chat."

"He's a good manager, a great guy, and I think he'll contrast [Barnet manager] Martin Allen quite well. It's a good outfit."

Since leaving Blues Waddock has also worked as head of coaching at MK Dons and had a brief stint as manager of Oxford United,



Gary Waddock and Gareth Ainsworth will be in opposite dugouts.

before being dismissed in July.

He was at Wanderers' pre season friendly at Barnet in August prior to joining the club on a part-time basis.

Bees boss Allen – a former team

mate of Waddock's at QPR – told the club's website: "It's a good appointment. He is a good coach and now I have got a full-time member of staff which is good news for me."

'It was the best goal I've ever scored, but nobody saw it'

PETER Murphy is hoping to replicate what he says is the best goal he's ever scored tomorrow in front of the TV cameras.

The midfielder netted his first goal for Wanderers in a pre season friendly against their first round FA Cup opponents Barnet back in August with a spectacular lob from fully 40 yards out.

But with nobody filming a run of the mill friendly, only those who were there were able to appreciate the wonder of the goal.

It'll be a different story tomorrow, with Blues' trip to The Hive

being selected as one of the BBC's featured games in the highlights package of all the first round ties.

Murphy said: "It's the best goal I've ever scored but nobody saw it. I hope the cameras are on this time."

If he does manage it, the 24-year-old will extend the best goalscoring run of his career.

In each of the last three games he's headed a Sam Wood cross into the net to take him joint top of the scoring charts with seven goals.

Murphy said: "I started the season with the target to beat what I

got last season, which was nine. I've got seven now and I'm looking to beat that first, then we'll go from there. "It's the best run I've been on. I'm just trying to get more than one in a game now."

"Ask any footballer and they'll say there's no better feeling than scoring a goal. I try and work hard on my finishing and it's paying off."

"Josh [Scowen] will probably put it down to him sitting for me and allowing me to get in the box. It's just taking a chance."

"Sam's got a great left foot and can put in a good cross. When he

gets forward, you know where it's going."

The former Accrington man said a good cup run was key to Wanderers maintaining their form in the league, but warned Barnet will be a different animal to the side they faced in the summer.

He said: "You can only take so much from a pre season game – they'll be different when it really matters – but we know what they're about."

"The gaffer will work on them, and we have to concentrate on what we do well."

Walker on the move

NICKY Walker has returned to Rotherham United after his loan deal expired.

The winger joined Blues alongside his Millers team mate Danny Rowe in pre-season but failed to make an appearance.

His deal expired on Sunday and he has been allowed to go back to the New York Stadium.

Walker tweeted: "Would just like to thank everyone at Wycombe for the past three months. Although I'm disappointed not to get the game time, it's been a great experience and I wish them the best of luck for the season (hopefully promotion)."

"A really great club throughout and are definitely heading in the right direction. They're a great group of lads and I know I have left with my head held high giving it everything I had."

Social networking

PETER Murphy earned himself cult status with the winning goal against Oxford United – and for winding their fans up on Twitter.

The Blues midfielder decided to respond to some online abuse his team mate Paul Hayes was receiving from disgruntled U's fans with some mickey-taking about a Yellow Day Oxford were holding on derby day.

He tweeted: "Keep waving your plastic flags #pnl" with the hashtag standing for plucky non leaguers – a derogatory term Wanderers fans use for Oxford in reference to their exile to the Conference in the mid 2000s.

The message was favoured by 64 Wanderers fans and attracted plenty of positive attention online from supporters.

Murphy said: "I saw Paul Hayes was getting a bit of stick. I was typing the tweet and a friend of mine who's a Wycombe fan told me to type the PNL bit at the end when I'd written the plastic flags bit."

"I didn't know what it meant at first until he told me."