

Defensive duo have formed 'telepathic' understanding

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ALFIE Mawson said his understanding with defensive colleague Aaron is telepathic, as he celebrated the news he'd be staying with Wanderers until the end of the season with another clean sheet.

The duo have several years' experience of playing together in Brentford's youth team, and their partnership at the back has been the bedrock to Blues' success.

Blues have conceded just 18 goals in the 24 matches where they've played together – keeping eight clean sheets in the process.

Prior to Mawson arriving at Adams Park the pair hadn't played with each other for a year, but they were instantly able to strike up an understanding again.

Mawson said: "He's a joy to play with. He came to watch one of our [Brentford] pre-season friendlies and I said, 'All the best for Saturday at Newport'. Little did I know I'd get a phone call on the Thursday. I came down on the Friday, trained and made my debut and kept a clean sheet – I haven't looked back.

"We know our basics, our strengths and weaknesses. It's a telepathic thing. We get on well with each other, both on and off the pitch. The outcome can only be positive."

Pierre said: "When I heard he was coming here I was elated because I knew how good he is. Our partnership at Brentford was very good in the U21 league and our understanding is very good at this moment in time.

"I'm delighted he's staying. I know how hard working he is and how dedicated he is.

"We always do extra practice in training so we don't cheat ourselves and don't settle for less. If he feels I can do better we'll do it again, and if I feel he can do better we'll do it again. We're always on each other's case, but in a good way. We've set a certain standard we expect from each other.

"I'm not saying we are like Ferdinand and Vidic but they understood each other just as well. They knew their strengths and weaknesses, so they complemented each other very well and I think that's what me and Alfie do.

"He's more of the technical kind of player and I'm more of a solid, clean up kind of player. It works hand in hand."

Their manager Gareth Ainsworth believes the pair may be the best in the division.

He told the Bucks Free Press "Their partnership is possibly the best in League Two. I haven't come across one as solid as those two in a very long time."



Wanderers duo Pierre and Mawson are a formidable partnership.

Stewart saga ends as defender finally joins Alex



Anthony Stewart.

by **ANDY CARSWELL**
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ANTHONY Stewart's protracted move away from Wanderers has finally been sorted after he joined Crewe Alexandra on a permanent basis this week.

The central defender's future had been in limbo for several months after turning down the offer of a new contract with Wanderers at the end of last season.

Because of his age, Blues retained the 22-year-old's registration and an entitlement to compensation in the event of him moving to another club.

Stewart trained with Crawley in the early part of the season but they

opted against signing the centre-half, before he began training with League One strugglers Crewe.

The Railwaymen signed him on loan in November and they decided to make the deal permanent on Tuesday.

A compensation arrangement has been agreed between Crewe and Wycombe, although the figure has not been made public.

Stewart has played in both of Crewe's last two matches, helping the previously struggling side to four points from games against Oldham and Preston.

He made 65 appearances for the Blues after making his debut in 2012 against Preston North End, having spent his entire youth career at

Adams Park.

Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth told the Free Press: "We did everything we could to keep him at the start of the season. Anthony wanted to test himself at a higher level, which took a little bit of not playing and a little bit of uncertainty [before he got the move].

"Hopefully Anthony Stewart will become what we thought he could become, and we can look back proud of playing a part in his career.

"We wanted him to sign an improved contract last year but sometimes when bigger clubs come knocking, it's difficult to compete. I'm glad the situation's been resolved. I'm pleased for Anthony."