

Experiencing a new young vibe again

by **ANDY CARSWELL**
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MATT Bloomfield says he is enjoying the added responsibility of passing on advice to the younger players in the Wanderers squad.

At 30, Bloomfield can hardly be said to be a veteran but he's one of the most experienced players in a team packed full of players who are barely into their 20s.

And the midfielder, who had his testimonial match earlier this season to commemorate ten years at Adams Park, said the vibe being created by the youngsters was leading to a team spirit comparable to some of the best he's experienced at Adams Park.

Bloomfield said: "There's a lot of young boys in there just enjoying their football. We are all mates – the lads hang around with each other after training. It's a great feeling and lovely to be part of."

"It's nice to be one of the older heads in there and trying to guide them."

"It's thoroughly enjoyable to be part of. It's a great team spirit."

Blues stuck on hard shoulder

WANDERERS' pre-match preparations took a turn for the worse as the team bus suffered a blow-out on the motorway.

Their journey to the team hotel for the 200-mile trip to Bury took them a total of seven hours.

A tyre on the bus burst during the journey, leaving the players stranded at the side of the M6 for several hours when they travelled up on Friday.

We never should have played on that pitch

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GARETH Ainsworth said Blues' match at Bury should never have gone ahead, with club stalwart Matt Bloomfield declaring the pitch one of the worst he'd ever played on.

The Gigg Lane pitch was heavily sanded in several areas before a flurry of snow and partial thaw led to it becoming badly waterlogged in places.

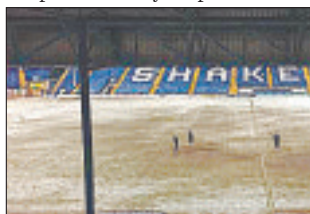
Referee David Webb was happy to play and didn't carry out a second inspection of the surface, despite players on both sides having trouble kicking balls to one another during their on-pitch warm ups.

Bloomfield said the only comparable pitch he'd played on was during a 6-0 defeat at Stockport back in 2007 on a quagmire.

He and his team mates struggled to stay on their feet as snow remained on the pitch throughout the match – but he insisted Wanderers wanted to play the game.

Bloomfield said: "The only one I can compare it with was the day we went to Stockport. That was just as bad today – it was tough. It made it hard for all the players and for the ref to referee it."

"When we got here at about 1.15pm I was very surprised it was



The Bury pitch looked more like an ice rink.



Wanderers' Aaron Holloway leads the charge while behind him the Bury players slip and slide on the Gigg Lane snow and ice.

Picture ANDREW ROWLAND UK SPORTSPICS

quite as wet as it was. The ball wasn't running true but the ref seemed like he wanted to get it on.

"We've come all this way up here and we wanted to play. It was fine by us and we gave it everything we've got."

Bury boss David Flitcroft said the match "didn't represent football" and was one of the ugliest he'd ever seen.

Ainsworth, a former team-mate of Flitcroft's, admitted he was surprised the officials gave the go-

ahead for the match to be played.

He said: "I'm not sure the game should have gone ahead, if I'm being honest. The pitch was terrible – Bury will have their work cut out with this pitch to keep it in good nick for the rest of the season, because it was a mudbath at the end."

"I thought the ref would've called the game off. The ball wasn't running true, there was a horrendous puddle in front of the dugouts and there were a few dodgy tackles in

that area.

"The footwear, no matter what you're wearing you were slipping all over the place. You had to find out which areas of the pitch were sticky and which areas the ball was running on."

The Blues boss added however that he was pleased to get the game out of the way.

He said: "It's a good thing we've played and got a point because we don't want to be coming up here on a Tuesday night."