

Gareth: We kept our focus

Boss now looks ahead to Blackpool.



Gareth Ainsworth was impressed with how his side maintained their focus to get the job done during Saturday's 1-0 win over Sunderland, following a week dominated by off-field discussion and speculation around the club.

The Blues boss was the subject of much of the paper talk regarding managerial positions elsewhere, while the Legacy Members' vote on whether or not to approve Rob Couhig's majority shareholding in the club was also a major talking point in the build-up to the visit of the Black Cats to Adams Park.

"With everything that's going on with the vote and the links, it was important to focus on the game," he said. "I was surprised by the expectation level before the game, with so many people saying they'd thought we might win this game, and I've got to give the boys so much credit, as well as the fans, for making it happen. They were outstanding.

"Huge respect to Sunderland. They came down in their thousands, and we knew they'd come at us because they've got a strong, strong side. They had names on the bench that would walk into many Championship sides, so I'm proud of the boys for getting the win.

"I thought we deserved it. We made them play long a few times, and other than Ryan's incredible save at the end, we kept them at bay."

Now attentions turn to successive away trips to Blackpool and Rotherham, with Ainsworth hoping to extend the Blues' record of not losing away in a midweek league game since November 2017.

"With Sunderland, Blackpool and Rotherham all in one week, we thought three draws would be decent, and we've got the equivalent of three draws already, so we can go at these without fear. We always travel well together, and a couple of nights away together will help build this bond that we've got. I'm pleased and proud of the boys, and ready to go again."