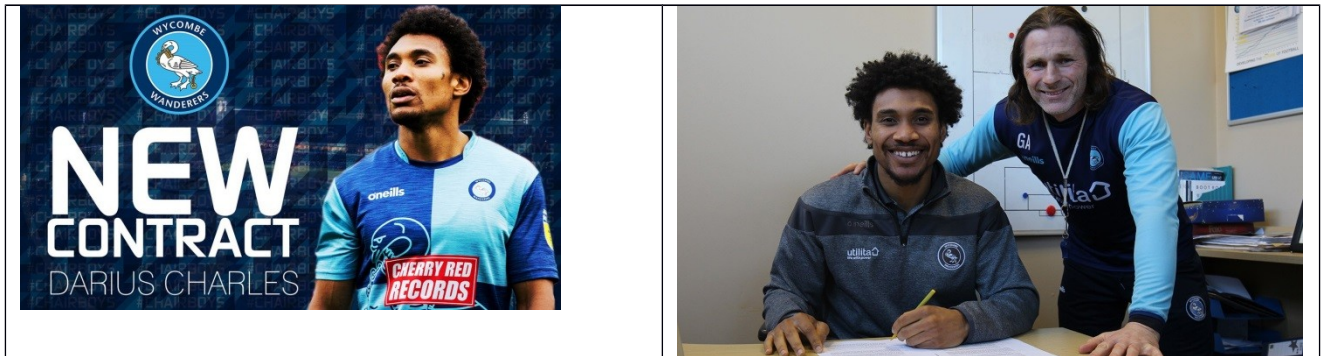


Darius' Wanderers story continues with new deal

Defender pens contract extension until June 2021.



Darius Charles' excellent form for the Chairboys has been rewarded with a new 18-month contract, keeping the defender at Adams Park until June 2021.

The 32-year-old has enjoyed a fairytale season with the club since being advised to retire from football in the summer due to a chronic hip problem, earning an initial short-term deal until January after proving his fitness and playing a key role in the Chairboys' surge to the top of the League 1 table.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth has moved to extend Darius's deal in time for him to make the trip to Sunderland for Saturday's League 1 encounter, and thanked the club's supporters who contributed to the 500 Club initiative in the summer which generated additional funds to help make the deal possible.

He said: "Darius is a real example of how hard work, determination and devotion to what you love can help reap rewards, and I've been so proud to see him overcome his injury troubles to become a really important player for us.

"It's not just what he brings on the pitch, where he's been outstanding alongside Anthony Stewart in the heart of our defence, but he's a natural leader, a true professional, and one of the most popular and likeable guys that I've had the pleasure to work with, and that's reflected in the changing room where I know the boys love having him as part of the squad.

"Whether he's playing or not, Darius plays a huge role in this club and we'll continue to work closely with him to manage his workload and keep him in the best possible condition.

"Keeping Darius at the club is as important as any new signing might be, and this deal has been helped by the contributions of fans to the 500 Club in the summer which have just stretched the budget above what we could previously afford. I'd like to thank those supporters, and also the chairman, the Couhigs, my medical team and also Darius himself for all playing their part in continuing the fantastic story that his career has become."