



# Wycombe Wanderers Website

## Match Report

### **Richard Kone's last gasp winner completed the turnaround against Barnsley to boost Wanderers' promotion hopes in dramatic fashion.**

Blues dominated proceedings but trailed for a long time to Jon Russell's deflected opener in the first half.

Kone equalised from the spot after Fred Onyedinma was fouled in the box in the second period, and Tykes defender Marc Roberts saw red soon after for a foul on Kone.

And then came the moment, as Garath McCleary's cross met the head of the Ivorian striker, and the rest was history.

Wanderers were forced to do without defenders Dan Harvie and Joe Low due to injury, so Luke Leahy slotted in at left-back and Declan Skura partnered Sonny Bradley in the middle, while Jack Grimmer made his 200<sup>th</sup> appearance for the club at right-back.

Also coming into the starting XI were Tyreeq Bakinson, Richard Kone and Fred Onyedinma, while Garath McCleary, Gideon Kodua and Beryly Lubala moved to the bench where they were joined for the first time by recent signing Magnus Westergaard.

Both sides had sights of goal inside the first four minutes, firstly when Dan Udoh latched onto Cameron Humphreys' clever ball over the top but fired over under pressure from Donovan Pines, and then Corey O'Keeffe's fierce drive was blocked en route to goal.

The breakthrough arrived on 11 minutes and there was more than a touch of misfortune for the Blues when Jon Russell's first-time strike from 20 yards deflected off Declan Skura and wrongfooted Franco Ravizzoli, finding the bottom corner.

Gradually Wanderers worked their way back into the game and went close when Humphreys was played in by Kone and forced a smart save from Ben Killip, before Humphreys' dangerous cross went begging and Killip denied Kone at the end of some fancy footwork in the box.

The keeper survived a couple of awkward moments when Udoh beat him to an aerial ball and won a corner, from which Luke Leahy's inswinging delivery nearly flew straight in before being clawed off the line, and then Wanderers' no.10 saw a header well saved from Kone's cross.

Chances kept coming as Kone poked an effort on target after outmuscling his man, and Tyreeq Bakinson flicked a header wide from Humphreys' cross, but still the Tykes clung onto their advantage.

There was a momentary scare when Russell prodded goalwards from Marc Roberts' long throw but Ravizzoli was equal to it, and Humphreys fired over with the final chance of the half with the ball just not sitting kindly after a cross was cleared skywards.

Barnsley saw a shot blocked and Marc Roberts fired over from the resulting corner at the start of the second period, but Wanderers regained control and continued to apply sustained pressure, as Killip denied Humphreys before earning a yellow card for timewasting.

And within moments, Wycombe were level. Fred Onyedinma surged towards the box and referee Darren Drysdale could've awarded the penalty for either Luca Connell's tug or Donovan Pines' trip, but either way, he pointed to the spot and Kone converted.

Then another flashpoint occurred soon after when Marc Roberts lunged at Kone and earned a straight red card to reduce the visitors to 10 men, before Wanderers introduced debutant Magnus Westergaard and Garath McCleary from the bench to inject fresh energy as Bakinson and Onyedinma made way.

Westergaard rose highest to meet a corner but couldn't turn his header goalwards, while Beryly Lubala almost netted with his first touch after replacing Dan Udoh, but he was denied from a tight angle by Killip after Udoh had departed, with Gideon Kodua also replacing the injured Jack Grimmer.

Then came a scare when Adam Phillips somehow fired over from close range when Blues switched off at the back, and Luca Connell's audacious effort from 50 yards landed on the roof of the net.

And then came the moment. Wycombe broke quickly down the right, Garath McCleary carried the ball superbly and delivered the most inviting of crosses for Kone to head home. Cue pandemonium!