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GRAHAMLegends return
for special gameLEGENDS SET TO TURN OUT TO
MARK PENN'S PITCH OPENING

SOME of Wycombe Wanderers' most venerated names will don the Chairboys kit in July for a one off match against Penn & Tylers Green FC.

The match, which will take place on Saturday, July 9, will be the first to be played on Penn's new pitch as part of its opening.

Paul Hyde, Mark West, Keith Ryan and Steve Guppy will feature among the names on the Wycombe Wanderers Legends team sheet.

Goalkeeper Hyde made 105 league appearances for Wanderers from '93-'95 while West scored an impressive 171 times.

Ryan, 45, played more than 400 times for Wycombe in a career which began in 1989 and saw him play for the Adams Park club during three separate decades.

He will also be remembered by Wycombe fans for his brief stint as caretaker manager as well as his role as assistant manager under John Gorman.

Arguably the most successful of the returning heroes is Guppy who after starting his career with Wycombe went on to play for Leicester City, Celtic and Leeds United.

The winger picked up one international cap during his career.

Guppy returned to Wycombe in 2004 for a second spell with the club before making a move to America with D.C. United the following year.

Tickets for the match cost £5 and can be purchased on the day.

Duo agree deals
away from BluesTWO FORMER WANDERERS PLAYERS
AGREE CONTRACTS WITH CLUBS

RYAN Allsop has signed a two-year extension to his AFC Bournemouth contract keeping him at the club until 2018.

The 23-year-old enjoyed an impressive loan spell with Wycombe Wanderers during the 2015/16 campaign.

He kept six clean sheets in his 18 appearances for the club and his displays between the posts earned praise from Gareth Ainsworth.

While Ainsworth never suggested there was a possibility of returning for Allsop's services in the summer transfer window, the keeper's new contract is likely to end any hope of the club doing so.

It has been a frantic few weeks for Allsop as he also featured for Portsmouth in their 3-2 on aggregate play-off semi-final defeat against Plymouth.

Meanwhile, former Wanderers winger Jason Banton has signed a one-year deal with Crawley Town, with the option of a second year.

Having joined Wycombe in June 2015, the 23-year-old made only five league appearances for the Blues in what was an ill-fated stay at Adams Park.

Skipper Hayes says he
has nothing to prove

By Harry Gray

PAUL Hayes believes he has nothing to prove after being awarded a new two-year contract by Wycombe Wanderers.

The Chairboys skipper endured a trying 2015/16 campaign as injury and poor form led to him finding the net just five times in all competitions.

Despite the poor goal return, Hayes was given the longest extension of any of the players kept on by Gareth Ainsworth earlier this month.

The 32-year-old feels the deal was a fair reflection of his value to the side and insists his role in the Wanderers changing room is multifaceted.

"I don't think I have to justify the contract, it is more about loyalty from both me and the club. I am very happy and would like to stay here as long as physically possible," explained Hayes.

"I am not just at this club to score goals and get the fame as most forwards do. I have completely changed my game and my mind-set as a captain.

"I need to be around the changing room to motivate people, excite people and maybe tell people off if they need to be. It is an all-round thing for me as I am getting older."

While Hayes is right to suggest his role at Wycombe is about more than his on-field form – he is a well-liked and highly supportive figure at the club – he will ultimately be judged on his performances.

He is frank in his appraisal of a season which never got going and feels that the manner in which the Blues' campaign concluded – eight games in a row without a win – will provide the whole squad with motivation.

"Last season was a kick up the arse for me and the [other] players," Hayes says.

"I think the coaching staff and the managers have always tried to do their best for the players and unfortunately it think it has been the players who let people down.

"The last couple of months weren't



Paul Hayes is already running and 'not giving myself two weeks off' as he bids to return for pre-season fit and firing.
Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

great at all, but people forget what happened the season before."

It would be premature to dismiss a player who has scored more than 100 career goals and Hayes' return last season must be considered alongside multiple injury lay-offs.

Most of September was lost to an

Achilles problem which never truly healed and left Hayes playing with pain for most of the campaign.

He therefore views this summer as a hugely important period and wants to come back as fit as possible.

"I think it is imperative [to get a pre-season]. It is one of the biggest

things in football when you ask any player," he explained.

"I am looking forward to pre-season because last year I couldn't do anything and it was purely rest, so four-and-a-half weeks of doing nothing. I am already running and I am not giving myself two weeks off."

Chairboys in allotment partnership

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced a new partnership with the One Can Hope project and Waitrose which will help the club produce its own vegetables.

One Can Hope is set to design and build an allotment at Wycombe's training ground in an initiative aimed at educating people in the value of reducing food waste.

The project will also help club nutrition chef Ahmed Maaref produce healthy food for players throughout the season.

The club's head of commercial, Damian Irvine, said: "We are asking local businesses to get more involved with their football club on a commercial level and it is important we reciprocate with our genuine involvement in community partnerships and projects such as this.

"Being able to grow his own produce will help Ahmed to continue to provide healthy choices to the squad each day at the training ground and also save the club money on food

costs."

The project, which has been designed by volunteer and award-winning designer Vicky Davies, is also supported by Waitrose High Wycombe, who will provide expert growing advice, tools, equipment and seeds.

While Wanderers will benefit from the fresh produce, the One Can Hope initiative also aims to educate people in the area of food production.

UK households throw out about seven million tonnes of food each

year, and it is these sort of statistics that the project is looking to address.

Managing director of One Can Hope Sarah Mordaunt said: "Partnerships are so important to our organisation and we are so pleased to be working together with Wycombe Wanderers and Waitrose."

Irvine added: "The project highlights the fantastic work done on our doorstep by Sarah and her team at One Can Hope, and builds our relationships with the fantastic new Waitrose store at Handy Cross."

SPORT

TREBLE TRIX

Sunday League boss hails 'unbelievable' achievement after a season of silverware



WANDERERS: Striker turns down offer of new Blues contract Amadi-Holloway completes Fleetwood move



Departed: Aaron Amadi-Holloway

WYCOMBE Wanderers have agreed a deal for Aaron Amadi-Holloway to join League One side Fleetwood Town for an undisclosed fee.

The striker has been out of favour at Adams Park and spent the tail end of the season on loan at Oldham Athletic.

The move sees Amadi-Holloway, 23, sign a two-year deal which will keep him at Highbury Stadium until 2018.

Amadi-Holloway had been offered a contract by Wanderers but turned the deal down in favour of a move.

The striker told the Fleetwood website: "I'm buzzing to have signed. I'm glad to have stayed in League One having had a little spell a few months ago."

"I did well at Oldham at the end of the season so I am excited to stay in this division. Fleetwood is the right move for me."

"I can't wait to get going. My agent told me how good the people at Fleetwood are. The facilities here speak for themselves too."

The Welshman made 52 league appearances for the Chairboys during

ing a two-year stay and scored eight goals in all competitions.

While he showed flashes of quality, he struggled to find the required level of consistency to secure a regular starting berth at Adams Park.

The striker's own frustrations at a lack of game time were believed to be part of the reason for his move to Oldham where he scored two goals in 10 league outings.

He thanked Wycombe for the support they have given him during his time with the club on Twitter.

Amadi-Holloway said: "I also want

to thank Wycombe Wanderers who two years ago offered me a path back into professional football following injury."

His departure leaves Gareth Ainsworth with a scarcity of attacking options after Max Kretschmar and Gozie Ugwu left the club earlier this month.

He will surely need to bring in reinforcements to help share the goal-scoring responsibilities with Garry Thompson and Paul Hayes, who are the only recognised strikers remaining at the club.

FOOTBALL: Lionesses face Serbia next weekend Kirby seeking win in Adams Park qualifier

SHE may only be 22 but England women's Fran Kirby carries a lot of responsibility on and off the pitch for Mark Sampson's Lionesses.

As one of the stars of the side which captured the imagination of a nation during England's run to the semi-final of last year's World Cup in Canada, Kirby's name has been thrust into the public consciousness.

She has embraced the new found recognition, but admits the position of a role model is often hard to comprehend considering her age.

"It is a weird one because I am still so young and I have got people who are 19 calling me a role model when I am only a few years older than them," Kirby explains.

"It is a bit strange, but it's nice at the same time. It is always going to happen, when you are able to play for your country people are going to look up to you."

"The main thing is you have to keep performing and keep winning. We want to entertain people and make sure they want to come back and watch you again."

And perform the former Bucks New University student has. A central role in Reading FC Women's promotion to Women's Super League 1 helped earn her a reported British record transfer to Chelsea where she has netted six times in seven games.

Kirby will now look to transfer

By Harry Gray

that club form to the international stage once more as England take on Serbia at Adams Park on June 4.

Having family and friends in the area means the trip to Wycombe Wanderers' home is an experience Kirby is looking forward to.

"I am really looking forward to it and the pitch looks great. Adams Park is close to my hometown so a lot of my family will be able to come and watch," Kirby explained.

"I have great memories of the area. Reading FC Women are playing here at the moment so it is great for me to come here and play."

"Hopefully a few of their fans will come and support me, because I had quite a lot of years there."

The Serbia match is about more than friends reunited for Kirby and Euro qualification is the attacker's main priority.

The Lionesses currently sit one point behind Belgium in their group but have a game in hand over their rivals.

There is a calm focus about Kirby when she speaks and as with much of her responses the subject of Serbia brings her back to one salient point – winning.

She said: "We are excited for the Serbia game and we want to win every game we can whether it is 1-0 or 6-0. I am confident we are going to win the group and I think everyone feels the same."



Winning is the priority but Fran Kirby is set to be backed by family and friends when England face Serbia at Adams Park.

I'm here to stay, says Ainsworth

BLUES BOSS FLATTERED AFTER BEING LINKED WITH BLACKBURN POST

GARETH Ainsworth has ended speculation linking him with the vacant managerial post at Blackburn Rovers.

The Wycombe Wanderers boss had been strongly touted as a candidate for the managerial job at his boyhood club Rovers last week.

He has now moved to quell any conjecture about a move away from Adams Park and reaffirmed his commitment to Wanderers.

He said: "I'm flattered and honoured to be talked about as a possible candidate for jobs elsewhere, and believe it is a positive reflection of the work that everyone here has done to turn the club around from where it was two years ago."

"Of course I have ambitions to be the best I can be and manage at the highest possible level one day, but I'm still young, I'm still learning every day and I have a job to do at Wycombe."

Ainsworth was one of a number of names being seriously considered for the Blackburn job according to sources close to the Ewood Park Championship club.

He was at one point favourite to take over among bookmakers, but now wants to move on and focus on working at a club he has enjoyed being in charge of since 2012.

The Wanderers boss said: "I have loved every second of my time here with the support of Andrew Howard, which has been immense, as well as my staff and all the fans."

"We have a long-term plan to take this club on to bigger and better things. That's a challenge which excites me and I look forward to leading the club into the new season," Ainsworth added.