

SPORT

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MICHAEL GRAHAM

Midfielder signs new deal with Wycombe

MANAGER DELIGHTED AS BEAN OPTS TO EXTEND HIS STAY AT ADAMS PARK

MARCUS Bean has put pen to paper on a new contract which will keep him at Wycombe Wanderers until the end of next season.

The 31-year-old was offered a deal shortly after the end of the last campaign and, after taking some time to consider his options, has committed to the Adams Park club.

Bean has made 53 appearances for the Chairboys since joining the club in January 2015 and has become an integral part of their midfield.

Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth told the club website: "We knew what we were getting when we signed Marcus and he's certainly lived up to that in the 18 months he's been with us.

"He's an excellent ball-winner, he gives us everything when he's on the pitch and knows the game inside out.

"His experience at higher levels has been invaluable, particularly working with the younger lads like Luke O'Nien and Danny Rowe."

Bean's decision to stay comes after Wycombe agreed a deal to sign Dayle Southwell from Boston United, and continues Ainsworth's attempts to rebuild his squad ahead of the new season.

'I'm here to score'

SOUTHWELL ADMITS HE'LL BE JUDGED ON GOALS DURING HIS TIME AT BLUES

from back page

says the chance to play regularly was a big draw and part of the reason he turned down offers from clubs in League One.

"A couple of clubs from League One and the Conference had shown interest in me, but I felt Wycombe was the right club," he said.

"Speaking to Gareth made a difference as well.

"I was keen to play football and I think I'll get the chance to do that here.

"I might not get to play if I join a League One club, but I know Gareth will give me that opportunity and I will be able to improve."

As for a definitive personal target for goals scored, Southwell is remaining coy.

He did, however, concede that as a striker he will always be judged by his output.

He said: "There are no expectations on me.

"But on the other hand I have ultimately been brought here to score goals and I am confident I will do that."

Chairboys to kick off with visit to Crawley

BLUES FACE CHAMPIONSHIP TEST IN FIRST ROUND OF THE LEAGUE CUP

WYCOMBE Wanderers will kick-off their EFL League Two season with a trip to Crawley Town on Saturday, August 6.

The Chairboys' first home game of the season comes a week later with the visit of newly-promoted Grimsby Town.

The always eagerly anticipated trip to Portsmouth comes on September 10, one week after the Chairboys take on local rivals Luton Town at Kenilworth Road.

Stevenage visit Adams Park on Saturday, September 17, to complete a mouth-watering opening three weeks to the month.

December could once again prove a testing period for Wycombe as they face three away matches starting with Notts County on the 10th.

A home match against Leyton Orient follows before a long-haul away day at Plymouth Argyle on Boxing Day.

The month concludes with a match against Cheltenham Town at Whaddon Road on New Year's Eve.

A home match against Newport County is the first of 2017 on Saturday, January 2, ahead of a February schedule which features six matches, including Accrington Stanley away on Tuesday, February 28.

The season run-in features four home games in the final six games including the visits of Cheltenham, Mansfield Town and Doncaster Rovers.

Wanderers finish their campaign at home against Cambridge United on Saturday, May 6.

The Blues have also discovered their opponents for round one of the EFL Cup where they will play play Bristol City at home.

City come to Adams Park during the week of August 8 where



Paul Hayes is set to lead the Blues again next season and they kick off the new campaign at Crawley Town.

Wanderers will look to get the better of their Championship opponents.

The sides' last meeting came in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in 2013 where Wycombe secured a 2-1 victory thanks to goals from Billy Knott and Matt Bloomfield.

The two sides last played each other in the League Cup in 2004 with Leroy Lita scoring the only goal of the game in a 1-0 win for City.

The club have also announced ticket details for their pre-season

WYCOMBE WANDERERS FIXTURES		
Sky Bet League 2		
Charley v Wycombe	Sat 5 Aug	15:00
Wycombe v Scunthorpe	Sat 13 Aug	15:00
Wycombe v Accrington	Tue 16 Aug	19:45
Blackpool v Wycombe	Sat 20 Aug	15:00
Wycombe v Colchester	Sat 27 Aug	15:00
Luton v Wycombe	Sat 3 Sep	15:00
Portsmouth v Wycombe	Sat 10 Sep	15:00
Wycombe v Stevenage	Sat 17 Sep	15:00
Carlisle v Wycombe	Sat 24 Sep	15:00
Wycombe v Grimsby	Tue 27 Sep	19:45
Wycombe v Exeter	Sat 1 Oct	15:00
Yeovil v Wycombe	Sat 9 Oct	15:00
Mansfield v Wycombe	Sat 16 Oct	15:00
Wycombe v Barnet	Sat 23 Oct	15:00
Doncaster v Wycombe	Sat 29 Oct	15:00
Wycombe v Morecambe	Sat 12 Nov	15:00
Cardiff v Wycombe	Sat 19 Nov	15:00
Newport v Wycombe	Tue 22 Nov	19:45
Wycombe v Rotherham	Sat 26 Nov	15:00
Notts County v Wycombe	Sat 3 Dec	15:00
Wycombe v Leyton Orient	Sat 17 Dec	15:00
Plymouth v Wycombe	Mon 19 Dec	15:00
Cheltenham v Wycombe	Sat 31 Dec	15:00
Wycombe v Newport	Mon 2 Jan	15:00
Exeter v Wycombe	Sat 7 Jan	15:00
Wycombe v Yeovil	Sat 14 Jan	15:00
Wycombe v Luton	Sat 22 Jan	15:00
Colchester v Wycombe	Sat 29 Jan	15:00
Wycombe v Portsmouth	Sat 4 Feb	15:00
Stevenage v Wycombe	Sat 11 Feb	15:00
Chert v Wycombe	Tue 14 Feb	19:45
Wycombe v Carlisle	Sat 18 Feb	15:00
Wycombe v Grimsby	Sat 25 Feb	15:00
Accrington v Wycombe	Sat 28 Feb	19:45
Grimsby v Wycombe	Sat 4 Mar	15:00
Wycombe v Blackpool	Sat 11 Mar	15:00
Wycombe v Plymouth	Tue 14 Mar	19:45
Hartlepool v Wycombe	Sat 18 Mar	15:00
Wycombe v Notts County	Sat 25 Mar	15:00
Leyton Orient v Wycombe	Sat 1 Apr	15:00
Wycombe v Cheltenham	Sat 8 Apr	15:00
Wycombe v Mansfield	Sat 15 Apr	15:00
Barnet v Wycombe	Mon 17 Apr	15:00
Wycombe v Doncaster	Sat 22 Apr	15:00
Doncaster v Wycombe	Sat 29 Apr	15:00
Wycombe v Cardiff	Sat 5 May	15:00

60-plus. The Frank Adams Stand will not be open unless there is sufficient demand.

QPR fans have been given an allocation of 1,800 seats in the Panache Stand and must buy tickets from QPR.

Wanderers fans can buy tickets for the match at tickets.wvfc.com or by calling 01494 441118.

Alternatively, tickets can be purchased in person at the Adams Park ticket office.

Djokovic pleased with event return

WIMBLEDON champion Novak Djokovic has spoken of the pleasure he takes in playing at The Boodles after returning to the Stoke Park venue on Wednesday.

The world number one is using the event as preparation for the defence of his SW19 crown and took on David Goffin.

While the result, a straight sets 6-3 7-5 defeat, was not to the Serb's taste, he still found time to enjoy the unique atmosphere offered up at The Boodles.

"I always look forward to coming back to The Boodles every year, it's a great way for me to get some match play in the build-up to Wimbledon," Djokovic said.

"I've heard and smelt people

drinking Champagne throughout the match and it's great to see people being entertained and I hope they enjoyed some good tennis."

The 29-year-old was playing in his first match since claiming a career Grand Slam after winning the French Open at Roland Garros and he currently holds all four major titles.

He is now looking to complete a calendar Grand Slam and is focused on winning his fourth title at Wimbledon.

"Of course, I'm very proud and thrilled to be able to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time, it's a remarkable achievement for my team and I," he said.

"But we're moving on and it is

back to grass, starting from scratch now. It's great that behind the corner we have Wimbledon, back-to-back Grand Slams in less than a month, and that will definitely make me focus and stay the journey."

For Goffin, the win represents a positive step as he makes the transition onto grass court conditions after a gruelling clay court season.

The world number 11 also praised The Boodles organisers and feels he is suitably prepared for Wimbledon, which commences next week.

"I'm feeling really good, it's the perfect practice before Wimbledon. The court and the atmosphere is really nice here, the court is perfect," Goffin said.

"It's never easy to change surface. I think I'm a good player on the grass but I think I need some time, so I think this week I am feeling much better than last week and the week before."

Wednesday's action also saw British number two Aljaz Bedene take on Robin Haase and claim an impressive win.

Bedene was in form throughout the 6-4 6-4 victory and says he is enjoying his tennis.

"I'm feeling really confident ahead of Wimbledon, the most important thing is that I'm enjoying my tennis and then we'll see what happens," he said.

For a photo gallery of pictures from The Boodles, turn to page 12.

SPORT

EPIC RACE
Blues chairman
reflects after first
Le Mans 24 hours



Step up ‘not an issue’ for striker after Blues switch



Wanderers’ first new arrival of the summer with Gareth Ainsworth.
Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

Southwell signs from Boston United

By Harry Gray

DAYLE Southwell believes he has all the qualities to thrive at League Two level after joining Wycombe Wanderers from Boston United on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old striker is the Chairboys’ first signing of the summer and will be expected to contribute to the goalscoring duties at Adams Park next season.

Fifty-four goals in the last two seasons for United suggests he has quality in front of goal, and Southwell has no concerns about stepping up to League Two level.

“I don’t see it as an issue. For me,

I feel like I will be playing with better players and I will be getting better service,” explained Southwell.

“That service will give me a better chance to do well and I don’t think the step up in level will be a problem.

“The physicality will be the biggest challenge, but as a young player I have learned the hard way by playing in the Conference North against physical players.”

Southwell will be under no illusions as to the task he faces after Wanderers’ ailing fortunes in front of goal saw them score just 45 times in the league last season.

As a striker, such statistics will only add to the expectation placed

upon Southwell’s young shoulders and it will be interesting to see how Ainsworth deploys a player he clearly has belief in.

The Wycombe boss said: “He is a physical player who knows where the goal is and I am confident that his all-round play will benefit us. It is a great step for Dayle and I think he could be really exciting for us.”

Southwell spoke glowingly of the impact Ainsworth had on seeing the deal to fruition after Wycombe beat off opposition for his signature from a host of other clubs.

The former Grimsby Town man, who has also played for England C,

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Marlow Free Press, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 9TY. Published by the Bucks Free Press Group, part of Newsquest Bucks & West London, which is part of Newsquest London, a Gannett Company. The views expressed in this publication are independent of all political parties, private interest and government. Newspaper Support Recycling. The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2014 was 80.6%.



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