

## SPORT

MICHAEL  
GRAHAMBucks Free Press  
Sport is sponsored byFury helps  
Ball show  
to roll on

**Marlow heavyweight Naylor Ball returns to the ring on April 15**

MARLOW-BASED heavyweight prospect Naylor Ball shows no sign of slowing down after agreeing to fight at the Tolworth Recreation Centre on April 15, writes Tom Sables.

The fighter will appear for only the second time as a professional, having impressed with a first-round stoppage on his February debut.

Ahead of the event in Surrey, Ball spoke to *The Bucks Free Press* during preparations, which now include sparring sessions with Tyson Fury.

Few adjustments have been made to the training camp schedule that earned Ball a convincing victory on his professional debut.

"Why fix something that isn't broken, after all?" Ball said. "The real effort being made now is to gain ring experience."

"That's the main reason behind taking this next fight, and it's for this reason also that we've upped the sparring massively."

As well as staying as active as possible, the fighter is now training more competitively. In fact, the heat has been turned up about as far as one could possibly manage.

Ball said: "We went to spar with Hughie Fury ahead of his upcoming title shot, and I also got in the ring with Tyson Fury."

"Just to be able to train with a world champion is a massive achievement for me."

The feedback Ball received from the Fury camp was overwhelming: "They liked my style and my ability to cope under pressure, even though I'm a pressure fighter." They welcomed me back any time."

Whilst Marlow's young talent will certainly look to follow up on the offer, trading blows with boxing's elite seems to have had the desired effect.

There is a developed maturity in the 19-year-old's approach to April 15, when he walks underneath the hot lights once more.

Ball said: "I won't rush in for the same result as last time, looking for the knockout. But if it comes it comes!"

WIN: Present award  
at WWFC celebration

**YOU could come along to the Player Awards Dinner 2017**



ON APRIL 30, Wycombe Wanderers will host a celebration of the season- and **YOU** could be there presenting an award.

If you're a life-long Wanderers fan, this is the competition for you.

The Bucks Free Press is the official media partner of the Wanderers' Player Awards Dinner 2017.

And we are giving one lucky reader and their guest the chance to come along to the awards, enjoy a complementary meal, meet the players- and present the Supporters' Player of the Year award.

The BFP will also present the winner of this prize with a unique, customised front page, as a memento of their special night.

You can nominate yourself, or the biggest Wanderers' fan you know, for this fantastic prize.

**All you have to do is email your name, contact details and a short statement (no more than 150 words) telling us why you, or the person you are nominating, should win, to group editor samantha.harman@newsquest.co.uk.**

If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please be sure to include their contact details.

Entries close at midnight on

Thursday, April 20 and the winner will be notified at least three days in advance of the night.

Usual Newsquest competition terms and conditions apply.

Tickets for the event are available for £50 + VAT per person from Wycombe Wanderers.

Guests will enjoy a three-course meal and entertainment, as well as the presentation of the following awards: Goal of the Year, Community Player of the Year, Young Player of the Year, Outstanding Contribution, Volunteer of the Year, Players' Player of the Year and Supporters' Player of the Year.

The annual dinner takes place at Adams Park and this year will be hosted by Nickelodeon and BT Sport presenter Rachel Stringer, with trophies being handed out to the winners of the seven different categories. The Bucks Free Press will be running a live blog and video on the night.

**■ Voting for Supporters' Player of the Year is being hosted exclusively through the Bucks Free Press website.**

It's quick and easy to have your say- simply log on to [www.bucksfreepress.co.uk](http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk) and cast your vote before April 20.



## Bloomfield scores on injury return

MATT Bloomfield was delighted to mark his return with a goal and a win over Leyton Orient on Saturday.

Back from injury, Bloomfield got Wycombe on their way to three points at the Matchroom Stadium after he slotted past Sam Sargeant in the Orient goal.

After a frustrating start to 2017 with two injuries, the club captain is looking forward to playing his

part in the weeks ahead.

Bloomfield admitted "I'm just glad to be back out playing as it has been a pretty frustrating year for me."

"I picked up a hamstring injury against Stourbridge, and then picked up a knock in training when I had got myself fit again. Everyone knows how much I love my football, so to be back out playing is just great, and obviously to win and to get a goal makes me delighted."

The team were backed by 766 travelling fans on Saturday, creating an atmosphere that Bloomfield states was crucial in helping register the win.

Bloomfield thanked the fans for their support, and is hoping for more of the same against Cheltenham Town this Saturday.

"The fans were absolutely brilliant," Bloomfield added. "They were in great voice right from the

warm-up. We could tell they were up for a good game and we had to give them something to cheer about."

"They inspired us, which I would like to thank them for, and even in the huddle before we all went over to clap them I said to the boys that the fans were really up for it, and they all really roared us on."

"It is nice that we've got that bond."

MICHAEL  
GRAHAM

MICHAEL GRAHAM

Town &amp; country property sales &amp; lettings. Call Princes Risborough 01844 396000

MICHAEL  
GRAHAM

**FOOTBALL** Wycombe go for broke in weekend's fixture

# Chairboys will 'give it everything' for victory

**WYCOMBE V CHELTENHAM,  
SATURDAY 3PM**

MICHAEL Harriman says confidence is oozing throughout the Wanderers' squad as they stride towards a play-off spot.

The Chairboys were back to winning ways on Saturday following an emphatic victory over strugglers Leyton Orient.

The win took Gareth Ainsworth's men just four points away from seventh-placed Carlisle with six games left to play.

And Harriman, who joined Wycombe on a permanent switch from Queens Park Rangers in January, admits a place in the play-offs can only help his long-term ambition of getting back to the Premier League. "We've got a good run-in now and confidence is very high," he declared.

"We need to keep the pressure on the teams above us because they'll be looking over their shoulders now. "We need to carry on winning."

"You always aim to play as high as you can. I got a taster when I was younger but the ambition is always there to get back to the best league in the world."

"You have to keep working hard and take the opportunities you get to go up the leagues and get back to where you want to be."

The 24-year-old welcomed the return of Chairboys' skipper Matt Bloomfield on Saturday.

The fit-again midfielder marked



Gareth Ainsworth is confident ahead of Saturday's match

his return from injury with a well-timed strike in the 2-0 win over Orient.

Harriman continued: "He plays an important part on and off with field with his experience and leadership."

"When you're going through a hard half-hour of the game he calms you down."

"You need leaders, especially at a time like this and I can't think of a

better leader than him."

Wanderers face League Two strugglers Cheltenham Town on Saturday, but Harriman insists there is no such thing as an easy game.

He concluded: "They have to make sure they keep their Football League status so they're going to be fighting."

"We have to start quick and hopefully get an early goal to settle some

nerves around the place.

"If you worry that's when you're capable of slipping up. If we get the early goal hopefully we can get a few more."

Wycombe host Cheltenham at Adams Park this Saturday. Kick-off is at 3pm.

Speaking ahead of the clash, boss Gareth Ainsworth says the Chairboys will give everything for the win.

"It's up to us now to go into these last six games and attack them with everything we have," he said.

"A win on Saturday against Cheltenham will certainly make things very interesting."

"They are fighting for their lives but they had a good result last weekend."

"It will be difficult, everyone thought Newport County were dead and buried but now they've had a hell of a surge."

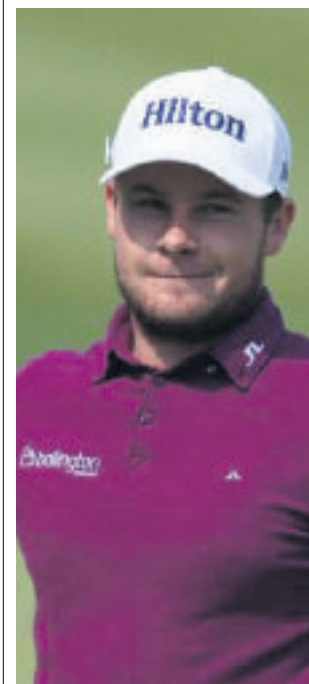
"I wouldn't be manager of this club if I wasn't confident we could go out there and win every game."

Ainsworth also stressed: "We have worked the last two seasons to learn from our mistakes from crucial parts of the season."

"I want there to be something to play for right up until the final game."

**Don't forget to vote for your Wycombe Wanderers Player of the Year by visiting [bucksfreepress.co.uk](http://bucksfreepress.co.uk)**

## Hatton on form for first Masters



TYRRELL Hatton goes into his first Masters appearance in excellent form as one of 10 Englishmen vying for the famous Green Jacket at Augusta this weekend.

Hatton, 25, is bidding to become just the third Englishman to win the Masters after Sir Nick Faldo and last year's winner, Danny Willett.

Joining him in representing England will be Willett, Lee Westwood, Justin Rose, Paul Casey, Matt Fitzpatrick, Chris Wood, Andy Sullivan, Ross Fisher, Tommy Fleetwood and amateur Scott Gregory.

Augusta is notable for its infamous greens – with their slopes and pace they are extremely tough to read.

However, Hatton (pictured above) is currently number one in putting stats on the PGA Tour and if he continues in that vein he is sure to be close to the top of the leaderboard on Sunday afternoon.

As well as that, Hatton is bidding to become the first debutant since Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979 to win the coveted prize.

Both Willett and Jordan Spieth won the tournament in just their second appearances in the past two years but it is extremely rare for a player to pick up Augusta's quirks so quickly.

**Follow Hatton's progress online at [bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport](http://bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport)**

## Players' professional attitude scores 2-0 away victory

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth praised his players for their professional attitude as they beat League Two strugglers Leyton Orient 2-0 at Brisbane Road.

Matt Bloomfield and Myles Weston scored the goals in the first half to condemn Orient to their fifth defeat on the bounce in Omer Riza's first game in charge.

The home side were reduced to 10 men in the first half when Tom Parkes was dismissed for an ugly challenge on Garry Thompson.

Ainsworth was pleased his team managed to block out the distractions of Orient's current turmoil as Wycombe deserved all three points.

He said: "At this stage of the season it is about the three points."

"I thought Orient started quite well but we had a game plan with the formation we set up."

"I said to the boys to go out there and play as if we are playing top of the league."

"It was tough at times. It is like a cauldron as well and you can see



08/08/2015. Wanderers v York City at Adams Park WANDERERS MANAGER GARETH AINSWORTH. By Anita Ross Marshall for Sport.

people's frustrations at what has gone on behind the scenes.

"It is not easy because everyone expects you to win and the three points was what it was all about it."

"I am glad we won as the results went against us and the way that

was expected."

"It is in our own hands and we have so many points to play for at the moment."

"There were some good positives and we kept it solid to get the win in the bag and it was very profes-

sional."

Ainsworth welcomed back Bloomfield into the starting line-up after a frustrating time with injury and he hailed his skipper's impact on the game.

He added: "Blooms for me makes a huge difference when he plays. He binds the club together and he is Mr Wycombe."

"His voice is a calming gel to everyone and his energy and professionalism at his age is an example to every young kid who has kicked a ball and every older pro who wants to go on forever."

"Matt is a total professional and we have missed him and I am glad to have back in the team."

With Orient facing an uncertain future, Ainsworth generously donated money towards the Orient Regeneration Fund and he explained why he did that.

He commented: "I wanted to help and I have a friend who is an Orient fan and you have to try and help out."

## SPORT

## Rugby

Beaconsfield beat Milton Keynes as colts collect their cups – p60



# CAN HATTON BECOME THE MASTER AT AUGUSTA?

*Young Marlow golfer rubs shoulders with sporting greats*

**SEE PAGE 63**



## Manager welcomes return of 'Mr Wycombe'

GARETH Ainsworth welcomed the return of fit-again captain Matt Bloomfield as Wycombe Wanderers close in on a spot in the League Two play-offs, writes Courtney Friday.

Bloomfield returned to the first-team squad in the 2-0 victory over Leyton Orient last weekend and could be in line to face Cheltenham Town at Adams Park tomorrow (Saturday, 3pm).

Ainsworth lauded the 33-year-old's influence both on and off the pitch, and insisted he has a vital role to play as the Chairboys edge closer to the top seven.

But, with four points still to make

up on Carlisle in seventh, Ainsworth insists his players have to take each game as it comes rather than focus on the league table.

He stated: "People don't always realise what Matt does for this team.

"He is Wycombe through-and-through, but that's such an easy cliché for people to say about him and he is so much more than that.

"Matt is a good, good, player: He played for the England schoolboys when he was younger and you don't just do that, you have to be a good player.

"He works harder than anyone else at the club and he is an exam-



ple to every player we have in the squad.

"He is an example of how to do football properly and profession-

ally. Everyone talks about him as 'Mr Wycombe', but he is a hell of a footballer."

After returning to winning ways last weekend, Ainsworth admitted he is delighted with the squad's confidence ahead of Saturday's crucial clash.

But he admits facing his old pal Gary Johnson will be a tough test and he wants his players to remain fully committed to the challenges that lie ahead.

The manager continued: "I'm happy with our form, we have only lost one in seven games."

**See inside for more.**