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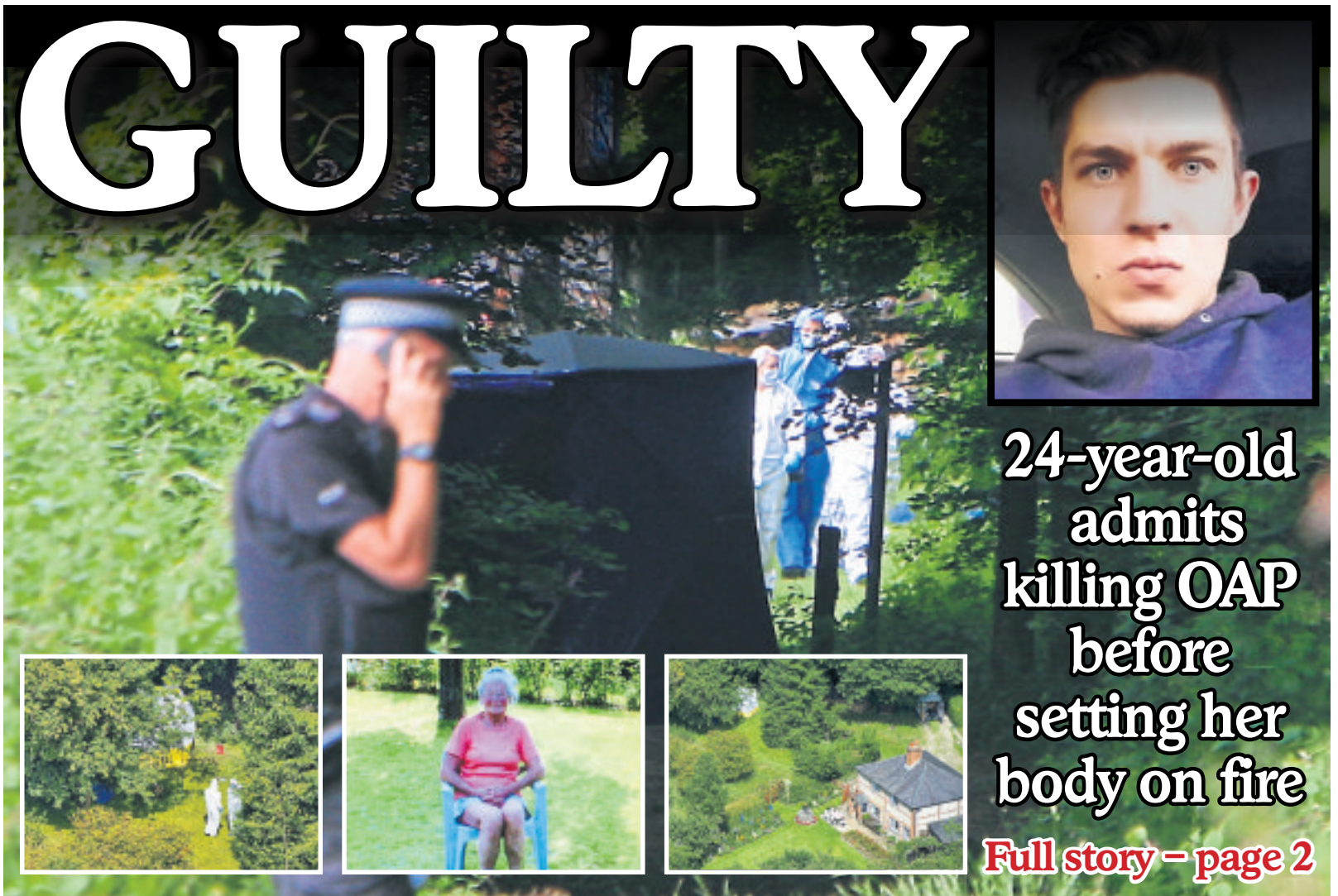
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GUILTY



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Full story – page 2



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Rams blitz the Ducks as new era kicks off

By Nicholas Tunney

THE first day of the 2017-18 Evo-Stik South East season saw the newly named Beaconsfield Town chalk up a resounding and well deserved victory over Aylesbury United.

The Rams first chance of note came on 24 minutes when they broke quickly from a United corner and got the ball to Aaron Morgan who's shot went narrowly wide.

With the second period only ten minutes old Rams boss Gary Meakin brought on Andre Costa in place of on-loan Farnborough striker Patrik Ruzicka and within three minutes Costa had skinned his marker and put in a teasing cross that Aaron Minhas bravely dived at to score the first ever competitive Beaconsfield Town goal.

The goal sparked a flame in The Rams and three minutes later Aaron Morgan spun his marker and fired off a shot that was well saved by Jack Sillitoe.

The keeper, however, was very unlucky sixty seconds later when a fierce shot by Charlie Losasso cannoned off the bar and hit the diving custodian on the back and rebounded into the net for an own goal.

On 74 minutes another shot by the excellent Losasso again hit the woodwork and fell kindly to captain Wes Daly to slot home.

Hopes of a Beaconsfield clean sheet were dashed on 78 minutes when Ducks right back Gavin Hinds-Cadette made space for himself and hit a screamer past Jamie Norris.

The home side's dreams of a comeback, however, were short lived as on 81 minutes a one two between sub Ollie Jones and Losasso saw Jones curl a beauty past Sillitoe to restore Beaconsfield's three goal advantage until the end.



Beaconsfield Town slammed Aylesbury 4-1. Photo: Neale Blackburn

FOOTBALL: The Generals march to an easy win Chesham United crush Biggleswade

CHESHAM'S new season got off to a fine start with a comfortable win over Biggleswade.

Chesham looked better and better as the game progressed and were well in control of the game by the end, although things may have been different had the hosts not missed a penalty three minutes after Chesham took the lead.

Only two of Chesham's match-day squad (Oran Swales and Matt Bevan) had played for the club before, and even then only on loan from other clubs.

The home team also had a number

of new faces and the early stages were fairly quiet, although Chesham had a couple of early long-range efforts from Victor Osobu and Jon-Jo Bates.

On 29 minutes Chesham took the lead when Lewis Toomey found space on the left and fired in a shot that Gooch turned onto the post, but the ball was won by Osobu who shot underneath the keeper and into the net from close range.

Early in the second half a Jhai Dhillon corner came to Kieran Murphy at the near post but his effort was blocked, then at the other

end Reece Fielding turned the ball goalwards after Jack Bowen had headed across goal but Hafed Al-Droubi saved comfortably.

On the hour a long clearance found Swales down the right but his shot flew harmlessly across goal.

The home side then made a double substitution, but still failed to test the Chesham defence which continued to look solid. Midway through the half Gooch dived to his right to hold a well-struck effort from Osobu, before Osobu doubled Chesham's lead on 73 minutes.

Swales ran down the right and

found Toomey whose effort was blocked, but the ball ran across goal and Osobu bundled it into the net.

Late in the game Connor Hall headed over from a Graeme Montgomery corner, then Hall shot from just outside the area but Al-Droubi stretched to tip the ball over.

However Chesham were still in control of the game and the lively Osobu set up Alex Cathline whose shot was blocked by Reece Fielding. In the third minute of stoppage time Cathline scored a fine solo goal, running at the home defence and shooting low into the corner.

Holmer halted in the league

FOOTBALL

HOLMER GREEN endured a real mixed bag this week, winning on the road at the weekend but losing heavily at home in midweek.

The week started at Biggleswade United where the Greens produced an excellent display to win 2-0.

Goals from Jonty Summerell and Dean Munday gave the visitors all three points and maintained their excellent start to the season.

As well as this, it was Holmer's fourth clean sheet in a row, carrying over from last season, their longest streak for six years.

Unfortunately, the Greens came back down to earth with a bump on Tuesday when they swept aside by Berkhamsted 3-0.

The Greens held out for 30 minutes until Coughlan, who was a thorn in the home defence all night, raced clear and sent in teasing low cross which Morrissey converted. Holmer concede again when Coughlan this time set up Field for a chance taken at the second attempt.

The Greens' misery was completed 10 minutes from time when Field scored his second from close range after a quick breakaway following a Holmer chance.

Saints Thamed by United

FOOTBALL

CHALFONT St Peter got their season off to the worst start with a 2-1 home defeat to Thame.

Despite a dream start to their opening game of the season with a goal in the opening minutes, Saints let their nervous opponents settle and ultimately take advantage to take the honours and first points on offer.

Thame, promoted after winning the Hellenic League title, started uncertainly and were rocked when Gary Burrell headed home from a Rob Hastings corner to put Saints in front.

From that point on, the mood of the game began to switch and Thame built their own threat through the strength of Goss and Gledhill.

A clumsy elbow from the latter put George Fenton out of action for a while and a good move down the right saw Lynton Goss force in the equalising goal.

Tom Ashworth survived a strong challenge to put the visitors ahead on the hour and the last half hour was a frustrating watch for the Saints as they made a poor opening.

PHOTOS: Penn annihilate league rivals Henley 6-0



COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



WELL, well. What an impressive display the Chairboys put in against Port Vale last weekend. Their first away game brought immediate success with a superb 3-2 win over Port Vale, who are tipped in many quarters to be pushing for promotion. I have been at the Bucks Free Press since last November but for me their first half display was the best I have seen in League 2 since I started in my role with the paper. They completely swept their opponents with some absolutely sublime football, backed up by everyone across the pitch. Bayo scored with two cracking headers and Paris Cowan-Hall scored a beauty of his own. However, I felt the midfield three of Sam Saunders, Dominic Gape and Luke O’Nien were absolutely fantastic and were rampant against a

Vale side who had no answers. The Valiants scored twice and Wycombe were wobbling at the end. A draw would have been an complete injustice but fortunately the relief was palpable when the referee blew the final whistle. Wanderers, could and should, have scored plenty more in that game and their lack of concentration at the end almost got to them but I think it is good for Gareth and staff to see that. If the game had ended 5-0, there wouldn’t have been much Gaz could say in terms of negatives, but this could give them a kick up the backside to make sure it doesn’t happen again. What’s more, is that it took the Blues until November 19 to record their first away league win last season. It has only taken them one game this time round. Tomorrow’s visitors, Notts County, won here last year and their experienced strike force of Jon Stead and Shola Ameobi can cause any team in this league problems so Wanderers will need to be on their

guard against a tough side. They had a very good win last week against Chesterfield, winning 2-0. On loan Notts Forest midfielder, Jorge Grant, grabbed both goals from the bench and after a defeat in the first week, they have definitely bounced back well. In Nolan, they have one of the brightest young managers in the lower leagues, and as Gareth alluded to when I spoke him to this week, Nolan has won both games as manager at Adams Park, once with County and once with Leyton Orient. Last season, they looked well drilled and organised and in the experienced front two, they had some real guile and craft which exploited the Wanderers backline. The defeat to County last season was one of those that certainly put a spanner in the works in terms of a promotion charge and having finished outside the playoffs by just a point, this was one of those matches that severely dented any hopes. The Magpies have brought well

this summer. Along with the signing of Grant on loan, they raided Hartlepool to secure the services of Lewis Alessandra in the summer. He is a player who impressed me last season, despite playing for a side they have dropped out of the Football League and he will be keen to show he belongs at this level. Wanderers, however, will be full of confidence heading into this fixture and if they perform how they have been doing then I would expect them to keep picking up points regularly. Gareth should be able to pick from a nearly fully-fit squad, which is a huge boost. Paris Cowan-Hall is likely to be OK after a knock and Anthony Stewart could well be back pushing for a recall after an ankle issue so all good news for Gareth and his staff ahead of yet another game against potential promotion pushers. I can see it being a tight game but I think the Chairboys can nick all three points. I am going with an exciting 2-1 win. COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers

VS

Notts County FC

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Adam Collin
- 2. Matt Tootle
- 5. Richard Duffy
- 16. Shaun Brisley
- 23. Dan Jones
- 7. Lewis Alessandra
- 4. Elliott Hewitt
- 22. Mark Yates
- 11. Terry Hawkrigde
- 9. Shola Ameobi
- 30. Jon Stead

THIS week’s Opposition View is from Matt Davies of the Nottingham Post, who gives his views on County, Wanderers and how he thinks tomorrow’s match will pan out.

How have County started the season?

It’s been a mixed bag. They made a very poor start at Coventry, where they were well beaten without threatening a goal. The performance at Scunthorpe in the Carabao Cup was much improved and they were unlucky to lose. Notts picked up their first win against Chesterfield on Saturday. It was well deserved, although playing against 10 men for 45 minutes probably helped their cause. They’ll be looking to build on that at the weekend.

Who are you key players?

Jorge Grant (on loan from Nottingham Forest) is an outstanding talent at League Two level. He is capable of getting goals from any mid-field position. Shola Ameobi has immense experience and leads the line well. Jon Stead is his regular strike partner. Another experienced player, they can be a potent front pair despite a lack of pace.

What is the hopes for County this season?

They are aiming for the playoffs after finishing last season very well. Kevin Nolan has retained much of that squad and added a lot of players, although they are still lacking a little bit. A pacey striker would be welcome.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

Gareth Ainsworth has done a great job and they were unlucky not to go up a couple of years ago. He’s produced an effective team on a tight budget. I’m sure they’ll challenge again this season.

Prediction?

Draw, 1-1.

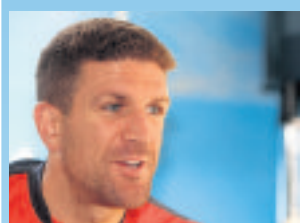


Matt Davies

In the CHAIR



WANDERERS SKIPPER ADAM EL-ABD
TALKS ON HOW HE IS SETTLING IN



Adam El-Abd has been superb so far this season

IT'S been just over six weeks since I signed my contract to join Wycombe Wanderers and I can't speak highly enough of the way the club has operated on and off the pitch during my time here so far.

I knew a fair amount about Wycombe before signing, and my first impressions were extremely positive upon meeting the manager, his staff, the players and the off-field staff. Ever since then, training has been challenging but enjoyable as we geared up for the start of the season, and the spirit in the camp has been excellent, which was helped by our four-day trip to RAF Digby which was a great opportunity for me to get to know everyone better.

I was also invited to take part in the launch of the new away kit in the Eden Shopping Centre. Fortunately, the kit isn't as outrageous as Scott Brown's keeper kit so I was more than happy to take part! It was great to meet the fans for the first time and already I'm beginning to feel at home here in Wycombe.

The three games so far have been good tests for us, and we're pleased overall with how things are going, with one win, one draw and one defeat to show for our efforts. Taking four points from two tough league games is a decent return, and the win at Port Vale in particular was a superb performance from everyone even though we were disappointed to concede those two late goals.

Any defender will agree that we pride ourselves on clean sheets and mustn't let our standards slip even when we're in a comfortable winning position, so there are lessons to be learned and hopefully we'll pick up that first clean sheet and another three points against Notts County tomorrow.

I just wanted to finish by saying a massive thank you to all the fans who've made me feel extremely welcome at the club. It's a real pleasure to pull on the light and dark blue quarters – and to lead the team out as captain – and I'm sure we have a successful season ahead of us if we all work together and pull in the same direction. Please get behind us again tomorrow and we'll give everything we've got to send you home happy.

WANDERERS

Blues cruise to away win despite late jitters

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS boss Gareth Ainsworth hailed his side's brilliant performance for "87 minutes" after edging out Port Vale 3-2 at Vale Park.

The Chairboys were in the process of producing the perfect away performance as a brace from Adebayo Akinfenwa and a stunning strike from Paris Cowan-Hall gave the Blues a 3-0 lead at the break.

However, late goals from Dan Turner and Ben Whitfield ensured a jittery last couple of minutes for Ainsworth's men but they held on much to the relief of the 44-year-old.

He said: "There are mixed emotions. I did tell the boys that the last five minutes weren't good enough but the previous 87 minutes they were outstanding.

"You are going to get an onslaught at Port Vale. I would have taken 3-2 all day long in the morning. With the nature of the game and how it went there is a tinge of disappointment after dominating the game like we did.

"However, there are so many positives. The players, especially the midfield, were outstanding.

"Luke O'Nien, Dominic Gape and Sam Saunders were brilliant and we didn't put a foot wrong for 87 minutes.

"They controlled the game and the likes of Bayo, Nathan Tyson and Paris Cowan-Hall caused all sorts of problems early on.

"We also could have scored more and I said that we have to take our chances but it was a great performance and I am delighted."

The win was tarnished slightly by an injury midway through the first half to Cowan-Hall but Ainsworth hopes it isn't too serious.

He added: "We took him off as a precautionary measure with a hamstring.

He felt it was tightening up and that changed thing a little bit so fingers crossed he will be ok."

Last season, Wycombe had to wait until November 19 to record their first away league win of the campaign. This time around, they did it on their very first game, a stat which pleased the manager.

Ainsworth commented: "It is brilliant to do that so early on. If we had have lost both games, I would have said we have 44 games left and I am saying the same thing now. Let's not get too high and I am looking forward to next week's game."

Wanderers got off the perfect start after just two minutes at Vale Park when Akinfenwa met Joe Jacobson's searching free kick with a textbook header right into the corner to give Sam Hornby no chance in the Vale goal.

After 12 minutes, the Chairboys doubled their lead thanks to a stunning goal from Cowan-Hall. The winger collected Sam Saunders' raking pass, danced his way into the area and sent a thunderous shot into the far corner.

Akinfenwa effectively put the game to bed after just 25 minutes when Jacobson found Luke O'Nien who fizzed a volley at goal but the big striker met it with a firm header, which smashed into the roof of the net.

However, Vale nearly produced an incredible comeback. Firstly, Dan Turner pulled one back on 89 minutes when he headed home from Lawrie Wilson's cross.

A minute later, Ben Whitfield scored a fantastic goal when he cut into the area and unleashed a rocket past the stranded Scott Brown.

Then Vale produced their barnstorming finish but there was relief in the Wanderers ranks when referee Craig Hicks eventually blew the final whistle after a superb display.



Ainsworth hailed his side's fluent performance for the majority of the game, surviving a late wobble to secure all three points

WANDERERS: Bayo's words of caution for rivals Akinfenwa: I can still get even better

ADEBAYO Akinfenwa has fired an ominous warning to the rest of League Two after declaring in the aftermath of the win at Port Vale that he isn't fully fit.

The big striker scored a superb brace of headers at Vale Park in the first half but speaking after the game to Bucks Free Press reporter Nicholas Tunney, he declared he still has a lot of fitness work to do to get up to speed.

He said: "It is a process for me and I am not a spring pup anymore. The last 20 minutes against Lincoln, I was struggling but in this game I felt a lot better, even though it was a big pitch.

"All I need to do is keep getting minutes under my belt and to get stronger and get fitter and I felt that

here so long may that continue."

Akinfenwa was keen to heap praise on his team-mates who provide the chances for him to score. He added: "These guys help massively.

"I say the strikers get the plaudits but we get supplied by the likes of Joe, Saunders, Bloomfield and Harri-man and the better the quality, the easier it is for us.

"Most strikers will turn round and say if we don't get the supply then we can't score the goals and I will be the first to say that. These guys that supply the assists are just as important as the guys that put it in the back of the net."

Akinfenwa was central in a front trio which also included Paris Cowan-Hall and Nathan Tyson. The



Akinfenwa scored a wonderful brace at Vale Park. Photo: ARM Images

35-year-old added that the threat his partners pose is evident.

He commented: "Both Paris and Nathan have pure pace. Nathan is

so sharp and Paris showed what he can do here and we compliment each other so well and it is great there is this difference."

Duo could be in line to return for County match

GARETH Ainsworth hopes to have Paris Cowan-Hall and Anthony Stewart back for tomorrow's game against Notts County.

Cowan-Hall limped off on Saturday with a precautionary hamstring issue after producing one of the goals of the day but the manager hopes to have him back after assessment this week.

Defender Stewart is also in contention for a return to the squad after missing the last few weeks with an ankle problem and Ainsworth admitted Stewart's return poses a nice se-

lection headache.

He added: "Anthony, without doubt, is one of the best centre halves in the division and it will be great to have him back.

"Adam and Sido have also been in great form so far this season, so much so, that I would say they are two of the league's best centre halves so we will have a look and see what works best.

"It is brilliant for us to have three quality centre halves like these guys at this level and whoever gets chosen won't ever let us down."



Cowan-Hall could be OK for tomorrow's home game against the Magpies

CHAIRBOYS: Brown enjoying life at Adams Park Stopper keen to kick on

By Nicholas Tunney

SCOTT BROWN is determined to kick on with his Wanderers career after enduring a frustrating campaign last term.

After signing from Aberdeen last summer, the Wolverhampton-born stopper suffered an injury early on which meant the Blues had to seek reinforcements.

In came Jamal Blackman, who performed magnificently in the number one jersey and Brown was sent in loan to former club Cheltenham to get some minutes and he was in good form for the Robins.

Now, with Blackman gone to pastures new, Brown is keen to establish himself firmly as the Blues' number one in the coming years.

He said: "Touch wood I feel good. Last season was tough. Getting injured during the first game and then seeing Jamal perform so well, I found it hard to get back in the team.

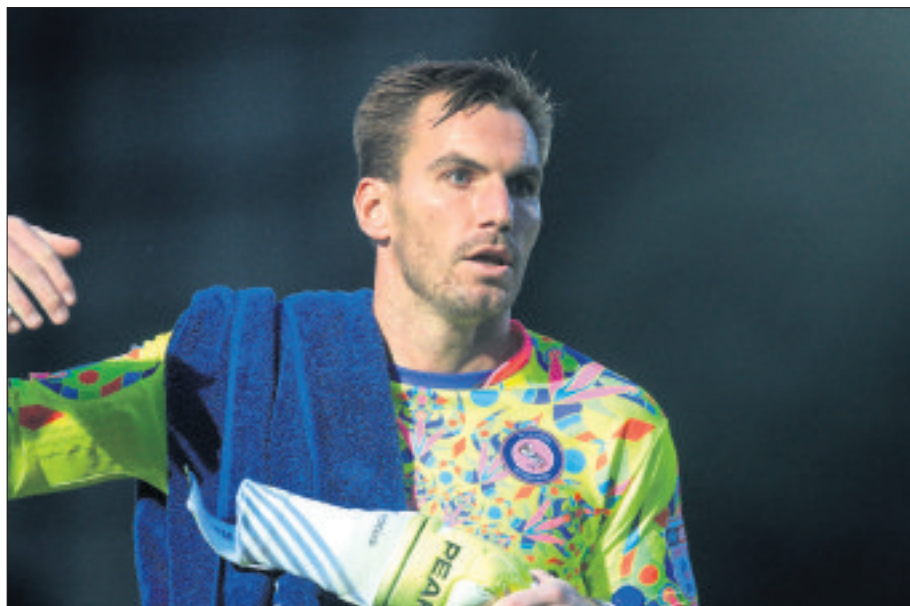
"I was very fortunate to be able to go to Cheltenham and get some game time until the end of the season but I am glad to be back here and play as many games as possible."

Brown has been part of a team who have started the season very creditably but he feels there are improvements to be made with his own current form.

He added: "I am playing OK. I never ever say if I have played well or played badly. I just try and keep my feet on the ground and look forward to the next game.

"I would like a clean sheet or two and I hope they are just round the corner."

At the weekend, Brown was a mere spectator for 87 minutes against Port Vale, before two goals



Scott Brown hopes Wanderers maintain their early season form. Photo: ARM Images

in the last five minutes gave the Valiants hope.

Although Brown had no chance with either strike, he did explain how looking at his stats after the game were skewed slightly.

The goalkeeper said: "It was weird as I had plenty more kicks than usual. I had 37 and the game averages 25 to 30 but it was my least amount of work in terms of everything else. I was always in the game so I remained sharp."

Brown is part of a fairly new-look back five, which includes summer signing Adam El-Abd, and he

praised the hard work the defence has been doing in front of him this campaign.

"They are a great defence to play behind. Ads has come in and been brilliant," commented Brown.

"He is a natural leader and everybody has been impressed with how he has come in and got on with it and everyone knows what Sido is about.

"However, it is a real team effort from the guys up top right through to us guys at the back."

Next up is a tricky tie at home to Notts County but Brown is con-

fident that the team can continue their impressive early-season form.

The 32-year-old explained: "We have had a decent start with four points from two games so we look forward to try and make it seven from three.

"We do know it will be a tough game and they have two guys up-front (Stead and Ameobi) who have played at the highest level and they are a still a real threat.

"However, we go into it feeling good and we are all looking forward to it."

Gaffer delighted with new signing

Continued from back page

"I'm over the moon to bring him here because he's got talent and a pedigree which are above this level, and I've no doubt he will strengthen the options we have in our frontline.

"His goalscoring record speaks for itself but he's also got an unbelievable work ethic and will run through brick walls for the team. All the reports I've had, from other managers and from lads in our changing room who have played with Craig previously, say he's a top top professional who will bring extra pace, quality and goals to the attack.

"I always said I didn't want to make too many changes in personnel over the summer because we already had the core of a really strong squad, but to bring in Adam El-Abd, Nathan Tyson, Jack Williams and now Craig shows that we value quality over quantity and I'm really excited to see what this squad can now achieve over the coming months."

Mackail-Smith has scored 171 professional clubs goals and one for Scotland, and played his 500th club game towards the end of last season whilst on loan again with Peterborough.

The former Seagulls striker said: "It's nice to have got the deal done and I'm looking forward to getting started now.

"I was training with Peterborough over the summer but when I heard about the interest from Wycombe, I jumped at the chance to come down here.

"Last season they scored a fantastic amount and have started well again this season so I'm excited to be a part of it."

Mackail-Smith added: "I'm a little bit behind with not having had a proper pre-season, but I spoke to Gareth and we'll take it step by step and if I can play on Saturday then that would be fantastic."

The prolific forward has had a fruitful career at a higher level and in his time at Peterborough, he became a legend at London Road.

He commented: "Peterborough was a fantastic time for me and I was lucky to join a great bunch of lads. It just clicked for me there and I ended up scoring over 100 goals."

He will wear the number 25 shirt.

SPORT

Football

Beaconsfield get off to winning start
- Page 57



WANDERERS SIGN GOAL MACHINE

- **Mackail-Smith signs on a one-year deal**
- **Ainsworth delighted with striker capture**
- **New man available to link-up with Akinfenwa tomorrow**

WYCOMBE WANDERERS have landed one of the EFL's most prolific goalscorers in recent times - former Peterborough and Brighton striker Craig Mackail-Smith - on a one-year contract.

The 33-year-old arrives on a free transfer after leaving Luton Town in the summer,

having finished last season on loan at Peterborough where he scored five times in his third spell with the club.

His career took off at Dagenham & Redbridge and he then won three promotions during an explosive spell with Peterborough, netting 35 goals in the 2010/11 season

alone to clinch the League 1 Player of the Year prize.

He switched to Brighton that summer in a deal worth an initial £2.5million and spent four years in the Championship, winning seven caps for the Scottish national side, scoring once. Mackail-Smith

then switched to Luton, but a broken leg hindered his progress with the Hatters and he was allowed to leave in May as part of a squad restructure.

Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth said: "Craig could be the final piece in the jigsaw.

Continued on page 63