

Read by over 119,000 in print and online every week

Bucks Free Press

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks & Chiltern Districts

Celebrating 160 years at the heart of the community

www.bucksfreepress.co.uk

Friday, August 25, 2017

90p

GCSE glory

4-page school results day special **INSIDE**

SINKHOLE SHOCK

Fears as ground crumbles next to row of shops **Page 2**

NEWS

Man's body found in river



Page 3

NEWS

Celeb's 'secret man' is Bucks plasterer



Page 11

35 children's centres face axe

By Shruti Sheth Trivedi

CAMPAIGNERS fear that 35 "vital" children's centres across Bucks could be axed and replaced with nine hubs, if new proposals are given the green light.

Buckinghamshire County Council has proposed to introduce a new early help service, which will see nine teams of lead family workers working in community settings

across the county. The council said the teams will support families where they are, including in their homes, and in community and other settings, which bosses say could save the council £3.3 million and provide the "best value for money" and the "best opportunity to improve outcomes and reduce demands on statutory services".

But campaigners are worried that the nine "hubs" could mean that the 35 children's centres which currently operate around Bucks

could be closed. Wycombe District Councillor Andrea Baughan said the centres are of a "great value to the community".

She said: "The children's centres are brilliant. I have volunteered at them and I think they do tremendous work."

"[The workers] are a great asset to the community. I appreciate the need to save money but they do a really good job. I think it is a vital service and it would be a real shame if they closed them down."

"They do provide an extremely valuable service and I hope that the decision isn't made to cut the numbers of centres."

Council bosses said feedback they received from children and families had "consistently" shown that the way they "currently do things is not the best approach to providing effective early help and support or building future resilience", and that they were out to consult with the public with an "open mind" to be able to "find the best solutions". **See page 3**

Spice Box
Indian Takeaway

Free Home Delivery on orders over **£15.00**
within 5 miles radius

104 Sycamore Road, Amersham HP16 5EW
Tel: 01494 728833 / 722700

PAPA JOHN'S
MEGA WEEK
MONDAY 28TH AUG - SUNDAY 3RD SEPT
ANY LARGE PIZZA
£6.99 Collection
£8.99 Delivery
01494 539439
Thames House, Castle Street, HP13 6RZ
www.papajohns.co.uk
Terms & conditions apply

Briants
STIHL
NOW £169
MS180 - 14" CHAINSAW
FENCE PANELS From £14.95
SUPPLIERS OF FENCING, GATES, DECKING & GARDEN MACHINERY
01844 343663 www.briantsltd.co.uk info@briantsonline.co.uk

Marlow set up clash with Beaconsfield

FOOTBALL

MARLOW managed to win through at this early stage of the competition - something they had failed to do for some years - but it might have been very different during their 3-2 win over Highworth Town.

The game was only in its fifth minute when keeper Simon Grant received a yellow card following a clash with a home forward when it might easily have been a red.

A penalty was awarded but Chris Taylor stepped up and struck a post much to the double relief of the Marlow faithful.

Charlie Samuel then put the visitors 1-0 up after more good work by Isaac Osei-Tutu. The youngster saw his first shot blocked - but made certain with his follow-up in finding a gap between keeper and post to put the visitors ahead.

Osei-Tutu then set off on a solo run early in the second period to score a tremendous goal, beating three defenders and firing into the corner of the home goal to give the Blues a two-goal lead.

Highworth fought back after free-kick from 25 yards found the top corner of the Marlow goal courtesy of Callum Parsons.

The Blues though fought back pretty quickly to regain the two-goal advantage thanks to Allen Bossman after good work by Kameron English.

Ross Adams rose above the Blues defenders to head a corner in beyond the far post and put the outcome up for grabs. Marlow though, managed the seven minutes of time added on without too many problems - although not without some anxiety - to book their place in the next round and a local derby against Beaconsfield Town, which is sure to be a great tie.



Marlow player Chris Ovenden made his 200th appearance for the club against Highworth

FOOTBALL: FA Cup dream over for Holmer Green Greens suffer away day blues in cup

THE Greens went tamely out of this season's FA Cup, losing 3-0 to a decent Cockfosters side.

Without the injured Dean Powles, Holmer fielded Aaron Couch, Rikki Gilbert, and Michael Davies up front. They put the home defence under pressure on many first half occasions, but the cutting edge required was never really displayed. Couch provided Holmer's first chance after just two minutes, beating his man and sending over a tempting cross.

On 11 minutes a Lines' corner found Dean Munday at the far post,

but his headed effort went straight into the keepers hands.

Three minutes before half-time Holmer found themselves in trouble. Sam Butcher and his defence were needlessly at sixes and sevens. Ben Bradley raced back to cover the line. But instead of trying to head the eventual shot over the bar, he elected to keep it out with his hands. Instead of just possibly losing a poor goal, The Greens were now down to ten men for 50 minutes and facing a penalty.

Butcher got down low to save the penalty, but there was still time

before the break for Holmer to gift the home side the lead when Tipote was unmarked to steer the ball past Butcher.

Within one minute of the restart, Couch fired in a shot. It was deflected and started spinning wildly. The 'keeper came out, just beating Jonty Summerell to the ball.

On 52 minutes Burrell had a good shot beaten out by the home 'keeper, but Couch could not keep the rebound on target.

Ten minutes later the home side literally put the game out of Holmer's reach. Bagarone seemed to

be well marshalled. But he evaded three Holmer defenders and crossed for Tipote to score again with a simple header.

Holmer huffed and puffed, and to their credit looked as likely as the home side to score next. But the lack of awareness and inventiveness in general up front meant that little of note was created, despite a wholehearted team effort with just ten men. Cockfosters wrapped up the game with a further goal on 90 minutes. Another bout of indecision at the back allowed Tipote to complete his hat-trick.

Foster smashes amazing century

CRICKET

A SPECTACULAR century by Patrick Foster spurred Beaconsfield to a convincing 170-run victory over Sonning at Wilton Park on Saturday.

The result keeps alive Beaconsfield's slim chances of promotion from Division 2B in the Thames Valley League.

Foster slammed 142 from just 119 balls with six sixes and ten fours as the home side recovered from 11-3 to post 268-8 from their 50 overs.

Foster, who reached his century off 95 balls, shared a century partnership with Ollie Rendell, whose 62 contained 12 fours.

Ollie's brother James then took 4-40 as Sonning were shot out for 98 in 32 overs. Fellow spinner Harry Stephens captured 3-11.

Beaconsfield are third, but need both Slough second and High Wycombe to slip up in their final two games if they are to gain promotion.

There have been some incredible performances by the Beaconsfield players at Wilton Park this season and it would be fitting if those memorable displays were backed up by a deserved promotion.

They now face Yateley tomorrow away beginning at 12.30pm.

A low day as club suffer loss

BOWLS

WITH the outdoor season drawing to a close it has been a fairly quiet week for Marlow however the highlight was the visit of Portsmouth Bowls Club last Sunday.

The visitors got into their stride early on taking a firm grip on four of the five rinks and the home side found themselves 7-18 down.

Dave White, Bob Coombs, Roger Taplin and club president Don Isaacs were hit for six in the third end and by the fifth end were trailing 1-10 but they won 6 of the next seven ends to gain ground and close the gap.

Dave White's four pulled off a seven to draw one shot ahead in the 16th end but their opponents pulled away again and eventually took the game 20-17.

Marlow's only winning rink came courtesy of a very solid display from Paul Simmons, Alan Steptoe, Roger Cantell and John Stevens as they won the first four ends and remained ahead throughout the game. It was a polished performance by the foursome as they pummelled away to provide Marlow's only solace.

NON-LEAGUE

Bucks Free Press
Sport is sponsored byMICHAEL
GRAHAMMarlow
begin
season on
a high

FOOTBALL

MARLOW United began their new seasons TVPL campaign with a fine win over a new look Wright & Unity Sports team at their temporary home of Derehams Lane.

Fielding three debutants the hosts took a little time to settle but once they found their rhythm they swept into a three-goal lead with skipper Ollie Flint opening the scoring on 21 minutes picking up an Andrew Nicol through ball and beating keeper O'Sullivan.

One became two shortly after as Nicol headed home from a Sudalin Catalin corner as Marlow took control against a young Unity side.

Goal of the game arrived ten minutes later as Catalin curled a delicious 25-yard free kick over the Unity wall and into the net.

A defensive slip allowed the visitors to pull a goal back almost on half time with Ryan Kingsbeer capitalising from ten yards.

Manager Matt Letts was pleased with the performance stating after the game: "That was an excellent team performance from all the squad. Considering we had three new players and a number of absentees it bodes well for the coming season."

Rangers
continue
on a roll

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday, Rangers entertained Broxbourne Borough in a tight South Midlands League Division One encounter, eventually winning 1-0.

Laurence Clark's goal on 30 minutes was the difference between the sides after Clark ghosted past two defenders and finished with a well-placed shot giving the keeper no chance.

This was a good result considering Risborough's glovesman Jack Brooker injured his shoulder in the warm-up before kick off, to be replaced by uncannily Steve Clark, the goalscorer's brother.

This was the third home league game in the week for Rangers who have now picked up seven points out of nine which moves them up to fourth place and only two points from the summit.

Tomorrow, Risborough make the trip to early leaders Enfield Borough in a top of the table clash. Rangers are keen to stay unbeaten in the league going into this game as Borough have won three from three which sets it up for an exciting affair.

Talbot leaves United
for new Fulham role

By Nicholas Tunney

CHESHAM United joint manager Danny Talbot has left the club to join Fulham as senior European scout for the Championship side.

In the wake of Talbot's departure, manager Jon Meakes has announced the new man who will now be beside him in the dugout.

Sharing the news, Talbot explained: "It's with an extremely heavy heart that I am leaving this great club. When I got the opportunity to be Chesham United manager I was very proud and looking forward to the challenge ahead in my new career."

"I have put absolutely everything into the job along with Jon Meakes since getting the opportunity and it definitely has not been a matter of managing a group of players into the new season."

"We have managed to put together a whole new squad with every player being a debutant in the pleasing 3-0 win at Biggleswade."

"As for the reason of my departure, I have taken a new full time job which I felt I couldn't turn down."

"It wasn't without a lot of thought and discussion with my wife and family as it is going to change my day to day life and my personal business that I put in place."

"I am going to be working for Fulham FC as a senior/European scout for the first team, my passion is football and this is something that I will regret if I do not give it my very best shot to succeed."

"I have built a great relationship with many people at the club and a much closer one with the chairman, Brian McCarthy in recent months, he has kindly said that if I can stay involved at any point with training etc then I am welcome."

"I'm extremely grateful for that

and hope to take up that offer whenever I can."

"I wish the club every success this season in what is an exciting new era, I wish Jon well and also my apologies for leaving him. We will stay in close contact and I hope to be a part of it whenever I can."

Jon Meakes, now about to be joined by his third different partner in the dugout also shared his thoughts.

He said: "Following Daniel's announcement I would like to go on record and thank him for his support since joining up with me."

"He has worked extremely hard throughout the close season in putting the squad together & planning pre-season."

"He only knew for definite that he had been offered the job a few weeks ago and that is when he told the chairman and I."

"It did come as a shock to both of us, as we were both looking forward to the challenge of the new season. As I said to Daniel, it's a job you would regret not taking and I would have made the same decision."

"Daniel and I are mates and when he has settled into his job, we will know more on whether he will be able to offer his services with the odd training session or watching a game/player for me."

"You never know he might find a gem on his travels for Chesham."

"Now that the news of Daniel's departure is out, I can announce that John Lawford will be my new assistant manager and I will also be bringing in a new coach."

John is no stranger to Chesham as he ran our U18's team and was known as a Chesham legend on the pitch over the years as a goal scorer, so he will be looking after our strikers and improving our goal ratio from the last two years."

"That just leaves me to wish Daniel all the best in his new job."



Talbot has left the club he has served so well to take up a new role at Fulham as senior European scout

FOOTBALL: Town down Saints in FA Cup thriller
Beaconsfield smash rivals in cup

BEACONSFIELD moved into the first Qualifying Round of the Emirates FA Cup and a home game against local rivals Marlow after beating Chalfont St. Peter in this entertaining replay.

In a game that was the complete opposite to the one of 48 hours earlier both teams went for it right from the first whistle.

Jamie Norris made a decent save with the game barely a minute old whilst Charlie Losasso had a shot turned out for a corner on seven minutes. The resulting corner saw Jerome Eccleston rise highest to nod the ball past Carl Dennison and

chalk up his first goal in a Beaconsfield shirt.

The lead was short lived however as a needlessly conceded free kick four minutes later saw The Saints Jake Cass step up to curl a strike of real quality past Norris and bring his side level.

Another Rams corner on 18 minutes saw the visitors struggle to clear their lines and the ball fell kindly to Aaron Morgan who shot through a crowd of players to restore Beaconsfield's advantage.

Three minutes later Chalfont conceded a free kick roughly 30 yards from goal and Losasso scored with

an outrageous strike which flew over Dennison, giving the keeper no chance.

After such a frantic start to the game it then settled down with both sides playing football, passing the ball well and having decent periods of possession though few strikes on either goal.

The second half saw The Rams quickest out of the blocks with Spencer Bellotti seeing a goal bound effort deflected on 46 mins, Losasso having a shot charged down four minutes later and Ollie Jones putting one into the side netting sixty seconds later. Chalfont's

Robert Hastings then rattled The Rams post as they weathered the storm from the home side but generally the visitors chances were few and far between and Norris was rarely troubled.

Sub Kofi Lockhart Adams – up against one of his old teams – had a couple of chances to really put the game to bed but Beaconsfield held on relatively comfortably and will now face Marlow at Holloways Park on Saturday September 2 in the next round hoping to repeat their victory over them during their historic run to the Fourth Qualifying Round last season.

MICHAEL
GRAHAM

MICHAEL GRAHAM

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

MICHAEL
GRAHAM

COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



WELL it has certainly been a lively start to the season for the football teams across south Bucks, from Wycombe in League Two to the likes of Risborough Rangers at the other end of the non-league ladder. My Saturdays are taken up with covering Wanderers up and down the country and I was in attendance at Adams Park to watch the Chairboys unfortunately slump to a 4-2 defeat to Notts County. The first half the team looked lethargic and were off the pace as County went into a 2-0 lead early on. They were proving tough opponents for the hosts. Strong, organised and clever play enabled them to go in with that two goal lead at the break and it was a lead they thoroughly deserved. At half-time, Gareth threw caution to the wind and brought on debutant Craig Mackail-Smith and

Nick Freeman at half-time and it was a move that paid immediate dividends. Freeman's volley was an absolutely wonderful piece of skill and he buried it into the top corner. I have been impressed by the young man in recent months and he seems to be getting better and better each week. He is technically proficient, dynamic and I know Gareth rates him highly and I think he could have a big season for the boys in blue. Mackail-Smith made a very pleasing debut and after Joe Jacobson's brilliant free kick brought the scores level, there looked to be only winner as County were starting to wobble. Surprisingly, it was the visitors who then took the game by the scruff of the neck and scored two goals late which knocked the stuffing out of the Blues and condemned them to defeat. There were plenty of positives but the goals being conceded, and the manner of those, is a cause for concern but Gareth, as always, was upbeat afterwards and I am sure the

staff and the players will shore up that defence. The Grimsby game will be another tough test as they face a long trip tomorrow. Russell Slade's side have started slowly but he is an experienced manager and was in charge of Coventry when they beat Wanderers in the Checktrade Trophy semi-final last season. Underestimate the Mariners at your peril. It was a great win for Gareth's men there last season, with a Paris Cowan-Hall wonder goal the difference. Gaz will be hoping to have the likes of him, Sam Saunders and Nathan Tyson back this weekend to boost the squad. I think Wycombe will emulate last season's scoreline at Blundell Park and win 2-1 with a late Adebayo Akinfenwa goal. The non-league fixtures are also back in full swing and the likes of Chesham United, Marlow, Beaconsfield and Holmer Green have been back in action. There have certainly been some interesting early season scores, incomings and outgoings and one

of the biggest surprises of all surely is the move to Fulham for Chesham joint manager Danny Talbot. What an opportunity for Talbot to work at such a prestigious club like Fulham (pains me to say that being a QPR fan!) and as a senior European scout, the world is his oyster and the best of luck to him. Jon Meakes has moved quickly to replace Talbot and after such a pre-season where they revamped the squad, Meakes will be hoping the loss of Talbot isn't too much of a hindrance for the Generals. It has also been an entertaining week in the FA Cup qualifying rounds. It was fantastic to see Beaconsfield and Marlow both get through tricky games against Chalfont St Peter and Highworth Town respectively. Thanks to both these teams winning, they will now face each other and hope to progress to the first round proper of the world's oldest cup competition. A mouthwatering tie in prospect. It just shows how healthy football is in this part of the country.

Wycombe Wanderers

VS

Grimsby Town FC

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. James McKeown
- 12. Zak Mills
- 5. Nathan Clarke
- 6. Danny Collins
- 3. Paul Dixon
- 27. Siriki Dembele
- 8. Mitch Rose
- 7. James Berrett
- 18. Tom Bolawinra
- 11. Sam Kelly
- 21. Scott Vernon

THIS week's opposition view is from Grimsby Telegraph reporter James Findlater:

How have Grimsby started the season?

It's been a mixed start so far. After the elation of their opening day win at Chesterfield, things haven't quite gone to plan for Town.

There were plenty of encouraging signs against the Spireites, and they were well worth their 3-1 win in the end, but since then they've suffered 2-0 and 3-1 defeats to Coventry and Stevenage.

They went toe-to-toe with Derby County in the Carabao Cup on Tuesday before falling to a narrow 1-0 defeat.

Who are your key players?

Siriki Dembele has been Town's standout performer

since signing his first professional contract with the club. The 20-year-old joined from the Nike Academy on an initial one-year deal in the summer, and his performances have been enough to have fans urging the club to tie him down to a longer deal!

What are the hopes for Grimsby this season?

After their hunt for a Play-Off place ultimately fell away last season, the hopes before the start of the season among plenty of fans were that they could claim a top seven place this time around.

Despite the mixed start to the season though, Russell Slade is still confident his side can be competitive this season and challenge at the right end of the table.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

Obviously a lot of attention goes to Adebayo Akinfenwa, and rightly so as, away from his off-field persona, he's proven to be a top striker over the years.

But there are plenty of other threats that Wycombe carry, and Town fans will now all about former Mariner Dayle Southwell.

Prediction?

I am backing Town for a 2-1 victory.



James Findlater

PICTURES: Blues rocked



as County take the points



In the CHAIR



PAUL FOLEY, HEAD OF WYCOMBE SPORTS AND EDUCATION TRUST



Paul Foley and team

AS the charitable arm of the football club, we at Wycombe Wanderers Sports & Education Trust exist in order to help the club achieve its passionate commitment to being of benefit to the local community.

What does that mean exactly? Well, we want to engage with as many people as possible and provide them with positive experiences in a wide range of ways.

This isn't limited to just children, as some of our recent success stories have shown, and while you might see and hear of us mostly on matchdays at Adams Park – where we welcome mascots, host half-time penalties and give fans the chance to test their shooting skills in a target practice – much of our work goes on 'out and about' round the local community.

Our focuses sit in four key areas – health, education, sports participation and social inclusion – and these have been met during another busy, enjoyable and fruitful summer, where our coaches have been running football courses for youngsters at various venues, as well as developing our recent progress in the rapidly-growing area of female football.

As the new season gets underway and the kids return to school, we're excited to resume our hugely successful football and education BTEC programme for 16-19 year olds, combining academic and sporting development, as well as hosting local school groups for personal development sessions at our learning suite at Adams Park.

Our elite and development centres run across the local area, helping budding young players improve their game and providing pathways into the academies of professional clubs, and we also run street soccer sessions, 'walk and talk' exercise and support sessions for those suffering from mental health issues, anti-racism and social inclusion projects, football sessions for local young carers and healthy relationship workshops in local schools.

The work of SET is wide-ranging and fast-evolving, but everything is designed to meet the aim of benefitting the local community via positive engagements with the club.

WANDERERS

Boss unhappy with defensive mishaps

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth cut a frustrated figure in the aftermath of the Blues' loss to Notts County on Saturday.

Ainsworth looked on in disbelief as his side shelled four goals at Adams Park to Kevin Nolan's men.

Richard Duffy, a Luke O'Nien own goal, Jonathan Forte and Lewis Alesandra did the damage after Wanderers threatened a roaring second half comeback after goals from Nick Freeman and Joe Jacobson had got the scores back to 2-2.

The Chairboys boss lamented his team's defending on set pieces and said his side have to show real improvement in that area.

He commented: "Set plays are huge at any level. We have to make sure we are on it during set plays. We must be better as they are so important at this level.

"Fair play to County they were big, strong and organised.

"It was disappointing and there are things to work on. I was pleased with our response in the second half after we couldn't get our foot on the ball in the first half.

"We have to eradicate these mistakes and it will take a little bit of time to sort but we have done well so far and am pleased with where we are and we do have a chance of improving on last year."

However, the comeback and spirit shown by the players pleased Ainsworth and at the other end of the pitch, the team are scoring freely with seven goals in just three league games.

He also praised Freeman, who grabbed his first goal for the club, moments after entering the fray.

Ainsworth added: "Nick came on and

did very well. I just wanted to freshen things up and I was really pleased with him."

On four minutes, Michael Harriman produced an incredible goal-line clearance to deny what looked a certain when Shaun Brisley headed past Brown but the full-back stretched every sinew to clear over the bar.

Harriman came to Wycombe's rescue again moments later when he cleared off the line from Terry Hawkridge's header.

Ainsworth made a double change at half-time, bringing on debutant Mackail-Smith and Freeman in place of Paul Hayes and Dayle Southwell to try and galvanise his troops.

Freeman made an instant impact and then Mackail-Smith should have equalised for the Blues on 56 minutes when Harriman's terrific cross found the former Luton man but he could only head straight at Adam Collin with the goal gaping.

Then 12 minutes later, Jacobson produced a moment of magic to equalise.

With County rocking, Bloomfield again put in a gem of a cross and Akinfenwa's header went inches wide with Collin scrambling.

However, two late sucker punches from the Magpies ensured all three points would go back up to Nottingham.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Brown, Harriman, Jombati, El-Abd, Jacobson, Gape, O'Nien, Bloomfield (sub: Williams, 87), Southwell (sub: Freeman, 46), Akinfenwa, Hayes (sub: Mackail-Smith, 46). Subs: Richardson, Stewart, Bean, Muller.

NOTTS COUNTY: Collin, Tootle, Duffy, Brisley, Jones, Hawkridge (sub: Alessandra), Hewitt, Yates, Grant, Stead (sub: Forte, 69), Ameobi (sub: Smith, 90), Subs: Pindroch, Dickinson, Smith, Hunt, Milsom.



Ainsworth lamented his side's defensive frailties after seeing Wanderers ship four goals at home at the weekend. Photos: Anita Ross Marshall

CHAIRBOYS: Club captain wants Grimsby result Bloomfield expects positive reaction

WYCOMBE legend Matt Bloomfield is convinced the squad are ready to bounce back from Saturday's defeat, having had a good week on the training pitch.

Bloomfield started his first league game of the season at the weekend and put in two delightful crosses which Adebayo Akinfenwa couldn't quite convert.

The 33-year-old said: "We have picked the bones out of what happened last week and we need to right some wrongs from that. We need to be tighter on set-plays.

"This time last year we weren't conceding but we weren't scoring either and now we are doing both. We have reacted well and worked hard in correcting those mistakes."

For Bloomfield, it was his first

start in League Two this season, having completed 90 minutes against Fulham in the Carabao Cup.

He explained he feels good and hopes that he can get a run in the side. He added: "I felt good and if the big man (Akinfenwa) could have scored it would have been nice to have an assist against my name.

"I enjoyed the way we played second half and I was able to get forward and I felt dangerous but nothing fell for me in the box. I am enjoying my football and I want to keep stepping on the gas."

It has also been a new start off the field for Bloomfield with his new MB Academy.

He has been delighted with the response he has got and hopes to carry it on. He commented: "It has



Bloomfield is convinced there will be a turnaround from last week

been really enjoyable and Martin Brennan has been brilliant with it too.

"I am trying to pass on some

knowledge and it has been really exciting and the feedback I have got has been lovely and I want to help the kids improve."

Muller joins Shrimpers on loan until Jan

WYCOMBE defender Max Muller has moved on loan to fellow League Two side Morecambe until January to benefit from first-team football.

The centre-back arrived at Adams Park last summer and overcame a lengthy injury to make 12 appearances in his maiden season with the Chairboys.

However, manager Gareth Ainsworth says the move will enable Muller to continue his development by playing League Two football week in, week out.

He said: "Max has shown plenty of

promise both in training and in the matches he's played, but without a reserve or development team, it means he isn't able to play regular football due to the competition for places we have in defence.

"Anthony Stewart is now back from injury, Sido Jombati has performed excellently in the middle, Adam El-Abd has tremendous experience which will be vital for us, and Will De Havilland is also doing really well out on loan at Aldershot.

"I'm really confident Max will shine for Morecambe."



Max Muller has joined Morecambe on loan until January

WYCOMBE: Gaffer hopes goal glut continues Blues aim to sink Mariners

By Nicholas Tunney

THE first three league games have now passed and Wanderers have a respectable four points from three games against some very tough opponents.

However, that barely tells the story of three exciting games that have seen Wycombe rack up seven goals but unfortunately concede eight in return.

Some incisive football has ripped some of the best defences in the league open but at the other end, sloppy play at the back has allowed their opponents to score some goals that, at times, they haven't had to work for.

This week at training has allowed Ainsworth and his trusted backroom staff to work on some tinkering in defence and hope that they can be a more solid unit throughout the team, beginning with the long trip to Grimsby tomorrow.

Ainsworth was in a relaxed mood at the training ground yesterday and he hopes the work done this week will show against the Mariners.

He said: "We have conceded far too many goals and I am looking forward to shoring things at the back. There has been plenty to work on and I understand the frustrations of the players and fans and we are working hard to be resolute and to stop them going in at one end and carry on scoring at the other end."

Despite defeat and the manner of the goals conceded, the manager is delighted to see the calibre of the goals scored and created and he is hoping that it will continue with the quality of his players at his disposal.



Ainsworth is confident that the Blues will show their steel in defence

He added: "I have seen the video from the County and for 35 minutes of the second half, we really played well and scored two great goals.

"We have created some superb goals so far this season and we are lucky we have the forwards we have got. Bringing in Craig Mackail-Smith has added again. People saw what he is capable of on Saturday and he will be a threat. His finishing speaks for itself.

"And we have the likes of Nick Freeman pushing the other guys in front of him and he shows a lot in training and it is about consistency."

The likes of Sam Saunders and Paris Cowan-Hall but Ainsworth is confident those two key playmakers will be back for tomorrow's crunch clash.

The boss commented: "Paris and Sam are back in contention which is great for us. Sam has hit the ground running this season and he explodes when the games are on. He has made a huge contribution in the previous two games and I am hopeful he will be back.

"With the likes of these guys back, it does give me a few selection headaches but it is better

than the team picking itself every week."

Another player now back to full fitness is defender Anthony Stewart and Ainsworth added that he has every faith in the centre-half.

"He is back in my plans which is great.

"We gave him a three-year deal when he was injured which shows the trust we have in him.

"He is a terrific defender and a great lad to work with and have around and with Adam, Sido and Anthony I have three good centre halves who I can rotate."

'Best dressing room I have been part of'

NEW Wanderers skipper Adam El-Abd hailed the team spirit at the club, saying the current dressing room is the best he has been in.

The experienced defender knows a thing or two about what a good dressing room to be successful and he spoke in glowing terms about how well he has fitted into the squad.

He said: "It is a really good dressing room full of good lads and it is one of the best, if not the best I have been a part of.

"The spirit we have here is brilliant and I keep my fingers crossed we can have a good campaign."

Wanderers have started off reasonably well but the main concern is in defence, with eight goals being shipped in three league games.

El-Abd said he takes on that responsibility in his role as captain to make sure their fortunes at the back turn around and said they are all in this together to make sure they are tighter at the back.

He added: "The guys are a positive bunch and they have a great attitude and that will hold us in good stead.

"It is a team game and the goals conceded have to be addressed and I am sure we will get better in that."

The former Brighton star has been partnering Sido Jombati at the back in his first few games with the club and he has struck up a decent partnership with the Portuguese defender.

El-Abd was quick to praise the role Jombati has played alongside and commented: "Sido is a decent player. We pride ourselves on clean sheets and were close to getting one at Port Vale.

"In general there have been lots of good aspects of our defensive play in the first few games but obviously not perfect. However, things will get better and it has been good to play alongside Sido."

Refreshingly honest, El-Abd focused on his home game and was keen to keep on progressing as the season carries on into the autumn.

"There is definite room for improvement in my game," commented the defender.

"I haven't been happy with a couple of errors and I want to improve."

SPORT

Motorsport

Nicosia reigns supreme
at Knockhill
- Page 56



THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

- Ainsworth assesses first three league games
- Eradicating defensive errors 'a priority'
- Offensive options excite manager

SEE PAGE 63



Photo by Anita Ross Marshall