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Friday, September 1, 2017

90p



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An advertisement for Briants fencing. It features a photograph of a wooden fence. The text 'Briants' is written in a green oval. A yellow banner says 'FENCE PANELS From £14.95'. A red circle says 'NOW £169'. A black banner says 'MS180 - 14" CHAINSAW'. At the bottom, it says 'SUPPLIERS OF FENCING, GATES, DECKING & GARDEN MACHINERY' and provides contact information: '01844 343663 www.briantsltd.co.uk info@briantsonline.co.uk'.

In the CHAIR



By Matt Bloomfield



Matt Bloomfield

It was the end of an era on Tuesday when the news was announced that Paul Hayes was leaving the club by mutual consent.

Hayes has been a fantastic player and captain for the last three years. He embraced and lived his role as captain and gave it everything. I know that he was very proud to lead the boys out on a Saturday afternoon.

Signing Hayes was a big catalyst to all that changed within the squad post-Torquay in May 2014. It was a big signing and a major coup by the gaffer for a club that had just finished third from bottom and escaped relegation by a single goal.

We knew Paul from his loan spell in 2012 and we knew the qualities that he possessed and the added class and pedigree that he would bring. He had had a fantastic career so we also knew that he would bring that experience and know-how.

The following season couldn't have gone much better. Hayes scored 14 goals including that 90+9 minute penalty at home against Exeter. In many ways that penalty typified our season - the never say die attitude that gained us so many points. The calmness he showed to tuck that penalty away so deep into injury time was top drawer. The atmosphere was electric inside Adams Park that night.

I can't pay tribute to Hayes's time at Adams Park without mentioning the brace at White Hart Lane. The left foot volley was one of the finest finishes at WHL all last season and again the penalty was calmness personified.

We have changed next to each other at both the training ground and on match day so have shared many football discussions ranging from team fines and current team affairs to that of our coaching badges and youth player development.

The world of football dictates that life moves on and players come and go. It's time for Paul to move on to pastures new but it's right that we recognise the role that he played in transforming our on field fortunes.

On behalf of all the squad I would like to wish Paul all the best for his future and thank him for his three years of fantastic service.

WANDERERS

Hard work continues for 'leaky' defence

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS boss Gareth Ainsworth remained concerned at the nature of his side's woes at the back, after conceding five at home to Bristol Rovers in the Checkatrade Trophy at Adams Park on Wednesday evening.

Dayle Southwell had given the Chairboys the perfect start on four minutes but a Dom Telford brace, a Ryan Broom double and a Liam Sercombe stunner ground Wycombe into the dust.

Despite the result, Wanderers were well on top in the first half despite being 2-1 down at the break and showcased some flowing, incisive football against their more illustrious opponents.

Ainsworth said: "We play well and we are conceding and we play badly and we are conceding."

"The key word there is conceding. We have to stop it and I have told the boys we played some good stuff going forward and could have been 3-1 up at half time and no-one could have grumbled."

"We will continue to work hard as it is not acceptable to keep letting in goals the way we are."

"Going forward there were some shining lights. Josh Umerah made his debut and I thought he was outstanding."

"His effort was superb and he will cause problems. Like I say I was very pleased with the first half performance."

"But we have gone from one of the most formidable defence in League Two to one of the leakiest at the moment."

Another player who produced a bright display was Nick Freeman and Ainsworth explained that he continues to work with the young attacking midfielder to help his progression.

"Nick is very good on the ball and he has a lot of tricks in his locker," said

the manager.

"He needs to continue to work on his all-round game, such as when not in possession."

"He is fantastic going forward and he always will be as that is his game and he was unfortunate not to score."

Wanderers started much the brighter thanks to Southwell's early goal and played some free-flowing football.

Some more sublime football from the Chairboys resulted in some intricate passing inside the Rovers box and Luke O'Nien's deflected pass just evaded the onrushing debutant Umerah.

Bristol Rovers were on the rack and Michael Harriman played in a low, firm cross which Rovers defender Tom Broadbent skewed towards goal but it was hacked away just in time.

Wanderers came so close to retaking the lead on 35 minutes when Dominic Gape was denied by a smart save from Slocombe. The rebound then fell to the lively Umerah who saw his shot deflected inches wide.

From the resulting corner, Umerah's bullet header was well held by Slocombe.

However, Telford's second goal moments before the break seemed to knock the stuffing out of Wycombe.

The visitors then hit a double whammy, with two goals in eight minutes before Byron Moore scampered down the left a minute later and beat Brown but somehow his shot hit the far post and bobble across the line before being cleared.

Umerah could have had a debut goal his efforts deserved but he saw his effort on 74 minutes disallowed for offside, after converting Anthony Stewart's knockdown.

The game then fizzled out before Broom's late goal. Plenty for Ainsworth to ponder.



Wycombe manager Ainsworth hopes the hard work on the training pitch translates into clean sheets

CHAIRBOYS: Umerah itching to grab some goals

Young loanee hopes to hit target

JOSH UMERAH made a very promising debut against Bristol Rovers on Tuesday night and is keen to kick on and get his first goal for the Blues.

Despite losing 5-1, Umerah made an impressive debut for Wycombe, just hours after signing on loan from Charlton.

Now, the 19-year-old's debut is out of the way, he is focused on achieving great things at the club and is hoping his first goal is just round the corner.

He said: "I felt I did really well on my debut and I thought we played well and were unfortunate to lose by that much."

"I had spoken to Jason Euell at Charlton and he was telling me what a good manager Gareth Ains-

worth and there is a career path here and I just want to get goals and help the team."

With Wycombe having a plethora of experienced strikers, Umerah believes learning off these guys will only be a good thing and he added that he had already spoken to Adebayo Akinfenwa to tap into his knowledge.

Umerah commented: "Bayo has already spoken to me and given me a real morale boost which is great and telling me to go about my business and do what I do best."

Wycombe face Forest Green tomorrow at Adams Park and the young loanee is already targeting a first goal for Wanderers if he is selected to play.

"I just want to get on the scoresheet



Josh Umerah made a highly promising debut for Wycombe

everytime I step onto the pitch," explained Umerah.

"I am one of those strikers who will run in behind and score goals

but I can also be strong with my back to goal and hold it up so I can bring others into play and am looking forward to cracking on."

COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



ANOTHER week in the life of Wycombe Wanderers, another bagful of goals for the Blues and their opponents. It certainly hasn't been dull.

Last Saturday, I wasn't in attendance at Blundell Park but it looks as though the game took a similar pattern to those that have gone previously. Some brilliant attacking play but some shaky defending.

To get a win at Blundell Park, no matter what, is a great effort. Russell Slade's men are always tricky opponents and that proved to be the case last week, even with 10 men.

Then on Tuesday, it was time for their first Checkatrade game of the new campaign against League One outfit Bristol Rovers.

I have to say some of the forward play on show was a joy to watch. Young lads like Nick Freeman, new signing Josh Umerah

and Jack Williams played some great stuff and they were so unlucky to be behind at the break.

Then Rovers found another gear in the second half and Wycombe's defensive frailties came to the fore but still plenty of positives to take from that performance.

I can't write this column without mentioning the fact that Paul Hayes has left the club by mutual consent. First and foremost, I would like to say what a tremendous person Hayesy really is. It was always a real privilege to interview him with his relaxed and eloquent fashion and I really wish him all the best.

Those two goals at White Hart Lane will really live long in the memory and before my time with the Bucks Free Press he was such a key figure on and off the pitch for the Chairboys.

The season Wycombe reached the playoffs, Hayesy was such a key figure in that run and last season he chipped in with so many important goals. He never gave anything less than 100 per cent for the Blues and I think to call him a legend is

absolutely fitting.

On to tomorrow's game against Forest Green Rovers and what a job Mark Cooper has done at the New Lawn during his tenure. It really is incredible to think that a club, that hails from a place the size of Nailsworth, is competing in a division where clubs like Coventry and Luton ply their trade.

All credit to the boys from Gloucestershire for finally making it into the division. They have had a fairly tough start to live but with the quality at their disposal, I am sure they will be flying higher in the months to come.

It really has been a breathless start for Wanderers this season in League Two. Seven points from 12 is a highly respectable start, including a whopping 10 goals already.

To see Adebayo Akinfenwa already have four goals to his name this season is superb. After such an amazing season last campaign, he would have been forgiven for resting on his laurels but he has come back brilliantly and continues

to cause chaos for opposition defences.

One man who has also been in quite remarkable form this season is Joe Jacobson. JJ has scored three and assisted three of Wanderers' 10 league goals. If you didn't know what position Joe played you would think he would be a striker or attacking midfielder!

Amazingly, as all Blues fans know, he is a left-back. Aside from being a quality defender, which is his job first and foremost, the quality of his delivery with that wand of a left foot wouldn't look out of place at the top level.

His free-kick against County was world class and his delivery that led to his well-taken penalty at Grimsby last weekend was absolutely perfect and put Collins under such pressure, that he handballed it.

Now, back at Adams Park, it would be a great time to get that first home league win of the season and if JJ and Bayo can continue their form, I can see more goals being added for the Blues.

COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers

VS

Forest Green Rovers

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Bradley Collins
- 2. Dale Bennett
- 21. Mark Roberts
- 20. Alex Iacovitti
- 3. Scott Laird
- 5. Lee Collins
- 15. Charlie Cooper
- 8. Liam Noble
- 10. Reece Brown
- 33. Luke James
- 9. Christian Doidge

THIS week's Opposition View is with Rovers supporter Matt Flagg who gives us the lowdown on his side.

1. This is your fifth game as an EFL club – how would you assess your start to the campaign?

A bit of a mixed bag with missed chances and silly errors. But in this league if you make an error, you get punished, which may not have happened in the National League. But we do seem to be finding our feet now and are settling down.

2. How would you describe the side's style of play for those of us who might not have seen Forest Green play before?

Very much a possession game; we like to play out from the back.

3. And who has been the standout performer for you so far this season?

Christian Doidge. His work rate is fantastic and he puts his head on the line. He's also carried on from where he left off last season, when he scored 27 goals.

4. You've been described by FIFA as the greenest club in the world – just how important has the green approach been to the club's success so far?

It's a great achievement for the club to be known as the first green club. However, I don't believe it has a massive impact on the pitch. Off the pitch, it has brought in great publicity and interest from far and wide.

5. And do you think the club's aim of reaching the Championship within the next five years is an achievable

one?

We need to find our feet first and have a steady first season in League Two and then progress from there. It's a big ask to be in the Championship in five years' time, but a possibility.

6. Finally, can you give us a prediction for tomorrow's game?

It'll be a very close game but FGR are known for a late goal; I'm going for a 2-1 Forest



Manager Mark Cooper

Legendary skipper leaves Adams Park after 3 years



Hayes walks off the pitch after his last game for the club against Notts County

IT is the end of an era for Wycombe Wanderers legend Paul Hayes as he left the club on Tuesday night by mutual consent.

Hayes played 126 times for the club over two spells and has been a key player in their revival since almost dropping out of the league in 2014.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth paid a glowing tribute to Hayes for his time at Adams Park. He said: "Paul has been an outstanding professional throughout his time here and I'll remember him as being one of my best ever signings as a manager."

"Hayes took on the mantle as captain and played a huge role in us reaching the playoff final, and achieving a bigger points tally than any other Wycombe team in the EFL."

"His presence in the changing room – as one of the 'generals' in the squad – can't be underestimated and he has been everything you could ask for as a captain."

"I'd like to say the biggest thank you to Hayes for everything he's done for the club, as my captain and as a fantastic player over the last three years, and wish him every success for the future."

Hayes himself spoke with fondness about signing for the club three years ago. He added: "When I came here on loan way back in 2012, I thought I'd see how it goes

for the first month and ended up scoring six in six before I was called back by Charlton."

"I had this gut feeling it would be a good year and we took it by storm. Everything we touched turned to gold – it was win after win, and to reach the playoff final was incredible."

Hayes is synonymous with his two goals at White Hart Lane last season in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Thanks to Hayes, Wanderers almost pulled off one of the great shocks of all time but they lost 4-3 with the last kick of the game.

Hayes commented: "The Tottenham game is up there with my favourite memories. I've been fortunate enough to play at some nice grounds against some of the best players in the world, but there was something about that day."

"Tottenham didn't lose at home in the league that year and hardly conceded any goals, so for us to go 2-0 up and for me to score them both will stay with me forever."

"It was an unreal moment and when we went 3-2 up with eight minutes left I thought 'we've got an unbelievable chance', but it wasn't to be. It gives you goosebumps when you look back at it, and it was a great day."



Hayes celebrates his famous penalty at White Hart Lane, January 2017



Hayes with Gareth Ainsworth after a late winner against Exeter 2014/15



Chairboys add Charlton striker to their ranks

WYCOMBE have dipped into the transfer market to sign Charlton striker Josh Umerah on loan until January 15.

The powerful striker has been a prolific scorer at youth level for the Addicks since joining as a 10-year-old, going on to make three senior appearances for the club before playing four times on loan for Scottish Premier League side Kilmarnock last season.

Gareth Ainsworth says the youngster could prove to be an exciting addition to the Blues' attacking options. He added: "We keep a close eye on

the under-23 leagues and Josh is someone who's stood out due to his strength, size and ability in front of goal, so I'm looking forward to working with him to get the best out of him in senior football.

"We've got some fantastic experience up front and Josh can learn a lot from the likes of Adebayo Akinfenwa during his time here. We've had a good track record of bringing in talented young loan players in the past few years and I'm confident Josh could be another success story." Umerah will wear number 26.



Josh Umerah signed this week for the Blues from the Addicks

CHAIRBOYS: Blues make life Grim for Mariners Boss wants errors cut out

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS boss Gareth Ainsworth was delighted and frustrated in equal measure after seeing his Wycombe team win a thriller 3-2 against Grimsby Town on Saturday.

The Chairboys went into the break two to the good thanks to goals from Adebayo Akinfenwa and a Joe Jacobson penalty after Danny Collins handled in the box.

Grimsby found a route back into the match via the penalty spot after Anthony Stewart was adjudged to have pushed Collins on 51 minutes and Mitch Rose dispatched.

Collins continued to be part of the game's main talking points as he saw red for a second bookable offence after a tackle on Matt Bloomfield after receiving his first booking for the penalty incident in the first half.

Despite the one man deficit, Grimsby got themselves level thanks to a JJ Hooper strike from range.

But it was to be the Chairboys' day as an Akinfenwa header gave him four goals in four in the league and handed the Chairboys all three points.

However, after the final whistle, Ainsworth was still concerned with the amount of goals being shipped by his side.

He said: "We're not doing it the easy way at the moment.

"It's not good enough, we are shipping too many goals in at the moment without a shadow of a doubt.

"We were really up against it when the penalty goes in because the crowd get going, you're away from home and you've got an onslaught.



Ainsworth was pleased with another excellent away win but concerns hang over their defensive frailties

"I was gutted to concede against ten men because the throw-in has got to be dealt with better; we can't do what we did in terms of showing Hooper where he went as he had a little dribble and then he unleashed one from 25 yards.

"That's a poor goal to concede as we can't let people shoot from there with no pressure on them.

"So there are things we need to work on but I've just said to the boys that it is brilliant to be able to give them a bit of a rollicking after the game, and pick the bones out of mistakes but still have the three

points in the bag. That definitely pleases me.

"I'm really pleased with how we are going forward at the moment, we just need to tighten it up at the back and then I think we have got a good chance."

Ainsworth made three changes to the line-up for this one with Paris Cowan-Hall, Craig Mackail-Smith and Stewart coming into the starting XI in place of Paul Hayes, Dayle Southwell and Sido Jombati with the latter two on the bench.

Sam Saunders, Nathan Tyson and Scott Kashket missed out through

injury and Danny Rowe was unavailable due to personal reasons.

Wanderers were in the ascendancy in the first half thanks to Akinfenwa's early strike and Jacobson's penalty.

Grimsby pulled one back on 51 minutes thanks to Rose's penalty and then Hooper equalised with a rasping effort.

The Chairboys rolled up their sleeves and restored their lead nine minutes later as Harriman sent a floating ball into the Beast who buried the winner past keeper McKeown.

QPR wonderkid signs for Wanderers

BLUES manager Gareth Ainsworth has made another move into the loan market with the capture of QPR starlet Eberechi Eze.

The 19-year-old creative midfielder joins the Chairboys until January 2nd, having excelled for the Rs' under-21 side since joining from Millwall's academy last summer.

He follows Charlton forward Josh Umerah, who impressed on his debut against Bristol Rovers on Tuesday night after penning a similar loan deal until January.

Ainsworth said: "Ebere is very highly-rated at QPR and I'm delighted and grateful that they've entrusted us with another of their young talents. He's an exciting player to watch and someone who can make things happen, and he'll give us another dimension going forward.

"Sam Saunders is out for a little while longer than we first expected so Ebere could have the chance to get some minutes under his belt to show what he can do, and we'll be working with him closely to make sure he can make the most of his opportunity here.

"We're still keeping our options open before the transfer window closes tomorrow and there may be more activity, but I'm very pleased with the squad we've got and with a few adjustments based on what we've seen from the first six games, I'm confident we'll be able to build on the positives and hit a strong run of form.

"There are high hopes for Ebere. He really is billed as something special in an attacking sense but he needs to learn the game as well.

"This is what League Two is about. We almost blood players from a higher level and we have a very good track record here at doing things like that.

"He seems like a fantastic lad and he is a really positive character and I am hoping to get some good work into him as well as that bit of magic he has that you can't teach.

"I am looking forward to seeing how he fares in a Wycombe shirt."

Ebere will wear squad number 27 during his time at Adams Park, and is eligible to play in Checkatrade Trophy fixtures, but not FA Cup matches.

SPORT

Cricket

Marlow Park celebrate
125th anniversary
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WANDERERS LEGEND DEPARTS

- Hayes leaves after three glorious years
- Young stars join on loan
- All the latest deadline day news

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