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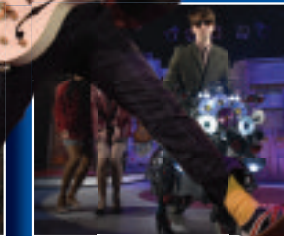
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90p



Back to Business

Monthly 8-page supplement - Inside



Screen to Stage

Soap stars in MOD Musical - Freetime

Bus service is at 'crisis point'

Insider fears company is 'near state of collapse'

By Stephanie Wareham

DRIVER shortages, delays and cancellations have pushed a bus company to the brink of a "crisis" according to a whistleblower who claims to have lifted the lid on the company's "shortcomings".

The insider - who did not want to be named for fear of retribution - says Wycombe-based Carousel Buses is in a "near state of collapse" after experiencing a number of serious issues, with bus drivers facing the brunt of the anger from frustrated passengers.

They said: "The bosses employ staff but they can't retain them. Pay and conditions are poor and now a lot of drivers are leaving. Drivers are faced with harassment and abuse from passengers who are fed up with the service every day. Buses just aren't turning up. See page 5



Driver avoids jail over woman's death

A MAN has been sentenced after admitting to causing the death of a much-loved High Wycombe woman by careless driving following a three-car pile-up.

Bayonle Kayode, 29, of Warpole Road, Slough, was sentenced to three months' in prison, suspended for two years, at Aylesbury Crown Court on Monday

following the death of 43-year-old Janice Swain (pictured above) on September 12 last year.

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NEWS

Residents rally to save pub



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CRIME

101-year-old paedo pays victim £25k



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POLITICS

Has Brexit forced unitary delay?



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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



IT has been a superb week for Wanderers in my opinion. Two draws from two very tricky away games in three days speaks volumes about the character of the squad.

I was at Newport last Saturday and after a bright start by the home side, Wanderers coped extremely well with everything thrown at them, led by skipper Adam El-Abd.

The second half was a different story and Gareth's men had three brilliant opportunities to win it but a combination of superb goalkeeping, desperate defending and profligate finishing saw the Blues pick up a point, a deserved one at that.

You could sense Gareth's slight frustration speaking to the media afterwards. He was himself delighted with what he saw but felt the boys edged it and a winner would have been

merited. Onto Mansfield on Tuesday and an arguably trickier test awaited the Chairboys.

I unfortunately wasn't at Field Mill but hearing the reports it sounded like Wanderers were dominant in the first half but denied by Stags keeper Conrad Logan.

Gareth handed a first start to QPR loanee Ebere Eze and it sounded as if the youngster was weaving his magic during the game.

He came on at Newport for the last 11 minutes and produced one of the best cameos I have seen for a long time.

His class on the ball shone through and he oozed confidence.

He really had the County defenders all over the place and makes the game look easy. He is certainly blessed with a lot of talent and he could be a real gem for the side this season.

The other loan players signed in the week leading up to the transfer deadline have also made impressive starts to their careers at Adams Park.

Josh Umerah was superb at

Newport, making his full league debut. He got better as the game wore and gave some experienced defenders at this level real problems.

Dan Scarr, signed from Birmingham, also came in for his first appearance against Mansfield in midweek. Another clean sheet was posted and the big defender almost marked his debut with a goal, seeing his header brilliantly saved by Logan in the first half.

It is fantastic that clubs at a higher level have agreed to let their young stars come out on loan and these three possess some real talent and I am sure they will go on to have terrific careers in the upper echelons.

After such a free-scoring start to the season, having drawn a blank in the last two matches I can safely say it wasn't for the lack of chances created. A bit more luck and composure and it would have been six points instead of two.

What will greatly please the manager is the fact they have produced two clean sheets against

two dangerous sides and that is a recipe for not losing games.

Certainly in the last three games, the defence and Scott Brown have been superb and I would expect Wycombe to find their shooting boots once again.

Today's opponents Luton will undoubtedly produce another very tough match. They are one of the favourites for promotion and reached the playoff semi-finals last season.

Nathan Jones' side served note of the danger they possess when they annihilated Yeovil Town 8-2 during their opening game of the season.

Their form since has been patchy, especially away from home. At home they are formidable opponents as their result in midweek testifies over Port Vale.

The likes of Danny Hylton and James Collins are two of the best players in the division and it will be a heck of a test for the defence again but I do fancy Wycombe to create and convert their chances so I am going for a 2-1 win.

COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: LWWD

VS

EST

1885

Luton Town

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: WDDLW

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Marek Stech
- 7. Jack Stacey
- 16. Glen Rea
- 44. Alan Sheehan
- 3. Dan Potts
- 18. Luke Berry
- 4. Alan McCormack
- 11. Andrew Shinnie
- 17. Pelly Mpanzu
- 9. Danny Hylton
- 19. James Collins

THIS week's Opposition View comes from Luton Today reporter Mike Simmonds.

How have Luton started the season?

They started with a bang, hammering Yeovil 8-2, but have struggled for consistency recently.

Two good away draws were picked up at Mansfield and Lincoln, before a disappointing home defeat to Swindon, albeit with 10 men for an hour.

However, they got back on track with a 2-0 victory over Port Vale on Tuesday night.

Who are your key players?

Town's key players are through the spine of the team with goalkeeper Marek Stech in inspired form since signing, making a host of wonderful

saves.

Holding midfielder Alan McCormack has become a crucial member of the side too, with up front, James Collins already scoring five goals so far.

What are the hopes for Luton this season?

Automatic promotion - there's nothing else that would suffice for the Hatters this year. All the recruitment in the summer is to make sure Luton go up this year.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

Boss Gareth Ainsworth always seems to set up his teams to ensure they are hard to beat and makes the most of his budget, bringing in seasoned pros like former Hatter Craig Mackail-Smith

and Nathan Tyson too.

They always have a very direct approach, but with the likes of Akinfenwa upfront, it seems to work fairly well for them.

Prediction?

Games between the two are always lively and tough encounters, so I'll go for a 1-1 draw.



Alan McCormack

In the CHAIR



JOE JACOBSON



Wycombe defender Joe Jacobson

TUESDAY night's game at Mansfield was a good point for us as a team and a pleasing night for me personally, not just wearing the captain's armband and helping the boys keep a clean sheet against one of the promotion favourites, but also making the 400th appearance of my club career.

I remember being a 19-year-old at Cardiff doing everything I could to impress the manager and get my debut for the first team, which came at Ninian Park against Norwich. I was thrilled to play in the Football League but aware of how quickly football can change and you never know what might happen next, so you have to keep working hard and see where football takes you.

399 games later, I'm really happy to be here at Wycombe, a club where I'm settled and enjoy coming in to training or matches every day. I've experienced a number of different clubs, managers and groups of players throughout my career, but here I know we've got a fantastic setup which we hope will give us the foundations to go on and have a successful season.

My three years at the club so far have been eventful in their own different ways, and provided some fantastic memories for me, scoring at Wembley and against Aston Villa in the FA Cup, and playing at White Hart Lane last season. As a player you do everything you can to play your part in creating these moments which will live with you forever and I hope there'll be many more like it during my time with Wycombe.

On Tuesday night, while I was making my 400th club appearance, two other lads were making their full EFL debuts and I was delighted for Dan Scarr alongside me in defence to make such a good impression in his first game, and for Ebere Eze to cause Mansfield plenty of problems with his skill in attack. They have plenty of potential to go on and have really successful careers and I hope that as one of the more experienced players in the squad, I can help them along the way whenever they need it.

Tomorrow we play a Luton side which will give us a really tough test but we've been playing well and will be doing everything we can.

WANDERERS

Gritty Wycombe earn draw against Newport

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS boss Gareth Ainsworth was delighted with his side's performance in their 0-0 draw against Newport County at Rodney Parade.

After Newport had the better of the first half, the Chairboys were certainly on the front foot after the break and Josh Umerah, Craig Mackail-Smith and Anthony Stewart all had superb chances to get all three points.

However, Ainsworth was very happy overall, including seeing his side keep their first clean sheet of the season, although slightly rueing the missed opportunities in the second half.

He said: "I thought Adam El-Abd, Anthony Stewart and Scott Brown were absolutely immense for us and to keep a clean sheet is fantastic.

"I put my name to that performance. This was the best Newport side we have faced for years. To have no goals against was superb for us but we edged it for me.

"Craig's chance especially was a great one. He has 170 goals in his career and missed one of the easiest chances he has had but I will have him all day because of what he gives us.

"It was also a great full league debut from Josh and Ebere Eze and showed us what he has, he is a really special talent.

"It was a fantastic performance by the boys and if you draw your away and keep the home form going that you won't be far away but it was a good point for us."

Eze's short cameo certainly drew admiring glances from most people in attendance as he oozed class on the ball.

Ainsworth added: "The game was on a knife-edge for us and some of the stuff he shows in training is unbelievable.

"I asked Ebere to show me what he could do and he really showed it.

"We have a lot of players out too and the depth of the squad for me is very encouraging."

El-Abd put in a real captain's display and was a rock at the back for the Blues.

The gaffer hailed his performance and was very pleased with how his defence shut out the threat of County.

"Adam was absolutely brilliant against the likes of Nouble and Amond but that goes for all of them too.

"It is great to have Anthony back and along with Harriman and JJ we defended really well against a dangerous side."

In terms of chances, the Blues had the best of it in the second half. Umerah saw his header on 57 minutes brilliantly tipped over by Joe Day. From the resulting corner, Stewart saw his bullet header cleared off the line.

Mackail-Smith then wasted a glorious opportunity to put Wanderers 1-0 up when the dangerous Umerah played a delightful low cross into the area on the hour but the former Peterborough man put it wide from 10 yards.

Wanderers goalkeeper Scott Brown also produced several superb saves to deny Newport, most notably from Padraig Amond on 51 minutes when he parried his header wide from point-blank range.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Brown, Harriman, Stewart, El-Abd, Jacobson, Gape (sub: Bean, 64), O'Nien, Bloomfield (sub: Eze, 79), Cowan-Hall, Umerah, Mackail-Smith. Subs: Richardson, Scarr, Jombati, Bean, Southwell, Freeman.

NEWPORT COUNTY: Day, Pipe, White, Demetriou, Butler, Willmott (sub: Owen-Evans, 84), Labadie (sub: Cole, 44), Dolan, Rigg (sub: Tozer, 72), Nouble, Amond. Subs: Bittner, Bennett, Quigley, Jahraldo.



Ainsworth was delighted with his side's display against Newport County on Saturday

BLUES: Captain delighted with first clean sheet El-Abd hails defensive performance

WANDERERS skipper Adam El-Abd expressed relief 'at Wycombe keeping a deserved first clean sheet of the season at Newport County.

El-Abd was outstanding at the heart of the defence that nullified the threat of the dangerous home side who have made a very good start to the season.

The former Brighton defender said: "It feels good. It has been coming and we have been working to try and eradicate those mistakes. Against Forest Green we didn't quite get one which we deserved but fortunately we got that here.

"To be honest I would have swapped the clean sheet for a 2-1 or 3-1 win but we just couldn't get the goal that our play warranted."

The last three games has seen El-

Abd partner Anthony Stewart at the back and he heaped praise on his partner for their burgeoning relationship at he back.

He added: "Ant is a terrific player. It is a pleasure to play alongside him and he is a top lad as well so long may it continue."

Although a clean sheet was met with relief by the captain, like his manager, he was slightly frustrated that they didn't manage to convert their chances to take all three points from South Wales.

"We had enough chances in the game and had them on the ropes in the second half," commented El-Abd.

"The performance was good though and for a 0-0 it was an open game with lots of chances."



El-Abd was superb in the 0-0 draw with Newport County

In terms of his own form, the defender was much happier with his display against Newport. He added: "That is more like the level and

standards I set myself. It is nearer the form I would like to get to.

"Certainly not where I would like to be but it is coming."

PREVIEW: Key players return for Luton clash

BLUES boss Gareth Ainsworth will welcome back a key trip for tomorrow's huge game against Luton Town.

Adebayo Akinfenwa, Sam Saunders and Nathan Tyson are all back in the reckoning for the match at Adams Park against one of the title favourites.

Ainsworth said: "We have been careful with all three of them and it is fantastic to have them back for such a big game and we are looking forward to the game with a fully fit squad, apart from Scott Kashket."

Akinfenwa has already notched

four goals this term, having missed the last two games through injury.

Saunders started the season in sublime form, being especially instrumental in the victory at Port Vale. He had a calf issue which has forced him out for a few weeks but his return is a timely one.

Tyson also started the season well after coming back to Adams Park in the summer. This shows the plethora of attacking options Ainsworth has at his disposal and the boss will help the team can get back on the scoresheet against Nathan Jones' side.



Tyson will be back in the squad for the Luton Town game

WYCOMBE: Another excellent away day display Blues hold title favourites

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE made it back-to-back clean sheets with a 0-0 draw at Mansfield Town and continued to be undefeated on the road since February.

Like Saturday's draw at Newport, the Chairboys left the One Call Stadium having created good chances to snatch all three points, amidst wet and swirling conditions against a strong Stags side.

Gareth Ainsworth made three changes for this one, handing an EFL debut to Dan Scarr and a full debut to Ebere Eze, with Marcus Bean also coming into the side in place of Adam El-Abd, Paris Cowan-Hall and Matt Bloomfield respectively.

There was a milestone appearance for Joe Jacobson as he made his 400th professional appearance.

The first opportunity of the game went to Lee Angol in the opening couple of minutes; peeling off his marker and finding space in the box before connecting with a low cross which Brown got up well to his left to tip behind.

After some intricate one-touch play on the edge from the Stags, Jacobson had to be on hand to block an Alex MacDonald shot destined for the target.

Debutant Scarr almost made a dream start to his EFL career on 22 minutes after Eze showed a good turn of pace and earned a free kick on the by-line. Jacobson whipped it in and found the deadline day signing who saw his header expertly stopped by Conrad Logan.

The Chairboys would be left scratching their heads as to how they did not take the lead three minutes later. Bean received the ball in space from 25 yards and



O'Nien came so close to scoring at Field Mill on Tuesday against Mansfield

tried his luck with a zipping low drive, which was parried back out to him. His second shot deflected goalwards which was too hot for Logan to handle and Luke O'Nien somehow saw his rebound stopped by the keeper from five yards out.

O'Nien would then see a glancing header from Jacobson's free kick go narrowly wide as he found space in the box and has beat the keeper all ends up, but also the post.

An injury to referee Rob Lewis saw him replaced by fourth official Michael D'Aguilar, as assistant Alf Greenwood came into the middle.

That stoppage in play came at the wrong time for the Chairboys who were enjoying a dominant spell, and allowed Mansfield to regroup and get to the half level.

It was a brave but vital headed clearance from Scarr from a dipping cross in the opening stages as Mansfield improved after the restart. The tempo was being disrupted by regular whistles though.

Mackail-Smith used his experience to roll his marker with an excellent first touch before firing over 55 minutes, as Wycombe imposed themselves on the second

period at Field Mill.

The swirling wind was starting to play his part as Ainsworth introduced Paris Cowan-Hall and Matt Bloomfield in place of Mackail-Smith and O'Nien, who had picked a yellow card.

At the other end it bounced kindly for sub Alfie Potter down the right, who slid it in low, but fellow sub Paul Anderson couldn't quite stretch to reach it as Dominic Gape did well to put him off.

The Chairboys will be satisfied with that week and head into tomorrow's game in good form.

Gaffer praises his side's commitment

GARETH Ainsworth was delighted with his side's application in the 0-0 draw at Mansfield Town on Tuesday night.

Blues left One Call Stadium with a well deserved point against strong opposition, and had chances to snatch all three points on a wet and windy night in Mansfield.

The Chairboys had chances a-plenty before the break and goalkeeper Conrad Logan kept the Stags with a series of top drawer saves, including from debutant Scarr, Marcus Bean and Luke O'Nien.

In contrast, apart from a tremendous save early on by Scott Brown from Lee Angol, Logan was the busier of the two custodians showing it was a very positive performance by Wanderers at Field Mill.

Ainsworth, reflecting on the stalemate with the pre-season league favourites, thought the result reflected the strength in depth his squad possess, with both Dan Scarr and Ebere Eze making their full EFL debuts.

With Luton coming to town on Saturday, the manager is hoping the team can continue their impressive run of form, and build on their 3-1 triumph vs Forest Green in their last home fixture.

"I'm so pleased with the endeavour and the commitment of my players," he said.

"We've handed two EFL full debuts at a place like this, and to be able to do that shows the strength we have in this squad.

"We could have won it, we maybe should have won it, but 0-0 away at Mansfield is a great result for a team of their size.

"You could see it at the end that the Mansfield fans were not happy with the result, they are expecting a lot and it shows what a good point that is.

"We're on a great run away from home, now let's start winning our home games and see what we can achieve this year.

"I'm confident that we have got what it takes at home, we will get the players right and recovered.

"I have got a squad that I believe in so much, not that I haven't had that before but there is something special about this group.

"We've got more players than we have ever had before, with more competition and a great deal of quality and nights like this make it all worth it."

SPORT

Football

The Rams secure away win thanks to Losasso strike
- Page 65



CHAIRBOYS: Defender Dan hopes to deliver for Wanderers Scarr: Playing for Blues is a great opportunity



Dan Scarr

ON-LOAN defender Dan Scarr admits he is relishing the opportunity to show what he can do after making a fantastic debut away at Mansfield on Tuesday evening.

Scarr was outstanding at the heart of the Chairboys backline in north Nottinghamshire, repelling the attacks of the home side as well as oozing quality on the ball.

To keep a clean sheet against one of the title favourites represents a real feather in the cap for the former Stourbridge man who was actually making his EFL debut.

He said: "I thought I played well on my debut on Tuesday evening. I thought we gelled well at the back and we worked well together which always helps.

"I thought it was a good start and I am pleased with how it went."

Since joining the club on transfer deadline day, Scarr explained how welcome the squad have made him which has helped him settle in a little more easier.

He added: "They are a good group of lads to be fair and there are no sort of cliques, which makes it

easier to come into a group which have been here a while and everyone made me welcome as well as the staff so that was all good."

Scarr's signing came very late on the fabled last day of the transfer window and the 22-year-old added it was a whirlwind time for him.

"It all a bit hectic towards getting closer to the deadline," commented Scarr.

"I was aware of the interest from the club but you never get your hopes up in football but I am glad we got it over the line and I can't wait to

get cracking here at the club."

The Birmingham star also netted at Adams Park in Stourbridge's FA Cup run last season and added he now wants to make a name for himself at Wycombe Wanderers.

He explained: "There is great competition here. We are all good at what we do and we all push each other in training games and get the best out of each other.

"This is big step for me in my career in where I want to go. At the moment though I just want to take it one match at a time."

WANDERERS: Manager delighted with form of young dynamos Ainsworth: Our young loan players have massive future

THE new look Wanderers squad have started the season in impressive fashion, scoring goals galore before shoring it up at the back in superb style in the last three games.

A blend of youth and experience has helped Wycombe have a decent start to the campaign and the signings manager Gareth Ainsworth has made have been an integral part of that.

In recent games, in the absence of key players, three young players on loan from clubs in the Championship and League One have laid down a marker.

Josh Umerah, Ebere Eze and Dan Scarr have all found themselves thrown into the heat of the battle in League Two and all three have more than played their part against some of the division's best sides.

Umerah came on against Forest Green and looked lively, closing out the game like a seasoned professional.

Eze came on for a sparkling cameo at Newport County was then made his first start against Mansfield where he was sensational in the first half.

Scarr made his first start for the club against the Stags and immediately drew admiring glances from management, players and fans alike.

This week, Ainsworth hailed the impact these young stars have made so far and is convinced that all three have a big future in the game.

By Nicholas Tunney

He said: "All three have done superbly well. They have all got good careers ahead of them, undoubtedly.

"They have the ability on the pitch but also the mental side of the game is important and off the pitch all three are great characters too.

"That is why I think they will go far. It is fantastic they are playing their trade with us. They all have different attributes. Josh has pace and power and is learning off Bayo.

"Dan looks a quality centre-half and has a touch of class and handled his debut at Mansfield extremely well."

Ainsworth left Eze until last and has been left purring at what he has seen from the QPR loanee so far.

He added: "Ebere can be anything he wants to be. The ability of the boy is frightening to see. He still has a lot to learn about the game but wow he has got some tools.

"I just want to keep working with him and helping him and we have to manage him well.

"He can control the ball, see things and we want him to learn off the ball and there is no better place for these guys to learn than League Two so I am thankful for the clubs that have loaned us these guys.

"This is definitely the strongest squad I have had in my time here at the club."



Ebere Eze has received plaudits for his first two appearance in a Wanderers shirt thanks to two superb performances at Newport and Mansfield. Photo: Anita Ross Marshall