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90p



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Carjacking target feared for his life

Man relives '60mph' terror

By Shruti Sheth Trivedi

A CARJACKING victim, who was hurt after he fell from the bonnet of his car while desperately clinging on as the thief drove at high speeds in the London Road, has spoken out about his terrifying ordeal.

Car owner Matt Spooner, 29, took an unknown man out for a test drive around High Wycombe in his Mercedes moments before the drama unfolded.

Mr Spooner said he drove the man in the car from Berkeley Road for around 90 seconds before returning to where they started.

As he started showing him around the car, Mr Spooner said the man assaulted him by punching him in the side of the head, and took the keys from his hand.

He said: "I was showing him something at the back of the car and he hit me on the side of the head from behind and took the keys from me."

"He initially couldn't get the car going and I tried to break the windows to get in and stop him. I was shouting for help."



Car owner was attacked in shocking incident

As Mr Spooner tried to stop the thief, he ended up on the bonnet of the car and was carried along the A40 "at speed".

He then fell off the car and the thief drove off. The car was seen travelling along the A40 towards Beaconsfield, until the junction with Watery Lane in Wooburn Green.

He said: "I climbed on to the bonnet thinking that might stop him. He didn't care, he just kept on driving."

See page 2



Flowers and cards have been left at the scene

Tributes to tragic driver

TRIBUTES have poured in for a 26-year-old man who tragically died after his car crashed into a tree in a quiet south Bucks village at the weekend.

Lee Elston died in the horror smash after his blue Subaru

Impreza hit a tree in Nightingales Lane, Chalfont St Giles, on Saturday at around 6.40am.

The Little Chalfont resident was the only person in the vehicle and sadly died at the scene. Full story, page 3

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PHOTO GALLERY: Chairboys suffer last-gasp defeat to lucky Luton Town



In the CHAIR



ANDREW HOWARD



Howard and Ainsworth

WHEN I first started working with Gareth after joining the board of directors in the summer of 2014, I was instantly impressed by his drive to succeed and take the club forward. Here was a guy who had been thrown into the deep end of football management at a club struggling to stay afloat financially and in real danger of dropping out of the Football League.

However, Gareth is a fighter, and someone who takes setbacks in his stride and uses them as learning experiences to improve. That was clear to me very early on, and strange as it may sound, the success of that 2014/15 season didn't come as much of a surprise. Yes, we only targeted survival from relegation as a minimum, but Gareth and his staff had recruited as well as they could and created a culture where players and staff could punch above their weight.

In each of the three full seasons so far, the team have found themselves in promotion contention and given the supporters some fantastic memories along the way, from Wembley to Villa Park to White Hart Lane.

He's earned the respect not just of the board, staff, players and supporters, but also from those outside the club – opposition managers, players, league officials and the national media. That stems from his character as a hard-working, honest and extremely determined individual.

I've heard it said that sometimes football teams are built in the mould of their manager, and I think you can see that on the pitch. Gareth's playing days were all about running through brick walls for your team, giving everything you've got, and committing to be the best you can be. He can demand it from his players because he leads by example; I don't think you can ever question the effort or desire from the team.

It's exciting to look back at how far the club has come during Gareth's five years in charge and the next few months could be another fantastic chapter in that story as we look to go one better than last year and compete for promotion.

WANDERERS

Ainsworth: I am so proud of the players

By Sports Reporter

WANDERERS boss Gareth Ainsworth was absolutely devastated at seeing his side snatch defeat from the jaws of victory as Luton came from 1-0 down to score two in injury time.

Adebayo Akinfenwa had given Wycombe the lead in the first half with a bullet header from Michael Harriman's superb cross.

For long spells, the Blues dominated the game but Luton heart-breakingly scored two in second half injury time thanks to Scott Cuthbert and top scorer James Collins.

Ainsworth, proud of his side, said: "The game as a whole felt like a cup tie.

"I thought in the first half we dominated, we forced Luton back, forced them into changes and forced the way they played and it was everything you would want from your team.

"Another goal would have been nice with the domination we had, but it wasn't to be and the goal we scored was a fantastic move and a great header from Akinfenwa who proved his value on his return.

"Luton are always going to come at you, and it happened to be in the dying minutes when they threw the centre-half up front and he ends up on the end of a cross.

"Sometimes it happens, and we do everything we can to try and stop it, I was about to put another centre-half on to try and shore things up but the ball didn't go out of play and those moments dictate things.

"Fair play to Luton, we take that on the chin, but we go again next week.

"I am very proud, the effort was superb, the result wasn't what we wanted but if we play like that for the rest of the season, I have said to the boys that you will go one better than last year.

"We've just played the two teams in Mansfield and Luton that are fancied more than anyone else in the league; they are meant to be going up this season and we have more than matched them and that's positive for me.

"It's fantastic to realise where we are as a club and be competing at the highest level at League Two, and I genuinely believe that we have got everything to at least make those play-offs this year.

"Now it is all about picking them up for next week at Colchester and we are going to turn someone over soon I'm sure."

The hosts began brightly, displaying some inventive football in the final third whilst also retaining the threat of a more direct approach to Akinfenwa. Marcus Bean drilled over early on, before Luke O'Nien's first-time effort from a poor clearance was well kept out by Marek Stech.

Craig Mackail-Smith had a shot blocked and Akinfenwa had his first sight of goal on 13 minutes, sending a header over the top from Joe Jacobson's inviting cross.

Just before half-time, the Beast got onto the end of Harriman's brilliant ball into the box with a superb header which gave Stech no chance.

The visitors gradually grew into the game but Wanderers were holding firm until two late goals from the Hatters broke Blues' hearts.

Danny Hylton's cross from the left was glanced on and substitute Cuthbert scored for the second year running at Adams Park, turning home from close range.

With virtually the final touch, a deep cross to the back post was headed goalwards by Collins and a combination of Harriman and Marcus Bean tried in vain to keep the ball from crossing the line, sparking delirious and unsavoury scenes at the final whistle.



Ainsworth was delighted with his side's performance against Luton

WYCOMBE: Midfielder hails character of squad

Bean wants more away day success

CHAIRBOYS midfielder Marcus Bean said the team are determined to bounce back from their very unlucky defeat to Luton Town last weekend.

Bean was in buoyant mood when he focused on the positives at the training ground yesterday, explaining the squad will do everything in their power to turn their fortunes around.

He said: "The performance gave us a lot of confidence moving forward. Luton are a big team in this league with a big budget and for 85 minutes they had completely run out of ideas and were second best.

"Training has been excellent this week and the mood in the camp is buoyant and we are ready to take on Colchester."

Bean was a former U's player and although the confidence remains undimmed, he is expecting a hard game in East Anglia.

He added: "It will be tough game. They have a very good home record but they have been struggling away.

"John McGreal has done a very good job on limited resources there and they have a good, young side.

"We are going to have to be right at it. The last three games have shown we are playing very well even though we haven't got the results so this time we want to make sure we can come away with the points."

The Blues have been on a terrific unbeaten run away from home. They haven't lost on their travels since, ironically, losing at the home of the U's and Bean is sure this will



Bean is confident the team will bounce back

stand them in good stead.

The midfielder commented: "That is a testament to the character of the boys as well as the quality we

have and being away suits us well as we are a solid side and we counter attack well and we can hope that this continues."

MICHAEL GRAHAM

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ANALYSIS

COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



IT has been a quite superb week for two young racing drivers who hail from south Bucks. Following in the footsteps of Lewis Hamilton's years of success in the Formula One arena, Tom Ingram and Jack Goff made giant strides at the iconic Silverstone track last weekend. Both men compete in the British Touring Car Championship and they produced stellar performances to win a race each at the Northamptonshire circuit. Ingram held off the challenge of Goff in the first race before Goff turned the tables in race two with a quite exceptional display of driving. These two gentlemen are unlikely to win this year's title but have proven that round the most famous of circuits that they can live with the best the BTCC has to offer. In the wake of Hamilton

winning the last two races in Italy and Singapore, it is so refreshing to see top class racing talent from this region of the UK making waves in a seriously competitive environment. With the likes of AJ Owen also progressing through the ranks, these three drivers clearly have what it takes to go all the way in their desired professions and I am sure I will be reporting on their achievements a lot more as the months progress. My working week is usually taken up with football and most notably, Wycombe Wanderers. Unfortunately I wasn't in attendance at Adams Park on Saturday but it was certainly a tough one to take to see the Blues lose in the most heart-breaking fashion. They have had a run of three of the toughest games you could get in League Two. This mini run started with Newport away, followed by Mansfield away and ending in the Hatters at home. Although I wasn't there on Saturday, the reports I have received

about the Chairboys' display were very positive and most people I know were stunned that the team didn't get at least a point. Two points out of a possible nine looks below average on the face of it but in all honesty, the Blues could have easily won all three games and no-one would have deemed that lucky or unfair. With Colchester away tomorrow, I am sure the lads will be absolutely determined to get a victory on the board. If their performances against the U's matches the last three games, a win could well be on the cards. Colchester haven't had a great start to the season considering they were sniffing around the play-offs last season. Wanderers are unbeaten in 10 league games on the road and I fully expect them to extend that run this weekend. Gareth Ainsworth will be hoping to get that victory this weekend as Sunday marks his fifth anniversary in charge at Adams Park. In this day of new boards coming in and the managerial merry-

go-round in full swing, it is truly a tremendous achievement to mark five years in charge at any club. He is the fourth longest serving manager in England and the stability he has given Wycombe has been so important. Since Ainsworth kept Wanderers up in the famous game at Torquay in May 2014, they have definitely seen a real progression and are competing at the right end of the table. Last season, they were very unlucky to miss out on the play-offs and Gaz seems determined to put that right this season. They have made a decent start to the campaign, especially away from home, and the whole squad seem to thrive off his management. To top it all off for me as a reporter, he is an absolute joy to interview. He is very humble and just an all-round good guy. Win, lose or draw his mood is always upbeat and he always has a great demeanour with the press when being asked tough questions, which is testament to the guy he is.

Wycombe Wanderers



VS



Colchester United

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: WWDDL

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: WLWDL

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Sam Walker
- 2. Ryan Jackson
- 26. Ryan Inniss
- 18. Tom Eastman
- 22. Kane Vincent-Young
- 7. Drey Wright
- 4. Tom Lapslie
- 14. Brandon Comley
- 16. Sean Murray
- 10. Sammie Szmodics
- 21. Brandon Hanlan

THIS week's Opposition View is with Colchester Daily Gazette sports editor Jon Waldron.

How have Colchester started the season?

It's been a bit of a mixed start for Colchester and in lots of ways, a continuation from last season. Their home form has been good and they've unbeaten in their first four league games there, taking eight points from a possible 12 at the Weston Homes Community Stadium. However, their form on the road has been dire and they have lost all four of the away games that they have played so far, in League Two.

Who are your key players?

Sammie Szmodics is so far

proving to be an important player for Colchester. He has scored five goals already for the U's this season having returned from a leg break suffered in the final weeks of the previous campaign.

What are the hopes for Colchester this season?

The minimum aim for Colchester and their fans this season will be to make the play-offs. They fell just short of clinching a top-seven spot last season despite a host of injuries in John McGreal's first season in charge and they will be hoping to go one better this time around.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

Colchester's games against Wycombe are still seen as special occasions given the

historic rivalry between the two clubs dating back to their Conference days and the fixture is a special one for older U's fans in particular.

The U's were able to clinch a league double over Wycombe last season so they will be hoping for a similar scenario again, this time around.

Prediction?

I'm going to go for a 2-1 win for Colchester.



Jon Waldron

WANDERERS

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GRAHAM

Wycombe gaffer takes a

By Nicholas Tunney

MANAGERS in England over the years seem to have their reigns shortened each season.

Frank De Boer is a prime example of this. He was appointed by Crystal Palace in the summer and promised to bring his own brand of passing football but explained it would take time to implement.

Four league games and no goals later, the latest Premier League manager's career was confined to the scrapheap and served notice that boards in this day and age crave immediate success.

At the other end of the spectrum, sits Arsene Wenger who has just celebrated 20 years in charge at Arsenal.

The Frenchman has been instrumental in their success in the last two decades but recently the trophies have dried up and fans have urged the chairman to move the Gallic legend upstairs.

The next three longest serving managers in this country all ply their trade in League Two. Paul Tisdale of Exeter, Jim Bentley of Morecambe and Wycombe's own Gareth Ainsworth fill the next three slots in the pecking order.

On Sunday, the Lancastrian celebrates five years at the top in charge of the Chairboys and it shows the board's faith in him that they have given him the resources this summer to reshape the squad ready for a potential promotion charge.

I spoke to Gareth at the training ground yesterday and it is clear to see the passion still burns brightly as much now as it did when he first began the job on September 24, 2012.

It is clear that Ainsworth is proud of his achievement to be in charge at one club for such a long time, dispelling the normal everyday antics of boards at a higher level.

He said: "I am amazingly proud.



Ainsworth as a player before he took the reins

There is a lot that comes with this job. People don't realise the responsibility you have and the expectation that you deal with.

"It is such a proud moment and when I look back five years ago we have had such a transformation.

"We had just been relegated and the finances didn't look good but I am glad the club have stuck with me and we should all be proud of where we are today.

"I have delivered on my promises on making the club a better place. We aren't where we were 10 years ago but we are aiming that way and everyone such as Andrew Howard, Trevor Stroud and the fans should all be proud."

When asked about why managers at a lower level get more time, Ainsworth made a valid point. He added: "Of the top five managers who have lasted the longest, three of them are in charge at trust-owned clubs.

"I think that says quite a bit that clubs without these sole owners who make knee-jerk reactions make the right decisions. Sometimes

these sole owners listen to the fans and make that knee-jerk decision as they want to seem to be popular.

"It may be a blessing that we haven't had the finances and we have had to change and it seems to have worked the opposite way and having sensible people in charge is so important."

There have been so many highlights for the affable gaffer along the way and there are a few he looked back on with real fondness.

He commented: "The Torquay game was a real highlights, as well as possibly a lowlight. It was an awesome occasion and something that I will never ever forget.

"To get to the playoff final the season after was an immensely proud day for me to lead the team out as manager at Wembley.

"Also the FA Cup runs where we faced Villa and Spurs were tremendous days for me and the club. But to be honest I come in everyday and absolutely love this job.

"To have got at this plan we put in five years ago has been fantastic. We



The 44-year-old helped his side stave off the threat of relegation in 2014



Ainsworth at Wembley

Stalwarts hail 'incredible' job Ainsworth has done

MARCUS BEAN and Matt Bloomfield praised the impact Gareth Ainsworth has had in his five years in charge of Wycombe Wanderers.

The likeable Lancastrian celebrates his fifth anniversary as manager of the Blues on Sunday and as well as playing under Ainsworth as boss, both players were team-mates of his at QPR and Wanderers.

Bean said: "The gaffer is one of those that when he was playing I didn't think he would go into management but having been working with him for three years now as manager, he is exactly the same as when he was a player.

"He is very affable; his man-management skills are very good and people want to run through brick walls through him because of the passion and energy he brings to



the place. You know after a defeat he will try and lift the boys.

He is the first one in to try and pep the boys up and you can see

the quality he brings and with his management duo it is a very good mix of the man-management skills and what he brings to the

training ground."

With managers across the country being chopped and changed very regularly, Bean added: "It is a huge achievement to be in charge for that long.

"You see managers getting sacked after four games and it is testament to the job he has done here and a testament to himself why he has been in charge so long at Wycombe.

"I am guessing they may have been opportunities to go elsewhere but he is a very loyal man and he is stuck around.

"He was always a top man as a player. He would put his arm round the shoulder of the young players coming through and he is a very positive man.

"In a world where there is a lot of negativity he has always been extremely positive."

Bloomfield echoed the comments of his fellow midfielder, adding: "He has evolved so much as a manager in the past five years and the job he has done here has been incredible.

"When you look at the stats which say he is the fourth longest serving manager in the country that says it all about everything he has done.

"Back when we were team-mates he was always there if you needed a chat and that's the same as manager. He has obviously left that kind of joker role behind he had in the dressing room when he was a player but the desire is still there.

"You could say we play in the manager's style. We come in and work hard and show a lot of humility and we have the utmost respect for him as manager and he is a great guy to work with."

walk down memory lane



Ainsworth and assistant Richard Dobson



Ainsworth and Akinfenwa embrace at White Hart Lane



Wanderers, led by Ainsworth, took Aston Villa to an FA Cup replay in 2016

are having a real go. Teams have got stronger and finances are different but we are trying to get promoted this year and stay up in the fifth year.”

So far this season, it seems as if Ainsworth’s words are being heeded. They currently sit in 12th in the league but just four points off third place.

Wanderers have endured a tough start to the season, including the gut-wrenching defeat to Luton last weekend.

Ainsworth added: “It isn’t one game that will get us promoted.

It will be all 46. Only one game I can think of this season where we haven’t done ourselves justice and that was Notts County at home.

“In the last three games, we have faced Newport, Mansfield and Luton who are all strong. If we got seven points from those games instead of two then that would have definitely been a more realistic outlook on how we did in those matches.

“We have had some really tough games so far including Notts County, Lincoln and Luton who will all be up there at the end of the season.

“We now want to start picking

points up and we aren’t going to play this underdog tag on the pitch and if we all turn up we should be winning games and I want us to restart that against Colchester.

“Colchester has been a tricky game in the last few years and it is a derby stretching back to the non-league days and they have some decent players on loan and they have some real talent in their team and we want to keep this superb away form going.

“To not be beaten away from home since February is a fantastic effort and we want to keep that going.”



Ainsworth hails the supporters after the agonising 4-3 defeat to Spurs in the fourth round of the FA Cup



Ainsworth saw his side lose to Southend in the playoff final of 2015



SPORT

Rugby
Beaconsfield dish out a thrashing to rivals
- Page 101



ROAD TO GLORY



**Bucks
racing
duo in
Silverstone
one - two**

See page 102

Ainsworth: This is my best squad

ON the eve of his fifth anniversary in charge at Adams Park, Gareth Ainsworth hailed his current squad as the best he has had during his tenure.

Sunday marks five years to the day since Ainsworth stepped in to take charge of the Chairboys and he has seen a huge roller-coaster of emotions during his reign.

However, with a shot at promotion on the horizon, Ainsworth

declared that the squad he has assembled for this season is the best he has had.

He said: "Undoubtedly it is the best. I don't want to disrespect any players who have come in and out but I am delighted with the quality here."

"For example, Paul Hayes was an awesome player for us when he joined and in his prime he would have definitely added to this squad."

"At the current time and in this moment, I would say that this is the best squad I have had as manager of Wycombe Wanderers and that is why I am excited this season."

This weekend, the Blues face a tricky trip to Colchester in the hope of marking the 44-year-old's five years at the helm with a win and Ainsworth added: "It is going to be a tough test."

"The way we have played on the

road since February (when Wanderers last lost away) has been brilliant. It isn't going to be an easy game as John McGreal will have them fired up but we have a run of games now where we can look to pick up some points."

"Our performances recently have been very good, even though we haven't got the results, so I hope we can turn it round for Saturday."

See pages 106 & 107



Ainsworth celebrates five years in charge