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**Merry
Christmas**

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EXCLUSIVE:

**Uncertain future for troubled shopping
centre as housing developer looks set
to complete takeover**

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NEWS

Radicalised teen found guilty over ISIS terror texts



A RADICALISED High Wycombe teenager is facing jail for sharing Islamic State propaganda on WhatsApp.

Supermarket assistant Iftikhar Ali, of Totteridge Drive, was found guilty on Wednesday after he sent several messages which glorified acts of terrorism between September and October 2015.

He was aged 18, living at home with his parents and had a job at Sainsbury's at the time he sent extremist material on his mobile phone.

It can now be reported that Ali was friends with convicted terrorist Taha Hussain, who was filmed driving past Windsor Castle shouting "Allahu akbar" and "burn in hell".

After the now 19-year-old Ali was arrested, detectives from Counter Terrorism Policing South East also found a publication "likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism".

In December 2015, Ali had been identified by the Prevent team but he failed to engage with them. He was then arrested last year over a payment of £140 via Western Union to a man in Turkey, which he claimed was for "charitable purposes".

See page 5

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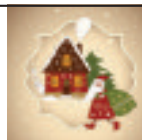
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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



ANOTHER impressive home win and performance for Wanderers at the weekend!

Chesterfield were certainly one of the best teams I have seen in recent weeks at Adams Park. They had a different style from a lot of teams Wycombe have played this season.

They pass it out from the back and gave Wanderers problems by swamping the midfield which nullified the threat of Ebere Eze and Sam Saunders, especially in the first half.

However, it was a highly professional display from the Blues and what a goal to win it from Luke O’Nien. It was a wonderful hit by the midfielder, an absolute rocket on his left foot worthy of winning any game.

Then they saw out the game with arguably their best defensive display of the season. I thought the organisation

and resilience shown by the team as a whole was fantastic and Scott Brown was hardly tested.

Adam El-Abd led the way with a terrific performance at the back. He and Anthony Stewart were absolutely flawless and didn’t allow the dangerous Kristian Dennis a sniff.

With El-Abd, he is proving to be one of the best centre halves in the league on current performances. He has been a rock defensively with a first-class positional sense and he has shown an assured touch on the ball.

The goals and threat from the Chairboys is still in abundance but they are showing a real defensive steel in recent weeks that was maybe missing at times at the beginning of the season.

To be fourth in the league after their last home game before Christmas is a great achievement. I think if you said that scenario to Gareth, he would have bitten your hand off for it.

Next up for the Blues is a tricky trip to Coventry, he saw off Wy-

combe to reach the Checkatrade Trophy final last season.

That defeat deprived Wanderers the chance of a memorable day out at Wembley and I know a few of the players were hurting after that loss so they will want to make amends.

I can’t wait to be at Adams Park on Boxing Day against Newport. I think the tradition of a Boxing Day game is a part of the game in

this country and I hope that it remains on the calendar.

Wycombe put in a great performance at Newport earlier in the season but only drew 0-0 despite holding the upper hand for most of the game.

With the games coming thick and fast over the festive period, it is a defining moment in the season and the table really takes shape.

Merry Christmas. COYB!



Adam El-Abd

Wycombe Wanderers

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: WLWDW



VS



Coventry City

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: WDDLW

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Lee Burge
- 2. Jack Grimmer
- 4. Jordan Willis
- 5. Rod McDonald
- 3. Chris Stokes
- 30. Tom Bayliss
- 8. Michael Doyle
- 7. Peter Vincenti
- 10. Marc McNulty
- 9. Max Biamou
- 26. Jordan Shipley

THIS week’s Opposition View is with Andy Turner of the Coventry Telegraph

How have Coventry started the season?

They got off to a flying start with a big opening day 3-0 victory over Notts County and followed it up with an away win at Grimsby before being brought back down to earth with back-to-back defeats to Newport County (h) and Yeovil (a) and that has pretty much set the tone for an inconsistent first half of the campaign.

Who are your key players?

City’s key man was Jodi Jones until he got injured last month and is now out for the season with a ruptured ACL.

That is a huge blow to the

team. Summer signing from Sheffield United, Marc McNulty, is joint leading scorer with eight in all competitions (currently on a run of four in five) and Duckens Nazon is the current fans’ favourite.

What are the hopes for Coventry this season?

Promotion. Mark Robins has made no secret of the fact that he wants one of the automatic promotion spots although the play-offs are looking more realistic at this stage unless there is a significant improvement in the New Year.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

Clearly a well run club who have stuck with their bright young manager and it appears to be reaping rewards.

Having just missed out on the play-offs last year, Gareth Ainsworth appears to be going one better this season with a strong start to the campaign.

Prediction?

1-2 Wycombe win



Andy Turner

In the CHAIR



ANONYMOUS STAT MAN



Adebayo Akinfenwa

WITH tonight's trip to Coventry City taking the Chairboys – and their League Two rivals – to the halfway point in the season, it's an appropriate opportunity to assess the facts and figures that make up the campaign so far.

A win at the Ricoh Arena would take Gareth Ainsworth's men to 40 points from half the total number of games; that's the same tally they achieved in the second half of the 2014/15 term which culminated in a play-off final at Wembley. Wycombe were last promoted in 2011 with an overall tally of 80 points, which eclipsed the 78 points they earned to reach League One in 2009.

By the midway point last season, the Blues had accumulated 38 points, which included that phenomenal sequence of achieving seven wins from eight league games over the winter period. The rigours of two cup competitions hampered league form, resulting in 31 points from the second half of the campaign, leaving them just one shy of the play-offs. But their current point per game rate would leave them with 77 by the end of the 46th fixture.

So it's fair to say the Blues are well on track for a top seven finish – at least – and they've reached this point by outscoring any other side managed by Gareth Ainsworth during his tenure. 39 goals from 22 league games have brought a better average than they year they reached Wembley, and incredibly they're only six goals off their total for the whole of the 2015/16 campaign.

Yet aside from the 4-0 thrashing against Crawley, the goals haven't been quite as regular as earlier in the season, which hasn't been a problem due to the improved defensive displays produced by the Blues. They shipped 17 goals in August alone, but only six in their last 10 outings, which have included five clean sheets, having kept only three in the three months that preceded.

And we have to talk about the Beast. Aged 35, Adebayo Akinfenwa is on course for the most productive season in front of goal throughout his entire career, having hit 11 already in 23 appearances.

WANDERERS RECAP

Ainsworth 'proud' of gutsy performance

WYCOMBE 1-0 CHESTERFIELD

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth was delighted with the strong performance of his players as they moved to fourth in League Two thanks to a 1-0 win over Chesterfield.

Luke O'Nien grabbed the only goal of the game on 54 minutes with a cracker, smashing in a left-footed effort into the bottom corner to give Spireites keeper Cameron Dawson absolutely no chance.

The win maintains an impressive run at Adams Park for the Chairboys, who won their fifth game in a row at home.

Ainsworth said: "Don't underestimate that result."

"Jack Lester has Chesterfield playing very well and they will pick plenty of points up this season. I wouldn't be surprised if they get into the top half of the table."

"It was a very tight game, even though we edged the chances. It was going to take a moment of magic to win the match and step up Luke O'Nien."

"It was a great time to score and a great strike. Then we showed resilience and there were some really good performances."

"Some real graft was shown and the captain [Adam El-Abd] has said at the end of the game these are the games that count. Not the 4-0 wins but the 1-0's when you have to dig deep."

"I am very proud of them."

Defensively, Wycombe have been exemplary lately with a second successive clean sheet and, with some criticism earlier in the season, the defence looks well drilled and organised currently.

Ainsworth added: "Adam and Anthony Stewart are developing a very good relationship with Dan Scarr not far behind and Max Muller and Will De Hav-

illand also pushing for a place.

"We have some very good defenders here and Joe Jacobson is back to his best. I am also really pleased with Sido Jombati and Scott Brown and the whole team put a real shift in."

The home form has been a shining light so far, with Wycombe traditionally better away in recent years.

Ainsworth explained there are a few factors as to why there may have been an improvement so far this campaign.

"It has taken a while. The pitch is very good and we can play some good stuff in there," commented the Blues manager.

"Undoubtedly you see the names we have here now, the likes of Nathan Tyson and Craig Mackail-Smith. The signings we have made have been very satisfying."

"We have young lads coming through. There is no magic key to it. We just feel comfortable at home."

Overall, the Blues were the better side and had the more chances throughout the game.

Dawson made an incredible save from Mackail-Smith on 25 minutes from 10 yards, palming away a rocket shot with superb agility after Adebayo Akinfenwa caused havoc for the Chesterfield defence.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Brown, Jombati, Stewart, El-Abd, Jacobson, O'Nien, Saunders, Eze (sub: Bloomfield, 85), Tyson (sub: Cowan-Hall, 73), Akinfenwa, Mackail-Smith *sub: Southwell, 90). Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Scarr, Gape, Freeman.

CHESTERFIELD: Dawson, Binnom-Williams, Hird, Wiseman, Evatt, Dennis (sub: German, 80), Rowley, Kellett (sub: O'Grady, 70), Reed, McCourt, Weir (sub: Dimaio, 85). Subs: Parkin, Mitchell, De Girolamo.

REFEREE: Nicholas Kinsey

ATTENDANCE: 4,522



Ainsworth was delighted with the win and performance over Chesterfield

BLUES: Midfielder's surprise with wonder winner O'Nien soaks up that winning feeling

WYCOMBE midfielder Luke O'Nien celebrated that winning feeling after his wonder strike gave Wanderers a superb 1-0 win over an improving Chesterfield.

O'Nien's goal on 54 minutes was worthy of winning any game and the former Watford player was delighted to see it go in.

He said: "Sido Jombati gave me the ball and I just cut inside and I think everyone just expected to cross it."

"I thought 'why not' and as I was hitting as was thinking 'what I am doing?' but it was nice to celebrate the goal with all the boys and the fans."

"It is one of the best feelings in football."

O'Nien also hailed his team-mates

for their impressive work ethic against a tough Spireites team, who have improved since Jack Lester took over.

He added: "For the spells in possession that they had, I don't think they caused Scott Brown too many problems. The shape was good and it has been a good week and we executed our plans very well so credit to everyone."

O'Nien's belter also came as a slight surprise as he also touched upon a wretched session of shooting practice he had in training earlier in the week.

"I was speaking to the boys in the changing room and Macca [Craig Mackail-Smith] and myself had a competition in shooting practice," said the midfielder.



O'Nien scored a superb goal for his third of the campaign

"During the shooting practice we said whoever misses the target has to go and get the ball."

"We were shooting hard and when

we missed it went a very long way. To be honest, I literally missed every one of my shots so it was nice that I could produce the goods."

No new injury concerns for the Chairboys

GARETH Ainsworth is pleased that he has near enough a fully-fit squad to choose from as Wycombe enter their busiest time of the season.

Apart from Michael Harriman and Josh Umerah, the only concern Ainsworth has is over the fitness of Marcus Bean.

He said: "Everyone came through OK from Saturday.

"Once again, we are looking good as a squad going into the games.

"We have pulled out Marcus Bean who has been carrying a thigh injury and we have said to Beany to get him-

self fully fit for the new year.

"He has been carrying this injury for a while so it isn't a new injury and we will look at the rehab he needs to do to get himself back.

"Only Harriman and Umerah are still out for a bit longer

"Everyone is playing well and getting back to full fitness which is great. Nathan Tyson played a good hour at the weekend and Scott Kashket remains in contention for this weekend after doing warm-ups lately and it is looking excellent for us at the moment."



Bean has had a recurring thigh problem recently which will keep him out for a while

WYCOMBE: Ainsworth looking for strong Xmas 'Pivotal' period for Blues

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS begin their hectic Christmas programme tonight when they face Coventry City at the Ricoh Arena.

Following that, the Blues have three games in six days, beginning with a home game to Newport on Boxing Day.

Wycombe have been in good form recently, especially at home, and boss Gareth Ainsworth is relishing the chance to lock horns with one of the most ambitious teams in the division.

Coventry have made a decent start this season, having been relegated from League One last campaign. Despite their promising opening, Sky Blues boss Mark Robins still feels his charges at eight points shy of where they should be.

It is a statement that shows Robins and his side mean business this season.

Ainsworth said: "They have brilliant ambition. They are a fantastic club with good history and they will be tough opposition for us.

"Our form on the road has been indifferent lately but we go there in good spirits. It is a big pitch that allows for open football.

"They relaid it in the summer but the pitch cuts up quite a lot due to the rugby as well so that has come into consideration.

"We will be picking the team that we feel can do a job there and come back with something. It will be a tough, tough game as they are up and around us.

"For Mark to say what he has said is a huge statement so we need to be on it."

With the game being pushed forward a day due to fixture clash



Ainsworth is looking for a strong festive period for Wycombe

with Wasps, it means the team have an extra day to recover ahead of the Newport fixture on Tuesday.

Ainsworth hopes this can be a slight advantage for his side.

He added: "You could look at it both ways. It is one of those questions you aren't sure of the answers too. Teams are due to face a Saturday-Tuesday, which they are used to in this league.

"People say that extra day will give us an extra day for recovery but people will spin it whatever way they want.

"I am quite pleased we do have

that extra day, especially if we can pick something up from Coventry we can be ahead of the game.

"There is no rest for us at Christmas, though. Saturday isn't a day off. There will be plenty of work that goes into getting everyone ready for Boxing Day and these games are crucial and it is an important time to pick up some points."

With the games coming thick and fast, Ainsworth pinpointed the festive period as 'pivotal' as the season starts to take shape.

He commented: "It is always piv-

otal. Once you come out into January, the fixtures are condensed and the league goes quickly.

"Once you are in the middle of January, you only have three months left then you are done. People will be looking that end.

"The ones who manage their squads generally are the ones who get it right and the aim is to be in the play-offs around this time and moving into January. Sticking in their is key for me.

"I firmly believe we can achieve that and also at the end of the season, which is the main aim."

Tyson: I thought that was it for me

WANDERERS forward Nathan Tyson is delighted to be back in action after making his first start in over two months against Chesterfield.

The jet-heeled front man made a pleasing return to the starting XI in the home win on Saturday after making a cameo at Stevenage the weekend before.

However, the 35-year-old thought the injury he sustained at Cambridge in early October could have been it for him.

Tyson went down awkwardly after firing a shot and the subsequent details weren't good. However, a scan showed it was far less serious than initially feared, a result that mightily relieved the former Forest man.

He said: "I thought that was it. I have done my knee twice before and this time it felt differently in the way I did it.

"I thought to myself that it felt bad here but fortunately the scan showed it wasn't as bad as I thought and at least I can come back playing.

"It is scary when things like that happen. I prepared myself for the worst and had a better outcome from it and prepared myself for the journey ahead and the rehab and as the weeks went by I just got better and better.

"I want to say a huge thank you to Cian O'Doherty [physio] and David Wates [fitness coach] for all the hard work they have done with me and it is fantastic to be back."

Tyson also revealed he had the support from all the squad and exclaimed that this is one of the best dressing rooms he has been part of.

He added: "The lads here are fantastic and have been so supportive. It is a very good dressing room and probably the best dressing room I have been in throughout my career.

"The manager and staff have been fantastic with me. The recruitment and the type of players they have got in have hit the nail right on the head.

"When you have a happy dressing room and everyone gets along for each other, that is half a job done by the management team.

"For me, it is very positive here and there is no negativity around the camp and everyone pushes each other."

SPORT

Wanderers

The latest injury news
from Adams Park
- Page 55



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

- Tough tests lie ahead
- Wanderers cement play-off place
- Ainsworth plans to rotate 'strong' squad

See page 55

Khan misses out on gold medal

A YOUNG boxer from High Wycombe emerged victorious for England at the weekend as he came away with a silver at the Sven Lange Tournament in Germany.

Jamal Khan was in sensational form at the three day event in the 60kg category. He began his shot at gold against Slovenia with a unanimous points victory.

This propelled Khan into the semi-finals where he stopped his

Polish counterpart before losing in somewhat controversial circumstances in the final against Netherlands.

His proud dad, Istarar, said: "It was controversial as many of us thought he definitely won gold but hey that's boxing politics."

"Jamal wasn't happy with second place but he will move on and will take this as a positive experience as he moves forward with his career."

"He hopes he can one day fight in the Olympics and become a world champion and this is definitely the aim for him."

"Jamal has had great support from his coaches at Hudeston Boxing Club and we are grateful to Sab Leo and Adrian Moco for all their help with Jamal."

"To be honest, Jamal will be ending 2017 on a positive note and is looking forward to a huge year in 2018."

Khan is something of a teenage prodigy and his star has been on the ascent in recent years.

Back in 2014, he was tipped for Olympic glory after adding a second Three Nations title to his second national schoolboys belt.

A year later, Khan received words of encouragement from boxer Amir Khan after he agonisingly missed out on his third successive national schoolboys title.



Jamal Khan got silver in Germany