

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

# Bucks Free Press

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks & Chiltern Districts

At the heart of the community since 1856

www.bucksfreepress.co.uk

Friday, April 6, 2018

£1



**Free Pub in the  
Park tickets  
Competition  
- page 9**

**GRAND  
DESIGNS LIVE  
LONDON**

**TICKET  
GIVEAWAY**

**Reader offer - page 36**

**INSIDE** 32 pages of Property • 12 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 10 pages of Sport

## GANG WARFARE ON OUR STREETS

Violence erupts in town  
as rival groups 'use  
bricks, poles and cars as  
weapons' **See page 2**

### CRIME

RBL man jailed  
over £62k theft



**Page 3**

### NEWS

Calls for a Bucks  
National Park



**Page 3**

### NEWS

Heavy rain hits  
Easter events



**Page 19**

**Stunning windows,  
doors & conservatories**

Triple glazing specialists - No extra cost TEN YEAR INSURANCE BACKED GUARANTEE  
Make your conservatory a functional room all year long, by replacing its roof with a Guardian roof

**Payne's of  
Glass**

Conservatories,  
Garden Rooms,  
Orangeries, Windows,  
Doors & Home  
Extensions.

Aluminium,  
Hardwood, PVCu

01494 565526 /  
07793 639100  
paynesofglass.co.uk  
ray@paynesofglass.co.uk  
High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire

**fmifa**

Equity Release  
Accessing your  
property wealth

**Independent Financial Advice**

Contact us: 01494 817151 info@fmifa.com www.fmifa.com  
Penn Barn, By the Pond, Elm Road, Penn, Bucks HP10 8LB

Financial Management is a trading title of Philip Harper LLP  
which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

**BRIANTS OF**

**SUPPLIERS OF  
FENCING**

GATES, DECKING,  
SLEEPERS & PANELS.

**CHAINSAW**

**OFFER**

12" £149  
14" £179

**HUGE STOCK HOLDING.  
EXTENSIVE RANGE.  
CALL TODAY FOR  
A QUOTE.**

**BRIANTS OF RISBOROUGH LTD - Thame Road, Longwick, HP27 9SG**  
01844 343663 www.briantstld.co.uk info@briantsonline.co.uk

MICHAEL  
GRAHAMBucks Free Press  
Sport is sponsored by

## COMMENT

With  
**NICHOLAS  
TUNNEY**

I NORMALLY start my comment pieces with a positive bit of sports news from Wycombe Wanderers but there has been very sad news regarding Ray Wilkins this week, who tragically passed away at the age of 61.

He did play for the Chairboys once back in 1996 and came across as such a humble and nice guy and before his solitary match with the Blues, he had a career that most people would dream of.

Playing for his country 84 times and winning numerous trophies with the likes of Chelsea and Manchester United is Roy of the Rovers stuff, and reading tributes, it is clear he was held in high esteem by anyone who came across him.

He played and managed the club I support, QPR, and he has legendary status at Loftus Road for all the good he did on and off the pitch.

Football will be a sadder place without Ray and he is one of the reasons why so many people love the beautiful game. RIP Ray.

I was present for both of Wanderers' matches over the Easter period and they performed very strongly in both games, winning at home to Grimsby which was preceded by a gutsy draw at Notts County.

For a 0-0, it was a fantastic game and a real blood and thunder match played in atrocious conditions with an electric atmosphere.

Adam El-Abd was absolutely brilliant again and fully deserved his nomination for the player of the month award even though he didn't win it.

I actually have a weekend off Wanderers duty as they don't have a game, which at this stage of the season is unusual.

I am going to be changing codes on Saturday and heading to Beaconsfield Rugby Club to support them at home to Buckingham.

This is a winner-takes-all match for both sides with the prize being the league title. I have been report-

ing win after win for the club this season and I truly hope that they can succeed tomorrow.

Reading head coach Simon Tattersall's letter to supporters had me in goosebumps and it would be a real highlight for me to report on one of our local teams winning a prestigious league title.

It would be an incredible sporting achievement for the town of Beaconsfield to see the rugby club wrap up the title and for the football team to follow suit for a title win or promotion.

The Rams face Arlesey Town this weekend in a very winnable

fixture but they need to avoid the potential banana skin that awaits them

Tyrrell Hatton will also be in action this weekend at The Masters.

He is teeing it up at Augusta National for the second time and I think he has a good chance of contending although it is such a strong field. He certainly has the assured putting touch needed for the speedy greens of the iconic course and I hope to be reporting on a positive display.

Fingers crossed for him and all our individuals and teams this weekend.



Right: Adam El-Abd has been in sublime defensive form recently

## IN THE CHAIR



Harriman was back over the Easter weekend after a horrific broken leg injury

MICHAEL Harriman has made his long-awaited comeback from injury, making his first appearance of the season at Notts County, coming on for Tafari Moore before starting in Monday's 2-1 win against Grimsby.

For Harriman, it was a special moment after breaking his leg at the beginning of October, a period which has also seen him take an interest in one of Wycombe's most incredible charities.

In terms of his comeback, Harriman said: "I feel good. I didn't expect my comeback to come some soon to be honest.

"With Taf getting that injury, it threw me in at the deep end but it was fantastic to be back and it has been a long time.

"I was really nervous coming on but I don't know why as I have played football all my life but it was a great feeling to win and a great feeling to be involved.

"The leg feels fine and you don't know what it is like until you get out there properly. The boys are on a fantastic run and it helps to slot back in."

Although Harriman is now back and raring to go with the day job, he admitted he had thoughts about whether he would make it back to the

form and fitness he was in before.

The right-back said: "You do think about whether you will play again but it was important for me to have more good days than dark days.

"It is tough but the last six months has flown by thanks to having the right people around, the time did fly by.

"Having my family and the club for support was brilliant. Everyone at the club were right behind me from the time it happened and they were nice enough to give me a few weeks off at the start of my rehab.

"Being at home with the family you do take that stuff for granted. It was the first Christmas I had at home since I started my career in football.

"Now I am back into it I am really looking forward to it."

During his extended period on the sideline, Harriman has been instrumental in helping out the Wycombe Homeless Connection with day-to-day work and it has become a charity he holds dearly to his heart.

He added: "When I broke my leg, I didn't want to waste my time so me and my wife decided to help out and we are both strong believers in helping the homeless so we

got in touch with the charity and asked if they would be willing for us to help out.

"It went from there and we had meetings with the charity and have visited a few night shelters as well as visit their support centre and it has been a pleasure to help them.

"It puts things in perspective and it shows how lucky we are to be going home to a nice, warm house and that is the point. The Connection do a fantastic job and they help re-house these people.

"My wife pushes it from behind the scenes and I am more the focal point but we both take part and do what we can to help."



Harri and Heather Morley

MICHAEL  
GRAHAM

MICHAEL GRAHAM

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

MICHAEL  
GRAHAM

WANDERERS RECAP

MICHAEL GRAHAM

Bucks Free Press Sport is sponsored by

# Wycombe's wonders hold off Grimsby for vital win



Kashket gave the Grimsby defence nightmares



Akinfenwa challenges for the ball

**By Nicholas Tunney**

**Wycombe 2-1 Grimsby**

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth was relieved to see his side avert a banana skin as they beat Grimsby Town 2-1 at Adams Park on Monday.

Goals from Adam El-Abd and Scott Kashket saw them cancel out Martyn Woolford's first-half strike for the visitors.

With plenty of teams down the bottom of the table, beating those at the top in recent weeks, Ainsworth said: "I urge people not to look at the table at this stage of the season.

"Don't try and judge who are the good teams and who are the bad teams as it gets thrown on its head.

"The intensity and what is on games is different to August and September.

"Grimsby are fighting for their lives and they scored a good goal. The only surprise for me was when they took the lead.

"We had a lot of chances and we created well and Grimsby will be a threat over the last few games to their opponents.

"On chances and possession we deserved to win. It was great that Scott came up with the winner and fantastic for the skipper to get his first goal of the season."

Despite being behind at the break, Ainsworth added: "The message at half-time was not to panic.

"It was all about being professional and it was about to keep going the way we are.

"I thought we could have had a few more goals. The set-plays were spot on.

"We had a couple of hairy moments but I am really pleased.

"I thought Dominic Gape was outstanding and I thought Randell Williams was a constant thorn in Grimsby Town's side."

Kashket tapped home from close-range on 67 minutes after Sido Jombati flicked on Joe Jacobson's corner.

Earlier on, Grimsby had taken a shock lead when Woolford capitalised on hesitation from Michael Harriman to coolly slotted past Scott Brown.

Wanderers pummelled the Mariners defence and were in the ascendency for the majority of the game and grabbed a deserved equaliser when El-Abd rifled home from 15 yards after Jacobson's magnificent delivery wasn't cleared.

The home side were piling on the pressure from the off and Kashket saw his goal disallowed for offside after connecting with Akinfenwa's header.

The ever-dangerous Adebayo Akinfenwa had another crack on 35 minutes when he did a clever-one two with Kashket but his curled effort went straight into McKeown's arms.

Akinfenwa then had a golden chance to equalise on 40 minutes when he was unmarked and his first effort was magnificently saved by McKeown before his second shot was blocked on the line.

The Blues were knocking on the door and El-Abd notched his first goal for the club with a superb finish.

That equaliser buoyed the Chairboys and the home side's dominance reaped the rewards when Kashket scored to send the Blues faithful into raptures.

Despite the Chairboys' dominance, Grimsby had a massive opportunity on 73 minutes when Mitch Rose met Danny Collins' header but put it wide with just Brown to beat.

Wycombe still looked likely to extend their lead and McKeown pulled off a wonderful double save on 87 minutes when he denied Luke O'Nien and Akinfenwa in quick succession to keep the visitors in the game. Grimsby had a late chance but the Blues held firm.



Ainsworth was delighted his side got through against struggling Grimsby Town at Adams Park

## Player ratings:

- WANDERERS v Grimsby
- SCOTT Brown:** 6- Assured display, no chance with goal
- MICHAEL Harriman:** 7- Grew into the game for fine first start since September
- ADAM El-Abd:** 7- Continued excellent form with fantastic goal
- SIDO Jombati:** 6- Competent display against Grimsby forwards
- JOE Jacobson:** 6- Solid as ever at left-back
- MARCUS Bean:** 6- Effective in holding role
- DOMINIC Gape:** 8- **BFP STAR MAN**- Outstanding performance in the heart of the midfield
- LUKE O'Nien:** 7- Another superb, energetic display
- RANDELL Williams:** 7- Lively debut from the Watford loanee
- ADEBAYO Akinfenwa:** 7- Hold-up play was magnificent
- SCOTT Kashket:** 8- Dream first start for 11 months with winning goal.

## WANDERERS: Blues get battling draw at County Gritty Wycombe take valuable point

**Notts County 0-0 Wycombe**

WYCOMBE Wanderers gained a vital point in the promotion race as they played out a 0-0 draw with Notts County in a feisty encounter at Meadow Lane.

Both sides had their opportunities in a high-tempo game with Wanderers having their best chances after the break.

On 58 minutes, Joe Jacobson found Adebayo Akinfenwa unmarked, whose cross-shot found Nathan Tyson. Tyson found the net with a header but the assistant referee flagged for a marginal offside.

County hit the woodwork twice, once through Shola Ameobi and Scott Brown tipped Elliott Hewitt's header onto the post brilliantly in

the second half.

The home side also had two huge penalty shouts waved away by referee Ben Toner much to the anger of the County supporters.

Late on, both sides were going for the winner and Brown produced another wonderful save on 81 minutes to deny Hewitt's goalbound effort, tipping it on to the post from point-blank range.

The home side were piling on the pressure but Wanderers held firm led brilliantly by Adam El-Abd and Jombati.

**WYCOMBE WANDERERS:** Brown, Moore (sub: Harriman, 38), Jombati, El-Abd, Jacobson, Bean, O'Nien, Bloomfield, Tyson, Akinfenwa, Mackail-Smith (sub: Cowan-Hall, 90). Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Wil-



Brown was in great form at Meadow Lane

liams, Freeman, Kashket.

**NOTTS COUNTY:** Collin, Tootle, Duffy, Brisley, Jones, Alessandra, Hewitt, Noble, Hawkridge (sub: Grant, 63), Stead, Ameobi. Subs: Fitzsimons, Virtue, Walker, Smith, Husin, Hall.

**REFEREE:** Ben Toner

# Wycombe skipper nominated for League Two award

ADAM El-Abd was nominated for the Sky Bet League Two Player of the Month award after playing his part in three vital clean sheets during the month of March.

The Chairboys' captain has been superb alongside defensive partners Nathan McGinley and Sido Jombati in the absence of injured pair Dan Scarr and Anthony Stewart, helping to keep prolific Notts County strikers Shola Ameobi and Jon Stead well shackled during the 0-0 draw on Good Friday.

The judging panel said: "Wycombe's unbeaten month has been largely down to improved defensive

displays in which the experienced El-Abd has been pivotal. His gladiatorial presence as captain ensured that three clean sheets were kept during March."

The award went to Cheltenham forward Mo Elsa but Ainsworth praised his skipper for his displays. He said: "Adam has been a superb captain since the day he joined the club.

"He has been one of our most consistent players over the course of the season. He is organised and reads the game very well. He knows the game and knows how to win promotion and he has been absolutely vital for us this season so far."



El-Abd has been a colossus for the Blues this term

## WYCOMBE: 'The Beast' nominated for gongs Boss praises 'superb' Bayo

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has lauded striker Adebayo Akinfenwa as the Blues forward was nominated for the League Two player of the season earlier this week.

Akinfenwa, 35, has been in incredible form this season, scoring 17 league goals as well as producing 12 assists, a League Two high.

He has scored 36 goals in all competitions for the club since joining in the summer of 2016 and his superb performances have also led to him being named in the League Two team of the season.

With defences in the division being put to the sword by Akinfenwa's sublime and exceptional hold-up play, as well as his phenomenal strength and heading ability, Ainsworth gave an insight into how Akinfenwa conducts himself on and off the pitch.

He said: "I do my homework and the impact Bayo has had isn't a surprise. When his name came up and found out he was a free transfer, we were looking for a big man.

"We needed an alternative way of playing sometimes and now it has probably become our main way of playing.

"He has fantastic ability with his feet and is able to create chances and score. We had to work hard to get to grips with how he trains and how he works.

"Credit to the rest of his teammates as well because sometimes Bayo won't train and they accept that because of what he delivers on a Saturday and the type of character he is.

"It isn't a surprise as he is a fantastic player and character and the amount of goals he has scored has



Akinfenwa has had another brilliant season

been absolutely fantastic.

"He has been around the goals in the two years he has been here and he has scored a phenomenal amount of goals and I hope he can beat his best-ever total (18) this season.

"I am surprised that this is his first nomination considering the seasons he has had but I think he has probably played more games quantity-wise than ever before and that is testament to him, my medical team and sports science team for keeping him going.

"Bayo has sheer guts and he is an

example to all those who said he was never good enough. He is an outstanding player and a great fellow to have at Wycombe."

Akinfenwa was the only Wanderers player to get picked for the team of the season and Ainsworth was surprised that some of his players weren't given the nod.

He added: "Joe Jacobson, for me, is one of the best full-backs in the lower divisions and he is so consistent.

"Luke O'Nien and Dominic Gape have had superb seasons for us and the likes of Nathan Tyson and

Craig Mackail-Smith have been brilliant too but teams higher than us have got the majority of players in who are having good seasons too.

"I do think it is just a case of our players being overshadowed by the sides above us in the table.

"I think Luke and Dom have played the majority of the games, with JJ, and I am sure the guys would give that all up for getting promotion together and swapping any accolades.

"We go into the last five games to give it a right good go."

## Eze does it as QPR midfielder backs Blues

QPR wonderkid Ebere Eze hailed Wycombe Wanderers' boss Gareth Ainsworth for helping kick-starting his career after settling in to life in England's second-tier.

Eze was in superb form for the Blues earlier this term, with his performances lighting up Adams Park and scoring some memorable goals in a Chairboys shirt.

Some of his strikes will live long in the memory, including a wonderful brace at Cambridge back in October and an excellent team goal in the win over Crawley Town at home.

His performances have helped Wycombe to third place in the table and his displays were vitally important to kick-start Wycombe's campaign.

In a whirlwind season, 19-year-old Eze has now become a regular in Ian Holloway's Queens Park Rangers side.

But the humble attacking midfielder, who scored five goals in 22 games while on loan with the Chairboys, said he will always be grateful for Ainsworth's support.

"Playing in League Two was important, it helped me to learn men's football and come back to QPR and show what I can do," said Eze.

"I learned a lot from Gareth Ainsworth. It was the best decision, for me to go out on loan and get experience and implement myself as an attacking player."

Eze was introduced from the bench in Rangers' 1-0 defeat against Reading FC on Friday night.

He could have levelled the scoreline with an ambitious left-footed strike which sailed marginally wide of Vito Mannone's post.

"The speed of the game in the Championship is a bit quicker," confessed Eze.

"I play in a similar position but the intensity is different.

"I'm still following Wycombe. I'm hoping and praying that they get promoted. "They're going well."

Addressing the Chairboys' supporters, he beamed: "Just keep going, keep doing your stuff and promotion is there."

## SPORT

## Wanderers

Kashket bags first goal since May  
- Page 62



0963-2336



# Sneesby wins magnificent silver in men's slalom race



## SKIING: Brilliant Ben scoops superb medal

By Nicholas Tunney

BRITISH Paralympian Ben Sneesby won silver at the Delancey British Alpine Skiing Championships in Tignes on Saturday.

The 23-year-old from High Wycombe was the fastest British competitor in the men's sitting slalom race but lost out on gold by one second to Lou Braz-Dagand from France.

The championships, which run from March 25 to today, mark one of the biggest events in the British alpine skiing calendar and provides the chance to see the best of

the British talent take to the piste.

Sneesby, who had a tumour removed from his spine at just three-months-old which left him with an incomplete spinal cord injury, meaning he has no sensation in his left leg and minimal in his right, uses a sit-ski to race and claimed he had a great time on the snow.

He said: "It was absolutely lovely to be out here at the British Champs, I haven't raced in a little while, longer than I would have liked to.

"It's so nice to be back out here, it kind of feels a bit like home. I've got my mum and dad out here and my girlfriend and they watch the

race, and we have the sun, so it was really lovely.

"The first run I was probably slightly conservative, so I let it go a bit more on the second run and won the second run, but unfortunately didn't win overall because I was a couple of seconds off."

Having competed at the 2014 Winter Paralympics in Sochi, where he came eleventh in the men's slalom, Sneesby claimed it's a special feeling racing for Great Britain.

He added: "Having been to Sochi that was really the pinnacle of representing my country but the pride that I feel across the different levels of races doesn't change."

Ben Sneesby won silver in Tignes

fmifa

Equity Release  
Accessing your  
property wealth



Independent Financial Advice

Contact us: 01494 817151 info@fmifa.com www.fmifa.com

Penn Barn, By the Pond, Elm Road, Penn, Bucks HP10 8LB

Financial Management is a trading title of Philip Harper LLP  
which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority