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Friday, August 10, 2018

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INSIDE 28 pages of Property • 12 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 10 pages of Sport

Puppy farm gang convict caught again

Detectives probe pet cruelty fears

By Stephanie Wareham

A CONVICTED puppy farmer from High Wycombe who was caught with three puppies in the boot of his car when stopped by police has been jailed again after a judge accused him of "trading in animal and human misery".

Thomas Stokes, who was one of the men at the centre of the RSPCA's biggest ever puppy farm investigation - along with Iver Heath vet, Daniel Doherty - has been thrown in jail again this week for continuing to sell sick puppies to unsuspecting members of the public.

Stokes, who now lives in Hughenden Road, but previously lived in Hayes, moved to his new address and set himself up as a seller again, even though he was already being investigated as part of a puppy farming gang.

His ruse was uncovered when police stopped

Stokes in High Wycombe while he was in his car - as part of a separate inquiry - and they found three dogs in the boot of his car.

He was sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court in May for being part of a gang which made an estimated £2.5 million selling more than 5,000 dogs over five years.

At the time, he admitted one offence of conspiracy to commit fraud and one animal welfare offence, and was jailed for three years and disqualified from keeping dogs for life.

But he was hauled up in front of a judge again on Tuesday, August 7 - this time at Aylesbury Crown Court - after RSPCA investigators found he was continuing to sell sick puppies up until January this year. Stokes was sentenced to an extra 27 months to run consecutive to the sentence he is already serving - which takes his total prison sentence for both cases to six years and 11 months.

Continued on page 5

CALLS FOR TOUGHER SENTENCES



Campaign after acid attack killing of Wycombe woman - Page 4



CRIME

Pair found guilty after policeman hit-and-run

See page 5

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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



IT was fantastic to be back at Adams Park on Saturday and it was great to see the Blues put in a decent display.

Unfortunately they couldn't back that up with a win but there were certainly more positives than negatives to take out of the draw against Blackpool.

Although they didn't score, the Chairboys created so many chances which will bode well for the rest of the season and Akinfenwa looks as though he will be every bit as much of a threat at this level as he was in League Two.

Defensively, Wanderers were absolutely rock solid and it was great to see Anthony Stewart back for his first game this calendar year.

He was superb alongside Adam El-Abd and that backline, which Joe Jacobson and Michael Harriman are also part of, looks like they will

be a very difficult unit to get past this term.

It was great to speak to Ryan Allsop this week. He was also part of that defence on Saturday and he looked very assured making his 'second debut'.

It must give a goalkeeper great confidence when the four in front of him protect him so well and the energy the players showed clearly shows they are well up for the fight this campaign.

They now face Doncaster this weekend, which will be an exceptionally tricky game.

It looks as though Rovers are keen on challenging for the play-offs this season and their new manager Grant McCann is giving all the noises that his side are going to go all out attack in their games.

Wanderers will need to defend like they did on Saturday but when a team plays like that, they always give up opportunities to their opponents as well so this could be a high-scoring game in south Yorkshire tomorrow.

Wycombe's away record, though, is absolutely incredible as they have not lost since December 2017.

That is a run which Gareth Ainsworth will certainly make his players aware of and I wouldn't be surprised to see that run continue for quite some time.

Teams will expect to beat Wycombe at home and could well take the Chairboys lightly but they would do so at their peril.

With signings potentially imminent too and a couple of key players maybe returning from injury, I believe the Blues can get a result at the Keepmoat Stadium.

If the chances continue to flow, I can see them getting a couple of goals potentially. It could be 1-1 or 2-2. They have threats in their side but Wycombe always punch above their weight and can do so again.

COYB



Anthony Stewart

Wycombe Wanderers

'The Chairboys'

VS

Doncaster Rovers

'The Rovers'

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 13. Marko Marosi
- 2. Niall Mason
- 6. Andy Butler
- 5. Joe Wright
- 3. Danny Andrew
- 11. Ali Crawford
- 8. Ben Whiteman
- 10. Tommy Rowe
- 26. James Coppinger
- 7. Mallik Wilks
- 9. John Marquis

THIS week's Opposition View comes from Liam Hoden of the Sheffield Star.

How did Doncaster get on last week?

They won 3-2 at Southend in an incredible game. In the first half they really struggled and but for keeper Marko Marosi they would have been well behind at half time. But the hit Southend in the second half and by 70 minutes they were 3-0 up ahead of a nervy finish.

What is the aim for the team this season?

To challenge for the play-offs. A top six finish is not the be-all, end-all but they must mount a real challenge for one. After recovering from relegation to League Two, Rovers have set about build-

ing steadily for the Championship they eventually hope to reach.

Who are your danger-men?

John Marquis began to establish himself as one of League One's top strikers last season and will look to continue that this season. McCann's system should ensure he gets more service and does not have to go deep to look for the ball as much, so the goals should come on.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

I was really pleased to see Wycombe win promotion last season because I think they're a great club that have been successful based on a really sensible approach - and there's not enough of that

nowadays. And I really like the way Gareth Ainsworth goes about things.

Prediction?

I think both teams will score and I do fancy Rovers so I'll go 3-1.

Liam Hoden

GALLERY: Wycombe 0-0 Blackpool



Randell Williams tries to attack



Adam El-Abd drives out of defence



Bloomfield can't hide his frustration



Nick Freeman



Bloomfield and Akinfenwa show their despair as a chance goes begging



El-Abd



Adebayo Akinfenwa



Fans enjoying the game



In the CHAIR



Sam Avery from Wycombe Sound



Sam Avery

ONE game down, 45 to go, and Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth will have learned a lot about what it will take to survive League One football this season.

Whilst Blackpool proved a tricky test on paper, it was a game in which the Chairboys will have gained plenty of confidence from. Wycombe really took the game to the Tangerines, especially in the first half. High, energetic pressing forced Blackpool into plenty of errors which acted as a catalyst for the home side's efforts on goal.

It seems the hard-working nature that drove Gareth Ainsworth's Wycombe Wanderers to promotion last season will be a key element this campaign.

The sale of Luke O'Nien to Sunderland will no doubt still hinder some beliefs about what the Chairboys can achieve this season, but in new loan signing Bryn Morris they have a new hungry, young midfielder.

A player with a range of passing in his game, Wycombe fans will be hoping that Ainsworth has found another starlet who can be the key to unlocking League One defences this season.

Although there was plenty to feel positive about upon reflection of last weekend, finding the back of the net could be the main concern this season for Wycombe based on Saturday. It seems strange that a side who were the second top scorers last season could fall behind in that regard this time round but it's no secret that the likes of Adebayo Akinfenwa, Nathan Tyson and Craig Mackail-Smith - who managed 33 league goals between them last season - aren't getting any younger. The top scorers from midfield last season were also Luke O'Nien and Eberechi Eze, who are both playing football elsewhere. It seems that it's time for a new player to shine.

It's a long season and will be as tough as it will be testing for Gareth Ainsworth's well-drilled, positive-minded players. And whilst it's never easy to predict how any football team will do; the rollercoaster ride in League One will be enticing and exhilarating

WANDERERS

Boss encouraged by Tangerines display

By Nicholas Tunney

Wycombe 0-0 Blackpool

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth declared himself pleased with his team's performance in their 0-0 draw against Blackpool at Adams Park on Saturday.

The Blues had a whole host of chances to win the game but were thwarted by some excellent goal-keeping and some profligate finishing in front of goal.

Ainsworth sought to reflect on the positives against the Tangerines. He said: "I thought we had the lion's share of the chances, which was great.

"The boys were up for it from the start. We should have scored on a couple of occasions and on another day we will get two or three goals.

"That was a really good point against a good Blackpool side. Gary Bowyer has managed at a higher level and he knows his stuff and I will be asking him a few ways to stay in League One.

"That is one point towards our total for survival but I am not afraid or worried.

"We have a certain way of doing things and a spirit that if we take with us into every game we will pick up enough points to stay in League One next year.

"The fans were great and I am ask them to stick with us and we can up-set some big teams in this league."

Ainsworth looked ahead to getting some signings in before the transfer window closes but warned it would be tough to try and get reinforcements in.



The Wycombe boss pleads with the referee



Ainsworth was pleased with the point

He added: "I need to replace Luke O'Nien without a doubt as he was a very special player.

"I will be looking in the transfer market. There is one permanent signing I will definitely want to try and get in and also look at the loan market.

"There are a few potential loan signings that excite me. I have hit a lot of dead ends this week and been told players are not for loan or for

sale or are too much for us.

"I won't just bring anyone in, it has to be the right players. We are well equipped for League One and I want to make sure we are very equipped for this league."

Ainsworth also bemoaned the late sending off of Michael Harriman, who received a second booking after being harshly adjudged of fouling Nathan Delfouneso.

He said: "I thought it was soft and

I thought there were other decisions that were probably comparable to that.

"Refereeing is a tough job. I won't get myself into trouble after the first game but I firmly believe that referees at this level should be full-time."

The Blues' best chances fell to Paris Cowan-Hall, Adebayo Akinfenwa and Randell Williams but they found Howard in top form.

WYCOMBE: Midfielder focuses on the positives Bean praises Chairboys character

WANDERERS midfielder Marcus Bean praised his team-mates character as they started life back in League One with a 0-0 draw at home to Blackpool.

Despite numerous chances, the Blues failed to get the goal they richly deserved but Bean commented that he felt the side gave a very good account of themselves.

He said: "We have plenty of heart. The boys fought for every ball. Up until the sending off (Harriman) I thought there was only one team in it.

"However, sending offs change games and they came back into it a little bit but there were loads of positives to take out from the game.

"It is good to be back. It was wave after wave of attacks and it was a

good return."

With only five players on the substitutes bench, the Blues have a whole host of players to come back from injury.

He added: "We have a few to come back. Darius Charles hasn't trained properly with us yet and Scott Kashket has a goal in him

"I think you will see new faces in too and there are plenty of positives for us."

Bean provided one of the highlights of last season with his late winner against Carlisle, scoring his first goal in his 104th game for the club.

That allowed Wanderers to win 4-3 at Adams Park in February, coming back for 3-2 down with 10-men after a sending off early in the second



Bean hailed his side's performance on Saturday

half after a dominant first 45 minutes.

The midfielder joked: "I am still getting stick. My mum and dad said

they want to see more goals from me this season.

"I said let me get off the mark and we will take it from there."

PREVIEW: Gape likely to return for Doncaster trip

DOMINIC Gape could return for the trip to Doncaster after missing out on last week's draw with Blackpool due to injury.

Gape, scorer of that famous winner against Chesterfield, failed a fitness test in the build-up to the game against the Tangerines but manager Gareth Ainsworth is hoping he will be back this weekend.

However, the news on Nathan Tyson hopefully returning this weekend is unclear.

He said: "We are hoping that Dominic will definitely be around for Doncaster. We are still waiting on Nathan and he will be put through his paces.

"Darius Charles is getting closer as well so there could be an opportunity in the next couple of weeks for him to feature.

"We are really happy with the squad. On the whole, we have a fit squad and are ready to go and we are boosted by the return of Dom.

"He picked up a freaky rib injury but he is back in contention. He is a very good player and he will add to the squad."

One player definitely absent is Michael Harriman. He will miss the game due to suspension after his harsh sending off against Blackpool last Saturday.



Gape is likely to be in contention for the trip to Yorkshire tomorrow

WANDERERS: Goalkeeper loving life back as Blues number 1 Allsop brimming with confidence

By Nikki Formby

RYAN Allsop, or Rocky, as he is known in the dressing room, has made a confident start to his second debut for the Chairboys, keeping a clean sheet, 0-0 against Blackpool on Saturday.

Allsop, who played 18 League Two matches for Wycombe whilst on loan in 2016, said that he was "delighted" with the "solid start" to the 2018 League One campaign.

When asked about the reasons for returning to the club, Allsop commented that his previous affinity for his time at Adams Park was a big factor in rejoining Gareth Ainsworth's squad.

He said: "I loved my time here before, there's a really nice feel about the club, it's a family club, the manager's brilliant.

"It was a tight-knit dressing room when I was here last time, and it is very much still a tight-knit dressing room."

Allsop is looking to the campaign with a level head, and explains the team's main aim as "getting to survival as soon as possible".

He added: "We need to not get too ahead of ourselves, we know that every game is tough in this league, and they come thick and fast. We need to take each game as it comes."

Looking ahead to this Saturday's game against Doncaster, the Birmingham-born stopper explained he felt in a great frame of mind approaching such a tricky away trip.

Allsop said: "I feel confident, I feel sharp. I feel good and am relishing every challenge as it comes.

"It is going to be a very tough game against Doncaster Rovers but one we are all looking forward to."



Allsop kept a superb clean sheet on his 'second' debut for the club

SPORT

Football
Focus on new
Penn boss
- Page 63



Rugby
Beaconsfield
face Wimborne
- Page 62



Double delight as duo sign for the Chairboys

Former player of the year returns to Blues



By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers have swooped to sign former loan star Jason McCarthy on a three-year deal.

McCarthy joined up with the Blues again having been the player of the year during 2015/16 campaign for Wanderers.

He sealed the deal with just seconds of the transfer window to spare and his signing follows hot on the heels of Wycombe capturing Bryn Morris on loan from Shrews-

bury.

Ainsworth said of McCarthy: "This is a massive coup for us and I'm thrilled to be able to bring Jason back here on a permanent deal. He was outstanding for us during his loan spell, making his EFL debut and scoring a couple of important goals as well.

"We had an excellent defensive record that season and Jason was a big part of that. He fitted in straightaway to the way we do things, he was a popular lad in the changing room and I know the fans

loved him too, so I'm sure this will be a popular signing and we're delighted to get it over the line."

Morris, 22, joined up with the Chairboys this week having played a starring role for the Shrews last season as they reached the League One play-offs before falling agonisingly short of promotion.

Now, Morris has traded life in the Midlands for south Bucks and is relishing the opportunity to make his mark for the Blues.

Speaking exclusively to the Bucks Free Press, Morris said: "I have set-

tled in really well.

"The lads are great and the manager [Gareth Ainsworth] is so approachable and he seems like he is one of the lads but you can tell everyone has respect for him as the gaffer and it has been great.

"As soon as I knew I was available for loan, the gaffer and my agent spoke on the phone and I knew straight away this is where I wanted to be as he was so keen to get me."

He added: "I want to add goals to my game and I work hard and give my absolute all."



Wycombe put away run on line

Wanderers

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth is looking forward to the task of his side putting their long unbeaten run on the road on the line as they prepare to face Doncaster tomorrow.

The Chairboys make the trip to Yorkshire having not lost since a 3-2 defeat to Coventry City at the Ricoh Arena on December 22, 2017.

Rovers will undoubtedly provide a tough test for the Blues and Ainsworth is hoping his men can continue their momentum away from home.

He said: "They are a good side. Grant McCann [manager] started well last week with a win at Southend and he began last season well with Peterborough.

"They have a way of playing. It has changed a bit since Grant has gone in there. We have watched them and studied them.

"We have an idea that hopefully we can give a good account of ourselves and we will prepare the right way and hopefully get our first win on the board.

"The way we play and set-up means we are good away from home. The boys are tight here and travel well and if we can keep this run going that will be brilliant, but if we don't we will have to go on another run as quickly as we can.

"We will be ready for the test of Doncaster at 3pm on Saturday and I am looking forward to giving it a right go."

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