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My dad, the superstar

Singer's daughter chats ahead of special exhibition

Page 22



Puppy power

Thousands enjoy fun-filled festival

Page 11



INSIDE 40 pages of Property • 12 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 10 pages of Sport

End of the road?

EXCLUSIVE: Developers threaten to derail major relief road plans in row over affordable homes
See Property pull-out

REVEALED:

Green light for Wycombe Wanderers takeover talks



See page 64

Fury over begging scandal

By Stephanie Wareham

"AGGRESSIVE" beggars are 'raking in up to £100 a day' from unsuspecting shoppers in High Wycombe town centre, prompting the district council to outline tough new plans to crack down on antisocial behaviour.

But politicians have been slammed for doing the police's job for them as they battle against huge cuts to resources.

Antisocial behaviour, including hostile begging and street drinking, has plagued the streets of the town centre for more than a year – prompting Wycombe District Council

to blast Thames Valley Police for not "stepping up" to help tackle the problem in December 2017.

Cllr Lesley Clarke said people who spend their day on the streets collecting "£80 or £90" from various passing shoppers are then walking into shops and asking workers to change up their coins into notes.

Sarah McBrearty, community services team leader at Wycombe District Council, said members of the public want to feel like they are helping people in need and would rather give money to them instead of a homeless charity – but often money is going towards drugs or alcohol.

Continued on page 3



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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

Rivals ready to do battle



I have to say, what an exciting run of fixtures the Blues are currently right in the middle of.

I am sure this weekend's home clash against Oxford United is one that has whetted the appetite of most Blues supporters since the fixtures were released in June.

Only 20 miles-or-so separate the two clubs, and I am sure there will be an electric atmosphere inside Adams Park come 3pm on Saturday.

It has been a bit of a roller-coaster start to Wycombe's season, but I think they are now finding their feet at this level.

Going into the Charlton game last Saturday, the team were unbeaten in five games.

On top of a decent set of results, performances were of really high quality against some of the best teams in the league.

Last Saturday was no different, but unfortunately the result wasn't one they deserved as they lost 3-2 to Lee Bowyer's men.

The first half reminded me of the game at Bradford. Blues were in complete control, but the goal conceded 15 minutes before the break really hurt them.

Once again, they started the second half on the front foot, but Charlton worked their way back into the game and at 3-1 the match looked beyond doubt.

However, Gaz's boys never give in and Paris Cowan-Hall ensured a nervy ending at The Valley as the Addicks just held on for the win.

There were certainly more positives than negatives to take, and if they can keep replicating the performances they have put in over the past five or six matches, then they have nothing to fear going forward.

Tomorrow's visitors have had a tricky start and I am sure they will want to put that right against their rivals.

Karl Robinson knows what it takes to succeed at this level, and he will be champing at the bit to get a victory for his side.

Wycombe haven't won at home in the league this season, but they have been plenty good enough to possibly have beaten Luton and Blackpool.

Away from home, aside from Doncaster, they genuinely could have had three more points on their travels.

I personally believe their performances have been better than results suggest, and I believe a bit of luck will go a long way.

If Wanderers are to stay up, the home form will be crucial and I am backing them to win 3-1 against their rivals. COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers

Last five league games:
LDWDL

VS

Oxford United

Last five league games:
LLWDL

OPPOSITION VIEW



41. Jonathan Mitchell
2. Cameron Norman
5. Curtis Nelson
15. John Mousinho
14. Josh Ruffels
8. Cameron Brannagan
26. Shandon Baptiste
10. Marcus Browne
17. James Henry
19. Jamie Mackie
12. Ricky Holmes

THIS week's Opposition View come from the *Oxford Mail* sports editor, David Pritchard.

How did Oxford get on last week?

They lost 2-1 at home to Coventry City.

What signings have you made over the summer?

United were busy in the summer, with the number of additions running into double figures. In terms of fees, the investment went into bringing midfielder Jamie Hanson in from Derby County and Gavin Whyte from Crusaders in Northern Ireland. They have also relied on the loan market, with Samir Carruthers and Ricky Holmes coming in from Sheffield United, having worked with Karl Robinson at MK Dons and Charlton Athletic respectively.

What is the aim for the team this season?

The expectation has been on mounting a challenge for the play-offs, but first they need to dig their way out of the bottom four after a slow start to the season.

Who are your danger-men?

Whyte scored on his debut for Northern Ireland's senior side on Tuesday, so will return full of confidence. Fellow winger Marcus Browne, on loan from West Ham, has also impressed when given the chance.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

These games at Adams Park are always a battle and another sold-out away end will ensure a good atmosphere tomorrow.

Prediction?

1-1

David Pritchard

In the CHAIR



Jake Moore who has worked with the BFP



Jake Moore

THROUGHOUT the last month I've been enjoying work experience as a sports journalist, specifically helping out at the Bucks Free Press with their coverage of Wycombe Wanderers.

I attended the Chairboys' first press conference prior to their first game back in League One against Blackpool with Bucks Free Press' sports reporter, Nick Tunney, before covering the 2-1 loss to Bristol Rovers, and then most recently, the hotly-contested 1-1 draw with Luton Town.

During my time assisting with matchday coverage, so far my duties have included writing match reports, producing player ratings, whilst also carrying out post-match interviews with players before transferring them into written pieces ready for use on the Bucks Free Press site.

During this short space of time, I've thankfully learnt so much.

I've experienced how a full matchday works for someone who works within not just the local media, but also at the club itself.

The opportunity has not only allowed me to learn about the industry, but also about myself. It's taken me out of my comfort zone and pushed me to try new things.

Interviewing players face-to-face is quite a nerve-wracking thought, but thanks to the last months worth of work, I have become comfortable recording interviews, asking valued questions and getting valued answers, whilst also picking up interviewing techniques from those with more experience than me.

Another essential thing I've learnt and adjusted to is article deadlines, which is a massive part of being a successful journalist.

The experience I've added to my CV so far from the experience I've gained has been second to none, and it's been brilliant witnessing a decent start to life in League One for Wycombe Wanderers.

One thing working quite closely with the club has made me realise, is just how special Wycombe Wanderers are and, even after just a month of experience covering them, they'll go very far.

WANDERERS

Manager bemoans defensive mistakes

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth tried to take the positives in defeat after seeing his side lose 3-2 to Charlton Athletic at The Valley.

The Blues took the lead after just six minutes when Randell Williams lashed home, but the Addicks worked their way back into the match when Sido Jombati scored an own goal on 31 minutes.

Wanderers started the second half strongly too, but the home side turned it round with goals from Lyle Taylor and Naby Sarr.

Paris Cowan-Hall scored a late consolation for the visitors but, despite a good performance, saw the Chairboys lose for the first time in six games in all competitions.

Ainsworth said: "There are real positives to take but that makes my mood even worse because I believe, at times, we were the better team and played some good stuff.

"But the result says Charlton were the better team. We made some sloppy mistakes which we must cut out because you get punished at this level.

"But there were encouraging signs again. We scored two away from home against a team that's going for it (promotion).

"We have more than enough to stay in this league and it is a matter of eradicating the silly little errors.

"We had a couple of chances at 1-1 to increase our lead, but that didn't happen and we got punished for that. We didn't deal with the set play for the third goal which is difficult to take.

"I need to make sure the boys are



Ainsworth wants his side to tighten up at the back

focused as the pace is different in this division. They are experienced lads out there I want us to rely on, and I am sure we will get it together soon.

"In League Two you get away with the odd mistake, but not in League One. However, if we keep playing like that we will have more than enough to stay in this division."

Wycombe had the first chance of the match and Williams finished it



Paris Cowan-Hall was on target against Charlton

in some style to send the Wanderers supporters into raptures, only for Addicks to fight back.

Wanderers now face fierce local rivals Oxford United at Adams Park tomorrow (kick off 3pm) as they bid to get the upper hand in this derby.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Allsop, McCarthy, Jombati, Stewart, Jacobson, Gape, Morris, Thompson, Williams (sub: Kashket, 63), Akinfenwa (sub: Cowan-Hall, 78),

Mackail-Smith (sub: Onyedinma, 56). Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Harriman, Bean, Saunders, Cowan-Hall.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC: Steer, Solly, Bauer, Pearce, Page, Aribio, Pratley (Lapslie, 56), Sarr, Ajose (sub: Reeves, 47), Grant, Taylor (sub: Dijksteel, 90). Subs: Phillips, Marshall, Morgan, Vetokele.

REFEREE: Graham Salisbury
ATTENDANCE: 10,358 (Wycombe 1,078)

BLUES: Forward Cowan-Hall has mixed emotions 'Sucker punch' defeat tough to take

WYCOMBE forward Paris Cowan-Hall said the defeat to Charlton was a tough one to take after the Chairboys lost 3-2 at The Valley.

Cowan-Hall came off the bench to score a late goal and set up a tense finish, only for the Addicks to cling on to all three points.

The jet-heeled forward praised his team-mates for their performance in south London, and cut a frustrated figure at the final whistle.

He admitted: "It is disappointing.

"We did so well. The boys were fantastic in the first half and we dominated the game.

"It is a sucker punch to come away with nothing.

"When you are on top you need to capitalise on that. At this level you will be punished if you don't, and

this game is testament to that.

"We moved the ball well, mixed it and scored as well. There is a learning curve of being solid at the back and not giving away sloppy goals.

"At this level you get punished for your mistakes a lot more. We had a long period of this game where we dominated and showed what we are about. We played well on the whole, but we have to stop the mistakes."

Cowan-Hall hadn't featured in the league since the opening day draw against Blackpool and had mixed emotions about his late consolation.

He added: "It was nice to score but it was just horrible that it was basically in vain."

In terms of competition, Cowan-Hall is fighting his way to get back into the starting XI and he is look-



Paris Cowan-Hall grabbed his first of the season

ing forward to the challenge of doing so.

He said: "I played in the midweek game against Northampton and it is

nice to be fit. It is the most competitive I have seen the squad ever and it is great for me and it helps push the boys."

Wanderers close to being bought by consortium?

Continued from back page

...members that tentative approaches have been made to take either a minority or majority share in the club.

"Members indicated their approval for the Trust Board to continue these discussions with the various interested parties, with a view to potentially being able to present formal proposals at a future meeting.

"Any majority shareholding by an external investor would need to be approved by 75 per cent of the Trust's Legacy Members, which are supporters who are members of the Trust and have held a season ticket for over three consecutive full seasons."

A member of the Trust, who wanted to remain anonymous, told the *Bucks Free Press* on Thursday morning that a millionaire consortium, already involved in sport, was looking to purchase a 75 per cent stake in Wanderers, and that this was a very 'positive' move for the club.

It is thought that after years of financial turmoil, the takeover could put Wanderers on an equal footing with many of the bigger clubs in League One.

The Chairboys currently sit 19th in the division, with one win from seven league games this season as they bid to host Oxford this Saturday.



Andrew Howard and Gareth Ainsworth

WANDERERS: Blues boss challenges his side to more victories Ainsworth: There is a real buzz here

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth is backing his side to turn their recent good performances into wins, beginning with tomorrow's home clash against rivals Oxford United (Saturday, 3pm ko).

The Chairboys lost their first game in six last weekend against Charlton, despite another impressive display. And Ainsworth has urged his team to put more points on the board.

He said: "In the last six months, only two teams have really deserved to beat us and that is Accrington and Doncaster.

"I can't think of any more games where we have been out of it. We only ever lose by one goal, if any, and the performances have been great.

"Chances have been created and I have told the boys we are creating more opportunities than the opposition which is good, but we need to turn those into wins now.

"There is a buzz around the place and I am leading it, so hopefully we can win on Saturday."

Oxford make the short trip down the M40 and have had a slow start to the season. But Ainsworth is under no illusion as to how difficult the game against Karl Robinson's side will be.

He added: "They are all tough matches. We have to earn the right to beat these teams.

"Karl has managed at this level a long time and he is a good manager. It will be a great scalp if we can beat our rivals from just up the M40 there and it should be a great crowd.

"The fans have been brilliant and give us positive vibes."



Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth is hopeful of a first home league win of the season when they take on Oxford United this weekend.

SPORT

Football
Shone's boys
shine in FA Cup
- Page 59



GREEN LIGHT FOR TAKEOVER TALKS

REVEALED: Trust approves planned discussions as consortia eye move for Wycombe Wanderers



By Nicholas Tunney

MAJOR takeover talks have been given the go-ahead by Wycombe Wanderers Trust members – with two consortia eyeing potential bids for the Chairboys, the *Bucks Free Press* can reveal.

Earlier this week, a Trust meeting was held where members agreed to continue discussions with two potential private investors keen to purchase a stake in the club.

The shift from being a club owned by a

supporters' trust to one in the hands of a majority shareholder is viewed as a 'positive' step by some members.

Four years ago, Wanderers looked doomed and on the brink of going out of business after Steve Hayes, who sold the club to the Trust in 2012, left it saddled with millions of pounds worth of debt.

Wanderers' victory at Torquay in May 2014 to preserve their league status was a pivotal moment, with many suggesting the club would have gone bust had they fallen through the trap door into non-league.

Since then fans have witnessed a revival on and off the pitch, with Wanderers gaining promotion to League One last season as part of a five-year plan.

This year is the final 12 months of that plan and the aim is to avoid relegation and maintain their League One status.

Ex-chairman and now sporting director Andrew Howard, current chairman Trevor Stroud and manager Gareth Ainsworth have been key figures in guiding the club through choppy waters.

The 500 Club has also pumped money into

the coffers to keep the club afloat and capable of competing in League Two and League One.

A club statement said: "Wycombe Wanderers Trust held a meeting of its members on Wednesday evening to provide an update on the finances of the football club and outline the different opportunities for potential investment. The club has been trust-owned since 2012, attempting to attain a break-even financial model without the support of a private owner or benefactor, and confirmed to its..."

Continued on page 63