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NEW FACE OF TOWN?



Major plans revealed for Wycombe - See page 5

Father's Qatar jail nightmare

By Stephanie Wareham

A PETITION has been launched calling for the release of a High Wycombe businessman from a Qatar prison as he faces 37 years behind bars – for issuing cheques that bounced.

Jonathan Nash, former CEO at

Top House in Qatar, has been languishing in prison since March 2015 because he wrote a number of cheques on behalf of the business, which were then reportedly blocked by the firm following an alleged internal disagreement.

He found himself personally liable and facing the rest of his life in

prison. The father-of-two's desperate family and friends have been campaigning for his release from jail – and a petition calling on the UK government to raise Mr Nash's case with the Qatari government has so far gathered more than 1,700 signatures.

It was set up by his close friend,

Graham Harris, who said: "Jonathan has been given no day in court, no defence and no opportunity to state his case.

"As a man in his 40s it is not inconceivable that he will die in prison if this isn't resolved.



Continued on page 5

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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

Portsmouth lie in wait



IT has been a decent week for the Blues.

I was at Adams Park last Saturday for the Oxford game and in all the matches I have been to as a football fan and reporter, I can't recall a better 0-0 than that.

It was an absolutely terrific game with tackles flying in, some high-quality play, penalty shouts and a slightly controversial disallowed goal right at the end from Adebayo Akinfenwa, who was adjudged offside.

To be fair, it looks the linesman may have just got it right, but it was a brave call to deny the big man his first goal of the season.

After a first half where Wycombe were second best,

they got to grips with Oxford in the second half and in the end I think they just about deserved a point.

It shows the character in the team and in the squad to nick a draw in a game where they may have struggled a month ago, and I think the Chairboys are well and truly getting to grips with this division.

On Tuesday, they entertained Fulham U21s and managed to get a late win courtesy of Scott Kashket's fourth goal of the season.

I was highly impressed again with scorer of the first goal, Alex Samuel. He was excellent at Northampton in the first game of their Checktrade Trophy cam-

paign and looked good when he came on against Forest Green in the Carabao Cup.

He has an excellent work ethic and possesses no little talent either and it was a wonderful finish to open the scoring.

Credit to Fulham, they came back well but Wycombe always had too much for them and it is another competition they are doing well in this season.

The Blues have only lost one of their last eight games in all competitions and they will need to be at their best when they travel to league leaders, Portsmouth, tomorrow afternoon.

Pompey have got off to flying start and they look a

quality outfit, so Gareth's side will have to be at their best against very good opponents.

However, Ainsworth and his squad relish the role of being underdogs, and I would not be surprised to see them get a result at Fratton Park.

Of course, it will be a hard game but Wanderers are an excellent side on the road and with the quality they have at their disposal, they will no doubt give Portsmouth some problems of their own.

I will be there tomorrow eagerly awaiting this match and can't wait for this one to kick off.

COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers



VS



Portsmouth

Last five league games:
DWDLD

Last five league games:
WDWDW

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 15. Craig MacGillivray
- 20. Nathan Thompson
- 5. Matthew Clarke
- 6. Christian Burgess
- 3. Lee Brown
- 7. Tom Naylor
- 33. Ben Close
- 21. Gareth Evans
- 10. Jamal Lowe
- 9. Oliver Hawkins
- 11. Ronan Curtis

THIS week's Opposition View comes from *Portsmouth News* sports reporter, Will Rooney.

How did Portsmouth get on last week?

They beat then league leaders Peterborough 2-1 at London Road. To be honest, it was fairly comfortable and Portsmouth were always in control of the game.

What signings have you made over the summer?

Pompey have signed 10 players overall, including Ronan Curtis (more on him later). They have made six permanent signings and four on loan and they have gelled really well to see the team to the top of the table.

What is the aim for the team this season?

Promotion, without a doubt. The play-offs would mark a decent season but with the start they have made, automatic promotion has to be the aim for this team. They are more than good enough.

Who are your dangers?

Ronan Curtis, no question. He has five goals and five assists already since signing from Derry City and has been a real talisman for the team so far. He only cost £100,000 and has already received a call-up from the Republic of Ireland squad for his displays.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

They obviously had a great season last time out and have had some eye-catching re-

sults. They clearly have ambitions to stay up and hopefully survival is on the cards for them.

Prediction?

A routine 2-0 win for Pompey.



Ronan Curtis

GALLERY: Wycombe 0-0 Oxford



Michael Harriman beats his man



Fans watch on



Oxford keeper Mitchell hurdles Akinfenwa



Blues supporter watches his side from the terrace



Adebayo Akinfenwa sees his goal ruled out for offside



Fred Onyedinma



Matt Bloomfield



Chairboys fan



In the CHAIR



Keith Higgins from Wycombe Sound on his sport show award



Wycombe Sound team

AT Wycombe Sound, we pride ourselves on our professionalism, integrity and fairness.

Just occasionally though, you get the opportunity to blow your own trumpet. Therefore just as when Wycombe score a last minute winner (thanks Scott Kashket!) and so your impartiality disappears for a moment, I hope you will allow me some self-congratulatory words.

Last Saturday at the Community Radio Awards in Sheffield, Wycombe Sound's Tuesday Sports Show won the Gold Award for Sports Show of the Year. The judges praised the show's coverage of a wide variety of local sport, its thought-provoking content and the extraordinary passion shown by the team and its commitment to sport in the community.

To be judged by your peers to be best in your category is very humbling and especially rewarding. Alan Harris, who will be going to Fratton Park on Saturday, took this picture of the Wycombe Sound team after the ceremony, where we won three gold, three silver and one bronze award – a wonderful achievement by a great team of volunteers.

We are a team, so massive thanks to Luke, Sam, Melanie, Alan, Harry, James, Don and Gabe who are our regular presenters and producers on the Sports Shows.

However, the biggest thanks must go to all the sports clubs and teams who have embraced the radio station.

Our showreel submission for the award contained clips from some of these interviews. Joe Jacobson spoke eloquently about his role as a Kick It Out ambassador while Alan did a wonderful piece about two pairs of sporting brothers from High Wycombe who fought in the First World War. In terms of sports, we have covered this year football, rugby union, hockey, swimming, motor racing, clay pigeon shooting and many more less mainstream ones.

In terms of the future, Wycombe Sound will continue with this philosophy of supporting sport in our local area – it looks like we have a winning formula so why change?

WANDERERS

Ainsworth: Oxford game had everything

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth hailed "a great game which had everything" as Wycombe and Oxford shared the spoils at Adams Park.

Although it was 0-0, Adebayo Akinfenwa had a goal disallowed in the last minute for a marginal offside and both sides hit the bar in a high-octane derby.

Ainsworth admitted Wycombe rode their luck in the first half, but hit back well after the break.

He said: "This game had everything.

"I know some people don't like calling this one a derby, but you tell me that wasn't a derby out there.

"It was a real blood, guts and thunder game and there were yellow cards, statutory penalty claims and the offside goal.

"It was a great game to watch. I thought Oxford were the better side in the first half and they really got at us.

"The boy [Gavin] Whyte on the right wing is very talented and he was running at people, but we stopped him getting the ball in the second half.

"The second half could have gone either way. Maybe we didn't deserve to win but maybe we didn't deserve to lose last week [against Charlton].

"I was pleased with the second-half performance, and we lost a few middle-of-the-park battles, but I am pleased with a point after all that."

Akinfenwa's disallowed goal sparked a debate after the game as to whether the big striker was onside, as he thumped home a bril-



Gareth Ainsworth hailed both sides for a blood and thunder local derby

liant header from Joe Jacobson's free kick.

With regard to the incident, Ainsworth felt the officials got it right, having had time to see the replay.

He added: "I knew it would be Bayo's type of game in the second half.

"Teams are stopping balls getting to him at this level as frequently as they did in League Two.

"It was tactical and we needed

to secure it in their half and Bayo made a big difference.

"I think he was offside by a hair's breadth, but it could have gone either way.

"Looking at the still, it is a hell of a decision in the last minute in front of the home crowd, but he has got it right and you have to give him credit."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Allsop, McCarthy, Jombati, Stewart



Adebayo Akinfenwa saw his header ruled out

(sub: Harriman, 7), Jacobson, Morris, Gape, Bloomfield, Williams (sub: Cowan-Hall, 86), Mackail-Smith (sub: Akinfenwa, 61), Onyed-inma. Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Saunders, Kashket, Thompson.

OXFORD UNITED: Mitchell, Norman, Nelson, Mousinho, Garbutt, Brannagan (sub: Ruffels, 23), Baptiste, Whyte, Obika (sub: Smith, 75), Henry (sub: Browne, 63), Holmes. Subs: Shearer, Dickie, Raglan.

WYCOMBE: On-loan forward delighted to be back Onyed-inma: We could have nicked it

WYCOMBE'S Fred Onyed-inma was delighted to make his first start since returning to the club on loan in the draw against Oxford.

And the on-loan Millwall attacker admitted the Blues could have nicked the win in the second half of the local derby.

He said: "From the get-go, we wanted to give it the feeling of a local derby and get the fans behind us.

"I thought in the first half we paid Oxford too much respect, but in the second half we looked more dangerous, even though they had chances as well.

"This was my first 90 minutes in a long time and, as a team, we got better and better as the game wore on and we could have nicked a goal on the counter attack."

Onyed-inma also commented on the quality of the squad and explained competition for places was keeping every player on their toes.

He added: "We have strength in depth and everyone wants to play and everyone wants to impress the manager.

"The standards in training are high, so everyone wants to play and show the manager what we can do and as a team, we always back each other."

Commenting on Adebayo Akinfenwa's disallowed header, Onyed-inma admitted he got wrapped in the emotion.

He said: "I thought it wasn't offside, but things like that happen. We were all celebrating and didn't see the linesman, but at the end of



Fred Onyed-inma was a threat with his pace and power

the day that can happen."

On being back at Adams Park, Onyed-inma added: "Everything is good.

"It is still the same as when I was here before. They are a good bunch of boys and everyone is close together so everything has been good."

Mackail-Smith: We are heading in right direction

WANDERERS striker Craig-Mackail Smith feels the Blues have finally got to grips with the new season after a sluggish start to the current campaign.

Wycombe have only lost one of their last eight games in all competitions, and the 34-year-old explained that the squad are on the right track.

He said: "We are just trying to turn those draws into three points now.

"We are performing well and we have got to grips with the league now and we are starting to push in the right direction.

"If we have a little bit more luck in front of goal, we could have had a

few more wins in those eight games, but it is what it is and we go to Portsmouth to ruffle a few feathers."

The Pompey game tomorrow (Saturday) represents Wycombe's hardest match so far this season, but the former Peterborough striker is looking forward to going toe-to-toe with Kenny Jackett's side.

He added: "They have had a fantastic start and they went to Peterborough and won and that shows what a good team they are.

"It will be an exciting game. There will be a huge crowd and, as a professional, it's one that you want. I think the boys will relish the occasion."



Craig Mackail-Smith is looking forward to the Portsmouth game

WYCOMBE: Forward ultra-determined to do well at Adams Park Samuel loving life at Wanderers

By Nicholas Tunney

NEW Wycombe forward Alex Samuel explained how much he is enjoying life as his new club after his opening goal paved the way for a 2-1 Checktrade Trophy win against Fulham on Tuesday.

The former Stevenage hitman opened the scoring on two minutes, smashing home an expert finish after great work from Adebayo Akinfenwa, with Scott Kashket grabbing the winner.

Samuel said: "I am loving it here. "The lads are great, the gaffer is great and all the coaches are great and I am just excited for my time here.

"For the goal, we used Adebayo's presence and the ball came in and I knew it was a case of just being close to him and I smacked it in."

Samuel is just one of a plethora of forwards at Ainsworth's disposal, and the Welshman added: "I have only been here for a few weeks and you can see the quality in training. It is brilliant.

"There is such depth within of the squad and we are now looking forward to Saturday and going to Fratton Park [to face Portsmouth] and hopefully we can take the points there."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Ma-Kalambay, Thompson, Bean, Charles (sub: Jacobson, 65), Jombati (sub: Harriman, 65), Saunders, Freeman, Cowan-Hall, Samuel, Akinfenwa (sub: Bloomfield, 65), Kashket. Subs: Allsop, Mackail-Smith, Onyedina, Williams.

FULHAM U21s: Ashby-Hammond, Opoku (sub: Kelly, 75), Jenz (sub: Carvalho, 46), Francois, Thompson, Mundle-Smith, Harris, Abraham (sub: Elliott, 46), Dram-eh, Davies, Atkinson.



Alex Samuel bagged his first Wycombe goal against Fulham U21s

SPORT

Football
Mendy is star
of the show
- Page 83



Boxing
Gale looks for
title shot
- Page 79



Ainsworth pays tribute to 'incredible' Howard

'Immense' former chairman to leave club



Andrew Howard, left, will be sorely missed by Wycombe Wanderers, according to boss Gareth Ainsworth, right

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has paid a glowing tribute to Andrew Howard, who is leaving the club after four years on the board.

Howard, currently sporting director, has overseen huge change off the pitch to make Wanderers financially stable, and leaves the Chairboys in excellent shape as a League One club.

Ainsworth heaped praise on the former chairman and the "incred-

ible" work he has done at Adams Park since arriving in the summer of 2014.

He said: "What he has done for this club you can liken to the size of an iceberg.

"All people will see is the top third and think that is all he has done but believe me underneath is incredible.

"Being close to him and knowing him first-hand, he has worked really closely with me and he has improved no end as a manager.

"He knows very little about the

footballing and tactical side and he admits that but as a manager he has improved me as much as anyone in my whole career.

"The two thirds that he has done that nobody sees is just immense. He has been a big part in turning this club around with one or two others.

"Without him I think the club would be in real trouble. I think people will look back on his period of work here with great success."

He added: "Since that Torquay game, it has been nothing but success and the timing could not have

been better with him walking through the door that summer.

"Having a look at the club and giving it a shake-up is exactly what was needed and I can't thank him enough, he deserves so much recognition."

Howard, who leaves on October 31, said: "Being part of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club has been a life-changing experience for me. It was an honour to serve as chairman during a period of change and growth, and then to be sporting director in a promotion-winning season."



Chairboys boss plays 'underdog'

Wycombe Wanderers

GARETH Ainsworth is relishing tomorrow's "huge, huge game" as his Wycombe Wanderers side prepare to take on table-toppers Portsmouth at Fratton Park (Saturday, 3pm ko).

Pompey are unbeaten in eight League One games this term, and Ainsworth cannot wait to face the leaders in their own back yard.

He said: "It is going to be huge. It is fantastic to be taking on the league leaders.

"There is likely to be 17,000 down there. We have watched them and we know what's coming.

"I have a lot of respect for Kenny Jackett [Portsmouth manager]. It will be tough, but I have tough boys here.

"We have nothing to lose and no-one expects anything from us and I am looking forward to playing that underdog card."

Portsmouth's shining light this season has been Ronan Curtis, who joined from Derry City in the summer for a paltry £100,000.

He has already notched five goals and five assists this campaign, but Ainsworth is not singling him out for any special plans.

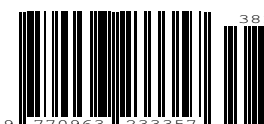
He added: "We have good defenders and we are solid and we have good names in our team.

"I will show my boys what they are about going forward and hopefully we can get goals against them."

Ainsworth, however, had bad news regarding Anthony Stewart, pictured above, after he limped off in the 0-0 draw with Oxford last weekend.

He said: "He has picked up a hamstring injury and it looks bad. He could be out for while."

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