

Bucks Free Press

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**Arson attack on
homeless in town**



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Halloween acid attack horror

By Shruti Sheth Trivedi

A HORROR Halloween attack is being investigated after a man was taken to hospital with burns to his face after a "corrosive substance" was thrown at him by a 'trick-or-treater' in High Wycombe.

The victim, a man in his 30s, was

at home in Bevelwood Gardens at around 7.45pm on Wednesday when there was a knock at the door.

He answered the door and there was someone dressed as a ghost, in a white sheet with eye holes cut out.

He assumed the person was a trick-or-treater for Halloween, but the person then threw two cups of

pink liquid over the victim.

Police confirmed the liquid was a "high strength corrosive substance".

The man suffered burns to his face and feet, and was taken to Wycombe Hospital to be treated. He has since been discharged.

Investigating officer, detective ser-

geant David Mitchell of Force CID based at Aylesbury police station, said: "This is a worrying attack involving a liquid, which has been established by our colleagues at Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service as a high strength corrosive substance."

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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

Posh under the cosh?



IT seems that Wanderers take two steps forward and one step back at the moment.

After the brilliant home wins against Scunthorpe and Rochdale, I think hopes were high that the momentum could continue against Walsall last weekend.

However, against a side who had been on a rocky run, as is so often the case that once they took the lead they started to brim with confidence to belie their previous five games.

Before Walsall grabbed their first goal, for me Wanderers definitely shaded proceedings and had two excellent chances to go ahead through Craig Mackail-Smith and Paris Cowan-Hall.

That first goal rattled Wycombe and the second goal came at a crucial time as well, just after the interval.

Despite a late fightback, led brilliantly by Alex Samuel, you could sense Gareth's frustration at the final whistle and that normally excellent away form is just taking a bit of a wobble.

The Blues now enter a month with some big games against some big teams, beginning against Peterborough tomorrow.

The Posh have had a brilliant start to the season under Steve Evans and sit second in the division behind Portsmouth FC.

You can put that mainly down to a formidable away record, as they have recorded six wins and a draw from seven League One games on the road this campaign.

They have threats all over the pitch with the likes of Matt Godden, Jason Cummings and Ivan Toney in their ranks but this is exactly the type of occasion that Wycombe have thrived upon in recent years.

They have a chance to upset the applecart and enter the match as underdogs, which Gareth and his side love to do.

Runs have to end somewhere and what a fillip it would be for the Chairboys should they be the team to end it.

The home form has been superb in recent weeks and they come into this game with three wins on the spin at Adams Park, echoing Gaz's words that he wanted to turn their home ground into a fortress and the players and fans have responded.

It should be a fantastic game and I back the Blues to get something out of it.

We also have the latest on Christian Wade's shock decision to quit rugby and more reaction to that and a feature regarding Helen Glover, with the rower having not ruled herself out of more Olympic glory.

Wycombe Wanderers

Last five league games:
WLWWL

VS

Peterborough United

Last five league games:
LWLWW

OPPOSITION VIEW



1. Aaron Chapman
2. Jason Naismith
5. Ryan Tafazolli
16. Rhys Bennett
23. Tyler Denton
15. Joe Ward
4. Alex Woodyard
11. Louis Reed
10. Siriki Dembele
9. Matt Godden
17. Ivan Toney

THIS week's Opposition View comes from Alan Swann of the Peterborough Telegraph.

How did Peterborough get on last week?

They won 2-1 at Burton thanks to goals from Joe Ward and Siriki Dembele. It was a good performance from the Posh who continued their brilliant form on the road with a seventh win from eight.

What is the aim for the team this season?

The aim has to be promotion. They have made some big signings in the summer, whilst keeping a core of good players at the club and they have made the ideal start to the campaign.

Who are your danger-men?

Top scorer Matt Godden

who Posh signed from Stevenage and dazzling winger Siriki Dembele.

Both have been in flying form this term so far. Godden, especially, cannot stop scoring and has been an inspired piece of business.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

Wanderers gave over-achieved impressively in recent seasons and sealed that promotion to League One last season.

Dangerous opponents who use direct football very well and can be a match for any side in this division.

They also have ex-Posh legend Craig Mackail-Smith in their ranks and he is always a handful for any team.

Tell us one interesting fact about your club.

Posh are unbeaten in their first eight away matches of the League One season. It's the best start away from home in the club's Football League history.

Prediction?

We will lose an away game soon for sure, but I'm still going 2-1 to the mighty Posh.

Matt Godden

In the CHAIR



Wanderers manager pays tribute to Andrew Howard



Howard and Ainsworth

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has paid a glowing tribute to Andrew Howard, who has left Adams Park this week after four glorious years on the board.

Ainsworth has worked alongside Howard as a director, chairman and most recently a sporting director and paid tribute to the man who has helped him so much since they came together in the summer of 2014.

He said: "I wouldn't be the manager that I am if it wasn't for Andrew Howard."

"The success that I have had and this club has had is a lot to do with that man."

"Some of the stuff he has done off the pitch has gone unseen. He is very selfless and he has never taken anything out of the club."

"It has been a fantastic few years working with Andrew and the Wembley season [2014/15] will stick in my mind forever because that was our first year together because we really pulled up trees and upset all sorts of form books."

"That is what Andrew is all about. He tries to break the trends and prove that the norm doesn't have to be the best and that you can work outside the box."

"He has taught me to think differently and taught me a lot about the off-the-field stuff."

"The on-the-field stuff he never got involved as he didn't want to and he wouldn't get involved and has never questioned anything I have done on the pitch, which is great as a lot of clubs don't have that."

"Off the pitch, wow, he has brought me on as a person and like I say, wouldn't be the manager I am today without Andrew."

"You take a lot from all the players and managers you have worked with but there is one man who walked in from an ice cream factory four years who I have taken more than anyone from."

"He will miss it but he has got his businesses that the statement that he can't commit the time is brilliant as he realises he can't put all his time into this and I think it has been hard for him to walk away and I am eternally grateful."

WANDERERS

'Frustrating' third goal sees narrow defeat

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth bemoaned the first goal as crucial as the Blues lost 3-2 to Walsall in their League One clash at the Bescot Stadium on Saturday.

Goals from Andy Cook, Isaiah Osbourne and a Dominic Gape gave the Saddlers all three points in the Midlands, despite a late comeback from the visitors, led by Alex Samuel.

The Chairboys were having their best spell of the game in the moments leading up to the first goal and Ainsworth was left frustrated that his side couldn't make their pressure count.

He said: "Just after Paris (Cowan-Hall) hit the woodwork it was very frustrating to concede, and from a set-play as well."

"It is something we work hard on. We told the boys they have great delivery into the box and they are a big side and that means don't give set-plays away in dangerous areas."

"We have given them one and they didn't disappoint with the result so it was a tough one to take."

"At half-time I wasn't too concerned, I was calm and I was saying to the boys we are always in games."

"The frustrating one was the third goal going in as that took us two goals away with 10 minutes to go but that is the way football goes sometimes."

Walsall took the lead slightly against the run of play on 35 minutes when Cook glanced home a header from three yards after a wonderful delivery by Connor Ro-



Ainsworth cut a frustrated figure at full time

nan. The Saddlers then got a second goal on 51 minutes after a spell of pressure when Kane Wilson had his shot saved by Allsop but Wilson pulled it back to Osbourne to tap home.

Wycombe then pulled a goal back from an unlikely source on 79 minutes when Akinfenwa looked for Samuel.

The substitute put Liam Leahy under real pressure and the defend-

er sliced it into his own net.

However, Walsall got a third on 85 minutes when Gape saw the ball ricochet off him and into the Wycombe goal after more good work by Kane Wilson before Samuel's late consolation.

Wycombe face Peterborough next Saturday at Adams Park (kick off 3pm).

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Allsop, Harriman, McCarthy, El-



Samuel sparked the comeback

Abd, Jacobson, Cowan-Hall (sub: Kashket, 67), Morris, Thompson (sub: Gape, 77), Onyedinma, Akinfenwa, Mackail-Smith (sub: Samuel, 67). Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Bean, Charles, Freeman.

WALSALL: Roberts, Wilson, Guthrie, Martin, Leahy, Osbourne, Morris, Dobson, Ronan, Ferrier, Cook. Subs: Dunn, Devlin, Ismail, Ginnelly, Kinsella, Johnson, Gordon.

WYCOMBE: Defender focuses on the positives McCarthy: I think we deserved more

WANDERERS defender Jason McCarthy felt his side deserved more from their 3-2 defeat to Walsall at the Bescot Stadium on Saturday.

Before the home side took the lead, Wycombe hit the woodwork through Paris Cowan-Hall and Craig Mackail-Smith missed a great chance to give the visitors the opportunity to go ahead.

McCarthy said: "It is a shame that we didn't come away with anything after I think we probably should have."

"First half we were pushing for that opening goal and it looked like we were going to get it and then a sloppy set-piece given away followed by two poor goals conceded was disappointing."

"It is disappointing not to get any-

thing after scoring two goals away from home."

"We have got six points this week and if you look at the bigger picture that is massive for us and that is what we will look at."

"They scored at important times in the game and that was a killer for us and we couldn't get a foothold."

McCarthy is forming a promising partnership in the centre of defence with captain Adam El-Abd and the former Barnsley man praised El-Abd for his guidance.

He added: "He helps me a lot and he is a big experienced head and it is a pleasure to play alongside him."

McCarthy was also full of praise for his old club Walsall, having been player of the year for the Saddlers in the 2016/17 campaign.



McCarthy reflected on the positives after the defeat to Walsall

He said: "I had really good times here and great to see the club doing well."

"I won the player of the season

and it was great to get such a nice reception from the fans as well and that means a lot to me and the club has a fond place in my heart."

Blues manager expects toughest Adams Park test

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth is preparing his side for their "toughest test at home" so far this season as they face Peterborough at Adams Park on Saturday.

The Posh have won seven games out of eight on their travels, whilst Wanderers have won their last three matches at Adams Park and a cracking contest could be on the cards.

Ainsworth said: "It is going to be a hell of a game.

"It looks like there is going to be goals in the game because of the way both teams attack.

"It will be tough. They are one of the favourites for promotion and this

is probably our biggest test at home so far this season.

"Make no bones about it, we will have to be at our very best to be competing on Saturday."

Posh forward Matt Godden has been banging in the goals since his move from Stevenage in the summer and Ainsworth praised Peterborough manager Steve Evans for his signing.

He added: "You have to give Steve credit.

"He wasn't absolutely prolific in League Two and Steve has seen his potential. He scored so many goals at Ebbsfleet and Steve has got the best out of him and he will be a threat."



Ainsworth is relishing locking horns with Peterborough tomorrow

WANDERERS: Howard points towards bright Chairboys future 'Club is going in a great direction'

By Nicholas Tunney

FORMER Wycombe chairman Andrew Howard admitted the club is going in a "great direction" as he bid farewell to Adams Park after four years on the board.

Howard's last day as director was on Wednesday and explained that the decision to step down was the hardest decision he has made.

However, he was keen to point out that the club is in much better shape since when he joined in summer 2014.

Speaking exclusively to the Bucks Free Press, Howard said: "The club is going in a great direction.

"It has people who are running it that are both fans but understand the business element of what is going on.

"It has clear objectives. My job was very simple. It was to sort out the finances and sort out the commercial aspects of the business and I think it is in a much better position to cope with a very difficult environment.

"League football is inherently a difficult environment and probably one of the hardest businesses I have been involved with on survivability.

"One of the things the club needed was a bit of brutality. That brutality was all about survival.

"What is great is every time we have built in the business it has been about strength. It is all about a team of people and the whole ethos with what the club is.

"I wouldn't mess to much but it is in really strong hands but like any business I would be looking to improve it and move forward.

"I think the next steps are vital for the football club."



Andrew Howard talks exclusively to the Bucks Free Press

SPORT

Rugby
Wade gets full support
- Page 57



Hockey
Bull picked by GB for China
- Page 55



Blues Trust to meet potential investors

Wanderers history to enter a new chapter



Wycombe Wanderers Trust members meet up with potential new investors on Wednesday

By Nicholas Tunney

A PAIR of American investors will be meeting Trust members next week for the first time as a potential takeover bid inches closer.

Bill Luby and Jim Collis will be introduced to members next week on November 7 at Adams Park after chairman Trevor Stroud issued an update this week on the latest news from the board.

At a meeting held on September 12, Stroud revealed that Wycombe Wanderers Trust members

"agreed in principle that the club should seek external investment, with investors taking either a majority or minority interest in the club in exchange for the provision of a permanent capital solution".

In the letter, Stroud added: "Bill and Jim are American financial professionals with tremendous experience in sports especially football."

"We have known them for some time and are impressed not only with their acute understanding of the business of football, but also

with their sensitivity to fan ownership and of the Trust's continued participation in running the club going forward.

"In addition, they appear to us have the financial wherewithal to continue to carry forward the Club with the aspirations of becoming a stable, secure and competitive League One club and even, in time, competing at a higher level. We will continue to carry out due diligence on them, but our current view is that they will be valuable partners and proper stewards for the club.

"If this plan is to be implemented, the approval of 75 per cent of Legacy Members will be required, and a formal meeting and ballot will be held in due course.

"It must be stressed – this evening is designed to help us get to know them and to have them begin to get to know the important stakeholders at the club."

Stroud added: "This is the start of a hugely important part of Wycombe Wanderers' history. The Trust board is very excited about the potential relationship with Bill and Jim."

Smith: Best shape of my life

Boxing

WYCOMBE boxer Ben Smith is prepared for the toughest fight of his boxing career as he takes on Mwanza Chisanga at the iconic York Hall on November 24.

Smith, who is unbeaten having won seven out of seven, goes into the bout in the best shape of his life and is very confident his stock can continue to rise in the boxing world.

He said: "I am fighting someone who has come to win, which is different to the journeymen I have been facing.

"He has lost a few fights but he has lost to some top boxers so I am going to have to be at my best against him on November 24.

"I have done my first sparring session and did eight rounds non-stop, which shows just how fit I am.

"It usually takes me ages to get going and I usually build my sparring up slowly. Being in the gym most days as kept me fit and I am reaping the rewards.

"It is a bit frustrating as I wanted to get out a lot sooner since my last fight but have signed up with Mark Gibbs and it is a case of getting more six round fights under my belt.

"Then another fight in January, then hopefully a title shot somewhere after February."

Smith will be making his second appearance at York Hall and he reiterated how much he loves the Bethnal Green venue.

He added: "The atmosphere is brilliant. Everyone is on top of you and every top British boxer has fought there in their time and it is fantastic to fight there and I hope to put on a good show."

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