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NEWS

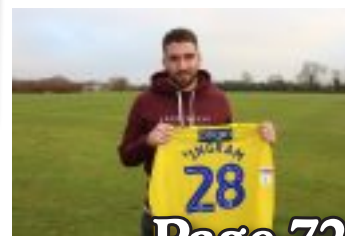
'No deal' on town
centre facelift



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SPORT

Ingram's return
to Wanderers



Page 72

'Homes plans won't be axed'

By Jasmine Rapson

MAJOR plans to concrete over our countryside and change the face of Bucks for years to come will still go ahead – despite politicians knowing they will be stripped of their powers in just two years.

This week Chiltern District Coun-

cil confirmed it will be pushing forward with plans to build thousands of homes in the district, following the announcement a new 'super authority' will be launched by 2020.

Speaking at a meeting on Tuesday evening, cabinet member for planning and economic development, Peter Martin, said the Local

Plan – which sets out future housing growth – is still a priority for the authority. The news comes as new details on the controversial development of Gomm Valley were revealed – including that more than 400 homes are going to be built on the beauty-spot.

Cllr Martin said: "I just want to

confirm the situation in terms of the Local Plan in view of the unitary announcement.

"It makes no difference to that, and in fact we will continue working on the Local Plan as a priority as we were before. It is important to make that clear."

Continued on page 3



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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

Upsetting the appplecart



THE defeat to Luton in the FA Cup for the Blues was certainly a disappointing one.

I felt Wycombe, even though Luton have spent thousands on improving their squad and have ambitions on promotion, had a great opportunity to progress in the competition.

Gareth Ainsworth loves the FA Cup and the adventures they have had in recent seasons will live long in the memory.

However, it just wasn't meant to be at Kenilworth Road and Luton deservedly went through.

Even though the FA Cup has lost its magic for the top clubs in recent seasons, you can see how much this prestigious tournament still means to the teams in the lower divisions.

Luton had a full-strength side out and although Wycombe were cut down by injuries, you could tell just how despondent Ainsworth was that his squad hadn't made it through to the second round.

The main aim has always been survival in League One and every cloud has a silver lining.

With Blues being knocked out, it means their sole concentration is on staying in the division.

With 21 points from 17 games, they remain bang on course to do so and sit comfortably in mid-table at the moment.

That will be tested in the coming games, where they have some tricky obstacles to overcome should they want to preserve their League One status.

At home, where they have won four on the bounce, they have some winnable fixtures on paper in the next few weeks, but it is on the road where they have some very tough matches.

Sunderland are next up for the Chairboys and they look primed for a promotion push having been relegated last season from the Championship.

They have some players who have had international recognition and players who could definitely play at a level above.

On the formbook, Sunderland should win this one, but Wanderers just love to upset the appplecart and Wycombe have taken four points off Portsmouth and Peterborough, who are first and third in the league respectively.

Sunderland at home is probably the most arduous task for any side in League One, but I back the Blues to gain a valuable point on the road at the Stadium of Light.

If they can do that, that will just give the team more added belief.

COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers

Last five league games:
LWWLW

VS

Sunderland

Last five league games:
WWWWW

OPPOSITION VIEW



1. Jon McLaughlin
2. Adam Matthews
12. Tom Flanagan
15. Jack Baldwin
16. Reece James
10. George Honeyman
8. Dylan McGeouch
11. Lynden Gooch
19. Aiden McGeady
7. Chris Maguire
20. Josh Maja

WE take a look back at Sunderland's recent run which has taken them to second in League One following their relegation from the Championship.

The Mackems are currently on a five-match winning streak in the division and have kept clean sheets in the last four matches against League One opposition.

Sunderland have a very familiar face to Wanderers players and fans alike as Luke O'Nien moved to the north-east in the summer from Adams Park.

Their last match was a 2-0 win against struggling Plymouth at Home Park.

Aiden McGeady scored a second-half brace to send Sunderland up to second in League One following victory at Plymouth.

McGeady broke the deadlock with a superb strike from the edge of the box after beating a couple of defenders.

He doubled his tally from the penalty spot following Tafari Moore's foul on substitute Luke O'Nien as Sunderland made it five league wins in a row.

The opening goal spurred Plymouth into action and it required a diving save by Jon McLaughlin to turn Graham Carey's 20-yard free-kick from the left around the post in the 62nd minute.

McLaughlin made another smart save shortly after which somehow turned Freddie Ladapo's shot away from goal.

Another Carey free-kick went close in the 70th minute and fellow midfielder Antoni Sarcevic sent a half-volley just wide after 75 minutes.

In a goalless first half, the two best chances were made by Sunderland's Lynden Gooch.

Gooch sent Matt Macey in a full stretch save from 25 yards in the 15th minute before the Argyle stopper made another acrobatic save to keep out Gooch's dipping swerving shot.



Lynden Gooch

In the CHAIR



Wanderers head of media Matt Cecil



Matt Cecil

WHEN the fixtures are released in June, any club media man's first instincts will be how many back-to-back home games do we have (programme deadlines are a killer); where are we playing on New Year's Day (i.e. how hard can I party?) and will they EFL really send us to Accrington on a cold midweek in the winter for a fourth successive season? (Answer: yes).

But also the opportunity to visit a new ground is an attraction, and the trip to the Stadium of Light tomorrow will be one to remember regardless of the result (though believe me, this Wycombe side are more than capable of getting a result). It jumped off the page when the fixtures were announced, though we'll have hoped not to have met them on the back of a run of eight successive victories...

It takes me back to 2009, when the newly-promoted Wanderers could look forward to dates with Norwich, Leeds, Charlton and Southampton in League 1. Delia's delicacies didn't disappoint in the Carrow Road press box, and the visit to Elland Road came a week after they'd dumped Man United out of the FA Cup.

Nobody gave little Wycombe a chance, but they left with a deserved point having rattled the Yorkshiremen on and off the pitch, with Leeds legend Eddie Gray taking a disliking to our celebrations in the press box which followed Jon-Paul Pittman's equaliser. Charlton, for the record, offered a dismal wifi connection and it's no better nine years on.

This, ultimately, is one of the many rewards for the team's hard work and success last season. Wycombe have earned the right to go toe-to-toe with some famous names in glamorous arenas, and also to host those clubs at Adams Park.

So bring on the impressive press room grub, the elevators required to navigate the stadium, the raucous home crowd and imposing opposition. Wycombe belong at this level, and they're here to stay – a belief that is carried from the manager through his players and to the fans.

WANDERERS

Wanderers dumped out of the FA Cup

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers were dumped out of the FA Cup at the first round stage as they suffered a disappointing 2-0 loss against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road.

Goals from Andrew Shinnie and Harry Cornick sealed the win for the Hatters as Wanderers failed to get into their stride against the big-spending hosts.

It was a lively start and Luton could have been ahead after two minutes when Joe Jacobson's poor back pass was seized upon by Cornick, but he was denied by a wonderful save by Ryan Allsop.

Wanderers had their first real half-chance after 18 minutes when Jason McCarthy's excellent cross found Fred Onyedinma, but his header was high and wide of the target.

The Blues were beginning to get on top in a fast-paced contest as Adam El-Abd headed wide from Joe Jacobson's superb corner on 23 minutes.

Both teams were continuing to slug it out, but it was the Hatters who took the lead on 40 minutes when Shinnie picked up Pelly Mpanzu's pass and curled delightfully in from 20 yards via the post.

Nathan Jones' side made a fast start to the second half and Sonny Bradley had a header cleared off the line by Dominic Gape.

The Chairboys had a decent opportunity to get an equaliser on 56 minutes as Alex Samuel burst down the right and cut the ball back, but Gape shot wide under pressure from Glen Rea.



Ryan Allsop made some great saves against Luton

Wycombe were gradually trying to get their tempo going in attack and Paris Cowan-Hall saw his tame shot easily held by James Shea on 58 minutes.

The home side then doubled their advantage on 71 minutes when Cornick capitalised on an Adam El-Abd error and slotted past Allsop.

The Blues continued to chip away and Randell Williams saw his firm strike palmed away by Shea on 73



Alex Samuel worked tirelessly

minutes.

Lee almost made it three to Luton on 77 minutes but his improvised effort was hooked off the line by Curtis Thompson.

Luton saw the game out well and Wanderers now have League One to fully concentrate on.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Allsop, McCarthy, Jombati, El-Abd, Jacobson, Bean (sub: Kashket, 84). Gape, Thompson, Cowan-Hall (sub:

Williams, 68), Onyedinma, Samuel (sub: Mackail-Smith, 68). Subs: Yates, Stewart, Freeman.

LUTON TOWN: Shea, Stacey, Pearson, Bradley, Justin, Rea, Shinnie (sub: Grant, 52), Mpanzu, Lee (sub: LuaLua, 86), Collins, Cornick. Subs: Stech, McCormack, Jarvis, Jones, Sheehan.

REFEREE: Craig Hicks

ATTENDANCE: 5,343 (Wycombe 786)

WANDERERS: Boss feeling the Blues from Luton Ainsworth "gutted" after early exit

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth declared himself "gutted" at seeing his side dumped out of the FA Cup at the first round stage for the first time in three years as they lost 2-0 to Luton Town at Kenilworth Road.

In truth, Wanderers were second best for the majority of the game as goals from Andrew Shinnie and Harry Cornick sealed the passage through for the Hatters.

Ainsworth said: "I am absolutely gutted."

"I am hoping that round three for the last three seasons has not been a bad return for me as manager."

"I would love to do it again and it means as much off the pitch as it does on the pitch."

"People don't realise the prize money and potential it has. It

means so much to us. Some clubs won't even register for them but for us it could mean a hell of a lot."

"I now hope we can some good results and keep in League One."

Ainsworth added: "I didn't think it was a terrible performance."

"We conceded two really bad goals. I will look at that and make sure things are put in place to stop those."

"We now need to get a run going in League One. We want to stay as a League One club. It is going to be tough."

"Luton are probably going for the top six. They have good players and it is tough when you are against that but we will pick ourselves up and dust ourselves down."

Ainsworth rued an injury to Ade-



Ainsworth was despondent at the final whistle

bayo Akinfenwa, with a foot issue forcing the talismanic forward to miss the game.

He said: "Akinfenwa would have

relished this match."

"This was the type of game made for him and we hope to have him back very soon."

THE BIG MATCH: Akinfenwa 50/50 for Mackems trip

WITH the news that his two goalkeepers are both injured, Blues manager Gareth Ainsworth issued a more upbeat bulletin on his outfield players.

Ainsworth is keeping his fingers crossed that Adebayo Akinfenwa and Darius Charles will be able to make the long trip to the north-east for the League One clash at Sunderland tomorrow (3pm ko).

The Wycombe boss said: "Both Darius and Bayo are close. We will have to assess them over the next couple of days, but they aren't far away.

"The only one who is definitely out is Michael Harriman. He has done his groin but is back on the training

pitches. We aren't that far away with everyone and I am pleased to say that there are no long-termers apart from my two goalkeepers, but that is in hand and we will keep everyone updated as the weeks go on."

Sunderland have no fresh injury worries as they bid to extend their winning run to nine games in all competitions, having also won five in a row in League One, beating the likes of Doncaster and Peterborough on the way.

Former midfielder Luke O'Nien could make an appearance against his old side at the impressive Stadium of Light.



Striker Adebayo Akinfenwa could be in contention for the Sunderland game this weekend

WYCOMBE: Ainsworth backs his side to stun Black Cats Boss relishing Sunderland clash

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth is relishing the prospect of a David versus Goliath battle at the Stadium of Light against Sunderland tomorrow (3pm ko).

Black Cats sit second in the table and are on a run of eight wins in all competitions including clean sheets in their last four League One games.

Ainsworth is under no illusion as to how tough a test this will be, but is confident his side can do themselves proud against Jack Ross' men.

He said: "It is a really tough game but Wycombe can go there and get something and I firmly believe that. The boys I have got, on their day, they can match anyone in this league and they can beat anyone in this league.

"The problem with that is anyone can beat anyone in the division and your most consistent teams are your Sunderlands and Barnsleys. They are up there because they get consistently high performances out of their boys and I need one on Saturday.

"It will be a great game to bounce back in. The Stadium of Light is something special and it is a stadium I have played at twice. I believe I had two wins and I hope that is a good omen."

He added: "It will be David versus Goliath in so many aspects. What an experience it will be for my players, myself and my fans and I hope to give them something to cheer about. If you can't be inspired walking out at the Stadium of Light, then where can you be inspired? I want the boys to grasp the opportunity."



Manager Gareth Ainsworth is hoping for a positive result at the Stadium of Light

SPORT

Golf
Hatton eyes
big final push
- Page 63



Football
Penn boss
remains upbeat
- Page 67



Wanderers loan swoop for former hero Ingram

Keeper signs for a week after goalie crisis



Goalkeeper Matt Ingram has returned for the Sunderland game on a seven-day loan

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers have secured a stunning swoop, bringing goalkeeper Matt Ingram back to the club on a seven-day loan following injuries to Ryan Allsop and Yves Ma-Kalambay.

Allsop could be sidelined until the New Year after rupturing ankle ligaments during training this week, while Ma-Kalambay is unavailable after breaking a bone in his hand in the recent Checkatrade Trophy tie against Oxford United.

Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has sealed the move for Ingram from his old club QPR on an emergency loan deal, enabling him to play in Saturday's Sky Bet League One fixture at Sunderland (3pm ko).

Ainsworth said: "I am pleased to say the calls I have made have paid off and thanks so much to QPR for allowing us to sign Matt on loan."

"We have signed him for seven days and QPR are happy for Matt to come out and play, which will be his second coming against Sunder-

land in the league.

"He is one hell of a keeper and he left Wycombe with nothing but praise. He is a big signing for us and I am pleased to welcome him back in the building."

"It helps that Matt is steady ahead of such a big game. Joe Lumley came in at QPR and got his chance."

"I want to show QPR that he is definitely a number one. We only have him for seven days at the moment and we hope he comes in and does well for us."

He added: "Ryan suffered an un-

fortunate injury on Monday which looks like it will keep him out of action for a number of weeks, which is a massive blow for us."

"We're gutted to lose him as he's been in excellent form since he joined in the summer. Yves is also recovering from a hand injury, and Cameron Yates is a young lad with no EFL experience, so we needed to act fast to get someone in place for Sunderland's game."

"As a local lad, I'm sure the fans will be delighted to see him in a Wycombe Wanderers kit once again."

'The best time of my career'

Wycombe Wanderers

ON-LOAN midfielder Bryn Morris admitted his time at Wanderers is the most "enjoyable of his career" as he prepares to face Sunderland this weekend.

Morris has been in sensational form in the heart of the midfield, scoring three goals, including the winner against Peterborough in their last League One encounter and has proved to be a real coup since joining from Shrewsbury.

The 22-year-old said: "I just want to keep progressing for the team."

"I think we are in a good position at the minute and personally I feel really good."

"I think I am playing the best football of my career and it is the most enjoyable time of my career as well."

Morris returns to his native north-east on Saturday as Wycombe face a daunting task in trying to get a result at the Stadium of Light against title-favourites Sunderland.

However, the Hartlepool-born midfielder feels the Blues have nothing to fear from this weekend's game.

He said: "The pitch is really big and I think that will suit us with the pace we have up top and running in behind."

"The atmosphere should be electric and we have to feed off that."

"These are the games you want to play in and we go there and hope to give a really good account and think about getting the three points and nothing else."

"We go into this game so positively."

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