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Christmas treat
Santa travels around
High Wycombe
Page 12



Royal visit
Duke presents
award in Bucks
Page 19

INSIDE • 16 pages of Property • 12 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 10 pages of Sport

Fatal M40 caravan crash investigation

'POLICE WERE WARNED'



REVEALED: Officers received concerned 999 calls about OAP driver - days before three were killed when he went wrong way down motorway *Full story: Page 11*

NEWS

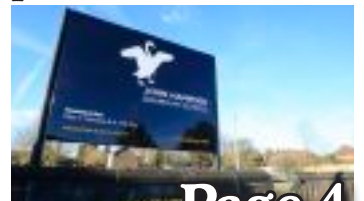
Avocados banned at village café



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EDUCATION

Major school plans revealed



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NEWS

'Beast of Bucks' spotted by driver



Page 5

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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

Brilliant Blues on a roll



NOVEMBER was certainly a month to remember for the Chairboys in League One. Four games, three wins and one draw and that draw could have been a victory with the Blues being pegged back by Sunderland late on.

The style and manner of their wins against tough opposition showed that Wanderers can compete against any team at this level and since my last comment, there have been two victories which from the press box took on a different view.

Although the 3-2 scoreline against Shrewsbury suggests a tight game, I felt Wycombe were always in control of that match and two goals in that game from Adam El-Abd and Joe Jacobson will live long in the memory bank.

Three days later, it was a long trip north as they faced bogey side Accrington. Being an optimist (you have to be being a QPR fan!) I felt that the Blues would get something from the Wham Stadium. It was cold and dreary and Accrington created a lot of chances, hitting the woodwork twice and David Stockdale made numerous top saves in the Blues goal.

However, just when they needed it, Scott Kashket produced a moment of magic to equalise and man-of-the-moment Alex Samuel slammed home a glorious winner to beat Stanley for the first time in 11 attempts.

I think that win pleased Gareth more than most as they have proved such a thorn in the side for Wanderers over the past few seasons and it was nice to get one over on the League Two champions of last term.

I believe the 11-day break will do Wanderers the world of good.

Granted, they were on a terrific run and normally you would want to keep that momentum going as much as possible but the break will allow key injured players to come back into the reckoning ahead of what will be a busy Christmas period. The likes of Adebayo Akinfenwa, Matt Bloomfield and Darius Charles will add vast experiences on their returns to the match-day set-up.

The competition for places at the moment is so healthy and there are players in that team who are full of confidence.

The test against Barnsley will no doubt be a tough one against a team who are free-scoring and play with some style.

However, the Chairboys have shown they have nothing to fear from recent games and will themselves be sky high entering a pivotal month.

COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers

Last five league games:
LWDWW

VS

Barnsley

Last five league games:
WWWDL

OPPOSITION VIEW



1. Adam Davies
33. Jacob Brown
5. Ethan Pinnock
6. Liam Lindsay
3. Zeki Fryers
20. Brad Potts
8. Cameron McGeehan
27. Alex Mowatt
26. Mamadou Thiam
19. Kieffer Moore
25. Cauley Woodrow

THIS week's Opposition View comes from Barnsley Chronicle reporter Doug O'Kane.

How did Barnsley get on in their last league game?

They lost 4-2 at Sunderland.

What is the aim for the team this season?

Promotion. As soon as they got relegated from the Championship on the final day of last season, the chief executive said they wanted to come back in one season and all the staff and players have repeated that ever since. The aim is the top two which will be tough.

Who are your danger-men?

Kieffer Moore has 13 goals this season and six in his last six while his strike partner Cauley Woodrow has five in five.

They are forming a very potent partnership following Woodrow's return from injury. Other than them, Alex Mowatt pulls the strings in central midfield.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

All the promoted clubs seem to have made very good starts to the season. Wycombe are on top form, especially at home, so I think this will be a good game.

Barnsley fans will be interested to see Jason McCarthy play as he was extremely popular with the supporters during his year at Oakwel.

Tell us one interesting fact about your club.

Barnsley were bought almost a year ago by a consortium of investors from China, India and America including baseball legend Billy Beane.

Prediction?

I will go for another high-scoring Barnsley match and say 2-2.



Doug O'Kane

In the CHAIR

Wycombe chairman Trevor Stroud



Trevor Stroud

WITH things going so well on the pitch, it's only right that the sports pages are filled with the fantastic news coming not just from Wycombe Wanderers with our excellent run of form, but also the terrific recent achievements of local non-league clubs around us.

However, it remains a hugely important time off the club for us at Adams Park, and I wanted to remind our supporters of the part that they can play in helping to shape the long-term future of the club – by having their say in a vote on whether or not to accept outside investment and thereby change the ownership structure of a club which for six years has been solely owned by its Trust.

Last month we invited Trust members to meet two American businessmen, Bill Luby and Jim Collis, with whom we have been in discussions for almost two years to progress to a point where the Trust board now recommends that they are the right men to take the club forward by acquiring a majority shareholding in the football club. They see a real opportunity to develop Wycombe Wanderers; a club they have admired for a couple of years for its progress on the pitch, and the culture and sense of family around the place.

We will be holding a meeting on January 14 for Legacy Members with presentations from Bill, Jim and myself, and will then launch a voting process which will remain open until February 4. For the avoidance of doubt, Legacy Members are Trust members who are in their fourth consecutive season of holding a season ticket. Seventy-five per cent of all Legacy Members are required to vote in favour for the deal to go through; a non-vote is taken as a no-vote, and we are seeking a 100 per cent turnout.

If you have held a season ticket for this period of time, but are not a Trust member, you can join for just £10, become a Legacy Member and have your say. The deadline for doing so is 11.59pm on Saturday night and we see it as being vital that every Legacy Member exercises their right to vote.

WANDERERS

Ainsworth respects potent Tykes attack

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth is very wary of the threat Barnsley pose in attack as he prepares his side to face one of the promotion favourites this weekend at Adams Park.

Wycombe are oozing confidence at the moment after a very impressive November, which yielded 10 points in League One from a possible 12, including beating Peterborough and holding title favourites Sunderland to a draw away from home.

The Chairboys also managed to beat Accrington and Shrewsbury in two thrilling encounters in the past two games.

This weekend, Barnsley come to south Bucks in superb goalscoring form and Ainsworth is only too well aware of the danger of their forward line.

He said: "Barnsley do come forward very well.

"The big boy Kieffer Moore is having a great season and Brad Potts has been a thorn in our side a few times.

"Cauley Woodrow is a player we have monitored from a very young age and we have always fancied him.

"They have a very powerful side going forward but when you do that you do leave gaps and leave opportunities for the other team and we want to take those opportunities if we can carve them out.

"We want to exploit what we think will work and we will have some chances as well and that is what we are going to aim at.

"Barnsley are a Championship



Gareth Ainsworth

team really who came down and have built very well and they have gone with a German manager [Daniel Stadel] and they are very hard-working but we have given a few big teams tough days lately and I don't want anything less than that on Saturday."

The Blues have a superb record against sides in and around the top six in League One this season and Ainsworth revealed there could be

a few reasons as to why.

He added: "I don't know if the boys raise themselves for it or if we are just evolving as a club in a way that we have always wanted to.

"We can't buy players and can't compete with the top teams in our league but I think the boys coming up a level has given us more time and space on the pitch to express ourselves.

"We have had luck with the inju-

ries. We have had compensation everywhere and that is what we have built the squad for.

"Hopefully we can keep that going and bring back players for the Christmas period which is going to be a crazy time as it always is.

"At halfway I want 26 or 27 points and if we can get them before the halfway games mark which is Wimbledon [December 22] we will be on track to set out we want to achieve."



Kieffer Moore

BLUES: Young star confident ahead of Barnsley Freeman enjoying his starting role

WYCOMBE forward Nick Freeman is revelling in his starting role in the past couple of matches for the Blues as he strives to keep his place in the starting XI.

Freeman was excellent in the wins over Shrewsbury and Accrington Stanley as the Chairboys climbed to 10th in League One.

He said: "I have really enjoyed it. "The game against Shrewsbury was a good win. It was a last minute change but I have always been ready for my chance.

"It has been frustrating but anyone would be. I went in there and enjoyed the game and we had a good win.

"It is hard to get in the side. It is a bigger squad this year and we have a very good squad.

"There is good competition around the pitch in all areas but when you get your chance you have to take it and try and keep the shirt."

With the team flying in November, Freeman explained that the team want to continue their excellent run approaching Christmas.

He added: "We weren't in a great position a few weeks ago but the last few games have got us right up the table.

"We are taking every game as it comes and doing as well as we can. We have a good team and we can achieve a lot if we stick together and we will keep going."

The home form in particular has been superb in recent times with Wanderers winning five on the spin at Adams Park.



Freeman has been in good form in the past couple of matches

Freeman pinpoints the spirit in the squad as key to that magnificent run of form.

He said: "We never know when

we are beaten. We might go behind but that is never it and we have that grit.

"We hope the run can continue."

THE BIG MATCH: Manager boosted by a full squad

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth is delighted that he has a full squad to choose from ahead of the match against Barnsley on Saturday and then a busy festive period.

The likes of Adebayo Akinfenwa, Matt Bloomfield and Darius Charles have all returned to training and since the match at Accrington 10 days ago, no new injuries have been reported.

Ainsworth said: "They are all close. Bloomfield has been training with the boys so it is just fitness into his legs now and Bayo has been outside which is great news for everyone and we will introduce him at the right

time which is great. It is going to be a real balancing act with Bayo as because we are doing so well at the minute, we won't risk him. If it wasn't going so well I am sure we would be chucking him in saying we need something.

"He does have this unique way of playing which gives us that x-factor on the pitch but at the moment things are going really well and I am really pleased that the boys are all fit and raring to go and not carrying any knocks.

"We have had good training in the past 10 days and hopefully that will work in our favour."



Akinfenwa is back in contention

WYCOMBE: McCarthy 'a better player' for Barnsley experience Defender thankful for time at Tykes

By Nicholas Tunney

CHAIRBOYS defender Jason McCarthy explained that the Barnsley game tomorrow is just another game in his eyes as he prepares to face his former club for the first time since rejoining Wycombe in August.

McCarthy was a regular starter for the Tykes in the Championship until previous boss Jose Morais came in and left the former Southampton man out of his matchday squads.

Since returning to Adams Park, McCarthy has been superb in the defence, most recently in his favoured right-back berth but didn't think the clash with his ex-employers warranted any extra spice.

He said: "My time at Barnsley started well but new management came in and I wasn't really given the opportunity.

"But I am so thankful for the experience I had there. I learnt so much and I feel like I am a better player now for it and I have come on a lot mentally and it was the best learning experience of my career."

The Chairboys look for their sixth League One victory on the bounce at Adams Park and McCarthy admitted teams won't relish coming to south Bucks as the team turn the place into a fortress.

He added: "We want it to be a fortress and that is just how we want it.

"We know we want our home to be a tough place to come if we want to do well in this league and we feel comfortable at home and in a good place."

"I am enjoying getting a run of games and we are playing some really nice football at the moment."



McCarthy has been exceptional for the Blues this term

SPORT

Feature
Neal makes
Wasps debut
- Pages 56-57



Athletics
Woolven gets
Euros pick
- Page 55



Smith: Toughest test I have had in my career

Wycombe boxer keeps up his great record



Ben Smith won at York Hall to maintain his 100% record

By Nicholas Tunney

HIGH Wycombe boxer Ben Smith admitted he won the hardest fight of his fledgling career so far as he beat Zambia's Mwenya Chisanga on points in a super-lightweight contest at the iconic York Hall.

Smith made it eight wins from eight fights in the six-round bout but explained that the fight was a lot trickier than he anticipated with his opponent changing his stance.

He said: "I had been sparring for weeks with an orthodox fighter but

he was actually southpaw so I had to adjust quickly and learn quickly. "After a couple of rounds, I got used to it but early on you could tell he wasn't a journeyman.

"He was there to win and he was a hard hitter but I managed to learn in the ring and overall it was a good performance.

"I was proud of myself with how I managed to adjust so quickly to it and in the end it was a good win against a tough competitor."

Further ahead, Smith had already seen his manager and

trainer Mark Tibbs arrange a fight for early next year and Smith has already admitted he will be keeping his head down and working hard over the festive period.

He added: "I won't be able to treat myself over Christmas but I always manage to relax and will have a good one.

"Ten weeks after that, I will be in the ring for another six-rounder so I have to keep training and keep working hard in the gym and I am already back to it this week.

"Next year is going to be a big one

for me. I have that six-rounder and then we will be upping it to eight-round fights and hopefully some title shots.

"I need to keep progressing and keeping working my way up. There are going to be some new things like documentaries to film in the new year.

"I am in a very lucky position thanks to my sponsors Core Atlantic so I want to thank them as most fighters like me have to work still but their sponsorship means I can keep training."



Wycombe sign Forest keeper

Wycombe Wanderers

NOTTINGHAM Forest goalkeeper Stephen Henderson has joined Wycombe Wanderers on emergency loan.

Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth has been battling to fill the void for several weeks due to the continued absence of Ryan Allsop and Yves Ma-Kalambay through injury.

The Wycombe manager had been banking on extending the loan of Birmingham City stopper David Stockdale, but his request was turned down by the Championship club.

That forced Ainsworth to delve into the loan market again before securing the services of 30-year-old Henderson for at least the next seven days.

Ainsworth explained: "David played a fantastic part in our two victories during his time here and both he and I were keen to keep him.

"Unfortunately we weren't able to do so and now we're grateful to Nottingham Forest for allowing us to bring in Stephen for the next week at least."

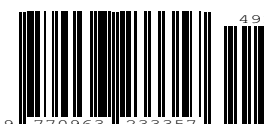
Irishman Henderson has dropped down the pecking order with Nottingham Forest and was available for a loan transfer.

He is set to make his Wycombe debut this Saturday in the League One home fixture against Barnsley (3pm ko).

Ainsworth added: "It's a tough game for us against Barnsley on Saturday but Stephen's got good experience across the Football League.

"I'm sure he'll come here sharp and prepared for the challenge."

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