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# Wycombe make history



Stephen Henderson had an excellent debut for the Blues



Jason McCarthy on the attack



By Nicholas Tunney

RANDELL Williams ensured Wycombe Wanderers made it six League One wins on the spin at Adams Park the Blues beat Barnsley 1-0 in a pulsating clash on a blustery day.

Williams cracked home the winner on 54 minutes from 20 yards after the visitors failed to properly clear Joe Jacobson's corner.

Overall, on the balance of play, Wycombe deserved the win against a team with serious aspirations of promotion back to the Championship.

Barnsley began the game on the front foot and on three minutes, midfielder Alex Mowatt let fly from 20 yards but debutant goalkeeper Stephen Henderson held on comfortably.

On 10 minutes, Liam Lindsay saw his header cleared off the line by Dominic Gape after a superb corner by George Moncur.

The Blues were posing problems for the Tykes backline and had a decent shout for a penalty on 19 minutes when Alex Samuel appeared to be pushed over by Lindsay but referee Antony Coggins waved away the protests.

Fred Onyedinna was beginning to cause Zeki Fryers a headache on the right wing and he left him for dead before skying a shot over and wide on 20 minutes.

Samuel came so close to giving Wanderers the lead on 39 minutes when he just missed Jason McCarthy's brilliant low cross from six yards out.

Barnsley had their best chance right on half-time when Henderson denied Ethan Pinnock with a superb save from his header.

The Chairboys had a golden chance on 47 minutes to take the lead when brilliant work by Nathan Tyson down the left found Onyed-



inna, who passed it to Williams but he saw his effort brilliantly kept out by Adam Davies.

The Chairboys then got the goal their start to the second half deserved when the excellent Williams crashed home a strike.

The Tykes were gradually trying a more patient build-up but Sido Jombati and Adam El-Abd were keeping top scorer Moore quiet.

Barnsley were trying to up the tempo and Moncur had a shot deflected wide on 82 minutes before McGeehan saw a shot blocked in the six-yard box.

Daniel Standel's side were starting to work more opportunities with the



# with club record victory



Alex Samuel



Barnsley's Adam Davies punches clear



Nathan Tyson holds off Jacob Brown

wind in their favour and McGeehan saw an effort gratefully held by Henderson..

Moore had about his only sniff in injury time when his shot dribbled wide but Henderson seemed to have it covered.

Pinnock had one last big chance with a minute to go but he hooked his shot just over after a cross by Mamadou Thiam.

However, the Chairboys were full value for the win as they produced arguably their best display of the season.

**WYCOMBE WANDERERS:** Henderson, McCarthy, El-Abd, Jombati, Jacobson, Onyedima, Gape, Thompson, Williams, Tyson, Samuel. Subs: Yates, Stewart, Mackail-Smith, Kashket, Cowan-Hall, Morris, Freeman.

**BARNSLEY:** Davies, Brown, Pinnock, Lindsay, Fryers (sub: Thiam, 74), Behre (sub: Potts, 54), McGeehan, Mowatt, Moncur, Moore, Woodrow (sub: J Williams, 53) . Subs: Greatorex, Isgrove, Jackson, B Williams.



# In the CHAIR

BFP sports reporter Nick Tunney



Nicholas Tunney

IT has been another brilliant Saturday for Wycombe Wanderers. Another win against a side with promotion ambitions is a brilliant way to start a new month after a superb November where the Blues went unbeaten in the league.

For me, the Barnsley game was their best performance of the season. They took it to them from an attacking sense, with Fred Onyedinnma in particular looking dangerous in the right wing.

Gareth and his staff had their tactics to a tee. Attack Barnsley down the wings and play fast, flowing football. Barnsley really struggled to get a foothold in the game and I can only recall new goalie Stephen Henderson having one save to make.

Across the park, every single player was on top form and it says it all that Gareth didn't make one change in the 90 minutes. That shows that his side were sticking to their gameplan perfectly and not many sides will restrict Barnsley to as few a chances as the Chairboys did.

It was great to see Randell Williams back on the scoresheet. He has had a few niggles and hadn't scored since the Charlton defeat in early September, so what a way for him to get back in the goals, a thumping volley worthy of winning any game.

There is definitely something special going on at Adams Park. Not many pundits or footballing gurus gave Wanderers much of a chance of staying in League One.

But, here they are. Ninth in the division and hot on the heels of the likes of the promotion favourites.

Not for one minute am I suggesting the Blues will get promoted but such a strong start to the season already alleviates those relegation fears and avoiding the dreaded trapdoor was the main aim this term.

Gareth talks about the 55-point target and I will be speaking with him next week about the half-way mark in the season and how he assesses his side's form so far and whether they have exceeded expectations in the main. I am expecting a firm yes!

## WANDERERS

# Ainsworth: It really is all about the boys

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth reserved special praise for his squad as Wanderers beat Barnsley 1-0 at Adams Park to set a new club record of six league wins in a row at home.

Randell Williams scored the only goal of the game on 54 minutes in absorbing contest against one of the promotion favourites.

The Chairboys restricted The Tykes' potent attack to very few chances and Ainsworth was thrilled that his side jumped to ninth in League One.

He said: "It is all about the boys. They were fantastic again and we had a gameplan which we had a full week to work on."

"I was worried that we hadn't had a game for 10 days but this group is something special and I am so proud of them."

"We played so well in both halves. We nullified Barnsley's threats and we could have had two or three at the end and I am hoping they give us some credit on how we have played."

"Little Wycombe again have turned the form guide on its head and I am really proud of the boys."

Ainsworth also paid tribute to analyst Josh Hart, who joined the club from Chelsea Ladies in the summer.

He added: "He has been an absolute diamond."

"He has come in and made a big difference on the way we see things but we can only put these things into place and the boys were fantastic out there and they deserve every plaudit that they get against a team who will be up there at the end of



Gareth Ainsworth

the season."

Wycombe had their fifth goalkeeper between the sticks on Saturday with Stephen Henderson, on loan from Championship side Nottingham Forest making an assured debut.

Ainsworth added: "He has come in and done the business."

"His kicking was great, he threw out at the right time and he made a great save in the first half to keep a

header out and he has brought right into the culture already."

"I am hoping we can keep hold of him and he can stay while the other two goalkeepers get fit."

Wycombe forward Randell Williams was delighted to get the winner and was relieved to end a mini-drought.

He said: "That goal was a long time coming. The last goal was at Charlton and I am just happy to get

on the scoresheet again."

The Blues made an electric start to the second half and Williams revealed that boss Gareth Ainsworth urged his side for more of the same from the opening 45 minutes.

He added: "It was just stick to the gameplan."

"We knew that they were going to come out fast so we thought why not come back at them and the plan worked very well."



Williams scored the only goal

## WYCOMBE: Midfielder lauds recent superb form

### Gape: The sky is the limit for us

WANDERERS midfielder Dominic Gape believes the sky is the limit for Wycombe at the moment as they registered another win at Adams Park, beating Barnsley 1-0 at Adams Park on Saturday.

Gape was instrumental in the victory, keeping Tykes playmaker Alex Mowatt quiet and orchestrating a brilliant defensive display from the Blues.

The former Southampton midfielder believes that there is so much potential within the squad and the tremendous run of form at home can continue.

He said: "The sky is the limit for us at the moment."

"If you look at the fixtures we have had on those home games, there are no gimmies in there."

"For us to go six wins in a row at home just goes to show where we are at the moment."

Gape has forged a fantastic partnership in the centre of midfield with Curtis Thompson and he praised his partner in the engine room for the work he has done.

He added: "Curt is a great player to play with."

"He will give you everything and he is similar to me with his mentality and we bounce off each other."

"When I see him doing a great piece of defensive work, it spurs me on to replicate that."

The midfielder also pinpointed the pace in Wycombe's attack as a key reason why they were able to take the game to Barnsley at certain times.



Gape was in sparkling form against Barnsley

Gape said: "We looked at them on the video and we saw their weaknesses."

"When you have frightening pace

like we have we can execute and get in and we were in many times."

"You could see on the counter attack that we are so dangerous."

# THE BIG MATCH: Manager has good selection issues

BLUES manager Gareth Ainsworth has once again reported no new injuries following his side's 1-0 win against Barnsley last Saturday.

The likes of Adebayo Akinfenwa, Matt Bloomfield and Darius Charles are extremely close to a return to the squad, pleasing Ainsworth ahead of five games in 17 days.

He said: "Bayo and Blooms were running last Saturday before the game, which is a great sign for us.

"Darius is very close to returning and we haven't picked anything new up which is fantastic.

"Marcus Bean was ill but he will be back as well so we have a good squad

to choose from on Saturday.

"It was a great squad performance on Saturday, even though no substitutes came on and played their part.

"I am going to have really tough selection problems with the 18 in the squad, never mind the 11 so it is really good problems for me to have and it is just a case of keeping this going and keeping the boys focused on the job in hand.

"We can't rest on our laurels and we can't think we have cracked anything.

"These next few games are going to be as tough as any in this league so we need to be at our best."



Bloomfield could return against Gillingham

## WANDERERS: On-loan keeper delighted with debut shut-out Henderson: The togetherness is rare

By Nicholas Tunney

EMERGENCY loanee Stephen Henderson has admitted the togetherness in the Wycombe Wanderers squad is something special as he prepares for a second game in a Chairboys shirt.

The 30-year-old, on loan from Championship side Nottingham Forest, made a superb debut against Barnsley last weekend in their 1-0 win and is the fifth keeper used by Wycombe this season as regular keepers Ryan Allsop and Yves Ma-Kalambay are still on the sidelines.

The Irish stopper extended his stay by another week on Wednesday and admitted he is delighted to be a part of the squad.

He said: "I am very honoured to be a part of it here.

"I am grateful to be given the opportunity to witness the togetherness like this.

"It is a rare thing in football these days and I am really enjoying it.

"The first thing I noticed was that togetherness.

"The manager is fantastic and the backroom staff are great and I knew I would fit in straight away and they have been excellent with me from the start."

Henderson assessed the win against Barnsley and explained the team would have a hard game at Gillingham tomorrow.

He added: "I felt the atmosphere from the week before. We were superb against Barnsley and the lads were brilliant. It was a huge win for us and I didn't have a lot to do, which is unusual for a debut game for a club."

"Hopefully we can get more of the same this weekend against Gillingham away"



Henderson made an instant impact on his Wycombe debut

## SPORT

Rugby  
Wycombe lose  
to Reading  
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Coach wins  
coveted gong  
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# Meakin: Hopefully we can cause a big shock

## Beaconsfield face mighty Leyton Orient

## Ainsworth wary of Gills threat

### Wycombe Wanderers

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has explained that his team will not be taking Gillingham lightly at the weekend as he prepares his side for their League One clash at the Priestfield Stadium.

The Blues have been on a scintillating run of form in recent weeks, winning six in a row at home in League One and picking up four points from their past two away games against Accrington Stanley and Sunderland.

With Wanderers climbing to ninth, Ainsworth refused to be drawn into whether their superb recent form has seen expectation levels rise.

He said: "We have to treat every team the same.

"We are in this league against big sides. Gillingham are a big side, Sunderland are a big side,

"AFC Wimbledon are a big side and in this league they are all good sides.

"There will be no looking at this team thinking this will be easier.

"It will be absolutely the opposite and if anything teams will start raising their game against us and be more up for it against us after what we have done and the commotion we have created.

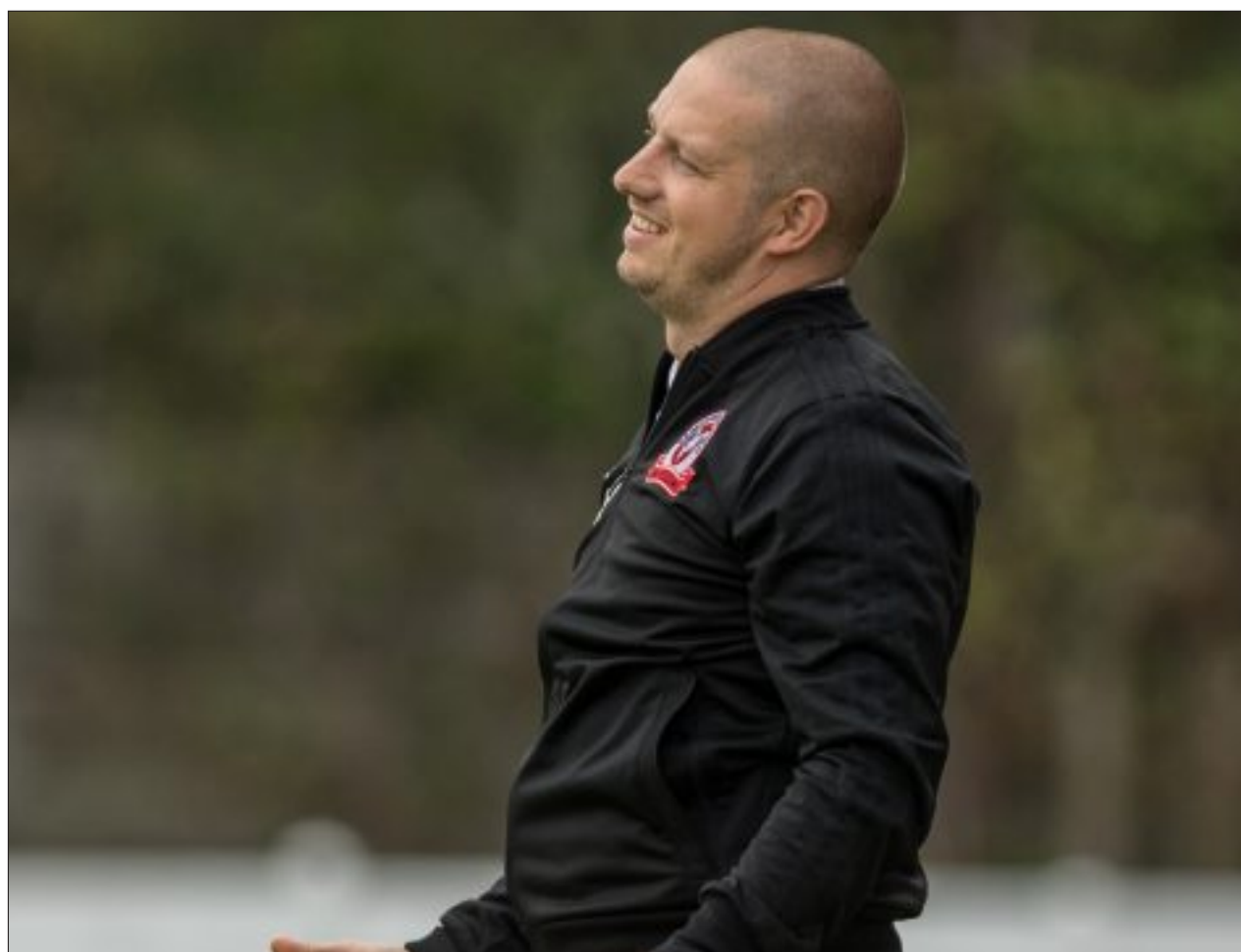
"It is astounding that we are in the top 10. All these games are going to be tough and going into the Christmas period and we certainly have that at the moment and we can soon be derailed if we start getting complacent."

Earlier this week, Ainsworth was reportedly linked with the vacant post at Championship side Reading following the departure of Paul Clement which leaves the Royals languishing close to the foot of the table.

However, Ainsworth said: "I am flattered to be linked with a Championship club like Reading and like any manager from the lower leagues, of course I want to manage at a higher level.

"However, I am very happy to continue to be Wycombe manager and whether the links are hear-say or not, I am very happy to be here.

"I love being manager of this football club and I am hoping to continue here for as long as possible."



Gary Meakin is relaxed ahead of the Leyton Orient clash

### By Nicholas Tunney

BEACONSFIELD Town manager Gary Meakin believes his Rams side can cause an upset as they prepare for one of the biggest games in their history in the FA Trophy against Leyton Orient on Saturday (kick off 3pm).

This is the first time ever that Beaconsfield have reached the first round proper of the competition and after promotion last season to the Southern League Premier Division, they have exceeded expecta-

tions so far, reaching the fringes of the play-offs.

Tomorrow, Beaconsfield face Orient, the best non-league team in the country as they top the Vanarama National League as they bid to get promotion back to League Two.

Although Orient will be hot favourites, Meakin thinks his side can cause a massive shock - but admits certain things will have to go his side's way for that to happen.

He said: "We will be going there to win, and although we are expected to lose, football is a funny

old game and anything can happen.

"We can cause an upset. If we are at the top of our game and Orient don't give us the respect we deserve and don't take it seriously, we can definitely give them something to think about.

"It is going to a fantastic spectacle. Normally we play the same old teams in the same area in front of about 60 or 70 people so we hope we can give everyone a great day out.

"I am hoping to have a full squad available for the game. Some of the guys missed out against Poole Town

but they missed out with knocks and bruises so those players should all make a full recovery."

Meakin has been a catalyst for some real success for the club in the past 16 months and he explained that the Rams are well ahead of where he thought they would be at this stage of the season.

He added: "We have done very well. The first thing is to stay up and we currently sit seventh which is fantastic for us.

"Hopefully we can continue our form."

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