

Bucks Free Press

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks & Chiltern Districts
Friday, February 1, 2019

At the heart of the community since 1856

www.bucksfreepress.co.uk

£1.10



A NEW ERA
BFP to launch new edition in community
8-page pull-out **FREE INSIDE**



INSIDE • 28 pages of Property • 12 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 9 pages of Sport

BANK HEIST BLAST FEAR

Bomb disposal unit
called as 'robbers
target ATM'

See page 11

NEWS

Roadwork hell for
rush hour drivers



Page 3

NEWS

Fury over mounds
of 'traveller waste'



Page 7

Hospital's 'deadly secret' fear

By Stephanie Wareham

A HOSPITAL has allegedly refused to reveal whether patients and staff may be at risk of a deadly asbestos-related disease on the grounds of "commercial confidentiality" – a move branded "scandalous" by devastated relatives of a former nurse.

Wycombe Hospital is facing a claim by former employee Jemima Abraham that she contracted mesothelioma – a deadly disease caused by breathing in asbestos dust – while she and her husband worked there.

Mrs Abraham, who worked as a nurse at the Queen Alexandra Road

hospital between 1977 and 2002, was diagnosed with mesothelioma in July last year. While use of asbestos is now banned, it was widely used in cladding and insulation in the 1970s and 80s.

Her lawyers fear that if she did come into contact with asbestos during her time at the hospital, it

could mean other staff and patients were put at risk. Now her daughters, Sheona Ramsay-Edwards and Heather Abraham, are demanding to know why their mother was not protected by her employer – but the hospital has refused to disclose information about asbestos.

Continued on page 5



461 London Road, High Wycombe,
Bucks HP11 1EL
Phone: 01494 510140
Fax: 01494 510142
Email: gbwindows@btconnect.com
Opening Hours Mon - Fri 7.30 - 4.30
Sat 9.45 - 1.30

www.gbwindows.org.uk



OPEN DAY

Wycombe Campus | 07 FEB

To find out more, visit
buckscollegigroup.ac.uk



Briants
FENCE PANELS
From £15.66

STIHL
NOW £179

MS180 – 14" CHAINSAW

SUPPLIERS OF FENCING, GATES, DECKING & GARDEN MACHINERY
01844 343663 www.briantsltd.co.uk info@briantsonline.co.uk

GALLERY: Wycombe 1-0 Plymouth



Jason McCarthy takes on his man



Gareth Ainsworth



Curtis Thompson



Nick Freeman



Joe Jacobson and Graham Carey



Sido Jombati



Matt Bloomfield



Paris Cowan-Hall



In the CHAIR



BFP sports reporter Nick Tunney



Nick Tunney

IT has been a whirlwind week for the club, with two games going by in the blink of an eye and players arriving and departing from Adams Park.

I was at the Plymouth game last weekend and although the scoreline of 1-0 says otherwise, I thought Wycombe were very comfortable in the main.

They were the better side in the first half and could have added more strikes but Kyle Letheren in the Argyle goal thwarted the Blues time and again.

When Plymouth piled on the pressure, Wanderers were more than equal to it and only one shot on target for the visitors tells the story of just how well Adam El-Abd and co held off the Pilgrims dangerous frontline.

I wasn't at Bloomfield Road on Tuesday evening but in those conditions against a good side, a point is a very well earned one and I think most sides will have their work cut out getting anything from the Tangerines on their home ground this campaign.

The transfer window has come and gone and as usual Gareth has made some very shrewd acquisitions. I think Luke Bolton can have a huge impact in his time here and it's great to get Fred Onyedima back from Millwall. Fred was a massive player for the Blues early on in the season and his lightning pace and skill gave defenders nightmares.

With Fred added to an attack that already looks like banging in the goals, this is sure to be a signing that has the fans very excited for the rest of the campaign.

Going the other way, Craig Mackail-Smith has gone on loan to Notts County. He has been such a great signing for Wycombe since he joined the club two summers ago and his goalscoring pedigree is second to none. With County struggling, I am sure his goals will fire them back up the table and the amount of important goals he scored for the Chairboys is second to none.

As a journalist, Macca is a pleasure to deal with and he has been a credit to Wycombe Wanderers.

WANDERERS

Ainsworth: Fantastic to beat a good side

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth hailed a resilient victory for his side as his Chairboys team chalked up a third successive League One triumph with a 1-0 win over Plymouth Argyle on Saturday.

A Yann Songo'o own goal in the first half was the scoreline difference between the sides but the Blues had numerous chances to put the game beyond doubt in the first 45 minutes.

The visitors came back into the game in the second half but Wanderers showed plenty of guts to see the game out and Ainsworth was pleased to see his players notch a second clean sheet in a row.

He said: "I thought we were very dominant in the first half and I was disappointed with didn't come in with more goals.

"Plymouth are a good side and I said to the boys that they will come at us in the second half.

"We had quite a few chances in the first half and we could have gone further ahead.

"In the second half they had more possession and they went direct but we defended them really well.

"Adam El-Abd was superb and Curtis Thompson goes from strength to strength. They are a good side so that was a very good win for us."

On-loan Manchester City player Luke Bolton came on in the second half to make his debut for the Blues, becoming the 100th player to play under Ainsworth during his tenure.

Ainsworth added: "I am so honoured to be able to bring a player



Ainsworth was delighted with his side's win

from Man City to Wycombe.

"It shows the culture and the way we do things here is the right way.

"I am privileged to be in the same job as these Premier League managers."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: All-

sop, McCarthy, Jombati, El-Abd, Jacobson, Gape, Thompson, Bloomfield (sub: Bolton, 71), Freeman, Akinfenwa (sub: Samuel, 75), Cowan-Hall. Subs: Yates, Stewart, Bean, Kashket, Tyson.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: Leth-

eren, Smith-Brown, Edwards, Canavan, Sawyer, Songo'o, Fox (sub: Taylor, 69), Sarcevic, Carey, Lameiras (sub: Jephcott, 85), Ladapo. Subs: Macey, Riley, Ainsworth, Wootton, Threlkeld.

REFEREE: Scott Oldham

WANDERERS: On-loan City winger feels at home Bolton thrilled to make Blues bow

WYCOMBE Wanderers loanee Luke Bolton was thrilled to make his debut as the Blues beat Plymouth Argyle on Saturday.

Bolton, 19, came off the bench in the second half to make his Chairboys bow and showed glimpses of his talent as Wanderers recorded their third League One victory on the spin.

The on-loan Manchester City man said: "It was good to get the win.

"It is a lot different to the under 23s. You feel part of the team and everyone is fighting for the same cause and I think the lads put in a great shift.

"When I came on I tried to do the same thing and do what Paris was doing before me and the gaffer was happy with all of us.

"I feel like I can create goals and get quality in the box. I will always work hard and track my full back and give everything."

Bolton also paid tribute to the Wycombe squad, who have already made him feel well at home in south Bucks.

He added: "They are an absolutely top bunch of lads.

"Blooms [Matt Bloomfield] and the skip [Adam El-Abd] have been great with me and all the lads have really welcomed me in and not left me out of anything.

"They have made me feel really at home."

Bolton has also worked under the tutelage of Pep Guardiola who is regarded as one of the finest managers in world football.



Luke Bolton made his debut on Saturday

The Stockport-born winger explained there are a few similarities between Guardiola and Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth.

He commented: "They are similar on workrate. It is massive for Pep and massive for the gaffer and going and expressing yourself as well."

WYCOMBE: Manager assesses new-look Bantams Ainsworth preparing for an entirely different Bradford



Akinfenwa scored his first goal for three months against Blackpool

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth revealed this weekend's home game against Bradford City will be a much tougher test than the one his side faced back in August when the Blues won 2-1 at Valley Parade.

Despite the scoreline, the Chairboys were dominant on the day but Ainsworth has warned that his team will be facing an entirely different animal on Saturday.

He said: "It will be a completely different test for us.

"They have changed personnel since then and have a much tougher team now who have had some good wins recently. It will be a tough game.

"However, we have had some excellent results at home recently and hopefully we can continue that run on Saturday."

In terms of team news, Ainsworth revealed a couple of his players are carrying niggles ahead of the match and the Blues boss puts that down to simply three games in a week.

He added: "We played on a very heavy pitch on Tuesday evening and this scenario is similar to when we had three games in a week back in October.

"We faced Walsall as our third game in that stretch and we were very leggy that day so we need to make sure we load correctly and my

By Nicholas Tunney

medical staff are doing all they can to ensure the players are ready for that game."

One player who will hopefully be fit for the weekend is Adebayo Akinfenwa and Ainsworth was delighted to see his talisman notch his first goal since October in the draw at Blackpool on Tuesday evening.

He said: "It is great to have Bayo back fit and firing.

"He was on great form before his injury lay-off and we played really well without and now he is back in action, we are playing well again.

"There are going to be games where we need Bayo in the side for different reasons and it was great to see him score on Tuesday.

"He came off holding his groin on Tuesday but we are hopeful he will be ok for Saturday."

Ainsworth has also been chalking off his own milestones over the past week or so. Saturday marked his 100th clean sheet in charge at Wanderers and recent loanee Luke Bolton was also the 100th player to play under Ainsworth during his tenure.

Saturday marks Ainsworth's 300th league game in charge of the Chairboys and his record reads won 122, drawn 83 and lost 94 as it stands.

Ainsworth will be hoping Saturday reads league win 123.

Saunders departs Wycombe

Transfer news

WYCOMBE Wanderers midfielder Sam Saunders has left the club by mutual consent after a hugely successful spell in south Bucks.

The 35-year-old starred for the Chairboys during a loan deal from Brentford in 2015 and returned on a permanent deal two years later, featuring 27 times in the promotion-winning side of last season.

However, he's found his opportunities in the side limited this term, with his last appearance coming in the Carabao Cup in September.

Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth said: "Sam has had some really good times with this club and played his part in the side that won promotion last season, which means he'll always have a special place in Wycombe's history.

"In the first couple of months of the season we began to change the way we play which wasn't necessarily suited to Sam's style, and I think the outstanding form of others has meant that he hasn't been able to break into the team.

"He's been brilliant with his patience and understanding during this time."

Striker leaves

Transfer news

WYCOMBE striker Craig Mackail-Smith has joined League Two outfit Notts County on loan until the end of the season.

Mackail-Smith, 34, joined Wanderers at the beginning of last season and has scored many crucial goals in his time at Adams Park, including a last minute winner against Scunthorpe this term.

However, he has found game time harder to come by this term and with Wycombe having a whole host of strikers to choose from, manager Gareth Ainsworth has sent the former Peterborough man out to the Magpies to get some minutes under his belt.

County currently sit bottom of League Two after being tipped for promotion this term and they face an almighty task of staying in the Football League.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "Craig is a fantastic professional and he's been unfortunate not to have played more football for us lately, but with other players returning to fitness, he hasn't been involved as much as he would have liked."

WYCOMBE: Ainsworth content with decent point Boss happy with Blackpool draw



Ainsworth was content with a draw

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth was pleased with his side's 2-2 draw against Blackpool at Bloomfield Road which extended his side's unbeaten run in League One to four games.

Adebayo Akinfenwa gave the Blues the lead on 12 minutes, thumping home a header from Joe Jacobson's excellent corner.

Blackpool equalised on 50 minutes when Ben Heneghan nodded home Jordan Thompson's set-piece.

However, Wanderers regained the lead two minutes later when Jacobson's corner eluded everyone and went straight in.

The Tangerines grabbed a late leveller on 84 minutes when Paris Cowan-Hall fouled Nya Kirby in the box and Harry Pritchard slammed home the penalty.

Ainsworth said: "Blackpool are a very good side. Don't be surprised that they are near the top, they have a lot of quality players.

"They have players who have

played in the Premier League. That was a really good point for us. We weren't great but we made some chances and defended stoutly.

"This game wasn't going to be on but fair play to the club and the groundstaff and they got the game on.

"I am not disappointed at that at all and that was a good point for us."

Jacobson was credited with Wycombe's second goal but full-back Jason McCarthy also claimed it hit him before going in.

Ainsworth joked: "I am not sure who's it was. It was a defender's.

"I can't see who scored it. The balls in from Jacobson were fantastic. He is renowned for that and he has got that."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: All-sop, McCarthy, El-Abd, Jombati, Jacobson, Gape, Thompson, Freeman (sub: Tyson, 77), Cowan-Hall (sub: Bolton, 90), Akinfenwa (sub: Bloomfield, 90), Samuel. Subs: Yates, Stewart, Bean, Kashket.

SPORT

Wanderers
Wycombe vs
Argyle pics
- Page 61



Rugby
Beaconsfield
fall short
- Page 65



QPR starlet joins the Chairboys on loan deal

Owens signs but will there be one more?



Charlie Owens has joined Wycombe from QPR

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has made a move into the loan market on transfer deadline day, bringing QPR midfielder Charlie Owens to the club for the rest of the season.

Owens, 21, joined QPR from Tottenham Hotspur in 2017, and made his senior debut for the Rs in a Carabao Cup tie in August earlier this season.

A regular in the Loftus Road club's under 23s, Charlie has rep-

resented Northern Ireland at under-21 level, and Ainsworth says he's looking forward to seeing what his new recruit can bring to the Chairboys.

He said: "Charlie's had an excellent upbringing at Tottenham and QPR, and we like the look of him from what we've seen so far."

"He is another exciting young talent at QPR and brings another option to our midfield, with a good range of passing and a bit of extra height which could be useful for us."

"He's one that will benefit from developing his game in a first-team environment with us and I'm sure he'll get his chance to get minutes under his belt and show what he can do."

Ainsworth added: "He will be like Eberechi Eze [who was on loan at Wycombe last season] where he will be a bit of a slow burner and learn his trade and then he will know how we train and he can adapt."

"Charlie had his first training session with us on Thursday morning and it is a higher tempo than what he is used to in the under 23s."

Owens will wear number 15 during his time with the club.

At the time of the paper going to print, Ainsworth was hoping to strike up one more deal before Thursday's 11pm deadline.

The latest on social media was a move back to Adams Park for Fred Onyedimma from Millwall who has had two hugely successful loan periods in south Bucks.

With Owens, Luke Bolton and Curtis Thompson signing a new deal in January, Ainsworth called it a "fantastic window".



Investment update by Stroud

Wycombe Wanderers

WYCOMBE Wanderers chairman Trevor Stroud, along with the rest of the Trust board, addressed Legacy Members and Chairboys supporters this week to give an update on the investment bids and proposals.

Stroud spoke to a huge number of Wanderers fans at the Union Baptist Church on Easton Street to clarify the latest in the bids by American investors, Bill Luby and Jim Collis, as well as an update on the late proposal by former Wanderers player Andrew Harman.

Harman put his proposal forward at the Holiday Inn last week to over 150 supporters, in a 'Plan B' scenario, with the Americans the favoured bid.

Due to the proposal staged by Harman, Stroud told the fans on Monday evening that they would allow Mr Harman and his backers to put forward a formal bid in an allotted timescale.

The reason for this, Stroud explained, was due to fairness and would allow the Legacy Members and supporters to see who they would prefer to invest into Wycombe Wanderers.

With timing important, Stroud didn't give a deadline of when he wanted Harman's bid by but confirmed they would be looking to have both bids in by the end of February.

Mr Harman had confirmed he was 'out of the running' in August but a chance meeting with a member of the Trust in November saw Harman put his proposal in just a few days before Luby and Collis were due to fly to the UK to be voted as investors of the club by Legacy Members.

0963-2336



9 770963 233456

MICHAEL
GRAHAM

MICHAEL GRAHAM

Town & country property sales & lettings. Call Princes Risborough 01844 396000

MICHAEL
GRAHAM