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BODY FOUND IN SEARCH FOR LIBBY

Fears grow as detectives
confirm female remains
discovered - six weeks
after missing Wycombe
student disappeared

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NEWS

Outrage over
parking plan



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NEWS

Vigil for NZ terror
attack victims



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MP: 'Ashamed of my party'

By Stephanie Wareham

THE government's credibility "is running out", a Tory former attorney general and Bucks MP has warned amid the ongoing Brexit battle.

Dominic Grieve QC issued a strongly worded attack against the

Prime Minister in the Commons, arguing that unless she "stands up and starts doing something different, we are going to spiral down into oblivion".

On Wednesday, the senior Conservative said: "When...the Prime Minister came to the despatch box today at PMQs, I confess I think it

was the worst moment I have experienced since I came into the House of Commons. I have never felt more ashamed to be a member of the Conservative Party or to be asked to lend her support. She spent most of her time castigating the House for its misconduct, at no stage did she pause to consider whether it

in fact the way she is leading this government which might be contributing to this situation."

He added: "I have to say I could have wept, wept to see her reduced to these straits and wept to see the extent to which she was now simply zig zagging all over the place..."

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In the CHAIR



BFP sports reporter Nick Tunney gives his views



Nick Tunney

I WAS at the Montgomery Waters Meadow on Saturday afternoon and I was greeted with torrid and windswept conditions in Shropshire.

Having got to the ground early to avoid any potential disruption, it was clear that the game wouldn't be one for the purists and Wycombe would have to really dig in to get a result in what was sure to be a real war of attrition.

It was, as expected, the weather which was the winner on the afternoon with the swirling wind causing havoc for both sides.

Overall, Wycombe definitely handled it better, having the better chances in both halves. Credit where it's due, Shrews keeper Steve Arnold made three fantastic saves to keep Wanderers at bay.

The Blues had the wind against them in the second half but were still in the ascendancy and they thoroughly deserved their lead through Jason McCarthy's world-class free kick.

There really were some superb performances through the team on Saturday. The spine of the side, Anthony Stewart, Dominic Gape and Alex Samuel were all in superb form and certainly didn't deserve to be on the losing side.

Wycombe defended stoutly for 86 minutes with Yves Ma-Kalambay being relatively untroubled throughout the match.

Unfortunately, the home side got an equaliser after Wanderers switched off at a set-piece and then a penalty right at the death to stun the Chairboys.

I was sitting in the press box aghast as the Blues were by far the better side but went home pointless for a sixth defeat in seven games.

It is the errors that are proving so costly. Every time the Blues make a semblance of a mistake, it seems to get punished every single time in this division. Last season, they could get away with it, but now the errors are being compounded.

Wycombe are certainly not playing badly by any stretch of the imagination but they need to work hard over the next fortnight to reduce the mistakes and make sure they are ready to do battle against Oxford on March 30.

I believe the two week break will be very beneficial and I am confident the Blues will survive.

WANDERERS

'We gave Shrewsbury the game' admits boss

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth cut a frustrated figure at the final whistle after seeing his side slump to their sixth defeat in seven league games with a 2-1 loss against Shrewsbury Town.

Wanderers were the better side for the majority of the game at Montgomery Waters Meadow and they looked to be heading for three points when a superb Jason McCarthy free kick gave them the lead on 67 minutes.

However, substitute Omar Beckles equalised on 86 minutes with a free header and Oliver Norburn grabbed the winner from the penalty spot in injury time after Shaun Whalley was tripped by Adam El-Abd.

The loss leaves the Blues just two points off the relegation zone and Ainsworth urged his side to eradicate the errors that have plagued them in recent weeks.

He said: "We had it here and we lost it and we have given Shrewsbury the game.

"I told the boys afterwards that they hadn't done a great deal to earn that off them.

"I thought we were the better team. I thought their keeper in the first half made some fantastic saves and he kept them in it.

"I thought we were sitting very good and I am very disappointed with the two goals. For the equaliser, we didn't deal with the free kick and we didn't go with their players and you can't defend like that.

"Then there were a couple of rash challenges that led to a penalty and we don't defend like that.



Gareth Ainsworth was despondent at the final whistle

"I'm getting tired and people make wrong decisions. The performance was good enough and coming into the last eight games of the season, it is results that matter now.

"We are fully in a relegation battle which I predicted when we got promoted."

Ainsworth also pleaded with the supporters to back the team heading into such a pivotal period.

He added: "Thank you to them for

sticking with us. It seems to have been a steady curve upwards, and this is probably my toughest run of form for some time. It will take a lot of strength to support us through this.

"I will be working just as hard as ever to get these boys positive and prepared, and I am super confident we can stay in this league."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Ma-Kalambay, McCarthy, Stew-

art, El-Abd, Jacobson, Bean, Gape, Thompson, Bolton (sub: Freeman, 64), Samuel, Cowan-Hall (sub: Harriman, 88). Subs: Allsop, Jombati, Bloomfield, Owens, Harriman, Ak-
infenwa.

SHREWSBURY TOWN: Arnold, Williams, Edwards (sub: Docherty, 79), Whalley, Campbell (sub: Okenabirhie, 70), Bolton, Holloway, Waterfall (sub: Beckles, 57), Golbourne, Laurent, Norburn.

WYCOMBE: Defender issues massive rallying cry McCarthy: We have to dig very deep

AN EMOTIONAL Jason McCarthy urged his team-mates to dig deep in the coming weeks as Wycombe suffered a late hammer blow on Saturday, losing 2-1 to Shrewsbury Town at Montgomery Waters Meadow.

McCarthy's first goal of the season gave the Chairboys the lead in a game they were in control of before the Shrews hit back with two late goals to win it.

The defender said: "We have to look inwards now.

"I think everyone has to look at their own personal performance and what they are contributing and realise the severity of the situation.

"We need to stay positive because for 85 minutes we dominated the game but big mistakes are costing us and we need to stamp this out quickly and rectify it.

"Obviously people will be playing next weekend and can close in on us but we have two weeks to rectify

what is going on late on in games and stamp it out."

McCarthy scored a free kick to grace any stage in football but he admitted the strike doesn't mean anything now that Shrewsbury grabbed the win.

He added: "It doesn't really mean anything but it was obviously nice to score and I wish it would have been the winner and I felt like it was going to be and I thought it was going to be a really good day for the team and me personally but it wasn't to be."

The Blues now face local rivals Oxford United at the Kassam Stadium on March 30 in what will be a massive game for both sides.

McCarthy said: "What a big game it is next. A derby game and two teams trying to stay in League One.

"It will be a big occasion and we need to come away with the three points and raring to go."



Jason McCarthy's goal gave Wycombe the lead

Takeover talk update as Harman withdraws bid

Continued from back page.

...by my lawyers on Tuesday (12th) afternoon on matters relating to my bid. It appeared that valuable information relating to my proposal had not been available to put before the board when the decision on how to proceed with the options regarding future ownership of the club was taken by the board that evening.

"I have now had time to reflect on the process and am genuinely disappointed.

"My affection for the club and ambition to become a minority shareholder increasing to a majority holding within two years, remains, but in

light of developments I have reluctantly decided to withdraw my bid from that process."

On the pitch, Wycombe are on a wretched run, with six defeats in their last seven games and they currently sit just two points off the relegation zone.

Stroud, however, was very confident the Blues can preserve their League One status. He said: "We have been very unlucky.

"The Sunderland game was one of our best performances for a very long time and the spirit is still very high in the camp and I am very confident that the results are there."



Andrew Harman withdrew his bid at the end of last week

WANDERERS: Gaffer full of positivity ahead of free weekend Ainsworth backs side to recover

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth is hoping some hard work in training will iron out the mistakes that have been plaguing his side in recent weeks.

Despite some very good performances both home and away, Wycombe find themselves just two points off relegation after a horror run of results, losing six League One games from their last seven.

However, with the team having a weekend off due to Charlton having players away on international duty, Ainsworth is making sure the break in fixtures will be fruitful in their bid to arrest the slide.

He said: "We have been working really hard to rectify the mistakes to make sure we are ready for the Oxford game.

"The spirit in the camp is excellent and really positive and we are doing different things in training like team-building exercises to give the boys a change of scenery and these days will do the squad a world of good.

"The performances recently, apart from the second half against Accrington, have been really good and if we keep performing like we have been the results will come.

"These mistakes need to be ironed out and I am sure we will be ok."

Certain players in recent weeks, despite the run, have been playing really well and Ainsworth pinpointed a couple of young members of his squad who have really stepped up.

He added: "Alex Samuel is proving to be a real asset to us.

"He has been superb in the past few games and he continues to grow. He is a great guy and he continues to get better and better.

"Nick Freeman has also been playing really well in the past few weeks and he is growing in stature week in, week out."



Gareth Ainsworth

SPORT

Rugby
Stags dumped
out of cup
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Football
Flackwell's
mixed week
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US takeover bid edges closer for Wycombe?

Members to vote on American duo's offer



Wycombe Wanderers chairman Trevor Stroud gave a revealing update on the potential takeover of the club by two American businessmen

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers chairman Trevor Stroud has this week revealed when the Legacy Members vote will take place to decide whether they want American businessmen Bill Luby and Jim Collis to take majority share of the club.

Last week, Andrew Harman withdrew his bid for a minority share – growing to majority after two years – which means that Luby and Collis' bid will be put to a vote beginning on April 10 at the Union

Baptist Church in Wycombe. Stroud told the *Bucks Free Press*: "Bill and Jim will be coming over in a few weeks to be put to the vote."

"We will have someone there from the Electoral Reform Society to speak about the voting system and we will be doing it this way to ensure it is done as fairly as possible."

"Bill and Jim's bid will then be put to a vote and to decide whether the members want to proceed with their bid or not."

"They have both been very re-

spectful during the voting process and have repeatedly said they want what is best for the club, and if that is someone else's bid, then great."

In light of Harman's withdrawal, Stroud admitted that he was surprised that he took that action.

Stroud added: "I was surprised. I was looking at a way we could broker both deals together and use some of Andrew's ideas."

"I feel that this would have been an advantage to us and I hope that somewhere down the line we could engage with Andrew further. With

my hand on heart, I feel I have given everyone a level playing field in this process."

Stroud also confirmed boss Gareth Ainsworth has been consulted, saying: "Both bids were submitted via lawyers and both parties have spoken to Gareth at length about their proposals."

"Now, we are at the next stage and we look forward to welcoming Bill and Jim over in the coming weeks."

In a statement from Mr Harman, he said: "I was updated..."

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Wycombe promoted to South 1

Hockey

WYCOMBE Hockey Club secured promotion to South Premier Division 1 with a comeback 3-2 victory against Eastbourne Hockey Club on Saturday.

Going a goal behind sparked the away side into action, a feature of their season, and responded brilliantly when 1st XI debutant Will Midwinter produced a fine finish to level the scores.

Now playing with the wind in their sails, Stephen Sloan added two more to the tally after some excellent possession hockey and then managed to hold on in the last five minutes when Eastbourne reduced the deficit to one.

The momentum was with Eastbourne after the break and they made their good spell count when a defensive error led to a short corner which they duly converted.

Wycombe have bounced back from tough positions frequently this season, and their character came to the fore when U16 starlet Midwinter expertly slotted past the onrushing goalkeeper to equalise and give the visitors a platform.

After opening their account, the away side were literally and metaphorically playing with the wind behind them and Sloan finished off two brilliant team goals.

Eastbourne weren't going down without a fight and clawed a goal back with five minutes to play but Wycombe held firm.

That win meant Wycombe can't finish any lower than third with the top four gaining promotion and maintains their 2019 unbeaten record – seven wins and two draws.

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