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NEWS

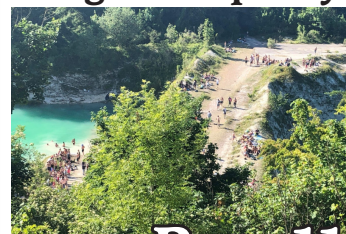
Councils rack up
£365m of debt



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NEWS

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SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Chairboys chairman talks finances

Non-playing staff to search for new jobs



Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers Chairman Rob Couhig has advised that furloughed staff are to look for alternative employment.

This comes after it was revealed the club are spending roughly £350,000 a month despite the season being suspended due to coronavirus, with the losses starting to strain the Chairboys.

The League One side are set to make losses of £2.5m due to the pandemic, where they have said they are no longer able to top up salaries to 100 per cent.

Couhig wrote: "The club has essentially been without revenue since the beginning of March.

"Our loss of revenue even with the utilisation of the furlough plan has exceeded £1m through the end of May.

"On a going-forward basis, we anticipate our loss of revenue will continue at the rate of £350,000 a month.

"While no one really knows for sure when we will be able to re-

By Robert Folker

turn to playing in front of crowds, it seems reasonably certain that it will not happen until at least September and many speculate not until at least December.

"It is apparent that the club's losses as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak may exceed £2.5m.

"If we are required to play games behind closed doors, whether to try to complete the season or in play-offs, these costs will go up.

"We have informed all our non-football staff presently on furlough that their pay will be limited to that which we receive from the furlough plan.

"Through May 31, everyone has received 100 per cent of their pay.

"The club has made up the difference.

"Going forward, these furloughed employees will receive 80 per cent of their salary with a maximum payment of £2,500 per month.

"We are also recommending that they begin the search for alternative employment once furlough ends."

League One clubs have still yet to vote on how to end the season with the Chairboys most likely in favour to finish the season on points-per-game basis.

This would put Gareth Ainsworth's side in the play-off places, but Couhig revealed that the club would be without loanee Jason McCarthy with the club are unable to afford him.

Couhig continued: "I have also informed our manager that the club will be without the services of Jason McCarthy.

"Jason is a wonderful player and a terrific guy.

"He was on loan to us from Millwall.

"While they and he were willing to extend the agreement through the remainder of this season, and he would unquestionably be helpful if play resumes in any circumstances, we simply can't afford him.

"I am confident that the remainder of the team can achieve success when we are allowed to return.

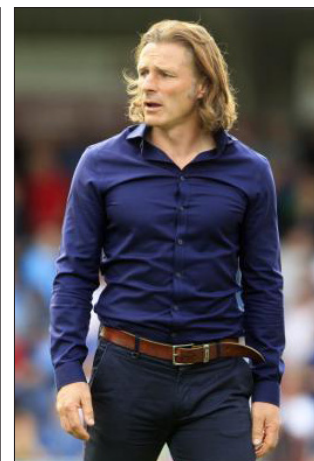
"The club will survive this crisis as it has in the past. However, it will only do so by taking hard necessary steps to deal with the reality of our economic situation."

Wycombe will be hoping there is some light at the end of the tunnel with a chance to fight for promotion to the Championship in the summer, but it is still not known if the conclusion of the League One season will continue, despite the Premier League and Championship being given the go-ahead whilst due to coronavirus, League Two has ended with immediate effect.

The Couhig family have been involved with Wycombe since the start of the season, with the Americans officially taking over the club in the middle of February.

Wycombe are currently in eighth place and are just outside the play-off places on goal difference.

They are on 59 points.



Gareth Ainsworth

Ainsworth on 'leaving Wycombe'

THE BOSS ON BEING OFFERED MANAGERIAL ROLES AT OTHER CLUBS

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has opened up about being linked to other clubs.

The gaffer, who has been in charge of the Adams Park outfit since September 2012, has had his name mentioned when clubs such as Sunderland and Lincoln have had vacant spaces.

But the 47-year-old admitted that being happy is more important to him than money, and he has stated that he is happy at Wycombe.

He said on the 'I Had Trials Once' podcast: "It's been documented this season I've had the chance to move on.

"I've had a couple opportunities.

"It's got to be right.

"It's not going to be something that I just go 'right, get there as quick as I can' because I think you've got some real structure and plan about this.

"You know, it's not about the money.

"There may be an opportunity at one time that comes on, that will be one I can't turn down because that what it's going to give me and my family is outweighing what I get it at Wycombe.

"But, I can't put a price on the loyalty I have at Wycombe from the fans and the culture I built and being happy as well.

"I've got three children that are very, very happy and I think it's really important as well not to not to jump at the first thing.

"Leaving Wycombe would be a massive wrench at the moment because what I've built, where we are and how happy I am."

Ainsworth is currently the longest serving manager in the Football League, taking charge of Wycombe 404 times since his first game back in September 2012.