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'TOPLESS TEACHER' FOUND GUILTY

Disgraced worker convicted for sending pictures to pupil - but faces new sex abuse trial

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NEWS

Universal Credit hike in young

MORE than 1,000 extra young people in Wycombe are claiming Universal Credit than before the coronavirus pandemic.

Department for Work and Pensions statistics show 1,691 people aged 16-24 in Wycombe were on Universal Credit as of August 13.

This was well over double the 639 who were claiming the benefit in early March, before the country went into lockdown.

The figures include people in work and on a low income or those not working because of health or caring commitments, alongside those who are unemployed and searching for a job.

Burglar facing deportation after 14-month jail sentence

A BURGLAR who left behind forensic evidence when he broke into a Marlow home has been jailed and will be deported.

Miguel Leva Medina broke into a house on Beechwood Drive by smashing a bedroom window at some point between 10pm on May 31 and June 1 last year.

He stole jewellery, handbags, sunglasses, cash and perfumes.

But the bungling burglar, of Fairview Place in London, left behind forensic evidence which led to him being identified and arrested on June 30 this year.

At a hearing at Aylesbury Crown Court on Friday, September 4, Medina, 33, pleaded guilty to burglary and theft.

He was jailed for 14 months and will be deported back to Chile once he has finished his sentence.

Case investigator Adrian-Lee Clark, based at High Wycombe police station, said: "Burglary is a horribly invasive crime, both in terms of property stolen and the violation of a person's address."

"Following a thorough investigation, our CSI teams identified Medina through forensic evidence and he had no option but to admit to the offences."

"I am pleased that he will now serve a custodial sentence."

Man, 42, is arrested

AN AMERSHAM man has been arrested after a driver was allegedly forced out of his car in Slough.

The 42-year-old has been arrested and released under investigation following the incident on September 5.

A man in his 20s was sitting in his car when he was 'forced' out of it in Arborfield Close.

Eight-bed HMO rejected

By Teyve Markson

PLANS to turn a five-bedroom home into an eight-bed shared house in High Wycombe have been refused and slammed as "unacceptable overdevelopment".

Buckinghamshire Council's West Buckinghamshire Planning committee rejected the plan at 114 Deeds Grove

in High Wycombe on Tuesday evening.

The owner already has a certificate of lawfulness to change the home into a six-bed House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) but was seeking to instead increase that and turn into an eight-bed shared house.

As well as overdevelopment, concern was raised over the impact of parking

from the extra tenants.

Residents have previously complained to the Bucks Free Press about "nightmare" double parking on the road and vehicles blocking pavements.

Two on-street parking spaces would have been lost under the plans and councillor Sarfaraz Raja described the current parking situation on the road as "hor-

rendous". Councillor Lesley Clarke, speaking on behalf of residents, said the parking is already "absolutely abysmal" and the HMO would be "unacceptable overdevelopment".

She added: "If we are going to provide proper housing to the residents of High Wycombe it has to be high quality."

Councillor Alan Hill added:

"There isn't sufficient parking for the area. This is very much overdevelopment and a sad loss of a much-needed family home. We are getting more and more flats and HMOs."

He also raised concerns about drivers speeding on Deeds Grove "thinking its Silverstone". Members of the committee unanimously rejected the plan.



Steve Baker MP and Adebayo Akinfenwa will be interviewed

Celebs prepare for a grilling from Wycombe High pupils

WYCOMBE High School is launching its own virtual TV show, where students talk face to face with famous people.

Pupils are planning a series of online interviews with celebrities from the worlds of politics, showbiz, sport, movies and business.

On the students' shortlist of stars

are the likes of TV presenters Holly Willoughby, Tess Daly, Nadiya Hussain and Gabby Logan, US World Cup winner, Alex Morgan, Debora Meaden from Dragon's Den, WHS alumni Rachel Burden and Toni Brodelle and the strongest man in world football, Wycombe Wanderers striker Adebayo Akinfenwa.

The famous face for the first ever 'Wycombe High Meets' webcast show is Wycombe MP, Steve Baker, who is looking forward to the encounter on Friday (September 18).

He said: "I am delighted Wycombe High School and schools across the constituency are now back from the summer. With coronavirus leading the

news at a time when we come to the highest pressure part of our EU negotiations, I'm expecting to be given the usual range of tough questions."

Head teacher, Sharon Cromie said: "The 'Wycombe High Meets' show is a wonderful opportunity for our students."



Flackwell Heath Minors presented Simply Waste with a framed shirt

Huge boost for youth football club

AHEAD of the new football season, Flackwell Heath Minors have been given a welcome boost with the extension of its kit sponsorship with Flackwell based business, Simply Waste Solutions.

The ongoing partnership will see Simply Waste Solutions continue to sponsor the kits of all Flackwell Heath Minors' teams from under six to under 17 age groups for the coming season.

As a thank you for the business' ongoing support, this week Flackwell Heath Minors presented Simply

Waste with a framed shirt, complete with a thank you plaque which will be proudly displayed in their head office.

We're delighted to be continuing our ongoing partnership with Simply Waste Solutions," said Declan Breen, chairman of Flackwell Heath Minors FC.

"Our players have been itching to get back on the football pitch since youth football was suspended and we're incredibly thankful for their support of our football club. It's been a challenging time for everyone."

WWFC: Ainsworth rues missed chances in defeat

'You've got to be clinical'

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth is 'proud' of his players despite his side's heartbreaking 1-0 home defeat to Rotherham United.

Despite the result, Ainsworth took plenty of positives, and hopes his side will be able to take their chances in their next league fixture, which is away to Blackburn on the weekend.

Speaking after the loss, Ainsworth said: "We had chances, but we didn't take them today and at this level, you've got to be clinical."

"Even though Rotherham have done it, I'm hoping that their manager will say it was a tough game."

"Allsop hardly had to make a save today so that with me bodes well for the future."

There were many positives in the game for Wycombe to take away, most notably the performance of Scott Kashket.

The 24-year-old caused the Rotherham backline plenty of problems, but it came to nothing as the Millers defended well and snatched the points away from

Wycombe in the dying seconds.

It was a real smash-and-grab from the away side, who were promoted to the Championship alongside Wycombe.

Ainsworth continued: "You have to give Rotherham credit."

"They designed a corner that is going to cause problems for teams this year."

"We have done that multiple times and I'm sure we'll score from plenty of set plays this season."

"But I thought our quality in terms of counter attacking was excellent as the pace of our attack is phenomenal."

"Kashket made some brilliant runs and got behind their defence a number of times, but this is a tough league and we're up for it."

"It was a tough to take, but I am a football manager."

"It is the first defeat I've had in this league and I'll bounce back – it is not going to keep me down."

"We're looking forward to going to Blackburn next week and hopefully we'll get three points up there."

Boss talks Rovers roots

ALAN PARRY LOOKS AT THE CONNECTION WITH BLACKBURN

THERE was only one game Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth searched for when this season's Championship fixtures were released – and it didn't take him long to find it.

Tomorrow, only a week into the new Championship season, Ainsworth will take his team to Ewood Park where his football career began and where he suffered what he describes as 'the worst day of my life.'

"Blackburn is where I was born and bred," Ainsworth told me yesterday. "It's the town and the club that shaped me and made me the person I am today. I supported them as a boy and went on to play for them, but they released me on my birthday and I've never forgotten that terrible experience."

Gareth's dad Bill – who still lives in the town – takes up the story: "Rovers have been a part of our family for as long as I can remember. My dad first took me to watch them back in the 1950's and I've been a fan ever since."

"You can imagine how excited we were when Rovers offered Gareth an apprenticeship when he was 16 after spotting him playing in local junior football."

"It was a dream come true for the whole family."

Bill continued: "Gareth loved his time there. As an apprentice, one of his jobs was looking after the boots of a senior player and he was delighted when he was allocated to his hero Simon Garner, who coincidentally moved to Wycombe later in his career."

The young Ainsworth's wholehearted style and eye for a goal earned him rapid promotion through the junior ranks at Rovers and he soon became a regular in their reserve team. A bright future at the club he had always supported looked guaranteed before the fateful day his dreams were ended.

Bill explained: "It was Gareth's 18th birthday and we'd arranged a family night out thinking we would also be celebrating him being offered a professional contract. But when he was called into the office of manager Don Mackay, he was told he was being released. Gareth came home and cried his eyes out."

"Mackay's explanation was that because Gareth was so committed and competitive in games, he thought he would pick up a lot of injuries and didn't think it was a risk worth taking. Just a week after that terrible disappointment we got a call from Preston North End who offered Gareth a contract and that's how his career began."



Gareth Ainsworth

SPORT: Last-gasp goal seals Wanderers defeat Heartbreak for Wycombe in historic season opener



Rotherham players celebrate their late win

THE harsh realities of life in the EFL Championship were hammered home to Wycombe in the cruellest fashion, when they lost their first ever game at this level to a stoppage time goal by Rotherham captain Michael Ihiekwe.

With Wanderers less than two minutes away from celebrating their first point in the second tier, they conceded a corner that the giant defender headed home to condemn Wanderers to a rare defeat on home soil.

It was a devastating way to lose a game in which Wycombe created the better goalscoring chances.

They could have taken the lead after only two minutes when Scott Kashket broke down the right and delivered the perfect cross to the unmarked Daryl Horgan in Rotherham's six yard box, but the Republic of Ireland international – one of Wycombe's seven close season signings – somehow managed to scoop the ball over the crossbar.

Wanderers again came close to opening the scoring when Darius Charles headed against the post from a trademark Joe Jacobson free-kick, and the visitors' only chance of a lively first-half came from a Kieran Sadlier free-kick that was pushed out for a corner by Wycombe keeper Ryan Allsop.

The second half at Adams Park

By Alan Parry

was a disappointing affair as the pace inevitably dropped in the warm sunshine, but Wycombe were inches away from a late winner when Kashket wriggled his way into the Rotherham box and lobbed the ball over the former Wycombe keeper Jamal Blackman, who spent the 2016/17 season at Adams Park, only to see Wes Harding clear off the line.

The game seemed to be heading for a goalless draw, which would probably have satisfied both teams, but there was a cruel twist in the tail for Wanderers.

Gareth Ainsworth had warned his players that Rotherham, with so many players over six feet tall in their line up, would pose a major threat from set pieces.

Sure enough, sloppy marking and the absence of a defending player on the post allowed Ihiekwe to snatch an undeserved winner.

Losing concentration at a set piece meant Wycombe were denied their first ever point at this level, but there were also positives to be taken from the game.

Kashket looked sharp and the back four was once again in superb form, protected by Alex Pattison who put in a man-of-the-match performance as stand in for Dom Gape.

SPORT

0963-2336



WWFC: Wycombe boss talks on how absent fans impact side 'The quicker the fans are back in, the better'



Adams Park

CHAIRBOYS manager Gareth Ainsworth believes that the game of football has changed for the worse because of lack of fans in stadiums during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Supporters have not been allowed into stadiums since March, and the 47-year-old feels that Wycombe have suffered because of it, especially on Saturday in the defeat to Rotherham United.

He said: "I'm not going to be this guy who tries to come up with a statement about no fans and playing at empty stadiums, you need

the fans. We needed a lift halfway through the second half on Saturday and we could've done with our fans and that comes into it.

"So the results you're seeing this season should have a little asterisk after every result saying 'no fans in' because they make a difference, they are a part of your team and I can't wait until they're back.

"The quicker fans are back in the better - but it's got to be safe and I totally get that also, I would never want to put anyone at risk."

The EFL have this week released a

group of fixtures which are allowed to trial 1,000 fans inside the stadiums from this weekend, including Norwich City against Preston North End and Middlesbrough against Bournemouth in the Championship.

Following the announcement, EFL Chair Rick Parry said: "It's encouraging that we are in a position to move forward with the next phase of the pilot programme and give a small number of our Clubs the opportunity to welcome back up to a 1,000 fans this week."

Ainsworth believes this is a step

in the right direction as football has not been the same game since fans were removed from the match-day experience.

"These clubs were chosen by the Football League and there will be lots of reasons why they've chosen these clubs and that's great.

"All I can say is that this is not the same sport as it was a year ago because of the lack of fans.

"It's so difficult to play in empty stadiums, it's tough you've got to be an ultimate professional but you need your fans sometimes."

SPORT: Wanderers take on Rovers on Saturday Ainsworth relishing Blackburn challenge

CHAIRBOYS boss Gareth Ainsworth is expecting nothing other than a tough test against his boyhood club Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

The Blackburn-born Ainsworth is famously a supporter of the former Premier League champions, having had a season ticket since the age of six.

However this weekend his eyes are firmly set on ensuring that Tony Mowbray's side lose, despite his affinity to the Lancashire-based club.

The Wycombe boss said: "It'll be emotional but it's a game I want to win and for the first time in 47 years I want Blackburn Rovers to get beat, and I'm sure the folk of Blackburn will understand that.

"They're a good side, very good side, they've just signed Ayala from Middlesbrough who's a top centre-half, they've got some very good players and an amazing manager. For me Tony Mowbray is up there, he's managed some big clubs in the Premier League.

"He's a top guy and a top manager and I expect nothing but a tough test up there, they're going to be really tough opposition on Saturday.

"It'll be a tough game but we love tough games, we love being the underdog and we love upsetting the form book so keep writing us off."

Wanderers have made a difficult start to life in the Championship, losing to both Brentford and Rotherham United in the Carabao

By James Earnshaw

Cup and league respectively in the first two games of the season.

However it is far from panic-stations yet, with plenty of positives to be taken and plenty of games still to play.

Ainsworth was pleased with his side's performances so far this season, and hopes to continue that with a few shocks along the way: "I've learnt that my side is good enough to compete at this level - at Brentford we were very good and Rotherham overall we had the better chances, we've dissected the opposition chances against us and they were few and far between. I want to bring a couple more in for numbers and bolstering the squad but I'm really happy and I think we will surprise a few teams this season.

"We've got it in us so it's just on me to bring it to the table every week and we are working hard on opposition to see what we can do."

The side travel with no fresh injury concerns, with Adebayo Akinfenwa still alerting the world to his recovery process through his Instagram account: "No, obviously with Bayo you can't hide any injuries with him as it's on Instagram every day, so there's no secrets with him!

"The rest of them are a fully fit squad heading up to Blackburn."

Kick-off at Ewood Park is 3pm on Saturday afternoon and the game will be played behind closed doors.



Photo: Kieran Cleeves/PA Wire

Allsop's pride at milestone

KEEPER SET FOR CENTURY
APPEARANCE FOR WANDERERS

RYAN Allsop believes he has found himself a home at Wycombe Wanderers as he prepares to make his 100th appearance for the Chairboys.

Speaking before the weekend's game against Blackburn Rovers, Allsop is overjoyed to have reached this milestone in his career.

"I'm really proud, I've been around lots of different clubs during my career, a lot of loans, so it's nice to have a place I can call home.

"To have that stability, and it's the first club I've managed to play 100 games with, so if selected I will be delighted to have that."

The 28-year-old began his career in his home city of Birmingham with West Bromwich Albion before moving to Millwall without making an appearance.

A similar spell in London saw him drop to fourth choice keeper and fail to make an appearance at the Den.

He has since had a spell in Iceland before bouncing around clubs mainly in the third and fourth tiers.

Having originally joined Wanderers in 2015 on loan, he re-joined permanently in 2018, making it the club which he has played the most for in his career.

Despite having lost his opening game to Rotherham United, the former England Under-17 international felt that there were lots of positives to take from the match.

He said: "I feel we had more chances than they had to win the game.

"It was always going to be a battle against Rotherham but obviously the overriding feeling was frustration and disappointment that we could not at least get the point and see out the clean sheet but we have picked the bones out of that we are going to try our hardest to put it right."