

Bucks Free Press

Friday, November 20, 2020

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.10



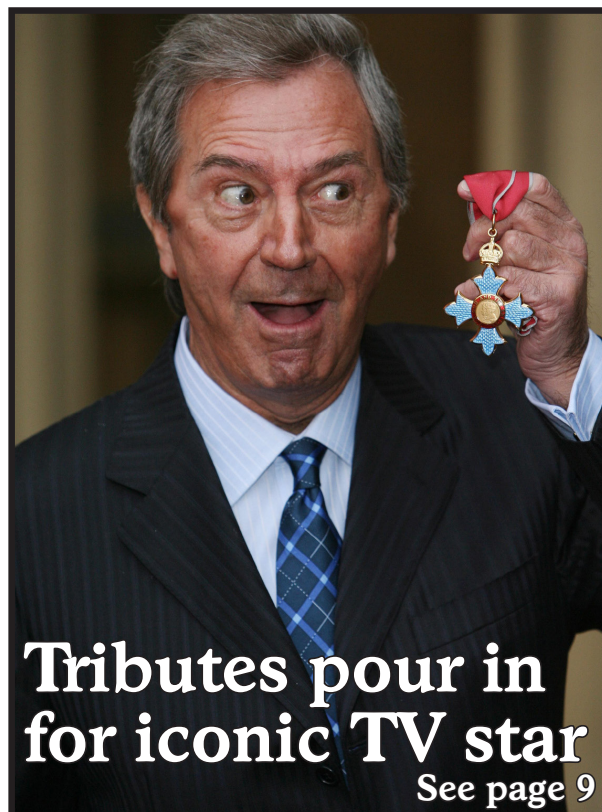
BUMPER TV SPECIAL

Get your new weekly 16-page TV supplement **FREE INSIDE**

MULTI-MILLION POUND REVIVAL PROJECT

- £4.4m earmarked for plan to open another Aldi and McDonald's drive-thru
- Green light for overhaul at traffic blackspot

FULL STORY:
Page 4



Tributes pour in for iconic TV star

See page 9

INQUEST

Mystery over OAP's tragic death crash



Page 5

NOSTALGIA

Look back at Diana's visit



Page 23

INSIDE • Latest coronavirus news and advice • 8-page Puzzles special • I'm a Celeb message from Tess

Briants Fencing, Garden Machinery & Forestry Supplies
Of Risborough Ltd
01844 343663
SUPPLIERS OF FENCING & GARDEN MACHINERY
AMAZING DEALS ON ALL CHAINSAWS & LEAF BLOWERS
You can now order our products for local delivery online at www.briantsltd.co.uk or call 01844 343663

OUR BEST EVER
BLACK FRIDAY SALE
UP TO 60% OFF THOUSANDS OF MATTRESSES
NOW ON!
dormeo
The Home of a Great Night's Sleep

Gabbittas Robins SOLICITORS
Specialists in Matrimonial and Family Matters
FREE 30 Minute Initial Telephone Consultation
PLEASE CONTACT MS PAM DHALIWAL
Office: 01628 472600 | Mobile: 07394558488
Email: pam.dhaliwal@gabbittasrobins.co.uk
Please see our full advert inside **resolution** first for family law

WORLD & UK SPORT

POWERED BY THE PRESS ASSOCIATION

SPORT IN BRIEF



NOBBY Stiles, above, who died earlier this year

More “robust” evidence of a link between heading and dementia is required before football can introduce training restrictions at professional level, according to the medical chief of the world players’ union.

Confirmation of Sir Bobby Charlton’s dementia diagnosis and the death of his former Manchester United and England team-mate Nobby Stiles last month after his own battle with the disease has brought the issue back into the spotlight in recent weeks.

Former England captain Gary Lineker, leading academic Professor Willie Stewart and campaigner Dawn Astle have all called for guidelines advising against heading in children’s football training to be extended into the adult and professional game.

Professor Stewart led the FIELD study research, which discovered last year that footballers were three and a half times more likely to die of neurodegenerative disease than age-matched members of the general population.

Dr Vincent Gouttebarge, the chief medical officer at FIFPRO, said the FIELD study’s findings were important but that there was still not enough evidence of a direct link between repeated heading and dementia to impose restrictions at the top level.

He told the PA news agency: “As long as we do not have the scientific evidence to change things in a legitimate way then there is no reason to change.

“I know in the UK you have referred to the very good study from Professor Willie Stewart, but I looked at the study again this morning and I didn’t see the words ‘heading’ or ‘concussion’ mentioned one time in this study. Based on that study a lot of media in the UK made the conclusion that heading the ball or concussion lead to dementia.”



BACK: England’s George Ford during training at the Lensbury Hotel, London

Fast Ford wins his fitness battle

GEORGE Ford has won his fitness battle after England declared him ready to face Ireland in Saturday’s Autumn Nations Cup clash at Twickenham.

Ford missed the emphatic victories over Italy and Georgia that opened the end-of-year campaign because of a pre-existing Achilles injury but the Leicester fly-half has made a full recovery.

Head coach Eddie Jones names his team on Thursday morning with Ford pushing hard to either reclaim the playmaking duties from Owen Farrell, forcing England’s captain to move to inside centre, or supplying cover from the bench.

“George is looking good, he’s training really hard. It’s good to have his experience and adaptabil-

ity in the squad. He’s been training really well,” forwards coach Matt Proudfoot said.

A 25-man squad has been retained to finalise preparations for the visit of Andy Farrell’s team to Twickenham.

One missing face is Wasps flanker Jack Willis, who delivered an outstanding try-scoring debut against Georgia.

EFL clubs allowed to use five subs

By Jim van Wijk

Press Association

THE English Football League has confirmed five substitutes will be allowed across all divisions from the next round of fixtures.

The game’s law-making body, the International Football Association Board, announced in July that the five replacements rule would be extended into 2020-21 – but that it would be up to individual competitions whether they adopted it.

The Premier League is the only major top-flight division in Europe which does not allow teams to make five changes in a match during the current campaign, with the Champions League, Europa League and international fixtures also permitting five substitutes.

The proposal has twice failed to secure the 14-club majority needed to be adopted for the new season, after a vote to use five subs during the final two months of the



LIVERPOOL: manager Jurgen Klopp

delayed 2019-20 campaign was supported.

England manager Gareth Southgate suggested “something has to give” as Raheem Sterling and Jordan Henderson were withdrawn from the England squad because of fitness concerns, while Liverpool defender Joe Gomez has been sidelined by a serious knee injury.

Reds boss Jurgen Klopp and Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola have also been leading

calls for additional substitutes this term in a bid to curb a spate of injuries.

However, Premier League chief executive Richard Masters confirmed he was not expecting a change “in the foreseeable future” when he gave evidence at a Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee session last week.

Nevertheless, the EFL announced on Wednesday a motion in support of additional substitutes to be used had been passed by the board.

Under the new regulations – which come into force from November 20 in time for Coventry’s Championship match against Birmingham and the League Two fixture between Mansfield and Colchester on Friday night – teams in the Championship will be able to make five changes from a pool of nine substitutes.

For League One and League Two, any five from seven will be permitted.

Ali vows to go ‘all out’ for England



ENGLAND’S Moeen Ali has vowed to make the most of whatever time he has left in international cricket, including pushing for a return to the Test arena.

Moeen has just arrived in Cape Town for England’s limited-overs tour of South Africa, their first overseas engagement since the pandemic disrupted the global calendar, and has travelled with a clear mission to begin a new chapter.

The 33-year-old has not played Test cricket since losing his place to Jack Leach in the 2019 Ashes and admits he has struggled for both motivation and form ever since. But rather than shrink from the challenge, he intends to go all out to do as much as he can between now and the end of his career.

D-Day for sport help



THE sports sector is set to find out today what financial support it will receive from the Government to help it get through the coronavirus crisis.

The sector has been badly affected by the loss of matchday revenue, with plans to allow a limited number of spectators to attend events from October 1 having to be scrapped.

The Government has repeatedly said that the Premier League should offer financial support to the English Football League, but other sports which have suffered will receive help.

FOOTBALL: Manager died this November aged 87



John Reardon (photo from Wycombe Wanderers)

Parry's tribute to Reardon

AT the start of November, Wycombe Wanderers announced the tragic news that former manager John Reardon died at the age of 87.

Reardon, who managed the club for one season (1977/78), was also part of Martin O'Neill's backroom team during his successful spell at the club between 1990 and 1995.

He is the only person to have the honour of playing for the club, manage the club, and work as the club's secretary.

He passed away in Wargrave near his Henley home, after suffering from Parkinson's Disease and dementia for several years.

Many professionals within the game have paid tribute to the late manager, which includes our very own Alan Parry, who penned this homage.

Alan said: "I would like to add my tribute to Wanderers legend John Reardon, who died last week at the age of 87.

"John has a unique place in the club's history, having represented Wanderers as a player, manager,

assistant manager, secretary, and boardroom host.

"Reardo' was a wonderful character, always ready to lend a helping hand and never afraid to laugh at his own mistakes.

"When Wycombe were promoted to the Football League in 1993, they played at rivals Slough Town in a crucial midweek fixture.

"Wanderers manager Martin O'Neill wanted seats for his wife and two daughters, but secretary Reardon told a furious O'Neill that all the tickets had gone.

"On the night of the game, Wycombe arrived just as Slough were using their stand to hold a pre-match briefing for police officers and stewards, whereupon Reardo confronted a still irate O'Neill.

"Pointing to the seats filled with men in uniforms and high-viz jackets, he blurted out: 'That's why I couldn't get your tickets, they've all been taken by the police!'

"RIP Reardo, you made us smile and you made the world a happier place."

Owners praised by the gaffer

WYCOMBE ENTER A PERIOD OF TRANSITION UNDER AINSWORTH

GARETH Ainsworth believes that it is 'brilliant' seeing the club improving both on and off the field.

The Chairboys find themselves off of the foot of the Championship table following two wins in their previous three matches, but the club has been developing off the field too in recent weeks.

Both floodlights and a new press area have been developed in recent weeks on top of the improvements made over pre-season in order to upgrade the experience at Adams Park and make sure the side are given every possible opportunity to succeed.

Speaking ahead of the difficult test against Brentford, Ainsworth said: "It's part and parcel of being a Championship club, you come to Adams Park now and you see aesthetic differences. We do things differently, we're trying to upgrade all the experience for when fans can return and the way we run ourselves.

"I have been able to add a few new staff which is brilliant.

"We've got a new physio and a new full-time sport scientist so we are slowly building this club into a Championship club but believe me we've had more players and staff than we've ever had but we're still a million miles away from every other Championship team.

"The gulf is so big between the leagues, League One to the Championship, it is such a huge jump it is not going to happen overnight but with Rob Couhig and Pete Couhig's help we are definitely going to be improving every aspect of this club."

One moment the 47 year-old picked out in particular was Anis Mehmeti making his debut for the first team against Millwall, having been signed to the new B Team in the summer under coach Sam Grace.

He continued: "Anis Mehmeti coming through the B team and making his first team debut is a huge sign of Wycombe moving in the right direction.

"It's brilliant for this team and this town- the only thing missing now is supporters."

Grace joined as the club's B Team head coach in August this year after spending time Reading's Under 16 Coach and Youth Development Phase Coach.

This is his second spell at the club after he previously worked with the club's youth department under Richard Dobson from 2008 to 2012.

He will coach players such as Curtis Anderson, Malachi Linton and Andron Georgiou.

FOOTBALL: Gareth Ainsworth returns to the dugout

The boss returns from back surgery for Brentford bout



Gareth Ainsworth had a back operation at the end of October (Prime Media)

THE cowboy boots are polished, the leather jacket cleaned and the long hair combed.

Wild Thing (a.k.a. Gareth Ainsworth) is back in business, ready to strut his stuff on the stage he knows best.

Wycombe's boss, who doubles as lead singer in a band, will be on the touchline when Wanderers host Brentford at Adams Park on Saturday, hoping to guide his team to more 'rock and roll' football.

Ainsworth is still suffering from the serious back injury that forced him to miss his team's last three games, but he cannot wait to get started again.

He said: "It was incredibly frustrating.

"I had to watch those games at home with no influence over what was happening, but Dobbo (assistant Richard Dobson) did a brilliant job in my absence.

"Fortunately, we think the same way after nine years working together and I could not ask for a better number two.

"I was delighted for him when we got those first two wins as a Championship club."

Ainsworth aggravated an old back problem running up the stairs at Wycombe's training ground.

He explained: "I suddenly felt a pop in my back and two hours later, I was

By Alan Parry

in agony.

"The pain grew even worse when I got home, and I lost all the feeling in my left leg.

"My wife Donna was so worried that she called an ambulance, and I was rushed to hospital.

"As soon as the doctor saw me, he diagnosed a collapsed disc and said I needed surgery immediately."

After the operation, the 47-year-old was warned he faced three months of physiotherapy and recuperation, but he still tried to join the squad for their game at Nottingham Forest.

He continued: "I got a lift to the training ground in my tracksuit and with my overnight bag packed, but our club doctor saw me and said, 'What are you doing here? Go home now.'

"I had to tell the players I had failed a fitness test!"

Doctor's orders also forced the boss to put on hold his starring roles as a player for Berkshire non-league club Woodley United, and as vocalist for rock band Cold Blooded Hearts, but he has now resumed his 'day job' as Wycombe boss.

He joked: "I don't think I'll be jumping around on the touchline, trying to kick and head every ball as usual, but it's great to be back."

SPORT

0963-2336



FOOTBALL: Wycombe face Brentford at Adams Park

Gareth Ainsworth on being 'competitive'



Gareth Ainsworth wants his side to be 'prepared' and 'competitive' against Thomas Frank's side (Prime Media)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth believes his side should be 'competitive' ahead of their match with Brentford on Saturday.

The Chairboys were on their best form of the season prior to the international break, picking up seven points from a possible 15 and moving up to 22nd in the table.

Despite losing 2-0 to Nottingham Forest immediately before the break, Ainsworth believes his side can be competitive against last season's Championship play-off finalists.

Speaking ahead of the weekend's game at Adams Park, the 47-year-old said: "We've got to make sure we're super prepared."

"The boys need to be taking the last six or seven games into Brentford because from the first international break have all been great performances."

"We've been super competitive and there's no reason why we can't be competitive against Brentford."

By James Earnshaw

"That's what I want the boys to take into that on Saturday, they can compete at that level."

"It's game on now and we want to make sure we finish higher than three teams at least and see what we can achieve."

This will not be the first time the two teams have lined up against each other this season, with Wycombe travelling to Brentford's new Community Stadium for the first round of the Carabao Cup.

The Bees won 4-2 on penalties after drawing 1-1 in the 90 minutes, with Republic of Ireland international Daryl Horgan scoring his first Wanderers goal in West London.

Wycombe also had Dominic Gape sent-off in the early stages of the second-half.

The midfielder has since not played for the side after picking up an injury.

However, despite the two sides having faced each other this season, Ainsworth is not expecting to be facing a similar line-up this weekend.

He added: "They were probably only at 60 per cent full strength in the cup game, they had a few out and changed the team a bit so we're not going to take a great deal from that but what we can take is that they're a good side."

"They played some good stuff that day and we've watched them in the league."

"Thomas Frank is a good manager, a good friend and he always has nice things to say about us."

"He plays some good football, they are able to spend a few million pounds on players but that doesn't make it easy."

"It makes it a pressure job spending lots of money on players, and he seems to get it right when he does spend big money on players."

This game will be the first to see the new rule of five permitted substitutions in Championship match-

es, something which Wycombe had experience of during their play-off campaign last season.

Ainsworth believes it will be a positive for club managers, rewarding those with strong squads instead of just the 11.

"They are cramming the games in and I think the change of rules has been very welcomed because you don't want legs to run out."

"It'll be interesting to see how everyone does work those new rules, we've had a bit of experience with it after last season but it will be about the whole squad now and that's really important."

This will be the first league meeting between Wycombe and Brentford since the 2011/12 season, when the Bees smashed the Chairboys at Griffin Park - a game which Ainsworth played in.

Their last victory over the West London side was in the 2009/10 campaign - a 1-0 win at Adams Park on November 24, 2009 with Matt Harrold scoring a penalty.



The new dugouts (Prime Media)

Facilities improved at stadium

WYCOMBE'S GROUND HAS HAD SEVERAL UPGRADES THIS AUTUMN

THIS autumn, several changes have been to the facilities at Adams Park.

Since October, new floodlights, new dugouts and a press area are just some of the improvements the club has had following its promotion to the Championship.

It was confirmed in the middle of November that the changes at the stadium are now complete.

The dugouts, which will be used for the first time in the match against Brentford on November 21, are state-of-the-art OMP racing seats from Oxfordshire-based company Raceparts.

Gareth Ainsworth, his staff and substitutes will be able to enjoy the game from the new dugout structure, fitted by 6.59 Design, which contains 14 of the reclinable racing changes and rubber matting, with the same set-up provided for the opposition.

James Bloore from Raceparts said: "Using the technology and knowledge gained from manufacturing motorsport seats, OMP have been able to produce dugout seats that look and feel like racing seats but have a greater comfort for the players."

"OMP have been supplying these seats to some of Europe's finest football clubs and are honoured to be able to supply Wycombe Wanderers from the famous seat-making town of Wycombe."

Manager Gareth Ainsworth, who will return to the new dugout against the Bees on Saturday following a back operation, added: "Now we just want the fans to be able to come back in to the ground so they can show their support and be a real part of it instead of having to watch from home."

"I had to do that for three games after my operation and it just isn't the same."