

UK Weekly Newspaper of the Year Read by over 102,000 in print and online every week

Bucks Free Press

Friday, February 12, 2021

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.20

'BEAUTIFUL LIBBY WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US'

*'We are all so proud
of our beautiful,
caring, wonderful
girl and although she
has been physically
taken from us, the
memories we have,
and the love we
share, will never
be taken'*

As Libby Squire's evil killer is found guilty, we pay tribute to her
through the words of devastated parents Lisa and Russ
- remembering her life and not the man who took it away

SPECIAL REPORT INSIDE • Murder trial verdict • Family's tribute • Mystery remains • Police timeline

Briants
Fencing, Garden Machinery & Forestry Supplies
www.briantsltd.co.uk • 01844 343663

**SUPPLIERS OF
FENCING &
GARDEN
MACHINERY**

READY, STEADY, MOW

Stay Safe! You can order our products for local delivery
online at www.briantsltd.co.uk or call 01844 343663

Open for video
consultations to
support you.

Call 01494 619973 for an
appointment to discuss Probate,
Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney
or other legal services.

kiddrapinet.co.uk

kiddrapinet
SOLICITORS

60 YEARS
With you



Download our
8 STEP GUIDE TO
MAKING A WILL
kiddrapinet.co.uk/yourfamilylegacy

INDIAN CUISINE BY ATUL KOCHHAR
Spend £50 on food Sunday, Wednesday and
Thursday and enjoy 15% off your takeaway
Quote online: BUCKSFREE

Hawkins, 16 High Street, Old Amersham,
HP7 0DH, hawkinsrestaurant.co.uk
Vaasu, 2 Chapel Street, Marlow, SL7 1DD,
vaasurestaurant.co.uk
01494 728126

SPORT

Gaffer on Sheff W defeat

CHAIRBOYS LOSE IMPORTANT SIX-POINTER IN YORKSHIRE

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has opened up on his side's performance against Sheffield Wednesday.

The Chairboys lost 2-0 at Hillsborough with Jordan Rhodes and Adam Reach getting on the scoresheet.

The line-up against their relegation rivals was much changed to the side that lost to Forest just a few days earlier, as Ainsworth made six changes to the team.

In came the likes of Adebayo Akinfenwa, Anis Mehmeti, and Scott Kashket to lead the attack, with Anthony Stewart and Jason McCarthy starting in defence.

Curtis Thompson also began the match in Hillsborough.

Speaking after the defeat at a snowy Hillsborough, the gaffer said: "Mistakes always cost you and we made a couple of errors."

"The second goal especially and behind closed doors, we will put that right."

"The boys have given me everything again and I can't ask for more."

"One goal and you're always in it but the second one was a killer."

"But I am proud of the boys."

'Run of wins' needed

THEY HAVE ONLY RECORDED BACK-TO-BACK VICTORIES ONCE SO FAR

GARETH Ainsworth admits that his side 'need a run of wins' to stay in the Championship.

The boss was speaking after the 3-0 defeat against Nottingham Forest, before the Chairboys lost 2-0 away at Sheffield Wednesday three days later.

However, whilst Ainsworth remains upbeat, he has stated the importance of what the next month will bring for Wanderers.

Speaking after the Forest game, he said: "The positives are that we are in the Championship - we are competing with these teams."

"We need a run of games now, a run of wins to get anywhere near this pack and by the end of February, I am pretty sure we are going to know if there is a chance of staying up."

Wycombe are on 16 points and are 12 points from safety.

SPORT: Wycombe Wanderers 0-3 Nottingham Forest Forest's firepower brushes Wanderers aside at home



Nottingham Forest's Glenn Murray scored twice against Wycombe at Adams Park. They were his first goals for the club (Prime Media)

GARETH Ainsworth wasn't too pleased with his side's defending as he believes Wycombe 'gave two goals away' in the defeat against Nottingham Forest.

In the 3-0 home loss against Chris Hughton's men, Glenn Murray gave the visitors the lead on seven minutes after his ex-Brighton teammate, Gaetan Bong, launched the ball forward.

The striker, who was at Watford at the start of the season, easily shrugged off Josh Knight and lobbed a stranded Ryan Allsop from 20-yards.

It was a brilliant finish, and a great way for the 37-year-old to get his first goal for his new club.

He then got his second on 54 minutes when he won and scored a penalty, after referee James Lewington judged that right-back Jack Grimmer impeded the striker.

Anthony Knockaert then wrapped up the win for Forest on 72 minutes with a brilliant first-time effort.

Ainsworth said: "We gave two goals away and I don't want to disrespect Nottingham Forest because they scored a fantastic third goal, but the first two goals, we've given to them."

"If you do that, you will be out of games."

"We had a plan, we wanted to play a certain way, we wanted to force Forest into playing a certain way, we did that but we don't play offsides and that was a poor mistake [for the first goal]."

"The second goal I think was a really soft penalty, but these things seem to be going against us at the moment, and 2-0 against any team is a tough ask, never mind Forest."

"There are quite a few players in their team that have played in the Premier League, and there are very

By James Richings

few in my team and I think this is the story.

"The gulf between the two clubs is evident but Wycombe are in the Championship."

"We want to do everything we can to stay in the Championship, but when you are up against players like that, you have got to give extra."

"We made too many mistakes, they didn't make enough for us to capitalise on, and that was the story of the game."

Despite the defeat, Ainsworth was still upbeat with Wycombe's Championship survival chances, as the Chairboys continue on their journey as a second-tier club.

Big matches against teams around them in the next few weeks could shape the club's season, as fixtures against Huddersfield, Millwall and Derby are just around the corner.

Ainsworth continued: "I am in dreamland with Wycombe in the Championship."

"I have got a bunch of boys in there who are so disappointed and down because they really want to compete and sometimes, things go against you."

"We have got some big games now, but we are well up for the fight and this place being full [Adams Park], would have made a hell of a difference."

"We've said that already and I think we would have been five/six points better off."

"But I can't fault the boys' efforts as they gave me everything and as a manager, it's all I can ask."

It was Wycombe's first-ever home league match against Forest.

SPORT: Ex-Newcastle boss praises the Chairboys



Chris Hughton has been in charge of Nottingham Forest since October 2020 - His fifth job as a permanent manager (PA)

Chris Hughton on Wycombe

NOTTINGHAM Forest manager Chris Hughton praised Gareth Ainsworth ahead of the match last Saturday.

Prior to the Reds' 3-0 win at Adams Park, Forest had never played Wycombe in a league fixture at the home of the Chairboys.

Speaking to the club's website, Hughton said: "What you need when you play Wycombe is complete commitment and the right attitude because they will always give it everything and you need to make sure you match that."

"To say they are simply a direct side is doing them an injustice because they have some quality players in

their team and results this season have shown that."

"At home they've held teams like Watford, Brentford and most recently Birmingham so they enjoy playing on their own turf."

"Gareth has done a magnificent job there and he is someone who is heavily involved with the League Managers' Association, so it's great to see him doing so well."

"Wycombe's rise through the leagues has been tremendous and although their resources mean they have found this season difficult, they are still a very competitive side who will battle for every single ball."

SPORT: Wycombe have lost 17 league matches

Bold statement from the boss



DESPITE Wycombe's struggles this season, manager Gareth Ainsworth has stated that he'd 'rather be fighting at the bottom of the Championship than scrapping at the top of League One at the moment'.

Wycombe are currently bottom of the second tier and have only won three games in the league this season.

Heavy away losses against Blackburn and Brentford, as well as heartbreaking late defeats versus Norwich and Rotherham, have given Wanderers a reality check on how unforgiving the Championship can be.

However, the 47-year-old is still enjoying his maiden season as a Championship manager.

Speaking after the 3-0 home defeat to Nottingham Forest, he said: "It is going to be tough; we need to go on a run, we are well aware of the situation but I have got a great bunch of boys who will give me everything every day and I can't ask for any more than that."

"We have had some big players out and I have probably been a victim of

losing some big players which has gone against us in our best ever year.

"I always knew it would be tough in the Championship.

"I'd rather be fighting at the bottom of the Championship than scrapping at the top of League One at the moment.

"It's a brilliant place to be.

"I'm really happy and I am looking forward to the next game."

On the defeat against Forest, he added: "First-half I thought we were very good.

"I thought at half-time, if we keep going the way we are, we will go on to win the game or get something out of it.

"The penalty changed that and it's a soft penalty for me, but if you give the opportunity for Murray to bring the ball down on his chest in the box...you just can't do that at this level.

"You get punished for your mistakes and we made more mistakes that Nottingham Forest, no disrespect to them as I don't think they carved us apart, but 3-0 is a big score line."

Gareth Ainsworth's side have only won one league match in their last 17 games and are currently winless in five Championship games (PA)

Scheme sees job offers at WWFC

MANY EFL CLUBS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR THE KICKSTART PROGRAMME

AROUND 500 young people across the country will have the opportunity to work at an EFL club or club community organisation such as Wycombe Wanderers Sports & Education Trust.

This is part of the Government's recently launched Kickstart scheme, where several EFL clubs and their associated community charities have signed up to be involved.

They will offer six-month work placement job roles to 16 to 24-year-olds, who are claiming Universal Credit.

The aim is to give young people the opportunity to build their skills in the workplace and to gain experience to improve their chances of finding long-term work.

One of the clubs involved in the project are Wycombe Wanderers, who are currently advertising for two separate Kickstart roles – an Education Officer and an Office Administrator – with more roles hoping to be announced over the coming months.

Head of WWSET Paul Foley said: "WWSET exist in order to ensure that the Wycombe Wanderers Football Club can be of benefit to our local community.

"One of our four priority areas of activity is concerned with Education & Employability so to be involved with the Kickstart scheme and in a position to be able to offer employment opportunities to local young people at such a challenging time is fantastic."

Across the country, vacancies at other clubs and their charitable arms include business admin, sports coaches, marketing, ground staff, finance, youth work, graphic design, film & photography and HR and data administration roles.

Under the scheme, the EFL Trust, the charitable arm of the EFL will be acting as a Gateway provider, bringing together a network of Football Clubs, Community Organisations and other partners, to provide a wealth of opportunities across the country for the out-of-work youngsters.

Minister for Employment Mims Davies MP said: "It's great to see the EFL Trust sign up to the Kickstart scheme, to nurture and support so many of our next generation of workers.

"This fantastic commitment will see nearly 500 young people take up a diverse range of roles, from working in finance and HR, to becoming a sports coach or marketing for a major club.

Visit www.wwset.co.uk.

SPORT: The Chairboys have only won three matches

Wycombe have it all to do after another league defeat



THEY say that the table does not lie, and what it is saying right now is that Wycombe are the worst team in the Championship.

Sadly, it is hard to disagree.

The 3-0 home defeat on February 6 against Nottingham Forest, kept Wanderers firmly rooted to the bottom of the league table.

They have won fewer games and conceded more goals than any team in the division.

Every Blues fan knew that this season would be a huge challenge, and whilst the players cannot be faulted for their effort and commitment, the simple truth is that the squad lacks the quality and experience needed to succeed in one of the toughest leagues in Europe.

Each week, they are facing international players worth millions of pounds, and recent games have seen them run out of steam because they play a high energy, pressing game to overcome the gulf in class.

Goalkeeper Ryan Allsop was the only player in Wycombe's starting eleven against Forest who has played in the topflight of English football, and that was for just 45 minutes. He was a second half substitute for Bournemouth over five years ago.

In contrast, Wanderers were undone at Adams Park by Forest striker Glenn Murray, a player who has around 250 appearances in the Pre-

By Alan Parry

mier League on his impressive CV.

Murray opened the scoring after just seven minutes when he got the better of his marker Josh Knight and finished superbly from long range. Undeterred by the setback, Wycombe came back strongly and for long periods looked the better team.

However, the turning point came early in the second half. Murray used his knowhow to tumble over as he got between two Wycombe defenders to earn Forest a penalty, which he duly dispatched to increase their lead.

Wanderers looked deflated, and a host of substitutions by manager Gareth Ainsworth failed to turn the tide as Forest sealed victory thanks to a third goal by Anthony Knockaert, another player with Premier League pedigree.

With 19 games left to play after the midweek visit to fellow strugglers Sheffield Wednesday, Wanderers still have plenty of points to play for, but they will need a massive improvement in form to finish above the relegation places.

They're up against international players with vast experience at the highest level and worth millions of pounds in the transfer market.

Wanderers' Daryl Horgan battles with Nottingham Forest's Gaëtan Bong as Wanderers lose at home again (Aaron Chown/PA)

SPORT



SPORT: Wanderers lose again and stay rock bottom Ainsworth angry with refereeing decisions



Gareth Ainsworth saw his side lose for the 17th time this season in the Championship as Wycombe lost 2-0 away at Sheffield Wednesday on Tuesday night. Wanderers are now 12 points away from safety with 19 league games left to play (Prime Media)

By James Richings

GARETH Ainsworth wasn't happy with the performance of referee Gavin Ward in Wycombe's 2-0 defeat against Sheffield Wednesday.

The 47-year-old believed that his side should have had a penalty when Anis Mehmeti, who was making his first start since the 3-1 home defeat against Middlesbrough, looked like he was fouled in the box when attempting to take a shot.

The incident happened in the first-half.

He said: "Words escape me for this."

"Honestly, they do."

"Please have a look at that and tell me that it's not a penalty and I'll crack on."

"For the life of me, the young boy Anis makes a fantastic run in the box, and as he shoots, he is taken out."

"I don't know why it is not a penalty – only Gavin Ward knows that and I am not going to ask him because I will get myself in trouble,

because I will say a lot more than ask him."

Ward has officiated three matches involving the Chairboys this season, with Wycombe failing to win any of the fixtures.

The most notorious match he took charge of was when Wycombe played Norwich City at Carrow Road in October.

The ref decided to award the Canaries an injury-time free-kick just outside the Wycombe box after he deemed that Fred Onyedinma had fouled Mario Vrancic.

Ward gave the free-kick which Vrancic took and subsequently scored, despite replays showing that it was the Norwich man who had fouled the winger.

If no free-kick had been given, Wycombe would have more than likely drawn the match and would have secured their first point as a Championship side, due to how

late in the game the decision was made.

The other match Ward was in charge of involving Wycombe this season was the 1-1 draw against QPR on December 19 at Adams Park.

However, Ainsworth moved away from the referee's performance and even though the Chairboys are bottom, he is addressing the season on a 'game-by-game' basis.

He continued: "I don't want anyone looking at the table and going 'we need this' and 'we need that'."

"We go game-by-game, I want to get minutes into the boys, I want to enjoy our time in the Championship, and I want to go for it."

"That's why we played three centre forwards – a real attacking line up and I will be going for it on Saturday."

"There's no point sitting back, soak things up and get a draw, and I want to go for this and attack teams."

"Uche was rested so that's great for him on Saturday, I thought Stewart and Tafazolli had good games as I thought they commanded really well

and there were a lot of positives but we got beat."

"It's hard to take."

"I don't like getting used to it and we'll make sure that we're competitive for Saturday as that's really important and Huddersfield are a team that we can beat."

"I think Sheffield are a team we can beat but we didn't beat them today [Feb 9]."

Wycombe take on Huddersfield Town at the John Smith's Stadium on Saturday.

The Chairboys last travelled up to West Yorkshire to face the Terriers at the start of the 2011/12 season, when Wanderers, who were under the management Gary Waddock, lost 3-0 in August 2011.

Just over four months later, Huddersfield travelled down to Adams Park and inflicted one of Wycombe's heaviest ever defeats at home, as they smashed Wanderers 0-6 with Jordan Rhodes bagging five goals.

The two sides last met in November at Adams Park in a 0-0 draw.



Jordan Obita (Prime Media)

Obita on joining Wycombe

THE EX-READING MAN JOINED THE CLUB IN THE TRANSFER WINDOW

WYCOMBE Wanderers' new left-back Jordan Obita has revealed his excitement in joining the club following his move from Oxford United.

The 27-year-old signed for the Chairboys on January 29 from the Yellows, after only playing 15 games for the League One outfit.

He had only been at the Kassam Stadium side since October.

Speaking after his Wanderers debut in the 0-0 draw against Birmingham City on February 2, he said: "It is good to be back in the Championship and try and help this club up the table."

"I signed here for two-and-a-half-years [as I want] to be here for a while, do really well and that's my objective."

"For Oxford, I was playing as a winger but I probably prefer playing at left-back or left-wing back, so it is good to be back in that position."

"It is good to be here."

Wycombe's new 27 had a solid debut against the Blues, as he is currently deputising for the injured Joe Jacobson.

And with games against teams who are all trying to avoid relegation into League One, Obita hopes that Wycombe can get a few more points on the board.

He continued: "There are so many games to go and if we go on a run, you never know what could happen."

"Obviously, we want to stay in this league but if not, then we push on for the season after to try and push back up again."

"We're playing teams around us, so if you get a point of three points then that is massive."

Obita has previously played in the Championship for Reading, where he made 163 appearances for the club.