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Friday, January 28, 2022

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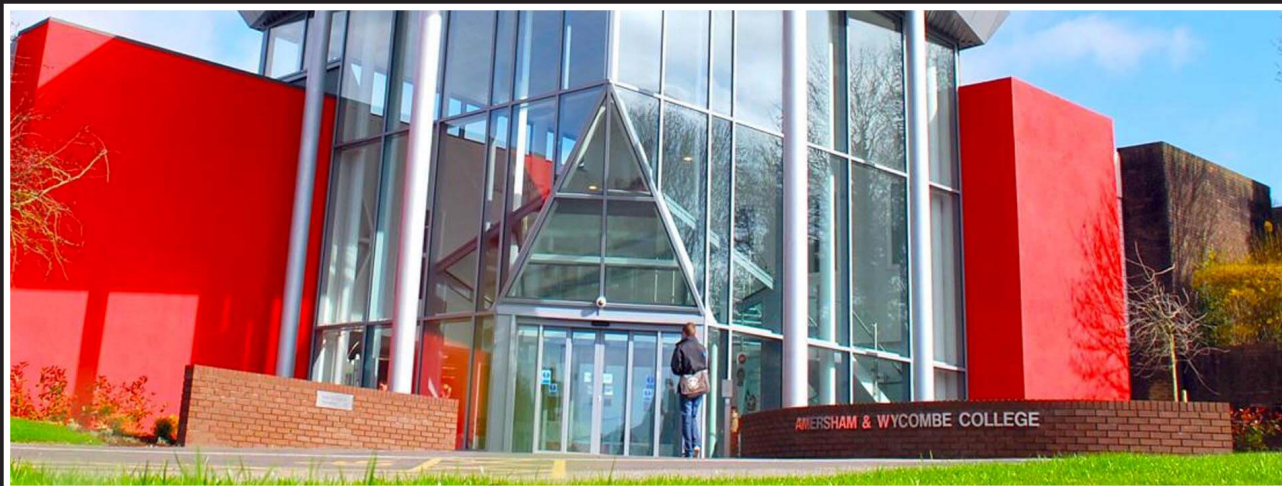
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A PIECE OF HISTORY

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NEW COLLEGE PLANS REVEALED



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SPORT

Shock loss at Morecambe



Wanderers lost 3-2 on Sat (PA)

MORECAMBE came from behind to beat League One leaders Wycombe 3-2 at the Mazuma Stadium.

The Chairboys enjoyed the best possible start when they took the lead after just 90 seconds as Adebayo Akinfenwa headed home Jordan Obita's left-wing cross.

Morecambe hit back after 39 minutes. Aaron Wildig swung in a left-wing corner and skipper Anthony O'Connor beat his marker to head past Stockdale from close range.

The visitors regained the lead in the 54th minute when Jack Grimmer volleyed superbly past goalkeeper Trevor Carson from the right-hand side of the area after Akinfenwa had flicked on.

The Shrimps came back again and levelled through Jonah Ayunga on the hour after Stockdale had parried out Cole Stockton's low shot from the edge of the area.

And it was the prolific Stockton who sealed the points six minutes later when he was picked out by Ayunga in the box and volleyed past the stranded Stockdale from six yards.

Wanderers drop to fourth.

Manager on backroom staff

GARETH Ainsworth has credited his 'tool-sharpening' backroom staff.

Speaking ahead of their visit to the North West, Ainsworth said: "My job becomes so easy when everyone around me is so good at theirs.

"I think that not enough credit goes to my backroom team.

"When Saturday and Tuesday games are coming, my job is dissecting the opposition and how we beat them.

"I know how to do that, but I cannot do it without the tools they give me, and they sharpen those tools like you would not believe. There's so much science in the game now. Fitness is huge, bigger than it has ever been to keep your players fit and in tip-top condition.

"Over the 10 years in my managerial tenure, we have got thousands of percentages better than we were."

Happy to go under the League One radar

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has insisted that he is 'happy to go under the radar' if it means the Chairboys make an immediate return to the Championship.

Despite last week's shock defeat at Morecambe which saw the Chairboys drop from top-spot to fourth, the light and dark blue army are still very much aiming for an immediate return to the Championship.

The Chairboys have spent the entire season in the top-half of the table, with their lowest position this campaign being ninth, following a defeat at Sunderland at a draw at Oxford at the end of August/start of September.

Other than that, Gareth Ainsworth's men have been in sixth place or higher, which includes two game weeks in top spot.

And with Milton Keynes arriving at Adams Park this Saturday for the all Buckinghamshire clash, a win is needed to put the Chairboys back into the automatic promotion hunt.

Ainsworth said: "The 1-0's and 2-0's, under the radar performances are really important to me.

"I do not want to be the team that score loads of goals.

"I want to be the team that is tough to beat.

"I pride myself on teams saying 'we are really tough, we hate playing against Wycombe'.

The all-Buckinghamshire affair this weekend will see MK turn up at Adams Park for the first time in two seasons, with Liam Manning's men having a very good record at the home of the Chairboys.

In the 13 matches the two sides have played each other, MK have won seven of those battles, whilst Wanderers have been victorious just three times.



Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

Two of those wins for the opponents have come at AP in April 2007 and September 2009, and in they were to defeat Wycombe on Saturday, it'll be their fourth consecutive triumph over Gareth Ainsworth's men.

The boss also revealed that the current situation at Derby County has nothing to do with their ability

on the pitch.

He continued: "Consistency is a huge part of what we are doing.

"You get teams that rollercoaster and have huge defeats, they are the ones that end up missing out.

"We need to look after our own results, it's too early in the season to think about other teams' results.

"When I was a player, all you want

to do is train and play."

"You ask my boys and some of them won't even know about it [Referring to the Derby situation].

"Our job is playing on a Saturday and Tuesday and getting points."

It will be the third time this season that Wycombe would have faced their Buckinghamshire rivals. Both those games took place in MK.



Wycombe defeated Oxford 2-0 at Adams Park on January 15 (PA)

Supporter identified after OUFC incident

WYCOMBE Wanderers have identified the man who shoved Oxford United winger Gavin Whyte at Adams Park.

The Northern Ireland international was pushed as he retrieved the ball from the Frank Adams Stand towards the end of the Sky Bet League One clash on January 15.

After tracking down the spectator, the Chairboys found he had no previous ticket history with the club.

A Wycombe spokesperson said: "The individual who was involved in an incident with Gavin Whyte has

been identified and appropriate action is being taken.

"The club condemns his actions and will not tolerate such conduct at Adams Park.

"This person, like the pitch intruder, had no previous ticket history with WWFC."

Wycombe did not respond when asked to clarify what 'appropriate action' means.

The club have already banned a teenager from Adams Park for life after he ran on to the pitch during the

second half.

The 18-year-old, from Thame, broke away from the home terrace after Brandon Hanlan put Wycombe 2-0 up on the hour mark.

He was involved in an altercation with U's left back Steve Seddon and goaded the away fans, before being apprehended by stewards.

The teenager, who had no affiliation to either club, was arrested by Thames Valley Police and received a conditional caution.



Wycombe have only lost two home matches in the league this season, which were against Ipswich Town and Portsmouth in November (PA)

The battle of Bucks

WYCOMBE Wanderers will look to bounce back from their first defeat of 2022 when they host Buckinghamshire foes MK Dons on Saturday.

The only professional Buckinghamshire club, until 2004, suffered their defeat of the new year at the claws of the Shrimps in a 3-2 loss, whilst Milton Keynes are fresh off a last-gasp 1-0 victory at Burton Albion on Tuesday night.

Just three points separate the two sides, who have both earned 10 points from their last five outings. Liam Manning's team look suitably-equipped having won four of their last five games on the road. In fact, they have earned more points away from home this season. History suggests that they may

extend their run as meetings between the two have often fallen in the favour of the 18-year-old club.

Wycombe have triumphed on three occasions, drawing three and losing seven.

The Chairboys will have to go back to August 2019 when they last beat them, a 3-2 win at a sun-soaked Adams Park which was their previous visit to South Bucks.

In the previous league affair, Wycombe were comfortably defeated 1-0 having to play with 10-men following Anthony Stewart's 38th minute dubious red card.

Stewart could make amends on his 250th career league appearance by preventing in-form striker, Scott Twine.

New faces to arrive at Adams Park this month?



Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has admitted that the club are 'actively chasing some players' before the end of this month's transfer window.

The Chairboys are yet to sign any new players so far in January as they continue to push for an immediate return to the Championship.

And whilst no mention of the player was revealed, Ainsworth's words will no doubt launch a wave of rumours and fuel optimism amongst the supporters on who could be potentially making their way to Hillbottom Road before the month is up.

Speaking ahead of their clash at Morecambe on January 22, Ainsworth said: "We're actively chasing some players."

"We are now going for a player that I have never been able to go for before."

A key area that many Wanderers fans would like to see restocked is the defence.

Ryan Tafazolli, Anthony Stewart, Chris Forino and Joe Jacobson are the club's only out-and-out central defenders, with the latter being converted into one over the past year.

Wycombe fall to a BCD loss at Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers lost a behind closed doors friendly match against Ipswich Town on January 24.

The Chairboys fell to a 2-0 defeat with first-teamers such as Daryl Horgan, Jason McCarthy and David Wheeler all making an appearance.

Development players such as Adam Leathers, Tjay De Barr, Olly Pendlebury, Andre Burley, Chris Forino and Adam Przybek also all played.

All the players mentioned above have played at least one first-team game for the Chairboys this season. Two trialists also made an appearance for Wanderers in the defeat against the Tractor Boys, but it is not known who they are and whether they will sign for the club.

The Transfer Window shuts on Monday, January 31 at 11.59pm.

Offensive chant is aimed at Wycombe



Wycombe lost the match 3-2 at Morecambe despite taking the lead on two occasions against the League One strugglers on January 22 (PA)

MORECAMBE FC have released a statement condemning an 'inappropriate chant' that was sung in their fixture against Wycombe Wanderers on January 22.

The Shrimps won 3-2 despite the Chairboys taking the lead on two occasions, however, several complaints were made following a song that was sung at towards the visitors.

According to the North West side, the song has been 'levelled at opponents in recent fixtures', prior to their match against Gareth Ainsworth's men.

In a statement that published on January 24, they said: "Morecambe FC is aware of an inappropriate chant, which has been levelled at opponents in recent fixtures including the game on Saturday against Wycombe Wanderers."

"The club has been reported to the FA & EFL with regards to this chanting from a section of supporters."

"The club utterly condemns those who are engaging in these inappropriate and hurtful chants, and we would like to apologise to any person(s) affected by such behaviour."

"The overwhelming majority of our supporters set a fine example and show respect to their fellow supporters, opposition supporters, players and officials – as evidenced by their disapproval across social media and direct correspondence with the club."

"Any instance of anti-social and

By James Richings

abusive behaviour, or chanting, has no place at Morecambe FC and we continue to work hard to eliminate this issue, as it goes against all of our values, and damages the good name of our club."

The incidents comes two weeks after an alleged homophobic comment was made in Wycombe's 2-0 home win against Oxford United.

Both clubs issued a statement on the matter, whilst the police are currently investigating the incident.

A part of Wanderers' statement from a couple of weeks ago said: "Wycombe Wanderers were delighted to welcome its biggest crowd of the season to Adams Park on Saturday [January 15], and thank both Chairboys and Oxford supporters for coming along to play their part in another absorbing afternoon of League One football."

"The club are, however, investigating a small number of incidents which occurred throughout the day in relation to discriminatory abuse, pitch incursions and crowd disturbances."

"The safety and wellbeing of everyone in the stadium - players included - is paramount at all times."

"The club also has a zero-tolerance approach to any form of discrimination, and applauds those who have reported incidents involving homophobic and racist language."

SPORT

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Wycombe Wanderers should 'stand down'



Gary Neville spoke about the Derby situation on Sky Sports on Jan 21 and suggested Wycombe should 'stand down' to save the Rams (PA)

By James Richings

COMMENTATOR and pundit Gary Neville has pleaded with Wycombe Wanderers and Middlesbrough to drop their legal cases against Derby County in order to save the club.

The former Manchester United right-back, who played 400 games in the Premier League, believes both teams should 'stand down' as the Rams face the prospect of being liquidated before the season ends in May.

Both the Boro and the Chairboys are taking the Rams to court over an alleged loss of earnings due to County's Financial Fair Play breaches.

Derby have three potential buyers who are reportedly holding off on any deal due to the risk of having to defend the claims.

And in the week commencing January 17, many statements were released by the EFL, and Derby in trying to explain the ongoing situation, whilst Middlesbrough penned an open letter to the Rams' joint administrators, insinuating that the information they have given to the media was 'not correct'.

Wycombe chairman Rob Couhig also went on a radio station in the city to explain his stance on why he is taking the club to court.

Derby are currently 23rd in the Championship, eight points off safety on 14 points, despite having a -21 point deduction at the start of the season.

Last year, they avoided relegation on the season's final day by one point - which ultimately relegated Wanderers back to League One.

Speaking ahead of the Premier

League match between Watford and Norwich City that took place on January 21, Neville said live on Sky Sports: "You've got these two outstanding legal cases with Wycombe and Middlesbrough."

"Now, Wycombe and Middlesbrough may have very valid cases, they may not have valid cases, but I think if football is a real family, Wycombe and Middlesbrough have to stand down."

"They have to stand down unfortunately."

"That's not to suggest that their cases are invalid, or to suggest that their cases are valid."

"We talk about the football family... football is a family where the brothers and sisters are arguing over the will."

"It's not a true family because we see greed, selfishness and I'm not talking about Wycombe or Middlesbrough here."

"We're talking about the desperation that exists with what the previous owner has done and at the bottom of the ladder are the fans, waiting for outcomes and news."

He also suggested football clubs should not be treated as normal businesses, but instead as Grade I listed buildings, to stop them from falling into liquidation.

Neville also compared the ongoing situation to what happened to his hometown club Bury in 2019.

Bury, who had achieved promotion to League One in May of the year, went dormant just three months later due to poor ownership and a lack of funding from the club's then chairman Steve Dale.

The former England international also suggested that changes needed to be made in Parliament to stop clubs from struggling financially.



It will take place on Feb 15

Draw made for local cup competition

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been drawn to play Long Crendon in the quarter-final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup.

The two sides will meet on Tuesday, February 15, at the ASM Stadium in Thame.

The match will be sandwiched between the Chairboys' away league fixture against Lincoln City on February 12 and their home battle against Cheltenham Town on February 19.

It will be the club's first visit to the ASM Stadium in 12 years.

Wanderers are in the competition for the first time since 2019, when they defeated Hungerford Town 3-0 in the quarter-final stage - only for the result to be expunged due to the postponement of the competition in the midst of the pandemic.

Tickets will cost £8 for adults, £5 for concessions and £2 for under-14s. These can be purchased in advance at buytickets.at/longcrendonfootballclub or on the night.

Striker called up to national squad



WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Ali Al-Hamadi has been selected to play for the Iraqi national team for their next two games.

Al-Hamadi, who joined on a free transfer from Swansea City at the back end of 2020, has yet to play for the Chairboys but has been an unused sub on two occasions.

The 19-year-old has played two games for Iraq after making his debut in November last year.

The forward, who was also on the books at Tranmere Rovers, will be in the Lions of Mesopotamia squad to face Iran on January 27 and Lebanon on February 1.

Al-Hamadi moved to England from Iraq in 2003.