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Full story on page 8

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Page 6

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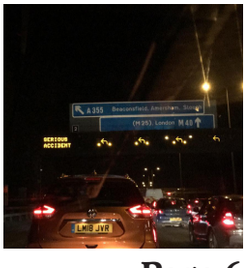

Page 6

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THE REGISTER

Captain, leader, legend: Mr Wycombe hangs up his boots after 19 seasons

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that club captain Matt Bloomfield has announced his retirement from professional football on medical grounds.

The 37 year old (who turns 38 on February 8) has been with the club since December 2003 and has gone on to play 558 games for the Chairboys, scoring 42 goals in that time.

The midfielder's decision to hang up his boots was heavily recommended by medical experts following a serious concussion suffered in his last appearance for the club in August 2021, in a League Cup fixture at Exeter City, which Wanderers won on penalties.

On his decision to hang up his boots more than 18 years after signing for the club, he said: "I have sought the opinion of medical experts who have advised me that I can no longer play the game that I love.

"I was desperate to keep playing, and I'm still not sure I have come to terms with it. However, I know that I have so much to be thankful for.

"I lived out a boyhood dream to represent Ipswich Town in my first professional appearance.

"I then lived out my other boyhood dream to captain a team to victory at Wembley Stadium.

"I couldn't have dreamt that the team I captained there would be the team that has become my club.

"I have shared some really special memories at Adams Park with our fans, and I would like you all to know that your support over the world has meant the world to me.

"You have made my playing career such a special experience and I thank you all for that.

"I know that I can retire content knowing that I definitely gave it everything I had."

Before his retirement, he was the longest-serving player for any club in the top four leagues in English football, following his move from Ipswich Town.

And during his time at the club, he achieved four promotions from League Two to the Championship (2009, 2011, 2018 & 2020), whilst also suffering four relegations with the club (2004, 2010, 2012 & 2021).

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "It's a sad day, but also a proud one, to celebrate the playing career of one of the best, if not the best, professionals I have had the pleasure of working with throughout my time in football.

"Matt was my roommate in my playing days, my captain in my management career, and now I'm honoured to have him by my side on the coaching staff for the next chapter.

"We could not have achieved everything that we have done without him, and above that, I wouldn't have wanted to have gone on this journey without him.

"He has been such an inspiration to everyone at Wycombe Wanderers, on and off the pitch, and he has shown tremendous courage to take this step for him and his family.

"Wycombe Wanderers have been truly blessed with an extraordinary individual that has gone far, far beyond what he signed up to do."

"Matt Bloomfield is a Wycombe Wanderers legend."

The club will pay tribute to Bloomfield with a special celebration of his playing career at Adams Park on Good Friday (April 15) when Wanderers host Plymouth Argyle.

Matt Bloomfield and Adebayo Akinfenwa after the 2020 League One play-off final (PA)

Matt Bloomfield and Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

The iconic number 10 shirt (PA)

Wanderers' captain (PA)

Blooms in the 2009-11 home kit

Matt Bloomfield and Sam Saunders after THAT day at Chesterfield

The skipper in action (PA)

Enjoy your new chapter, Blooms (PA)

‘It scares me’: Bloomfield discusses freak concussion

By Robert Folker

Bloomfield in action against Ipswich in November 2019 - the first time he had played against his boyhood club since leaving 16 years prior (PA)

MATT Bloomfield waves an emotional goodbye to his playing career after doctors told him it’s not worth thinking about how another head injury could affect him.

An innocuous incident last year against Exeter has brought an abrupt end to his playing days after making 558 appearances for Wycombe Wanderers.

A quick free-kick struck the 37-year-old in the back of the head and knocked him to the ground where he was treated on field for 10 minutes before staggering off.

He said: “I have not trained once since that incident at Exeter just because we needed to explore every avenue and repercussions because the effects were ongoing.

“A couple of times I tried to start exercising and then I didn’t feel right so I had to stop.

“I was doing things like reading with my girls and I wasn’t present.

“So it was a tough time.

“I knew this was different and I knew that the effects were different and more severe.”

Bloomfield says even now he “forgets the odd word” and his balance “isn’t great either”.

“Being out on the training pitch, people are kicking balls around and I’m really kind of quite nervous around that sort of scenario so there’s ongoing things I’m dealing with,” he said.

The midfielder estimated he has suffered five concussions in the last four years as well as experiencing similar incidents in his younger years.

He recalled his horrific injury against Peterborough back in 2009 in a League Cup clash where he fractured both his cheekbones, his nose and his jaw.

Looking forward, he now hopes to raise awareness of the implications of head injuries in football and educate future generations of players.

He continued: “There’s risk attached to anything in life and there’s risk in football and we can’t take that risk away.

“I’m not going to sit here and say there shouldn’t be any heading.

“What I would like to do is to have more money dedicated to research so players know if they have a head injury exactly where they stand instead of in terms of their future brain health.

“I would like there to be more education for current players because over the years I’ve had to learn, but certainly my reaction every time has been ‘don’t get me off, I need to play on, I want to play’ so I think that needs to be more education.

“Footballers are more three and a half times more likely to get dementia than the average man on the street.

“My granddad didn’t play football, but he suffered from dementia at the end of his days and I saw him suffer.

“It’s something that scares me of what might be in future life so it’s something I’m really passionate.”

Bloomfield will also shift his focus on his coaching career admitting he “would love to be a manager one day”.

He said: “I’ve certainly enjoyed doing that as a coach alongside the gaffer and Dobbo so first and foremost, my focus is on I’m creating a future for myself, for my family by coaching and being the best possible coach I can be.”

Bloomfield celebrates with Bayo and Sam Saunders in 2018 following promotion

Paul Smyth with Adebayo Akinfenwa (PA)

Former Wycombe winger hospitalised after suffering collapsed lung in League Two match

WYCOMBE Wanderers have offered their well wishes to former winger Paul Smyth, who has suffered a collapsed lung.

Smyth, who had a year with the Chairboys in the 2019/20 season when they won promotion to the Championship, was injured in a challenge by Mansfield Town’s Elliott Hewitt during Leyton Orient’s 2-0 defeat at the Stags on January 29.

The Northern Irish international was taken into hospital following the tackle, but it is feared that he will miss more of the season, following his move to the Os in the summer.

He has only played 12 games for the club since joining from QPR last June.

Leyton Orient’s manager, Kenny Jackett, said of the injury: “It’s not good news.

“It was in a challenge on 40 minutes in the first half and he has a collapsed lung, which isn’t good news.

“He was in hospital on Saturday night, but he is in good spirits and is being looked after well, but in terms of his football, he won’t be with us for a little while.”

On his injury, Smyth added: “Life is 10 per cent what happens to you and 90 per cent how you respond to it. I will be back once again!”

Wycombe replied to their former player by saying: “Get well soon, Smythy!”

In his only season at the club, Smyth played 21 times for Wycombe, scoring once which happened to be on his debut in a 2-0 home win against Bolton Wanderers.

Chairgirls are hammered

THE Wycombe Wanderers Women First Team suffered a heavy away loss as they were thrashed 7-0 at Moneyfields last weekend.

The hosts quickly imposed themselves on the game and were camped in the Chairgirls' half from the kick-off, as Wanderers found themselves on the back foot due to Moneyfields' intelligent and slick passes.

The deadlock was broken on 10 minutes when some slack defensive play in the centre of the park allowed an easy ball to go through and find their centre forward, who scored.

Wycombe picked themselves up and mounted their first serious attack on the hosts goal when a well worked move featuring Sammy Nazif and Naomi Tilley who picked out Ruby Paish whose shot was saved by their host's goalkeeper.

However, their positive play was in vain as the home side went 2-0 up on 17 minutes via a penalty.

They continued to show fight and determination put the south coast side were too strong for the team from Bucks, as Monyfields wrapped up the win by half-time with two quick goals to make it 4-0.

Young Amy Whale made a rare error as she spilled the ball which fell kindly for Moneyfields to stretch their lead to three, before a tap in saw them go four up before the break.

Wycombe came out from the break and showed their intent working hard to deny their opponents time to settle on the ball.

Substitute Amy Norfolk, who was making her first team debut, won the ball in the middle third and found Naomi Tilley who was on the run.

Tilley produced a great first touch to evade the on coming defenders, and attempted an audacious lob over the keeper.

It looked like it was going to give Wanderers hope, but the strike unfortunately hit the crossbar and Moneyfields had their clean sheet in tact.

This seemed to wake up the hosts despite being four goals to the good, as they bagged two strikes in as many minutes to make it 6-0.

It might have been a thrashing, but Wanderers continued to fight, as they peppered the home shot stopper with attempts, whilst Emily Norfolk made and her twin sister make their debuts for the first team, before Moneyfields wrapped up the scoring on 70.

Next up for the Chairgirls is a home match against Ascot United on Sunday, February 13 which will kick-off at 2pm.

The Chairgirls faced Moneyfields on the south coast last weekend and lost 7-0 (Pictured in July 2017)

It wasn't the best of days for Wanderers (Pixabay)

Panthers are punished by Wanderers

The squad with Bayo during the MK game on Jan 29

THE Wycombe Wanderers Women U18 side continued their good start to the year as they smashed Tilehurst Panthers 1-5 last weekend. The U18 Chairgirls

The Chairgirls got the breakthrough on 35minutes after Jorja-Louise Bray crossed in for Naomi Tilley who scored a tap in.

This opened up the floodgates as Wycombe went 2-0 up two minutes later with another Tilley strike.

Moments later, the win was wrapped up as Bray registered another assist, this time for Lenis Cook, to get onto the scoresheet moments later.

The Chairgirls then got a fourth on the stroke of half-time to make it 4-0.

The second half started with Wycombe on the front foot again and it wasn't long before Jess Fuller hit a screamer to make it 5-0, before the hosts scored a consolation..

After match had finished, the squad travelled to Adams Park to watch the Chairboys take on Milton Keynes, where they had their photo with the ever-popular striker and fan favourite, Adebayo Akinfenwa.

Beaconsfield Town FC play their games at Holloways Park

Rams defeated at home

BEACONSFIELD Town fell to another defeat this season as they lost 2-1 to Weston-Super-Mare

Marlow Jackson had given the away side the lead on 10 minute before Aaron Minhas equalised for the Rams on the hour mark.

However, they were not level for long as Dayle Grubb scored just two minutes later to seal the victory for the away side at Holloways Park.

Beaconsfield battled for a second equaliser but Purnell was equal to everything thrown at him as Weston held on.

At the full-time whistle, manager Gary Meakin described the West Country outfit as the 'the best team in possession we've played this season by a distance.'

Mixed bag for Marlow Hockey Club last week

IT was a disappointing weekend for both the Marlow men's and lady's first teams but for different reasons.

The men because their game was called off by the opposition who they had beaten 8-0 early in the season and the ladies in losing 4-3 to their nearest league rivals Oxford Hawks2.

The men now have two matches to make up later in the season.

The lady's second team beat their opponents from Oxford Hawks3 4-0.

Other ladies results: - The third team drew with Sonning 1-1 away, whilst the fourth team drew 0-0 with Oxford University.

The fifth team beat Newbury and Thatcham 3-1 away, the sixth team beat Wycombe 2-1 and the seventh team beat Wycombe6 3-0 away.

Men's results

Marlow second team hosted the Sonning second team at Pound Lane. It was closer than the final score, 3-1 to the visitors might suggest, but having conceded a goal in the first minute Marlow were always playing catch up.

Other men's results:- The third's lost 2-0 away to Oxford, the fourth's lost 1-0 to Amersham & Chalfont, the fifth's lost 4-3 away to Bicester, the sixth team drew 1-1 away to Windsor and the seventh team lost 4-2 away to Eastcote.

How did Marlow do last week? (Stock photo/Pixabay)

Free trials for local football matches

LOCAL footballers are being encouraged to get down to John Hampden School on Monday and Wednesday nights to play in a free game of football, as part of a new trial.

Soccersixes, which runs six-a-side leagues across the country, have revealed that a space at the Wycombe-based school can hold up to 16 teams playing on one night.

A spokesperson said: "Divisions [are] available to suit all player standards and one-off games are available to trial the league without any future commitments.

"If after the trial the team wants to commit to a season, then sign up is online.

"Soccersixes hold one other league in the area on three Monday night so if Wednesday is not for you then we have the other night that may suit."

For more information on the leagues in your specific area hosted by Soccersixes contact Jake on 07969042067 or Register at www.soccersixes.net.

FEATURE

Showing your appreciation to one of the Chairboys' greatest ever players

By James Richings

EVER since he walked through those doors at Adams Park back in July 2016, Adebayo Akinfenwa has become a much-loved figure at the club, and it's not just because of the goals.

The ever-popular 38 year old has scored 60 goals in 236 appearances (at the time of writing), for the club in six years with the Chairboys, achieving two promotions in 2018 & 2020.

Akinfenwa has also won the club's Player of the Year award on two occasions (2017 and 2018).

However, away from his footballing ability, the forward is loved at the club for what he does off the pitch.

It doesn't matter if you're young, old, male, female, if it's your first time at Adams Park, or if you're a season ticket holder, 'the Big Man', as manager Gareth Ainsworth refers to him, will take the time out to speak to you, sign autographs and pose for a photo.

Every encounter a fan will have with Bayo will be different in its own distinctive way, but one thing will also be the same: the fan and the striker will have a smile on their face.

The scenes at Adams Park when Milton Keynes came to South Bucks on January 29 saw the ugly side of football and society raise its ugly head once again.

However, despite a chorus of offensive chanting being sung by the opposition fans, three sides of Adam Park stood in unison to defend a man who has given more than his footballing ability to the club, as Bayo has left his heart and soul with those who regularly visit Hillbottom Road.

Even the club's chairman, Rob Couhig, showed his appreciation for the striker by saying: "From the first day I met him, I knew that he was a person who understands the principles of leadership.

"He has the capacity to take a situation seriously and yet enjoy himself.

"Fans throughout the world love to watch him play and appreciate his enjoyment of good natured banter with opposing fans and players.

"I was tremendously proud of the way he, the gaffer, and the rest of the team handled the situation on Saturday. It was perfect."

So, to show our appreciation for the Beast, here are just some of photos we were sent of fans posing with Bayo.

A very important interview (Amy Lavender)

We wanted to do our bit to show our support for a man who has given his all to the club, and we have had so many photos come through, we sadly couldn't use them all this time round (but thank you to everyone who got in touch).

True heroes never give in in the face of adversity, and Adebayo Akinfenwa will forever have a place at Wycombe Wanderers.

A true gent, and we will always have his back.

The biggest selfie ever (Daniel Chandler)

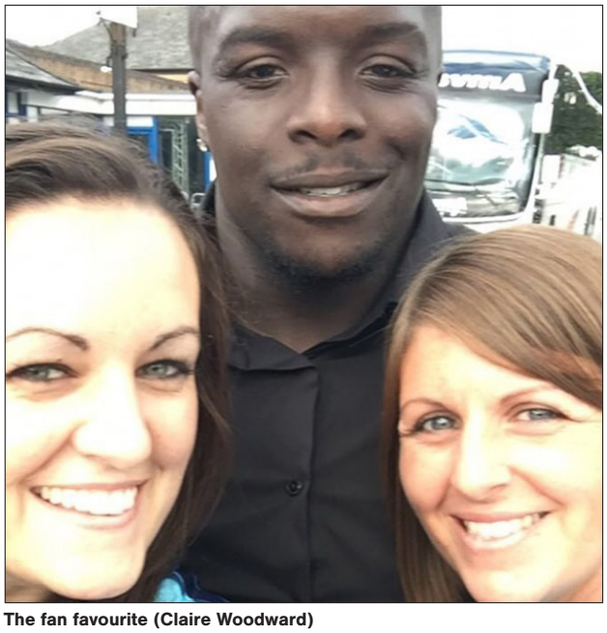
Smiles all round (Carol Mason)

Beaming faces (Lisa Belcher)

A fan favourite (Gill Osment)

The highs at AP (Carol Mason)

Happy memories (Edward Richings)



The fan favourite (Claire Woodward)

FEATURE

Two fans pose with Bayo after the 2-1 win against Rochdale at Adams Park in January 2020. Wanderers wore their away kit at home that day (Luke Rollie Hagley)

A day to remember for this young supporter: Promotion for Wanderers and a pic with a legend in May 2018 (Melanie Jane Bailey)

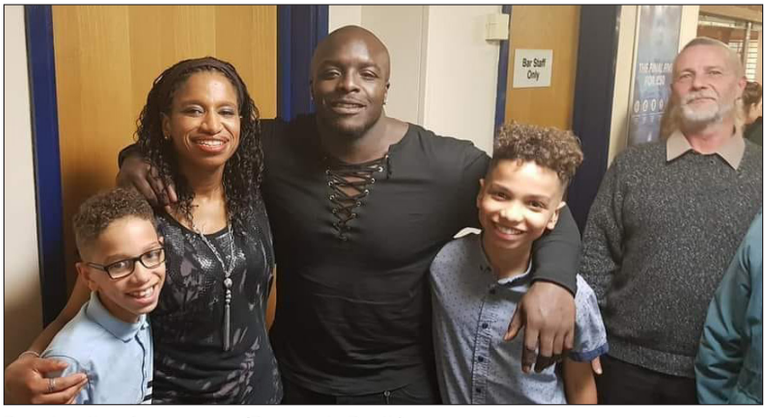
Moments that last a lifetime (WWSET)

The aftermath from THAT day at Wembley (Matt Cecil)

Hugs all round (Karen Harris Kenny)

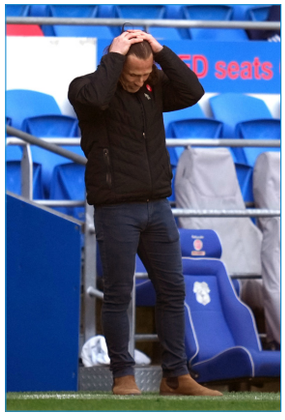
Bayo loves to take photos with fans (Pete Priest)

Two mascots with Bayo at match at Adams Park (Lauz Galloway)



Bayo has time for everyone (Rosemarie Booth)

Ainsworth's analysis on MK defeat



Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has revealed his thoughts following his side's 1-0 home loss to MK Dons on January 29.

A first-half strike from Scott Twine, which was his 13th of the season, secured MK's fourth straight win over the Chairboys, as the Adams Park outfit drop one place to fifth in the League One table.

In a match that didn't have many chances, Wanderers rarely tested Jamie Cumming in the away goal as they fell to only their third home league loss of the season.

However, the manner of how they were defeated will cause a bit of worry for the supporters, as they have now lost their last two matches, after going top following their brilliant win over Oxford United on January 15.

Speaking after the defeat at Adams Park, Ainsworth said: "We had two 1-0s against MK Dons, so credit to them.

"The players on the pitch were good, they defended really well and they had some real solid performances from some of their players, and with Scott Twine, who is having a terrific season, we didn't defend quick enough to [his goal] it and that was the tale of the game.

"There weren't many chances in this game and sometimes it is going to be like that, but it was great to be involved in a fourth vs fifth Buckinghamshire derby as it shows how far we have come.

"I'm proud of the boys and proud of their efforts, and I'll know they'll be people shouting at us saying 'we need to work on a little bit more quality', and when we do get the ball up their [in the opposition box], we have got to settle it better, play that killer pass and we didn't do that."

After a stunning start to the 2022, Wanderers have now lost two games on the bounce for the first time in two months.

Wycombe drop to fifth after MK loss

By Taylor Toney-Green

WYCOMBE suffered successive defeats as they fell to Buckinghamshire rivals in a 1-0 defeat at Adams Park.

The Chairboys were looking to bounce back from a disappointing loss at Morecambe against fellow-Bucks opposition, but Liam Manning's side had won late-on at Burton in the week and had their sights set on leapfrogging Wanderers into fourth.

Gareth Ainsworth made one change which saw former MK man, David Wheeler, replace Adebayo Akinfenwa in the starting lineup, whilst Manning opted for Harry Darling as Mo Eisa dropped to the bench.

After a slow start to the game for both sides, the away side took the lead with their first chance of the game on 13 minutes.

Theo Corbeanu drove at Joe Jacobson from the halfway line and struck low at David Stockdale. His save fell straight into the path of Scott Twine who smashed in his 13th of the campaign.

Twine's strike meant the Chairboys still have never kept a clean sheet against MK in the 14 meetings.

Wycombe would have to wait a further 10 minutes before they got their first nibble at the away goal, but Brandon Hanlan's attempted lob was pushed away by Jamie Cumming.

Sadly, similar to the Oxford encounter on January 15, the referee had to halt proceedings following inappropriate chanting from the away fans.

Akinfenwa approached the MK fans, well in his own right to do so, causing a flock of grown men to scream expletives at the Wycombe forward.

An out-of-character flat first-half performance from the hosts allowed the north-Bucks outfit to hold onto their 1-0 advantage into half-time. Ainsworth's men lacked creative edge in the final third with multiple deliveries failing to find their target.

Urgency was needed from the Chairboys in the second-half if they were going to lift a subdued Adams Park crowd.

Milton Keynes' players celebrate their win with their fans following the 1-0 win over Wycombe on January 29. It was the third time this season that the team from North Bucks had defeated Wanderers this season (PA)

Sam Vokes' introduction at the interval brought the intensity that the Wycombe fans were craving. A dinked cross arrived in Garath McCleary's path but he fell as the ball landed and it dribbled out for a goal kick.

Just as Wycombe worked their way back into the game, MK had the chance to double their lead. Dan Harvie picked out an unmarked Corbeanu in the box, but his header was remarkably tipped onto the bar and cleared away.

The visitors held on comfortably to see out an impressive victory at Adams Park. A game lost on Wycombe's part as they failed to motor at any point during the match. Ainsworth's side looked exhausted, but it was their absence of creativity that let them down.

MK's victory, however, was stained after abusive chants were hurled at legendary Chairboys forward. A resulting statement from the club was released in which they condemned the abuse.

The incident raises the question, why are football supporters allowed to get away with such defamatory chanting all in the name of 'banter'.

Wycombe will look to make amends when they host Shrewsbury on Feb 8.

Ainsworth saw his side lose for a second straight week (PA)

Tactical decisions are revealed by the boss

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has explained his tactical decisions following the derby defeat to MK.

Going into the match, Wanderers made one change following the defeat at Morecambe, as Adebayo Akinfenwa was dropped to the bench.

In came David Wheeler whilst Brandon Hanlan started up top.

Sam Vokes, who has missed the last three games due to Covid, came off from the bench, but struggled to make an impact.

Sullay Kaikai was also an unused substitute following his two appearances for Sierra Leone at this year's African Cup of Nations.

The boss also stated that he would have started with Sam Vokes 'if he had come back from Covid earlier'.

He continued: "I think that would have caused MK more problems.

"But again, our hands were tied a bit because he only trained 10 minutes after his Covid test and these things happen. Josh Scowen and Dominic Gape are also out and these are key players.

"But once we get them back, and when Vokesy is firing again, we will be strong.

"The boys are down at the moment but we'll be back in on Monday and Tuesday to focus on our next few games. "Shrewsbury, Lincoln, and Cheltenham. These are good games to get back on the horse and start riding fast if we want to keep up with the pack."

The away side released a statement not long after the match finished which saw them win 1-0. They play their home games at Stadium: MK (PA)

MK sorry over chant

MILTON Keynes Dons FC have publicly apologised to Wycombe Wanderers following the inappropriate chanting which was aimed at Adebayo Akinfenwa.

Throughout the contest, in which the away side eventually won 1-0, the popular striker was bombarded with a repetitive and defamatory chant.

After the match, both MK manager in Liam Manning and their chairman, Pete Winkleman, apologised to the striker who accepted.

The side from North Buckinghamshire also issued a statement which read: "MK Dons wishes to apologise to Wycombe Wanderers for the offensive chanting which has tarnished our players' great performance in securing victory away at Adams Park.

"We strongly condemn this behaviour from a minority of our travelling supporters.

"This is not who we are as a Football Club and goes completely against our values and our culture.

"We will work with our supporters to ensure incidents like this are not repeated.

"At the same time, we would like to thank the majority of fans who got behind their team and played their part in a big away win."

The defeat means Wycombe are now winless in their last four matches against MK, which includes three defeats against them this season.

EFL's statement on anti-social behaviour

Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth asked the MK fans to stop singing the slanderous chant at Adebayo Akinfenwa on Saturday, January 29 (PA)

By Robert Folker

THE EFL has issued a statement in the face of the growing amount of 'unacceptable' anti-social behaviour in games across the country.

With a strong message of 'stay away' and a threat of increased police action the EFL are looking to clamp down on the issue.

This season has seen regular accounts of offensive chants, pitch invasions, fans throwing objects and abuse on social media throughout the game.

This weekend there were objects thrown at the assistant referee in front of Rotherham fans at Crewe, West Bromwich Albion fans threw smoke flares on the pitch during their 2-0 defeat by Millwall and offensive chants were sung by MK Dons fans towards Chairboys striker Adebayo Akinfenwa at Adams Park.

Thames Valley Police also reported homophobic abuse coming from the MK Dons fans with officers saying anyone identified could face arrest or a criminal record.

There were also reports of homophobic slurs two weeks ago during Wycombe's game with Oxford United on January 15.

The statement said: "Following multiple incidents of inappropriate and reckless crowd behaviour on Saturday the EFL will work with the relevant authorities and respective clubs to ensure those responsible are held to account.

"Any form of anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and whilst these instances only represent a very small section of people attending matches, the mindless few who choose to behave in this way are only demonstrating a complete lack of respect for the clubs they claim to support.

"Our message is simple – those intent on causing trouble are not welcome at our matches and we ask you to 'Stay Away'.

"Anyone found to be behaving offensively at a football match can expect to be dealt with by the police and the club, who will continue to work closely with supporter groups to address the causes of violence from individual fans and will always support prosecutions when that is the appropriate course of action to take.

"The EFL is disappointed that on a day when the footballing focus was on our League competition, the discussion is once again about matters off the pitch.

"We will continue to work with closely and collaboratively with our Clubs, safety advisory groups and local police forces to ensure security operations in place are robust and effective, whilst also providing support when any incidents do occur."

The chant that was heard was also heard during the Morecambe match on January 22.

Akinfenwa defended by boss Ainsworth

Adebayo Akinfenwa (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has issued a very powerful message defending Adebayo Akinfenwa.

The fan favourite was the victim of a libellous chant that was sung by several MK Dons fans in their 1-0 win over the Chairboys at Adams Park.

The disgusting song was heard throughout the afternoon and despite pleas from Ainsworth, Akinfenwa, who confronted the crowd about the chant, MK's captain Dean Lewington and several loudspeaker announcements, the song was still sung.

Wanderers supporters did their best to drown out their Buckinghamshire rivals with boos that rang around at Adams Park.

MK have since said sorry to Wycombe for the incident, whilst their manager in Liam Manning and their chairman, Pete Winkleman, also condemned what was sung in the stands to Akinfenwa personally, with the latter accepting their apologies.

Akinfenwa spent several years at MK's rivals, AFC Wimbledon, before moving to Wycombe in 2016.

Speaking after the match, Ainsworth said: "I think he went over to warm up because he was a substitute.

"He went that end as that is where the substitutes warm-up and once you warm up, you get closer to the fans.

"If he has engaged in anything, believe me, Akinfenwa would not have instigated it.

"What I want to talk about is him spending an hour after the game signing every autograph and taking every picture with the fans who love and adore him.

"For me, he is one in a million and I am lucky manager to have him."

Following the match, many people have shown the popular striker much support on social media.

The 38-year-old is due to retire at the end of the season, bringing his 20+ footballing career to an end.

Ainsworth continued: "My view is that I am very disappointed with the chant that has started in recent weeks about Adebayo Akinfenwa who is an incredible individual.

"There is no place for it in football and for me, and I am glad that the ref stopped the game which makes people aware of this. We do not want this in football. We are not perfect but, there's a line and a few fans dropped below it today [January 29]."

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‘Enough is enough’ - Akinfenwa on abuse

Adebayo Akinfenwa and MK’s Dean Lewington confront the away supporters following the offensive chant that was aimed at the former (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Adebayo Akinfenwa has condemned the offensive chanting made by several MK Dons fans in the Chairboys’ 1-0 defeat at Adams Park.

On numerous occasions throughout the match, several visiting supporters were singing a slanderous song towards the 38-year-old substitute.

It began before the all-Buckinghamshire clash kicked off during the warm up and it continued just five minutes into the contest.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth was seen waving his finger to the MK fans, encouraging them to stop but the supporters ignored his pleas.

And not long after the away side took the lead on 13 minutes thanks to a Scott Twine goal, the inappropriate chanting was heard again.

This time, Akinfenwa left the subs bench and tried to speak to the opposing fans before referee Rob Lewis paused the match.

Sadly, this continued throughout the contest despite many public announcements on the club’s official tannoy, though the chanting was drowned out by boos from the Wanderers supporters.

Speaking after the defeat, Akinfenwa said: “It’s been a few weeks since the chant has come about.

“I think it started with the gaffer and then my name and then it was left, then Morecambe, and now today [January 29].

“For me, I can take jokes, I can banter, but there are kids here and that’s what it was.

“Where has this trend come from?

“And the reason why I went up there [to the MK fans] was that I was doing it for those who cannot put this on their shoulders.

“If I don’t know you, you can’t affect me but there are going to be some individuals out there that feel some type of way and what I want to happen now is for this to be nipped in the bud.

“It’s not a trend, it’s not funny and the words and chants they are saying, there is no banter to it.

“A few weeks back we went away to Ipswich and we went back and forth and it was banter.

“I didn’t mind doing that as that was entertainment, but this is not.

“Some people may say that ‘it’s a joke’ but if you know me, you know I can take a joke.

“This is not a joke and whatever the authorities need to do, just shut it down and we keep on moving.”

The striker also revealed that MK’s manager in Liam Manning, along with the club’s chairman, Pete Winkleman apologised on the behalf of the club, whilst a statement from the North Bucks side was released denouncing the chants.

The same chant has also been heard at several other football grounds across the country.

Akinfenwa continued: “The chairman and manager came up to me and said sorry, and said that’s not what they stand for.

“I said ‘thank you’ as it was big of them to say that.

“As long as this gets sorted out, I can handle this on my shoulders but enough is enough and as long as this doesn’t happen again, I’m good.”

Akinfenwa is retiring from professional football at the end of the season.

Lewis Wing (PA)

Wing flies to Wycombe on Deadline Day

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of Lewis Wing from Middlesbrough moments before the January Transfer Window closed.

The 25-year-old has joined the Chairboys on a deal until the end of the season after spending the first-half of the campaign on loan at fellow League One rivals Sheffield Wednesday.

Wing was an unused sub when the two sides met at the end of November, which finished 2-2 at Hillsborough.

Boss Gareth Ainsworth said: “He’s a player I’ve admired for a long time.

“He’s got real Championship pedigree and once he became available late in the window, I knew I wanted to bring him to the club.

“We always remain patient to bring in the right players for the right deal and we believe this is a real coup for us.

“He’s a special talent who gives us a big goal threat from midfield and I’m looking forward to seeing him in action.”

Who left Adams Park in January?

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that Jean-Baptiste Fischer has penned a new deal that will keep him at Adams Park until the summer.

The 23-year-old joined the club in September last year after coming through the development squad at PSG.

Meanwhile, Andre Burley has returned to Hungerford Town having spent time on loan at Bulpit Lane last season and recently completed a loan spell at Maidenhead United. He links up again with fellow Chairboys loanee Max Ram, whilst Dulwich Hamlet have signed midfielder Adam Leathers.

Finally the club have also confirmed that goalkeeper Curtis Anderson has left by mutual consent to sign for Lancaster City. He joined the Chairboys in 2020 but didn’t make a single first-team appearance for the Adams Park outfit.

During his 18-month spell, the 2017 FIFA World Cup U17 winner had two loan spells away from the club at Walton Casuals and Eastbourne Borough.

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