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Bucks' FA Cup round up

FOUR of the five Buckinghamshire clubs that were left in this season's FA Cup were knocked out at the first qualifying round stage.

Aylesbury United, Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, Marlow FC and Beaconsfield Town were all eliminated in which each of the four outfits lost their respective ties by one goal.

The only team from the county to make it through to the second qualifying round of the world's oldest football cup competition was Chesham United, as they defeated Peacehaven & Telscombe FC 5-2 at the Meadow on September 3.

A day before the Generals defeated their Non League counterparts at their home stadium, Aylesbury United, who groundshare with Chesham, took on Margate were they lost 1-0.

The Kent side won the tie thanks to a second half strike from Harvey Smith, despite them having Montrell Deslandes sent-off just before the break following a tussle between both sets of players.

Aylesbury's rivals, Aylesbury Vale Dynamos were also knocked out of the cup after they fell to a thrilling 4-3 loss away at Yate Town.

The hosts took the lead through Olly Mehew on nine minutes before Prince Nimoh equalised just three minutes later.

He then turned the tie on its head when he scored Nimoh scored his second of the contest on the half-hour mark, but with five minutes left before the break, the side from Gloucestershire levelled thanks to a goal from Alex Lambert.

All square at the break in what was becoming an entertaining game in the West Country.

Four of the five Buckinghamshire teams were knocked out of the FA Cup at the start of September (PA)

Yate them wrapped up the win as they bagged two strikes in quick succession as Mehew got his brace, with Prince Henry getting their fourth.

Dynamos did get a goal back in the dying embers of the game thanks to a Jack Hodgins finish, but the day belonged to the Southern Football League Division One South and West club, who progressed to the next round.

Another Bucks team that fell short during the first weekend of September was Marlow, as they were defeated 1-0 at home to Uxbridge.

Victor Osobu's goal inside 10 minutes was all that separated the two teams, which saw the Blues have Curtis Ujah sent off in the latter stages of the game.

Marlow has beaten Thame United in the previous round which was streamed live on the BBC Sport website.

It was also not Beaconsfield Town's day in the competition, as they were knocked out by Walton & Hersham at Holloways Park.

The match ended in a 1-0 defeat for Beaconsfield

Chesham screamer starts cup win

The goal was well-watched on Twitter by many fans

CHESHAM United will play Bracknell Town in the second qualifying round of the FA Cup, after they defeated Peacehaven & Telscombe 5-2 at the Meadow.

The Generals took the lead through Jake Peck who scored one of the goals of the round.

The club's number eight evaded two players before jogging up to the halfway line and lobbing the opposition keeper from nearly 50-yards on 26 minutes.

Ten minutes later, the away side equalised before Chesham regained their lead just three minutes afterwards through Francis Jno-Baptiste.

The homeside then made it 3-1 seconds later thanks to a goal from Jaden Thompson-Brissett before Peacehaven pulled one back via a penalty on the stroke of half-time.

After a free flowing first-half Chesham wrapped up the tie by the 70th minute.

Baptiste and Brissett each got a brace as they scored their second goals within one minute to seal the victory and book a place in the next round.

The attendance for the match was 251.

Fans will be able to visit Wilks Park for free on Sept 17

Flackwell's free fixture

FLACKWELL Heath FC are allowing spectators to watch their next home match for free this month.

Fans of the Heathens, along with supporters of other clubs, are being encouraged to come down to Wilks Park on September 17 for when they host Oxhey Jets in their league fixture.

The match is part of the club's community day, with those in attendance being asked to wear red which is the club's main colour.

Back in January, the club hosted another free entry match to support the Prostate UK charity.

Kick off is at 3pm.

For more information, visit the club's Twitter page.

Brand new family stand is finally revealed to the fans

A Non League club in South Bucks has unveiled its new family stand to the public.

Risborough Rangers, who play their home games at the B.E.P Stadium in Horsenden, revealed the facility ahead of the club's home match against Arlesey Town on Saturday, September 3, which the Reds won 5-3 as they secured their first victory of the season.

Stephen Burnett, whose father was one of the founding members of the club in 1971, said: "After being with my humble club since day one, it's great to see our new 100-seater family stand up in all its glory yesterday [September 3].

"An amazing achievement by everyone involved to make this happen.

"Made even sweeter with Risborough Rangers F.C winning 5-3 on this special day."

Stephen Burnett at the official opening on September 3

Named after the club's chairman, the Richard Woodward Family Stand now means the Reds have matched the Football Association's [FA] requirements if they were to gain promotion into a higher league this season.

Rangers are currently 14th after winning one, drawing one and losing two of their opening league games so far this season.

They went 52 league games unbeaten between April 2019 and January 2022, eclipsing Arsenal's record of 49 and finishing just one short of Bayern Munich's 53.

More wins for the Gerrards Cross team

THE success continues at Gerrards Cross Bowls Club in the London and Southern Counties competition.

This is a format that covers a huge geographical area and has involved many matches all over southern England to qualify for the finals held at Bounds Green over the weekend.

The morning saw the fours of Katie Reid, Keith Patrick, Julie Skelly and Noel Barry take on a very strong side from Wandsworth and despite not quite getting over the line performed heroics in getting to the final.

The triples team of Tim Jones, Matthew Hyde and Andrew Briden (subbing for Michael Gomme) went one better and with a masterclass in bowls, the North London Bowls Club from Hampstead were beaten by a considerable margin.

These are major achievements in the bowls world in Southern England and demonstrate yet again the amazing quality of bowlers at the Gerrards Cross Club.

Wycombe secure point at Fleetwood

By James Richings

ANIS Mehmeti scored a brilliant individual goal as Wycombe Wanderers drew 1-1 away at Fleetwood Town.

However, the game got off to the worst possible start for the Chairboys as they were a man down inside 10 minutes.

Wanderers keeper Max Stryjek knocked the ball forward and before it landed, Town's Drew Baker was on the ground clutching his face.

The Fleetwood bench were incandescent with rage, most notably their manager Scott Brown, who indicated that there had been an off-the-ball incident.

Referee James Oldham then went straight to Garath McCleary and brandished the red card which the Jamaican did not object to.

His moment of madness was the fourth sending-off of his career but his first since September 2016.

In all, it was Wycombe's first red card since February.

Fleetwood failed to capliste on their man advantage as they rarely tested Stryjek in the Wycombe goal.

In fact, it was the Chairboys who had the game's best two chances and they both fell to Jordan Obita.

First, the left-wing back's crisp half-volley was brilliantly tipped away by Jay Lynch, before the keeper again denied the former Reading player who struck a fierce free-kick.

Wycombe continued to grow and a moment of pure brilliance for Mehmeti gave Wanderers the lead just before the break.

After controlling the ball from mid-air, he ran and weaved into the Fleetwood box and expertly tucked it beyond Lynch into the far-left corner.

It was his fourth of the season, and it's another for the scrapbook.

The second-half was a cagey affair that the home side bossed.

Wanderers started to tire due to the McCleary red card, and with 23 minutes to go, Fleetwood got their goal.

After an almighty scramble took place in the Wycombe box, the ball fell kindly to Admiral Muskwe who buried his shot into the top of the net.

The Zimbabwean played 19 times for the Chairboys in the latter parts of the 2020/21 season, where he scored three times.

He showed no allegiances to his former employers, as he celebrated his first Fleetwood goal on what was his debut for the club.

Wycombe nearly won it in the final few moments but Lewis Wing's shot from distance was saved by Lynch, as it finished all square.

Up next is Port Vale at home on September 10, with the match being dedicated to the late and much-loved Bill Turnbull.

Anis Mehmeti scored his fourth league goal of the season against Fleetwood to put Wycombe 1-0 up in the first-half, after Garath McCleary's 10th minute red card for an off-the-ball incident (PA)

Should the goal have stood?

Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth believes that Fleetwood's equaliser should not have stood due to a 'foul' in the build up.

After a corner was swung in the Chairboys box, a huge goalmouth scramble followed.

This led to substitute Joe Garner lunging in on Alfie Mawson.

The ball then sat up nicely for Admiral Muskwe who smashed home his first goal for Fleetwood on his debut against his old club.

Ainsworth said: "The goal that they scored don't know how he has not given a foul.

"It was never a corner to start with, and he's not given the foul and I am gutted because my players have grafted, grafted, and grafted and we deserve the points.

"With 10 men, we showed character and reliance that is built in Wycombe and I couldn't be prouder of the boys.

"The fans out sang Fleetwood for the whole 97 minutes and they played their part.

"I couldn't thank them enough.

"I needed them and at the end."

Who could be returning from injury?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has provided an injury update following the Chairboys' 1-1 draw away at Fleetwood Town.

Sam Vokes returned to the squad but was an unused substitute in the game at Highbury Stadium, whilst Ryan Tafazolli played his first fixture for the club for nearly a month.

His last appearance was in the 3-0 defeat away at Bolton Wanderers on August 6.

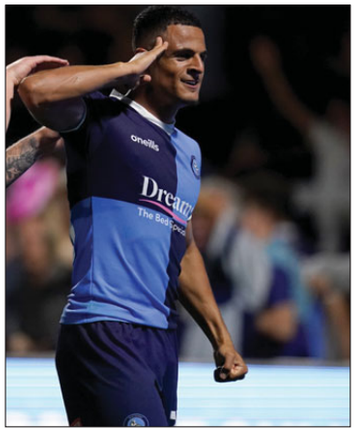
Speaking after the draw, the boss said: "I'm really pleased with where we are as we are getting stronger.

"Sullay is coming back really quickly, D'Mani and Brandon are not far behind too.

"The only long-term is Curtis Thompson but he will play his part in the second half of the season without a doubt.

"What a squad I've got."

International call-up snub for Al-Hamadi



Ali Al-Hamadi scored his first goal of the season for Wycombe in August (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Al Al-Hamadi has not been included in the latest Iraq squad for their upcoming fixtures this month.

The next international break will take place between September 23 to September 26, with the Chairboys taking on Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on September 24.

It has rumoured that either if Wanderers or the Owls have any international call-ups, the match could be rescheduled.

However, it has been revealed that the Lions of Mesopotamia will not have the forward for their Jordan International Tournament games, as the 20-year-old is focused on his 'club commitments'.

Other internationals that are in the current Wanderers squad include Sullay Kaikai of Sierra Leone, Daryl Horgan of the Republic of Ireland, Tjay De Barr of Gibraltar and Anis Mehmeti of the Albanian Under 21s.

Former internationals in the Chairboys ranks include Garath McCleary who played for Jamaica between 2013 and 2016, whilst Alfie Mawson and Joe Jacobson received call-ups for England and Wales respectively, but did not receive any caps.

Sam Vokes has also played 64 times for Wales, but has not featured for his country in three years, whilst Jack Grimmer and Max Stryjek have featured for the Scottish and Polish youth teams.

Garath McCleary (pictured playing against Shrewsbury in August 2022) was red carded after 10 minutes as Wycombe drew 1-1 against Fleetwoof (PA)

McCleary red carded

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has shared his thoughts on Garath's McCleary's red card in the 1-1 draw away at Fleetwood Town.

The Jamaican international was given his marching orders just 10 minutes into the match at Highbury Stadium for a swinging arm that hit Drew Baker in the face.

Initially missed by the vast majority of people inside Highbury Stadium, the Cod Army bench alerted the referee, and James Oldham issued McCleary the fourth red card of his career.

The 34-year-old did not object to the sending off, which was his first since September 2016 when he was playing for Reading.

Speaking on the incident, Ainsworth said: "I haven't seen it back, but G-Mac has apologised.

"He said he caught him in the face with his arm/hand and if he has, then it's a red card.

"I am gutted though as he is not like that.

"He is not that type of player, and we know he is not that type of player but we will have to have a look at it."

He continued: "It throws the game plan into pieces.

"You work all week with the last two days being on the game plan that we had, and we were still able to go ahead with parts of the plan.

"However, we went into a deep press similar to the MK away leg in the playoffs as we camped in our half and said 'come on, break us down.'"

Masterclass magic from Anis Mehmeti

Anis Mehmeti (pictured against Bristol City in the League Cup) scored his fourth goal in seven league games this season (PA)

By James Richings

ANOTHER day and it was another positive performance from Anis Mehmeti.

The 21-year-old scored his fourth goal in his seventh league game of the season as he continues to rip apart defences in League One.

His strike in the 1-1 draw away at Fleetwood on September 3 was another example of his individual quality, as he easily dribbled past two of Town's defenders to slot home from 10-yards in front of the travelling Chairboys faithful.

However, from a pessimistic point of view, his displays will no doubt eventually catch the eye of potential suiters from the Championship, and maybe the Premier League.

This is something that manager Gareth Ainsworth is aware of, but he is currently enjoying helping the former Tottenham Hotspur youth player develop.

He said: "I don't know how he is not in the Albanian first team.

"He is just a magic player.

"You have got to thank and credit the development team and as soon as I saw him in one of the trial games, it was a Chris Forino moment as I wanted to get involved in the first team.

"Anis has just grown and I am so proud of the boy.

"He is incredibly level-headed, he wants to learn, he works hard in the gym every day and he wants to review his own game and do the tactics.

"Matt Bloomfield and the coaching staff really get into him and review his clips to see what can be better at, but some of the stuff he does you just can't coach.

"It is that natural ability and with his goal, it was just fabulous.

"He is a great asset to have in the team and we want to get the best out of him before the next window, as I think he has opened a few eyes."

The Wycombe team that faced Fleetwood Town on Sept 3:

Stryjek

Grimmer, Mawson, Tafazolli, Obita (Jacobson 74)

Freeman, Scowen, Gape (McCarthy 75)

Wing, McCleary

Mehmeti (Al-Hamadi (66)

Unused substitutes: Dickinson, Vokes, Horgan, McCarthy and Pattenden.

The Fleetwood team that faced Wycombe Wanderers on Sept 3:

Lynch

Rooney, Baker (G.Garner 62), Earl, Andrew

Vela, MacAdam (Warrington 42)

Lane (Hayes 42), Batty (J.Garner 62) Mendes Gomes (Omochere 87)

Muskwe

Unused substitutes: Stolarczyk, Johnston

The official attendance for the match was 2,936.

Do it for Bill at his beloved Adams Park

Bill Turnbull in February 2016

SATURDAY'S home match against Port Vale will see Wycombe Wanderers honour one of their most recognizable supporters in Bill Turnbull.

The former BBC Breakfast presenter and Classic FM host passed away after a near five-year battle with prostate cancer at the age of 66 on August 31 this year.

His death rocked the Chairboys' core as his passion and love were evidently seen and heard at Adams Park.

And with the home match against the Staffordshire side being dedicated to the much-loved fan, Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth hopes it will be a game to remember.

It has also been confirmed that Bill's family will be present at the fixture.

Speaking to the press, Ainsworth said: "Bill would want a win, believe me.

"He was buzzing whenever we got a win, and he loved being the underdog and Wycombe upsetting the form book.

"So please get behind the boys.

"I remember him being on the radio and saying how much the fans would get behind the team, and on Saturday, that's what Bill would have done.

"He was a fantastic guy and I was privileged to have had in my life and Wycombe Wanderers were privileged to have him as a fan."

Wycombe right-back Jason McCarthy also spoke highly of the late presenter.

He added: "He was a great man and someone that will be missed.

"He was often around the training ground, he would be with us on match days and gave pep talks which I remember well.

"I will miss his smile, his face and him having around.

"His passion for Wycombe Wanderers was incredible and he had so much going on in his life, but whenever I spoke to him, it was always that the club was number one.

"But I know that he will get a send off on Saturday and I am sure it will be a bumper crowd to honour him.

"In the past whenever we have had a big occasion on the game, we have embraced it and used it as motivation.

"Last season we did it for Blooms (against Plymouth on April 15) and Bayo (against Doncaster on April 2), and we got two really good wins from it.

"I think it's really cool that the club does that and I am sure there will be an incentive to get three points for Bill on Saturday."

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‘I believe in him, big time’ - Ainsworth

Anis Mehemti, 21, has been Wycombe Wanderers’ star player this season so far with four goals in seven league games (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has revealed that his player in Anis Mehmeti has ‘gone through a lot’ before he signed for the Chairboys.

The 21-year-old Albanian under 21 international signed for the club in the autumn of 2020 following a successful trial.

However, after just two-and-a-half weeks in the development squad, he was promoted to the Wanderers first-team, where he has since played 76 games and has scored 14 times.

This includes four strikes in seven league outings this season.

Speaking to the press ahead of the Chairboys’ home match against Port Vale on September 10, Ainsworth said: “Anis and his agent are down to earth people and he has been through a lot.

“He has had a few releases and has had a few people not believing in him, but we knows he is at a place where people believe in him.

“I believe in him, big time.

“I think too many people look at faults in players and focus on that rather than looking at their strengths and what they offer you.”

“And I am really positive and focused on what you have and make them stronger.

“I had one of the worst left-foots in professional football, honestly.

“But my right was decent, and I focused on that.

“Managers would focus on my pace and right foot and it helped me score goals, but they didn’t let me go because I couldn’t use my left foot.”

Prior to joining Wanderers, Mehmeti was on the books at Non League Woodford Town, who play their trade in the Essex Senior League.

He played 14 times and scored twice during the 2019/20 season, which was his first campaign as a squad member for a first-time side.

His move to the Non League came after he was released by three professional outfits in Fulham, Tottenham Hotspur and Norwich City.

Ainsworth continued: “I think there is this element where you have to be this total/perfect player.

“That is rubbish, especially at this level.

“The top levels? Of course, but Anis has shown that with a bit of believe, he will work his socks off to be that top, top player and at the moment, we have got that top, top player.”

Mehmeti signed a new and improved contract with Wycombe in November 2021, which will keep him at Adams Park until the summer of 2024.

For more Wycombe Wanderers news and updates, please follow @James_BFP on Twitter.

The great Bill Turnbull (PA)

Alan Parry remembers Bill Turnbull

THERE will be an empty seat in the press box when Wycombe take on Gareth Ainsworth’s former club Port Vale on what will be an emotional day at Adams Park on Saturday (September 10).

Bill Turnbull, who died last week at the age of 66, sat in that seat on countless occasions, microphone in hand, to deliver his unique brand of commentary at Wanderers home games.

His death has affected so many people - his family, of course; the millions of viewers who enjoyed his warm, friendly manner as a TV presenter, and the army of Wycombe fans for whom he was simply ‘one of our own.’

I had the pleasure of sitting next to Bill at so many Wanderers games over the years and he supported the Chairboys as enthusiastically as those fans who stand behind the goal at Adams Park.

Bill brought that enthusiasm to his commentaries for the club’s website. Scrupulously professional and neutral on TV, he was the exact opposite when covering his beloved Wanderers - biased is an understatement!

He would lavish praise on every player in blue quarters, criticise the opposition for any perceived misdemeanours, and rage about referees if a decision went against his favourite team.

Bill was a fan with a microphone, and that is why we loved him.

The club has dedicated the Port Vale game to Bill’s memory, and I am sure the Vale supporters will join in the tributes as his popularity stretched far beyond the confines of Adams Park.

Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth is also a popular figure among Vale fans. He made over fifty appearances for the club and remains the most expensive player they have ever bought or sold.

He cost £500,000 when signed from Lincoln in 1997 and fetched a fee of £2m when he moved to Wimbledon just a year later, a healthy profit!

Ainsworth was applauded by Vale fans when he made his final league appearance as a Wycombe player in a 1-1 draw against them at Adams Park in April 2013.

Whatever the result on Saturday, Wanderers fans will be cherishing the opportunity to celebrate the life of Bill Turnbull, forever a Chairboy.

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