

Bucks Free Press

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PAGES 14, 15, 16 & 17

A-level students make the grade

'Fantastic' success across the board



WIN

PAGE 14

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Backlash over Tesco closure

Council questioned over using funds for archives



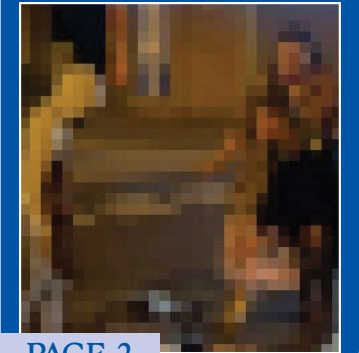
A HIGH Wycombe supermarket in the heart of the town centre will be closed for up to a year as part of controversial council plans to move the county's archives. Tesco will shut its doors from October 2024 to autumn 2025 while a full refit of the ground floor of the supermarket takes place. During the closure, Tesco will open a tem-

By Charlie Smith
porary 'Express' store in the Eden Shopping Centre to maintain its presence in the town centre, in a move that is being supported by Buckinghamshire Council. Tesco is downsizing its current Wycombe superstore into the ground floor only and has rene-

gotiated its lease the authority, which owns the building. The move has been criticised as a 'mind-blowing waste of taxpayers' money' after it emerged the county council was using cash from a £11.8million fund designed to boost Wycombe town centre.

Full story: Page 5

Man knocked down by e-bike fights for life



PAGE 2

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Sport

SPORT: WANDERERS AND READING

A new adventure for the former owner

READING are set to confirm the takeover by American businessman Rob Couhig and his consortium early next week.

With interest and negotiations stretching back for months, it has become one of the town's worst-kept secrets as the 75-year-old has spent time in and around the town alongside former Wycombe Wanderers captain Joe Jacobson.

However, as we tick into mid-August, it would appear that the

end of the road is nigh.

It is understood that a deal has been agreed and all parties are keen to progress - with the final step in the process set for completion by the end of the week.

Formal announcement from the club is expected next week should all go to plan.

Couhig and his other investors are currently in the town and are planning for the future. All will be in attendance on Saturday for the first home match of the new

season against Wigan Athletic

This is set to bring to a close eight years of tumultuous ownership under Dai Yongge, with the last 18 months bringing late payments to staff, creditors and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

After picking up a point at promotion favourites Birmingham City last week and a valiant comeback in the Carabao Cup, there is hope that the 2024/25 season could be an exciting one.



Former Wycombe Wanderers owner, Rob Couhig (PA)

FOOTBALL:

Update from Chesham's chairman

HERE is what Peter Brown, Chesham United's chairman, has had to say this week.

It would be remiss of me not to start this week notes without a huge thank you.

Firstly, to you, our incredible supporters travelling to support our team's first fixture in the National League South at Eastbourne Borough.

There was over 100 of you and your behaviour was exemplary, you are such a superb bunch of travelling supporters and follow our club principles of great fairness and respect to all.

Secondly, I'd like to thank our managers, coaching staff and the squad for their excellent preparation, performance and the way we all conducted ourselves as a National League South outfit.

It says something when we feel slightly disappointed in the end at what could have been if not for numerous last-ditch blocks by Eastbourne, even the Eastbourne reporter for the Non League paper was effusive in his praise for us.

Not bad for a first game at the level, now we just have to keep it up.

Thirdly, to the nearly 80 blood donors who came to the club on Monday and donated life-saving blood to our NHS.

This is the first time, we have been involved with this and we are delighted that this will continue to happen now three times per year, the next being in December.

The NHS staff certainly put in a shift, with many leaving their homes well before 8am and not leaving the club till 8.30pm and. This is another small step in us getting involved in our community.

Fourthly, to our "Doughnut Brigade" who worked very hard again as they do every Monday getting our ground into tip top condition for our first league home game of the season for this Saturday.

There are lots of small changes that you may or may not notice up on the walls and perimeter fencing, which are new in place for the season, all of these are for your safety and enjoyment.

We are also looking to put in some additional emergency lighting around the ground, to add extra lighting to the ground in the event of a total power failure during or after a match to aid in evacuation & exit from the ground, we will be approaching the Supporters Trust for some potential help with this scheme. More will follow as we move further forward with this.

And finally, when visiting the town please support all our brilliant sponsors with your business and trade. After all, without them it would be so much harder to run this club and our sponsors community give us a great deal of support throughout the season, so it's only right that we support them as a club and through our fanbase.

SPORT: ROYAL APPEARANCE FOR BUCKS

Charles III's Bucks horse to appear at Aintree this month

A FORMER Buckinghamshire racehorse acquired by King Charles III will take part in the RoR National Dressage Horse Elementary Open Championship in Aintree.

The four-time race winner retired from racing in 2020 and is now happily enjoying a second career in dressage under the care and guidance of Louise Robson at her Buckinghamshire-based retraining centre, Thoroughbred Dressage.

The Jockey Club RoR National Championships is Great Britain's largest event exclusively for former racehorses, with six days of competition across various levels, including classes in dressage, arena eventing, showjumping, and showing.

A remarkable 306 former racehorses are entered to compete, with legends of the sport now competing on a level playing field in a second career with those less successful on the racetrack.

Forth Bridge, whose non-racing name is William, has been based at Thoroughbred Dressage since November 2021, and is one of three former racehorses owned by HM The King based at the Buckinghamshire yard.

He was foaled at the Royal Stud and was owned by HM The Queen throughout his career, who would frequently request updates and visits from Forth Bridge and the other horses Louise kept for her.

Louise Robson said: "William is so lovely and such a gentleman, it's a privilege to be trusted with his retraining journey.

"Thoroughbreds have such big hearts and love trying new disciplines after their racing

By James Richings

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careers, and I take great joy in helping them through that process."

Rupert Arnold, Executive Consultant, RoR, said: "The Jockey Club RoR National Championships truly showcases the versatility of the Thoroughbred and demonstrates the incredible lives they lead after retiring from racing.

"The show continues to grow each year, epitomising the exceptional commitment and passion shown by those responsible for every horses' wellbeing in aftercare."

Louise, who set up the retraining centre in 2015, was trusted with her first royal horse at just 15-years-old, when a stroke of luck led to the mother of a friend meeting the Head of Royal Mews.

This, opportunistically, put him in touch with Louise when Queen Elizabeth II was looking for a post-racing home for Mister Glum.

Over a decade later and Thoroughbred Dressage now has 20 horses, including three owned by HM The King, in a stable dedicated to the retraining of racehorses with a dressage focus.

Louise is opening the doors to Thoroughbred Dressage as part of National Racehorse Week in September, enabling the public to see first-hand the love, care and attention that former racehorses receive 365 days a year.

To learn more visit www.nationalracehorseweek.co.uk.

In regards to Aintree, that will take place on August 23.



Forth Bridge is owned by King Charles but lives in Buckinghamshire. Image: performancecomms.com

Ex-Chairboy takes up first managerial role after sacking

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers defender Richard Keogh has been appointed the interim manager of League One rivals Blackpool.

The 37-year-old, who hung up his boots at the end of the 2023/24 season, had only been appointed as first-team coach in July.

But following the recent sacking of Neil Critchley on August 22, the ex-Chairboy will manage the former Premier League team until a new permanent boss has been selected.

If one is not found by August 31, there is a possibility that Keogh could be in charge for when Wycombe arrive at Bloomfield Road at the end of the month.

He was the first official signing of the Matt Bloomfield era last summer, where he played 25 times across all competitions.

However, he departed Adams Park just six months into his contract, after not being guaranteed regular first-team football for the latter half of the campaign.

He would then join Forest Green Rovers of League Two, but suffered relegation with the West Country club to National League.

Keogh is also one of the many players to have had two spells with Wycombe, as he had a brief stint with Wanderers 20 seasons ago on loan from Bristol City.

The ex English-born Republic of Ireland centre back played three times for the club in November 2005.

In a brief statement on the club's website that was



Richard Keogh (pictured for Ipswich Town during the 2022/23 season) had two separate stints at Wycombe (PA)

published on August 21, Owner Simon Sadler said: "Neil's dedication, commitment and tireless work ethic have been a real credit to the club."

"Despite his best efforts over the past 12 months, there have been a number of disappointing results and performances which means that a change is needed to give the club every possible chance of competing at the top end of the division this season."

"I will always be thankful for Neil's wonderful efforts in guiding the Club to promotion to the Championship in 2021, and then comfortably keeping us in the division the following season."

"I and all at the Club wish Neil and Mike the very best for the future."

As well as two spells with Wycombe, he is best known for spending seven years at Derby County where he played over 300 games,

where he also featured in two Championship play-off finals for the Rams, both lost on both occasions.

The first was in 2014 when his error in final minute of the fixture led to Bobby Zamora's last-gasp winner, in a 1-0 victory for QPR, before being on the losing side once more five years later.

In the latter, he played the full 90 minutes as Derby were defeated 2-1 by Aston Villa in the Wembley show-

piece.

He also had stints with Huddersfield Town, Carlisle United, Cheltenham Town, Coventry City, Milton Keynes, Blackpool and Ipswich Town.

Internationally, he featured 26 times for Ireland, scoring once.

Keogh was also part of the country's Euro 2016 squad when they reached the round of 16, losing to the host national and runners up, France.

FOOTBALL Another win for Aylesbury

AYLESBURY Vale Dynamos have progressed into the first qualifying round of the FA Cup with a 3-2 win over Corsham.

Dynamos, who went into the fixture off the back of a brilliant win against Flackwell Heath in the competition, were up against a Corsham side that were unbeaten so far this season, and it was the visitors who took the lead on 22 minutes.

But it wasn't long before Dynamos were level.

Dave Brown was the engine in the heart of midfield, and after his ball was met by Jake Baldwin, the latter calmly slotted his shot past the keeper.

Within five minutes of the second half, Corsham were back in front.

A long-range effort on target but Sean Locke-Hart unfortunately couldn't hold on and the ball fell into the net.

The visitors went into the break a goal up, and it seemed they would progress into the next round.

However, Alfie Anderson produced a brilliant effort to give Aylesbury their equaliser.

He improvised by chesting the ball before unleashing a fierce strike into the far corner.

And in the dying embers, Brown won it for Dynamos before Corsham were reduced to 10 men.

FOOTBALL Victory is secured

RISBOROUGH Rangers picked up their first win in the league at Rayners Lane against Broadfield United last Saturday, with Lewis Toomey scoring two and getting an assist for the third in a hard fought 3-1 away victory.

In the 36th minute, Rangers got their first of the afternoon thanks to a header before the hosts levelled just before the break.

The South Bucks team regained their lead in the second period thanks to another goal from Toomey just before the hour mark, before he assisted Gerald Muchechehere's goal with 10 minutes left.

FOOTBALL Diary move

AYLESBURY United's home match against Oxfordshire-based team North Leigh, which was originally scheduled for Sunday, February 9, has been brought forward to Saturday, August 31, kicking-off at 3pm.

SPORT: WANDERERS

Teaming up for the season at Adams Park

AN award-winning brewery has been named as the official drinks supplier to Wycombe Wanderers.

The Marlow-based brewery has been supplying a range of beers at the stadium for the past five years and has now stepped up its commitment by taking over the full provision of drinks around Adams Park.

This came into effect for when the Chairboys played Birmingham City in the club's opening league match of the season, which they lost 3-2.

This will include all beverages in the concourse, bars, fan zones and hospitality lounges, with Rebellion Lager, IPA, Hazy Pale, Black and a seasonal beer all available on tap, as well as Carlsberg Danish Pilsner and Saxby's Cider.

Neil Peters, the club's Head of Business Operations, said: "This is a huge step forward for us in terms of the experience for our supporters and it's fantastic for us to be

working more closely than ever before with a hugely successful and popular local brewery.

"This partnership delivers benefits for us in several ways, not least because of the quality of their drinks and the efficiency and professionalism of their service."

"Being based locally in Marlow, this is also a positive step for our sustainability strategy, heavily reducing the carbon footprint of our drinks supply, and we're really pleased to be working with a local business to help boost the local economy and potentially create more jobs along the way."

Tim Coombes, owner and co-founder of Rebellion Brewery, said: "We're delighted to become the Official Drinks Supplier for Wycombe Wanderers in what is one of the most significant partnerships we have entered into during our 31 years in business."

"Once this opportunity arose, we worked closely with the club to bring it to fruition and we're excited to get under way."



Neil Peters (left) and Tim Coombes (right)

Sport

FOOTBALL: WYCOMBE 2-3 BIRMINGHAM
Reaction as The Blues beat Wanderers

BIRMINGHAM manager Chris Davies believes his team were the better side “by some margin” as the Blues defeated Wycombe 3-2 at Adams Park.

After going 1-0 down through a Krystian Bielik own goal, strikes from Alfie May, Luke Harris and Willum Willumsson gave the visitors the victory, despite Sam Vokes’ 90th-minute consolation.

Davies said: “We played well and I thought we were the better team by some margin.

“I think 3-2 doesn’t reflect the game that

clearly, but it is what it is.

“I thought we were good throughout generally.

“We did concede against the run play, and a frustrating goal from our point of view, as it was on the counterattack in the first half.

“But again, I think what’s pleasing for me is that we got ourselves back in the game and we continued to play.

“We continued to show discipline and that’s important for me.”

The turning point of the contest was the introduction of Ayumu

Yokoyama.

The 21-year-old Japanese striker assisted Harris’ strike midway through the second period, before he had a role to play in Birmingham’s third.

Davies continued: “We were strong in the second half as well.

“We had obviously two more goals we could have scored a couple more as well.

“So overall, I’m pleased with the performance and result, and I think we did pretty well at set pieces too.”



Birmingham boss Chris Davies (whilst pictured at Spurs) (PA)

SPORT: AFC WIMBLEDON 1-0 WYCOMBE

Leahy taken off injured in cup loss at Wimbledon

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has rued the club’s recent injury problems following Luke Leahy’s brief departure in the 1-0 loss against Wimbledon.

The Chairboys were defeated by the Dons in the club’s first EFL Trophy match since losing the final to Peterborough United back in April, with the ex-Shrewsbury Town man playing the final half-an-hour as a second-half substitute.

He had replaced Jasper Pattenden who had started the game as left-wing back.

However, in the dying embers of the contest in South London, Leahy went down holding his left knee following an innocuous coming together.

A stretcher came on to take the 31-year-old off the field of play, before he hobbled off with the aid of two medical professionals.

Speaking after the loss at Plough Lane on August 20, Bloomfield said: “It’s not nice at the moment.

“He [Leahy] is in a bit of pain so we hope it’s not serious.

“We have to give it 24/48 hours for it to settle down.

“He’s an absolute diamond for our club and we just have to see how it is.

“We picked up a few [injuries] at the weekend and picked up a couple this evening so it’s not good.

“We took pre-season quite slow so we didn’t get muscle injuries until Bez [Lubala] at the end, which was very disappointing, and then we’ve had contact injuries since the start of the season, and there’s nothing you can do about that.”

Despite the numbers increasing in the treatment room, the 40-year-old was pleased with the

By James Richings

showing his side put out in the cup on Tuesday night, but wants ‘performances turned into results’.

He also praised the showings of Jason McCarthy, who suffered an injury-hit season last year, as well as the displays of youngsters such as Jaiden Bartolo and Declan Skura.

The latter spent the second half of last season on loan at National League Ebbsfleet, where he played 17 times in the division.

Bloomfield continued: “I think Dec will be a huge player for this club and I like him a lot.

“He had a lot of good performances during pre-season and he’s a player that’s developing with us and he’s someone we think very highly of.

“I thought he played very well, as did Jase [McCarthy].

“I thought he was very good.

“Him and Jasper [Pattenden] are backing up Jack [Grimmer] at the minute, so we’ve got some very strong right full backs.

“Jase played a lot of pre-season at left-full back, but we’d thought we’d give him an opportunity back on the right and Jasper on the left.

“We passed the ball well as we wanted to get our wing backs on the ball as much as we could, and we created some good opportunities but we didn’t get the ball in the back of the net.

“If you’re not going to score, then you need to keep the back end locked.

“They barely got in our half, let alone the six-yard box but there were many positives, such as five development boys getting on the pitch.”



Luke Leahy (pictured in March) came on a second half sub for Jasper Pattenden and only played 25/30 minutes (PA)

SPORT: CRICKET
Bucks just miss out as they fall to narrow loss

BUCKS’ hopes of retaining the National Counties Championship title were ended when they lost by 67 runs to Staffordshire in their final Eastern Division match at High Wycombe on Tuesday.

Needing 246 runs to win and top the division, Bucks were bowled out for 178 in 33 overs. So it is Staffs who will face Western Division 1 winners Berkshire in next month’s title-decider.

Choosing to bat first on a pitch conducive to spin, Staffordshire scored 275-8 dec off 87.4 overs in their first innings largely due to a third-wicket stand of 101 between Reeve Evitts (93) and Callum Hawkins (65*). For Bucks, left-arm spinner Conner Haddow, playing on his home ground, took 5-92 from 32.4 overs

Bucks slipped to 133-7 in reply against the left-arm spin of former Northants bowler Tom Brett. But they were rescued by Cam Parsons, with 61 from 78 balls, and Haddow (34), who put on 81 for the eighth wicket to help them reach 259 from 74.3 overs, a first-innings deficit of 16. Opener AJ Woodland, who had to retire after being hit on the finger, returned at the end to finish 55 not out. Brett finished with 7-112 from 37 overs.

Bucks gave themselves a chance of victory when dismissing the visitors for 229 in their second innings, Haddow taking advantage of spinning pitch to take 4-57, for match figures of 9-149.

Set 246 for victory, Bucks made a disastrous start, crashing to 6-3. Ross Richardson (47) and Danny Chapman (40) batted enterprisingly Bucks but no big scores emerged as the batsmen went for their shots and Bucks were dismissed for 178. Brett took 5-74 to finish with match figures of 12-186.

Bucks finished third in the table behind Suffolk, while Bedfordshire are relegated to be replaced by Eastern Division 2 champions Cambridgeshire.

NATIONAL COUNTIES
CHAMPIONSHIP
Eastern Division 1 final
table

	P	W	D	L	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Staffs	4	2	2	0	12	5	67
Suffolk	4	1	2	1	13	14	51
Bucks	4	1	2	1	7	4	45
Lincs	4	0	3	1	15	13	40
* Beds	4	0	3	1	12	15	37

To have your sports reports in next week’s paper, go to our Send Us Your News section via our website.

'The spirit of sportsmanship' - SFE Services teaming up with Wycombe Wanderers FC



SFE Services will sponsor the terrace end of Wycombe Wanderers' Adams Park Image: Benji Walker

WYCOMBE Wanderers have teamed up with a local air conditioning and refrigeration company for the 2024/25 season.

SFE Services, which is based in the town, will sponsor the terrace advertisement board located behind the goal at Adams Park.

The renewed collaboration highlights SFE Services' ongoing commitment to supporting the local community.

Sophie Davenport, Managing Director and Co-Founder of SFE Services, said: "We are delighted to extend our partnership with Wycombe Wanderers and remain a part of the Adams Park family."

"Our continued sponsorship is a testament to our love for the town and our enthusiasm for promoting the spirit of

sportsmanship.

"We look forward to another exciting season and continuing to be a visible part of the action at every home game."

Iain Hamilton, Commercial Executive of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, expressed his excitement about the ongoing partnership.

He said: "It's fantastic for us to continue our relationship with SFE Services."

"Their renewed commitment is a testament to the strong partnership we've built, and we look forward to seeing it grow even further in the years to come."

"The terrace, which is the beating heart of the matchday atmosphere and home to so many passionate Wanderers supporters, is an ideal location for SFE Services to showcase its business and is certain to capture the fan's attention."

WANDERERS

Duo to remain absent

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has provided an injury update on both Bez Lubala and Brandon Hanlan.

The latter hasn't played since suffering a reputed ACL in the club's 1-0 home defeat to Stevenage last November.

He spent some time of his rehabilitation at St George's Park during the summer, as there had been hopes he could have returned to the frame in July.

Whilst for Lubala, the Congolese forward sustained a hamstring problem in pre-season, with Bloomfield confirming he'll be out 'for a little while'.

When asked if either player will return soon, the manager told the Free Press: "No, unfortunately not."

"There is no imminent return for Brandon as he's still a couple of months away from getting back to full fitness."

"He's back out on the grass now, but we have to be careful with him and allow him to make sure he's ready."

On Lubala, Bloomfield said: "Bes unfortunately got a hamstring injury, so he's going to be a little while."

"It's very disappointing."

"Unfortunately, nothing positive to report on those two."

SPORT: WANDERERS 2-3 BIRMINGHAM CITY

The Blues beat Bloomfield's boys in opening home fixture

WYCOMBE Wanderers remain winless in League One this season following a 3-2 home defeat to Birmingham City.

Wycombe were better during the course of the first half, and their dominance saw them take the lead on 21 minutes.

Kone's through ball found Kieran Sadlier on the right, and after he beat two defenders, his low cross was turned into his

own net by Brum captain, Krystian Bielik.

However, the lead did not last long for the Chairboys, as Alfie May equalised on the half-hour mark.

A mistake by Dan Harvie allowed Ethan Laird in, and after his cross wasn't dealt with, Alfie May popped up to score his eighth goal in 10 games against the Buckinghamshire-based team.

The second-half saw the

Blues take control as Luke Harris' low finish from an Ayumu Yokoyama cross turned things around with 25 minutes left.

And in the final 10 minutes, Willum Willumsson's half-volley wrapped up the three points for Birmingham, before Sam Vokes scored for the second week running for the Chairboys in the dying embers.

The result at this very early stage of the season means Wanderers sit 19th, whilst Brum move into seventh.

Up next for the Chairboys in the league is Rotherham United at home on August 24.

Attendance: 6,224 (1,848 away)

Stat to take away:

- It was the first meeting between the two sides at Adams Park in nearly 30 years, and only the third league match between the two in the club's long standing history.



The loss was Wycombe's first at home since March (PA)

WYCOMBE'S STARTING XI

22. N. Bishop	8. M. Butcher
2. J. Grimmer	10. L. Leahy
17. J. Low	12. G. McC'ly
6. R. Tafazolli	23. K. Sadlier
3. D. Harvie	24. R. Kone
4. J. Scowen	

Could Kodua make a comeback at Adams Park?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed the club are 'hoping to do some more business' in the transfer market ahead of this month's deadline.

The Chairboys have already acquired the services of nine new faces so far this window, but are aiming to add to their arsenal of players to 'complement the group'.

Names such as Alex Hartridge, Nathan Bishop (loan), Dan Harvie, Tyreeq Bakinson, Jaidan Bartolo, Daniel Udoh,

Jack Matton, Brody Peart and Jahiem Dotse have all arrived at South Buckinghamshire, but with injuries hitting several key players (Bez Lubala and Brandon Hanlan), Bloomfield is planning to bring in some reinforcements.

One name that has been linked with the Adams Park side is West Ham United striker, Gideon Kodua.

The 19-year-old forward spent the second half of last season on loan at Wanderers, playing 10 times where he failed to score.

Coincidentally, he joined the club just days after scoring against the Chairboys in the round of 16 stage of the EFL Trophy, which Wycombe won 2-1 back in January.

Speaking after the 3-2 home loss to Birmingham City on August 17, Bloomfield told the press: "We're obviously slightly short in some areas and we're hoping to do some more business."

"We got some injuries already that we've unfortunately acquired."

"So, if we can finish the window strong

and help support the boys because with all these games coming up, we just can't expect the same group to keep going."

"We need to make sure we have, we have and complement the group and if we can do that then we're looking forward to a bright future."

When asked about the Kodua rumours, Bloomfield did not confirm or deny.

The transfer window will close on Friday, August 30 at 11pm, but clubs can still sign players beyond this date if they are free agents.

FOOTBALL

The end of an era for non-playing staff legend

MARLOW FC have confirmed that the club's long-time match secretary, Graeme Cooper, has stepped down from the role.

In a statement on the club's website, they said: "We would like to thank Graeme for his commitment to the club and the role over this time; his contribution has been invaluable."

"Graeme will still be involved with the club, as work permits, and will continue with other roles such as being our chief beer selector for the annual Beerfest."

"We are pleased to announce that Gordon McQuade will be taking over the role with immediate effect."

SPORT

0963-2336



Chairboys legend on Couhig's latest football venture



The duo had worked with each other for four years (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers legend Gareth Ainsworth has heaped praise on Reading boss Ruben Selles for the way he has navigated the club through a turbulent year off the field.

Ainsworth spent nearly 15 years with the Chairboys as player and as manager, leading the club into the Championship for the first time.

This was while the club was under the ownership of American lawyer Rob Couhig, who is soon to be confirmed as the new owner of the Royals as Dai Yongge's seven-year

reign of terror looks set to end.

Ainsworth, a fan favourite as a player with the likes of Port Vale, QPR and Lincoln City, lives in Reading and had a spell with non-league Woodley United.

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, the 51-year-old was asked his thoughts on the Royals and namely boss Selles.

"You've got to give him major credit because that club was looking at administration in the face," he explained.

"The breakdown from the owner

to the people running the club and the figures that were being piped around about what Dai Yongge wanted for the club and how much he put in and then there was dispute about that and the land around the stadium.

"In all of that, they get relegated and points deductions, and they have to survive in what is a tough league.

"Big credit to Ruben Selles- he's kept it away from the players, he's got on with it and bedded in youngsters. They've sold players to

the likes of Panathinaikos [Olympiacos] and places like that just to recoup a bit of money.

"Shoestring is an exaggeration. There is always talk of a takeover and Rob Couhig has been mentioned a few times- it needs a fresh start at that place. Fair play to Ruben."

Attending Reading's 2-0 win over Wigan Athletic on Saturday, Couhig met the players, staff and supporters during what was a positive day for the club at the SCL Stadium.

Preparing for the visit of Rotherham at HP12

By James Richings

MATT Bloomfield wants his Wycombe Wanderers team to 'promote their own style' as they prepare for a home encounter against Rotherham United on Saturday.

The Millers head down to Adams Park for their first visit to HP12 in two-and-a-half seasons, with Steve Evans' team being one of the few in the division to not score a league goal so far this campaign.

This is despite investing heavily in the transfer market following their relegation from the Championship.

They are also one of the favourites to make an immediate return to the second tier, but Bloomfield is hoping that Wanderers' recent good performances (albeit they haven't been beaten three out of four times), are turned into a victories.

He told the press: "It's another big game for us.

"The recruitment Rotherham have done over the summer has been very good and they look strong.

"It'll be a stern test and one we're looking forward to.

"They've got some good players at the top of the pitch and will be a good side during the course of the season.

"But we want to play with the same level at Wrexham, Northampton and Wimbledon where we created opportunities.

"There were some good performances [on Tuesday night] as I thought Declan Skura was very good [against Wimbledon] - I liked what he did on the ball as well as his defending.

"Tyreeq [Bakinson] and Butch [Matt Butcher] dominated the ball and Dan Udoh will be a big player for us.

"Hopefully the minutes they got will help with their sharpness for

Saturday."

On recent performances, the boss added: "If you look at the evidence at Wrexham, we outperformed their XG as we had 17 shots away from home.

"We had 20 or so tonight [against Wimbledon] and at Northampton, we scored two but it could have been six or seven.

"But we need to turn these performances into results.

We just need to pick ourselves and keep going, as we're trying to promote our own style with these players and we created some good chances."

The match will be a repeat of the Chairboys' first-ever fixture in the Championship back in September 2020, when they narrowly lost 1-0 to the Millers at Adams Park.

Michael Ihiekwe scored a 94th-minute winner to crush Wanderers hearts on the opening day of that season.

Both teams, who were promoted together from League One the previous campaign, would eventually be relegated back to the third tier, with Wycombe finishing in 22nd and Rotherham in 23rd.

The previous match between the two sides ended 0-0 at Adams Park in March 2022, whilst Wycombe's last home triumph against the Yorkshire-based team came in January 2011.

The Chairboys won 1-0 thanks to a strike from Gareth Ainsworth.

Wycombe were promoted out of League Two into League One at the end of that season.

Wanderers, then of League Two, won promotion to League One that season.



Wycombe Wanderers' first match in the Championship back in September 2020 was against Rotherham United at Adams Park (PA)

Humphreys joins the Chairboys on loan

WYCOMBE Wanderers have completed the signing of Ipswich Town midfielder Cameron Humphreys on a season-long loan.

The 20-year-old, who has made a handful of appearances for the Tractor Boys' first team since making his debut three years ago, becomes Matt Bloomfield side's 10th summer signing of the window.

He arrives following stiff competition for his signature, as the youngster had also been linked with Peterborough United.

Both the Posh and Wycombe had loan offers accepted by the newly-promoted Premier League outfit, with the club 'weighing up options' to see which side would be the better fit for Humphreys.

In the end, he has opted to join the Chairboys, and could make his Wanderers debut in the upcoming league match against Rotherham United on Saturday at Adams Park.

Speaking on his arrival to Buckinghamshire, Bloomfield said: "Cam is a player we've looked at for some time and have tried to bring in previously, so we're really pleased that we've been able to get the deal done.

"He's an excellent talent on the ball who'll give us another dimension in the middle of the park, and the data shows he will adapt well to other positions too, so we're looking forward to seeing how he progresses over the season with us."

Humphreys has been given the number 20 shirt, which was last worn by Nottingham Forest striker, Dale Taylor.

Previous players to also don the shirt include legends such as centre back Alfie Mawson and striker Adebayo Akinfenwa.

The deal remains subject to EFL and FA approval.