

# THE WANDERER

Issue 107, Season 2016/2017

£1.50



## **Shaun Harvey declares turnout at his birthday party 'a success'**



### **MATT BLOOMFIELD INTERVIEW**

"While we've got breath in our lungs we'll keep fighting for this club, because that's what we've always done and always will."

### **ALSO INSIDE**

Tottenham memories

A tribute to Paul McCarthy

The story behind Wanderers anthem 'Wycombe Strong'



By the fans



For the fans





# **WWISC** **COMMITTEE**



			
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The Wanderer is written and compiled by fans of Wycombe Wanderers football club and on occasion fans of other football clubs. Our aim is to be as truthful, informative and entertaining as possible. The views expressed in the magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the committee, editor or the Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club.

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## Editorial

It really doesn't feel like eight months ago that I was writing my first Wanderer editorial. The season has once again flown by, as we enter the final few weeks of the campaign and start to look toward a tragically football-free summer (although after England's efforts in Euro 2016, maybe that's a blessing in disguise).

After our superb run of form towards the end of 2016, a disastrous run of defeats in February and our frustratingly indifferent form in the following months now means that reaching the playoffs, while still possible, is highly unlikely. However, talking to a couple of the players after the Mansfield game, it was heartening to hear them insist, with considerable passion it must be said, that they won't give up the fight and will keep battling away until the final whistle of 16/17.

We're certainly going to need that never-say-die spirit today against a superb Doncaster side, who have been by far and away the best team in the division this season and should finish as deserved champions. The good news on that front is that we have a 100% record this season on Wanderer release days. Obviously it would be ridiculous to suggest that we are solely responsible for these wins, but I think we can take a good 50% of the credit. To that end I've nominated Phil Slatter for Supporters' Player of the Year, so we'll see how that goes.

Even if we don't make the playoffs, I hope we can at least finish in the top half of the table. Achieving that, coupled with our two excellent cup runs, would go down as a fairly successful season in my book and something positive for us to build on for the 17/18 campaign.

Before I sign off for the summer, I'd like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to The Wanderer this season. Taking over as editor was quite a daunting task and I did wonder if I had bitten off more than I could chew, so thank you to Ian, Teresa, Colin, Phil and Dale for all your help, advice and patience as you repeatedly explained to me how to open attachments in my email.

Thank you to all our talented writers for your brilliant, insightful, funny and – most importantly as far as I'm concerned – punctual contributions. I said at the start of the season that The Wanderer will only ever be as good as the articles it receives. Thanks to you, The Wanderer is brilliant.

Finally, thank you to **you** for reading it. This whole thing would be pretty pointless if no-one ever looked at it, so thanks for making this all worthwhile and essentially validating my continued existence. My goal for next season is to increase our readership, so if you do enjoy reading The Wanderer, please do tell your friends and encourage them to pick up a copy and spread the word to other fans.

Have a great summer and I'll see you next season.

*Jonny*

## **Chairman's Notes**

This is my last report of the season and as it draws to a close I would like to reflect back a touch.

As it stands now, after the Good Friday game and the disappointing result against Mansfield, we are going to find it tough to get into the playoffs. Gareth and the team are still full of optimism, but four wins from the last four games is a tough call. Still, you never know.

The team had a fantastic unbeaten run leading up to our FA Cup game against Spurs. It was a fantastic performance by the whole team that day, but that result, followed by the loss against Coventry, seemed to knock the stuffing out of us. At least we have the consolation that the club certainly improved its financial position, so well done to all involved.

From a WWISC point of view we have had a good season and have run as many trips to away games as we could. We try to keep our prices at a reasonable rate, so please do join us. Ask anyone that travels with us - we always have great away trips!

Recently myself and three other committee members enjoyed a memorable sponsors evening with Gareth and his players. Also, after the Mansfield game, as a member of the 500 Club, another short but enjoyable evening was had again.

Who knows what will happen between now and the end of the season, but thank you to the WWISC committee and all WWISC members for supporting us and the club this season.

May I wish you all a happy summer and I'll see you next season.

Cheers

*Ian*

# WWISC NEWS

## PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

We are delighted to announce that we will be sponsoring the away shirt of Sam Saunders for the remainder of the season, through the club's shirt sponsorship scheme.

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## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

We have set up a new, single email address to replace the existing WWISC email addresses. The new address is; **WWIndependent@gmail.com**. Please direct all your emails there and do not use the old WWISC email address. The old Wanderer email address has also been deactivated. From now on, please email all articles directly to Jonny at **jonnyking1985@gmail.com**. He knows how to open attachments now.

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## MEMBERSHIP – 2017/2018

Existing members will receive their membership renewal forms over the summer. If you are not a WWISC member but would like to join, please get in touch with us at the above email address, on twitter (**@wwisc1994**) or visit our stall on Hillbottom Road on a home matchday. Membership entitles you to free copies of The Wanderer, a discount on matchday parking, discount on WWISC coaches, the chance to vote in our end of season awards as well as other offers throughout the season.

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## FAME AT LAST!

Comedian and Wycombe fan Henning Wehn was a welcome face in the crowd for our win over Portsmouth and he seemed to enjoy his copy of The Wanderer. This is about as glowing a celebrity endorsement as you can realistically hope to get at Adams Park!





### **AWAY COACH TRAVEL - MORECAMBE**

Subject to demand, we are hoping to run a coach to the game at Morecambe on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April**. If you are interested in attending this fixture, please do book as soon as possible to give us a good idea of numbers. The more fans travelling on the coach, the lower the price is for everyone.

We will stop off for a pub lunch and there will be a sweepstake with a cash prize. There are discounted prices for WWISC members, students, under 16's and senior citizens. Pick up points are Wycombe Train Station and Wycombe Park and Ride by the Empire Cinema. To book, please call Colin on **01494 536270**. Please do not call Colin's mobile.

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### **HOME MATCHDAY PARKING**

We are managing a parking area before each home game at Righton, on Hillbottom Road, between the two Origin buildings. This is crucial for our finances and requires volunteers to run it. If any WWISC members are interested in helping out, please contact a committee member. In exchange, we will be offering a discount on away coach travel.

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### **PAUL MCCARTHY MEMORIAL FUND**

A memorial fund has been set up following the tragic death of former Wanderers defender Paul McCarthy, who passed away suddenly in February, aged just 45. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, please send a cheque - made payable to C. McCarthy - to **Tester & Jones Independent Funeral Services, London Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2TT**.

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### **MARCUS BEAN – WWISC SPONSORED PLAYER FOR 2016/2017**



## **500 CLUB UPDATE**

Thanks to the 440 Wycombe fans who have invested, the 500 Club has now not only reached, but in fact exceeded its target of raising £75,000. This money is exclusively for investment in the playing squad and has already helped fund the transfers of Dominic Gape and Scott Kashket, as well as extending the loan of Jamal Blackman.

Despite having passed the target, fans are still invited to contribute to the scheme, which you can do by visiting **[www.500wanderers.co.uk](http://www.500wanderers.co.uk)**.

## **COMMUNITY SHARE SCHEME UPDATE**

Over 330 Wycombe supporters have now signed up to the Community Share Scheme, which in just over 21 months has already raised over £740,000 for the club, well over a third of the £2m total the Wycombe Wanderers Trust set out to raise over 5 years. The money raised will help finance the football club and will ensure it can remain under fan ownership.

Please do consider investing in the scheme, either by setting up a 5-year payment plan (monthly or annually) or by donating a one-off payment of whatever you can afford. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum is £100,000.

If you would like to invest, or find out more about the scheme, you can find a brochure with all the necessary information at **[www.wycombewandererstrust.com](http://www.wycombewandererstrust.com)**. Questions can be also emailed to the Trust at **[shares@wycombewandererstrust.com](mailto:shares@wycombewandererstrust.com)**.

## **BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO COVERAGE**

Phil Catchpole (Founder of the Wycombe Wanderers Mexican Supporters Club) is continuing his great work, reporting on Wycombe games for BBC Three Counties and their Sports Show. Phil has done a fantastic job increasing the amount of exposure the club gets and the more Wycombe fans that interact with the station, the more coverage we should get.

Fans can tune in to Three Counties Sport every Saturday from 2 - 5pm. This is followed by Three Counties 5-0-5, which is your opportunity to call, text or tweet your opinions from the afternoon's game. Midweek games are also covered from 7pm. The best frequency for listening to Three Counties in High Wycombe is 98.0FM. You can also tune in on 95.5FM, 103.8FM and 104.5FM from other areas in Beds, Bucks and Herts, or listen on iPlayer.

Whether you've been at the game, or following from afar, get in contact with the show and share your thoughts. The more fans who do, the greater our share of the coverage will be.

**CALL: 08459 455555**

**TWEET: @BBC3CR or @bluntphil**

**TEXT: 81333 (Put 3CR at the start of your message)**

Phil also writes an excellent blog; 'Phil Catchpole – Football from the Frontline', which you can visit at **[www.philcatchpole.com](http://www.philcatchpole.com)**.

Find out what Wycombe Wanderers could mean for you...

**17/18**

# **SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**EARLY BIRD PRICES FROM:**

ADULTS: £239

SENIORS: £203

YOUNG ADULTS: £172

JUNIORS: £46

UNDER 11s: FREE



ONLINE | TICKET OFFICE | 01494 441118

**#MyWycombeFamily**



## **Paul McCarthy 1971 – 2017**



Wycombe fans were shocked at the news of the death of Paul McCarthy, aged just 45 years old in February. It's always extremely sad to see a former player die, especially so long before their time. I fondly remember Paul for being a tough, footballing centre-half with a never-say-die attitude, a spirit that remains strong at the club to this day.

McCarthy was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1971 in Cork, Republic of Ireland. He started his footballing career in his local youth team, Rockmount – in the same team as his life-long friend Roy Keane. Moving to Brighton and Hove Albion in 1988, the young defender impressed playing for the Republic of Ireland Under-20's in the 1991 FIFA World Youth Championships in Portugal, scoring in their 1-1 draw with South Korea. Paul impressed enough to be appointed Captain of the Under-21 team in November 1992, picking up the Under-21 Player of the Year award in November of the following year.

Wycombe's connection to 'Macca' started when Alan Smith signed him for the Blues in July 1996 for £100,000. He had an indifferent start to his career with the club, but found form under Lawrie Sanchez in the 1998/99 season, going on to become a fan's favourite and a key linchpin of the back line. His legendary status among Wycombe fans was cemented when he bagged five goals in the FA Cup run of 2001, including a stunning overhead kick winner in the second round replay against Millwall, a last minute extra-time equaliser in the fifth round replay at Wimbledon and his vital goal to give us the lead in the second-half against Leicester City at Filbert Street, with Roy Essandoh going on to score 'that' goal to clinch the tie and set up a semi-final against Liverpool at Villa Park.

Cruelly, McCarthy's later years at Wycombe were dogged by niggling injuries which seemed to affect his form and after making over 250 appearances for the club, he was released in May 2003 as part of a cost cutting exercise, ending his seven year association with the Chairboys. He signed for Oxford United, initially on loan, then permanently. This was followed by a brief stint at Hornchurch before he joined Ebbsfleet United, who he captained to victory in the 2008 FA Trophy final at Wembley Stadium. Appointed player-assistant manager the following year, he left the club in 2013 and after a brief spell at Crowborough AFC became a coach at Northfleet College.



Having seen the outpouring of emotion from teammates, friends and supporters alike – not only from Wycombe, but also Oxford, Brighton and Ebbsfleet, it's fair to say that he is still held in the highest regard to this day and there will be a fair few pints of the 'black stuff' being raised in his honour over the coming weeks to celebrate his life.

RIP 'Macca' - thank you for every performance in a Wanderers shirt.



## Sponsors Dinner

Each year in April the club have a sponsors dinner, where all the players and staff get to meet the fans who have sponsored them throughout the season. We were joined for the evening by Marcus Bean, WWISC's sponsored player for the season and we also had Sam Saunders at our table after we recently took on his away shirt sponsorship.

After a very nice carvery meal (and plenty to drink) it was time for the quiz and as one of five tables to get all the answers correct we then went into a playoff round which we won, getting a round of drinks for our table as a prize.

After the meal we were all able to mix with the players, with plenty of photo opportunities and Gareth Ainsworth gave a short impromptu speech, as did club Chairman Andrew Howard. A very pleasant evening was brought to a close at about 9:30 as the players needed their beauty sleep.



If you are interested in attending events like this in the future, please consider joining the WWISC committee, as we are currently looking for one or two new members. We are looking for volunteers to run our parking area before home games and help out with our away coach trips.

To register your interest, all you need to do is contact any committee member. You will find us on home matchdays at our stall on Hillbottom Road or organising the parking at Rightons in between the two Origin units. Alternatively, you can contact WWISC chairman Ian Nixon on 07770793535.

# **Wycombe Strong**

**Michael Shevlane tells us the story behind his Wanderers-inspired song**

I grew up a rather rare species – a Birmingham City fan in Hertfordshire, which felt much like a three-legged gazelle treading warily between the lions of Arsenal (by far the best supported team in my area), the tigers of Tottenham, and the odd Chelsea cheetah, plus the obligatory Liverpool and Manchester United glory supporters (baboons?). I learned a lot about loyalty through many years of incredulous laughter at my poor taste in football teams. I never really felt like a true Bluenose, owing to never being able to get to a home game, although I did once run onto the Highbury pitch (well, the sideline to be fair) during the North London derby, waving a ‘Leyland DAF Cup Winners’ scarf at a stand full of enraged Gooners, so I suppose that counts for something.

Though my journey as a fan was undoubtedly much less fervent than a season ticket holder or an interested local, it did help add to a growing love of the smaller clubs in England, owing to Birmingham’s more obscure opponents during their Third Division years and occasional visits to nearby clubs like Barnet and St. Albans. In my teens, I spent a good part of a season as a steward at both Chelsea and Stevenage. I always enjoyed the Stevenage experience more, as it felt more like the soul of the game than the corporate Premier League reality that, though usually entertaining to watch, has somewhat left its moorings when it comes to fan connection. There has always been something about the smaller clubs that is more romantic to me. Maybe it is the feeling of belonging, where you can see the whites of everyone’s eyes, so to speak, or maybe it is that quixotic optimism of the lower leagues, where reaching the fourth round of the F.A. Cup can constitute great glory, but I have always checked the scores and tables down into the Conference and Conference North and South.

I left England for America in the year 2000 at the age of twenty-one (I am a dual citizen) and whatever vestiges of my tenuous connection to Birmingham gradually faded as the years passed by on the other side of the pond. I settled comfortably into enjoying football as a neutral, which is far less stressful! Fast forward to the start of 2017, almost seventeen full years since I left England (I now reside in Las Vegas), and I was surfing the net, looking at different teams. I always like to read about the histories of different clubs, and I have a special fascination for fan-owned clubs. I hope that such clubs are the way forward for the lower leagues, as there have been far too many smaller teams run into the ground by unscrupulous (or simply inept) ownership and the fan-owned model would seem to offer safeguards against these historical clubs drifting into liquidation.



I was reading about Wycombe Wanderers and it suddenly struck me forcibly how many aspects of the club appealed to me, from the fan-owned model, to the family-friendly mindset, to the location in the Chilterns - an area where I went on many walks with my family during a happy childhood. I realised that in many ways, though I can never become a die-hard fan whilst living in America, Wycombe is still the perfect club to me.

This would be a relevant place to state that a huge hobby of mine is songwriting, as I have played the guitar since I was nine years old and written songs from my mid-teens. I have never tried too hard to “make it big”, as I enjoy music for its own sake, but songwriting - and music as a whole - has given me a lot of great memories.

So, between an existing passion for melody and a brand new focus on Wycombe, one thing led to another and within a day or two I was starting to put a Chairboys song together and putting out feelers to the Trust board to see if they would be interested in hearing whatever musical concoction I could come up with. That night, I was feeling so inspired that I had to run downstairs, even after I had gone to bed, to record a vocal melody into an app, so that I did not forget it in the morning. Listening to it afterwards was rather amusing, as my attempt to keep my voice down for the sake of my sleeping wife gave the recording the furtive feel of a stalker murmuring creepily. Nevertheless, the creative process had started.

As I was full of ideas, the song actually ended up getting written very quickly in the end and I booked studio time to get it recorded. The recording session was great fun – and trust me, there is something surreal about recording a Wycombe anthem in Las Vegas and explaining the concept to the American sound engineer! My wife and sister-in-law turned up to add some hand claps (in the hope that their efforts will someday ring out across Adams Park) and the sound engineer ended up really liking the song also.



Initially, the board said they liked the song, but didn't find it up-tempo enough – which is fair enough based on the folky nature of the melody. However, once I started getting fans to listen (mainly through the Gasroom) I started to get some great feedback and the song was played at Adams Park for the first time before the Notts County game.

So that's the long journey to 'Wycombe Strong' and no matter what happens, my interactions with Wycombe fans, board members and other staff, have done nothing but increase my affections for the club. Good luck to you all!

Michael has made 'Wycombe Strong' available for free download. Just visit;  
**[www.soundcloud.com/michael-shevlane/wycombe-strong](http://www.soundcloud.com/michael-shevlane/wycombe-strong)**

You can also listen to it on Youtube at;  
**[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t9N2fBkkcE&t=21s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t9N2fBkkcE&t=21s)**



EXCLUSIVE OFFER TO WANDERER READERS

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\*Duration of fun may vary

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"I couldn't be happier with my **SEEDO JOMPLANTI**. When people come round, it's always the first thing they comment on!"

Joe, Cardiff.

## **Wycombe Wanderers supporters battered by Coventry Telegraph after final whistle**

I was appalled to hear that a Coventry City fan had been attacked walking home from the Football League Trophy Semi-Final game between City and Wycombe Wanderers back in February. However, I was also deeply disappointed in the way this story was reported in the Coventry Telegraph (*'Coventry City supporter battered by Wycombe fans after final whistle'* – Coventry Telegraph 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017).

The article, by Antonia Bannister, suggested Wycombe supporters were responsible for the assault, despite the lack of any evidence to support this accusation. Indeed, it appears the attack took place nowhere near the Ricoh Arena and there is no evidence to suggest it was motivated by what football team the victim supports, or even that it was motivated by football at all. Ms Bannister simply decided that an attack on a football fan on the same night as a match must have been perpetrated by opposition supporters, which I find staggering naïve.

The story contained no comment from West Midlands Police, officials from either football club, any eyewitnesses, or even the victim himself. Neither did it give a time or location for the attack. In fact, the whole article was based entirely on a Twitter post by the victim's aunt, who apparently did not attend the game or witness the attack, but posted a photo of the victim's injuries, accusing "scummy" Wycombe fans of the assault.

Sadly, this kind of lazy, 'Twitter Journalism' has apparently become an accepted form of reporting, particularly by the tabloids, but surely a moment's consideration and a look at the few known facts surrounding the incident, should have been enough to convince Ms Bannister that publishing an article making such serious allegations was, at best, ill-advised.

What was not reported was that the aunt went on to claim that the attack took place by a graveyard. As far as I can see, the nearest graveyard or cemetery to the Ricoh Arena is Marston Lane Cemetery, nearly 4 miles and over an hours walk away from the ground and in the opposite direction to both the car/coach park and Coventry train station, where surely most, if not all Wycombe fans will have been heading after the Tuesday night game. This information was available, but not included in the Coventry Telegraph's story.

Ms Bannister (and whoever was responsible for writing the inflammatory headline) were savvy enough, of course, not to directly blame Wycombe fans for the attack, covering themselves by using the word 'allegedly', quoting the words of the aunt's tweet and putting 'battered by Wycombe fans' in quotation marks (highlighting the lack of actual proof), but the message of the article is clear, the headline is misleading and the conclusions that the reader is being led to are blindingly obvious. The use of 'Wycombe fans' in the headline is also incorrect, as the assault was supposedly carried out by a single attacker. To publish a story accusing, without evidence, a particular group of an unsolved crime seems to me to be extremely irresponsible and has the potential to prejudice any police investigation into the incident, particularly if there is an appeal to the public for witnesses. Surely it is for the police to speculate and make accusations, not a local newspaper?



Wycombe fans are of course widely recognised around the country as being among the best behaved in the Football League. As well as being the only club in England to have won consecutive Family Club of the Year awards, Wanderers fans are regularly bottom of the data tables for arrests and banning orders, often registering zero arrests or bans in an entire season – extremely rare in the Football League. Indeed, the latest set of government figures show that last season not a single Wycombe fan was arrested or issued with a banning order. These are official Home Office statistics that are freely available online.

This story will have certainly done damage to Wycombe's hard-earned reputation, perhaps irreparably for some. I doubt Ms Bannister or anyone at the Coventry Telegraph give a damn about the damage they have caused, as they move on to the next story/twitter post, but the rest of us are left to pick up the pieces.

My disappointment at the way this story was presented in the Coventry Telegraph goes beyond just how this affects Wycombe Wanderers. As a football fan in general, I am disheartened that supporters of any team can still be stigmatised in this way. All this kind of sensationalist, clickbait reporting will achieve is to reinforce outdated and unhelpful stereotypes that see football fans routinely treated as second class citizens by police, stewards and sections of the public around the country.

When questioned on social media over the veracity of the report, Ms Bannister simply replied "...how can you prove that it wasn't a Wycombe fan?" a disappointingly flippant response that misses the point entirely – the onus isn't on Wycombe fans to prove their innocence, but it most certainly is on a professional journalist to report the facts.



I did attempt to contact Ms Bannister to register my concern, but she was unwilling to speak to me and instead passed me over to a colleague, who I have since learned was the editor of the Coventry Telegraph, Keith Perry. Mr Perry did at least speak to me for some 20 minutes, but was both unhelpful and extremely condescending. He was also adamant that I was not to quote him on anything he said, which is a shame as I would dearly love to, but I agreed not to and must stay true to my word.

I contacted West Midlands Police to try and establish a time and location for the attack. Unfortunately, they told me no log could be found of the incident. Whether this means the crime was simply not logged or never even reported to the police, I'm afraid I don't know.

This entire story was based on nothing more than an angry social media post by someone making spurious knee-jerk allegations with zero evidence to back it up. Given the lack of available facts, surely it isn't too much to ask professional journalists to stick to the facts and present the news objectively and fairly? Instead, in this era of fake news and alternative facts, the Coventry Telegraph chose to run a sensationalist story, using a shocking headline (despite it contradicting the story), no doubt to 'attract clicks'. The article was written with little to no interest in establishing or reporting the facts, with a shockingly cavalier attitude to destroying a fine reputation earned over decades of consistently good behaviour by generations of Wycombe supporters.

There are other, more worrying possibilities to consider. It is almost certain that Wycombe and Coventry will both be in League Two next season. As someone on the Gasroom pointed out, let us hope that no Coventry fans who read this article decide to carry out any revenge attacks against Wycombe supporters when the two teams next meet.

Of course, it is not outside the realms of possibility that this was indeed the work of Wycombe fans and if this were to turn out to be the case, I'm sure we would all be united in our condemnation. However, I think it is fair to say that the available facts suggest that this attack was carried out by others and in the unlikely event of the perpetrators ever being caught I would hope the Coventry Telegraph would print a full retraction.

Unfortunately, as we still see time after time, football fans are one of the few sections of society that can still be vilified and discriminated against without fear of consequence.

Jonny

**I referred the matter to the Independent Press Standards Organisation, but they confirmed that no actual breach of the Editors' Code of Practice had taken place.**

**I sent a shortened version of this article to the Coventry Telegraph to be considered for their Letters to the Editor section. As far as I am aware it was never published and the Coventry Telegraph have ceased to reply to my emails.**

**The victim's aunt has since deleted the tweet accusing Wycombe fans.**

## Tottenham Memories

**Mervyn Bell, a 74-year-old football coach from Northern Ireland, was at White Hart Lane for our FA Cup fourth round tie against Tottenham Hotspur, travelling down to London on the WWISC coach.**

“I would like to thank the Wycombe supporters for a wonderful day and almost a great result. I don't think I have seen such raw emotion afterwards, with men, women and children crying outside after the game.

I have seen at first hand what the FA Cup, in all its glory, is all about; the coach trip with the Wycombe supporters, the stop for lunch, then on to the game at the wonderful White Hart Lane and a game that had everything.

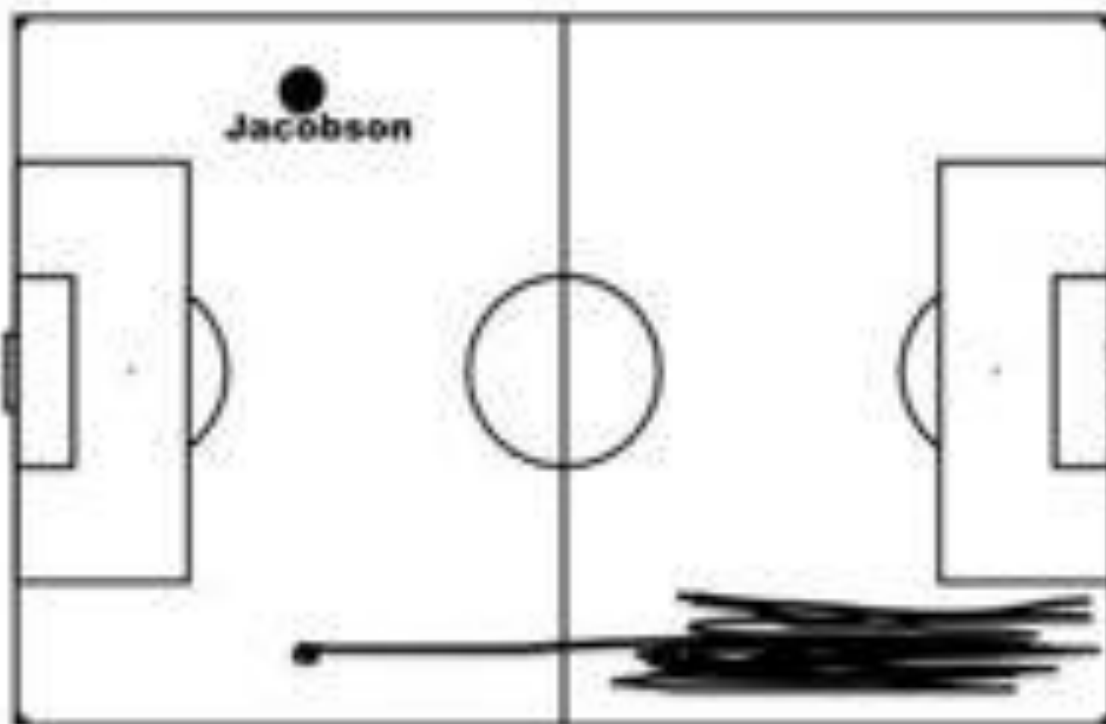
Wycombe looked like they were in the next round after 96 minutes, but on 97 and a half minutes Tottenham scored the winner - not sure where that time came from. Heartbreak for the Wycombe supporters and myself. As I stood outside the ground, the raw emotion was plain to see with men, women and children in tears. Behind the police on horseback down the middle of the road, Tottenham Hotspur supporters either side of the road clapped the Wycombe supporters back onto their coaches. What a day. I would like to thank everyone concerned and wish Wycombe Wanderers good luck for the rest of the season.”

**Mervyn, it turns out, is a legend at Intermediate Northern Irish side Dundela FC, playing for the Belfast club as a defender from 1966 to 1980, becoming player-manager in 1973. Mervyn managed the Duns for over 30 years, winning 27 trophies including 9 league championships and is the longest serving manager in Irish League history, retiring in 2006 after 40 years at the club.**

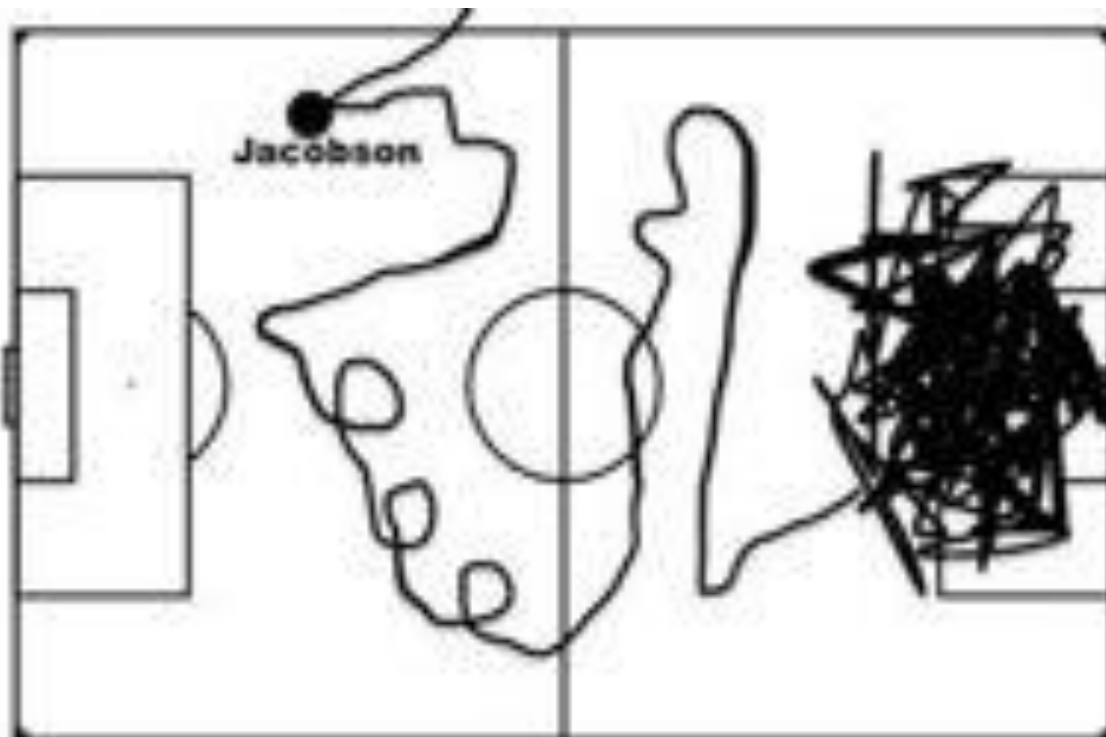


## REVEALED – WYCOMBE PLAYER’S GPS TRACKER RESULTS

### Sido Jombati – First Half

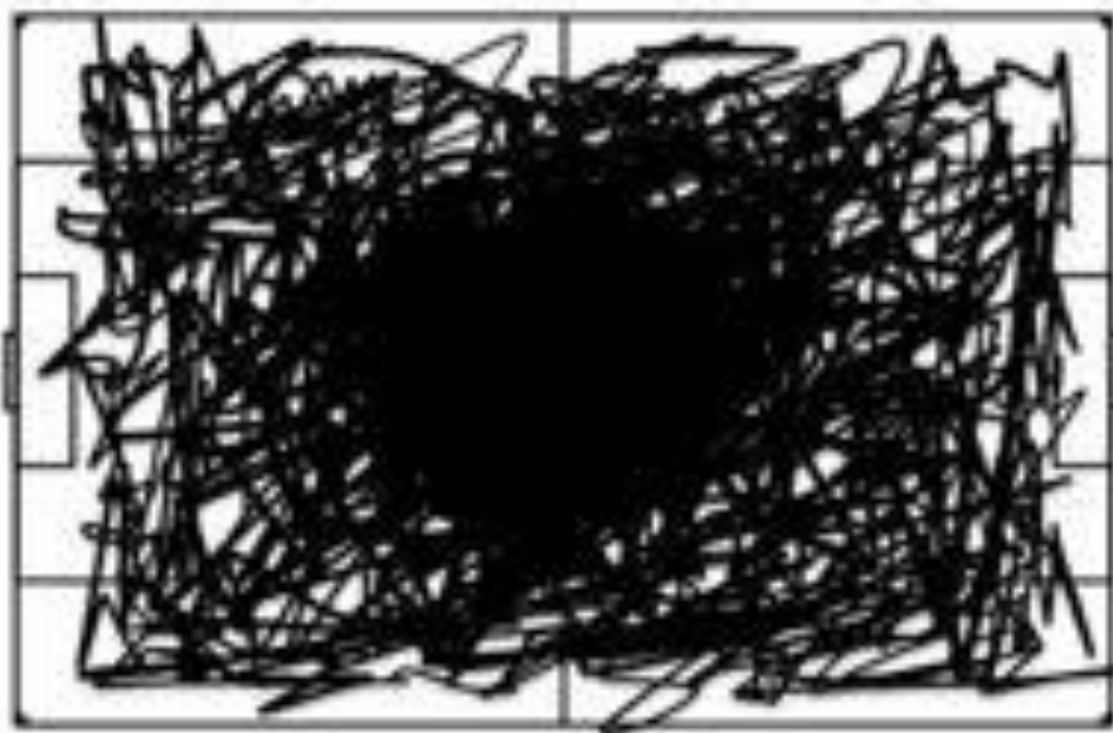


### Paul Hayes – Second Half (substituted in 66<sup>th</sup> minute)

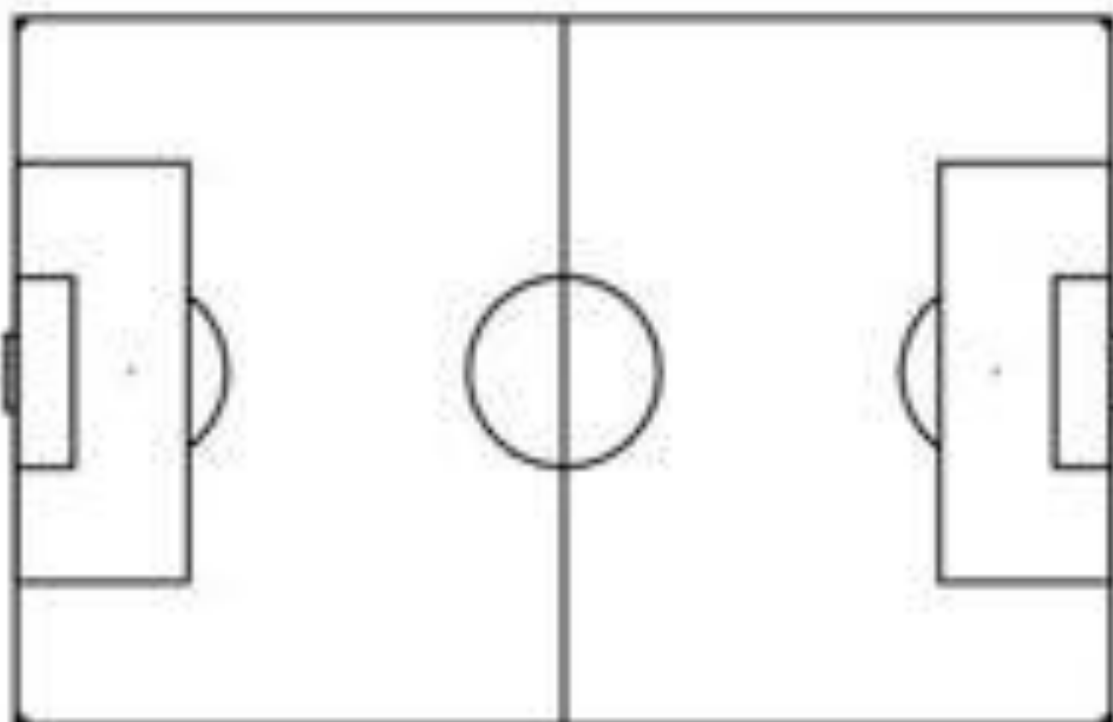




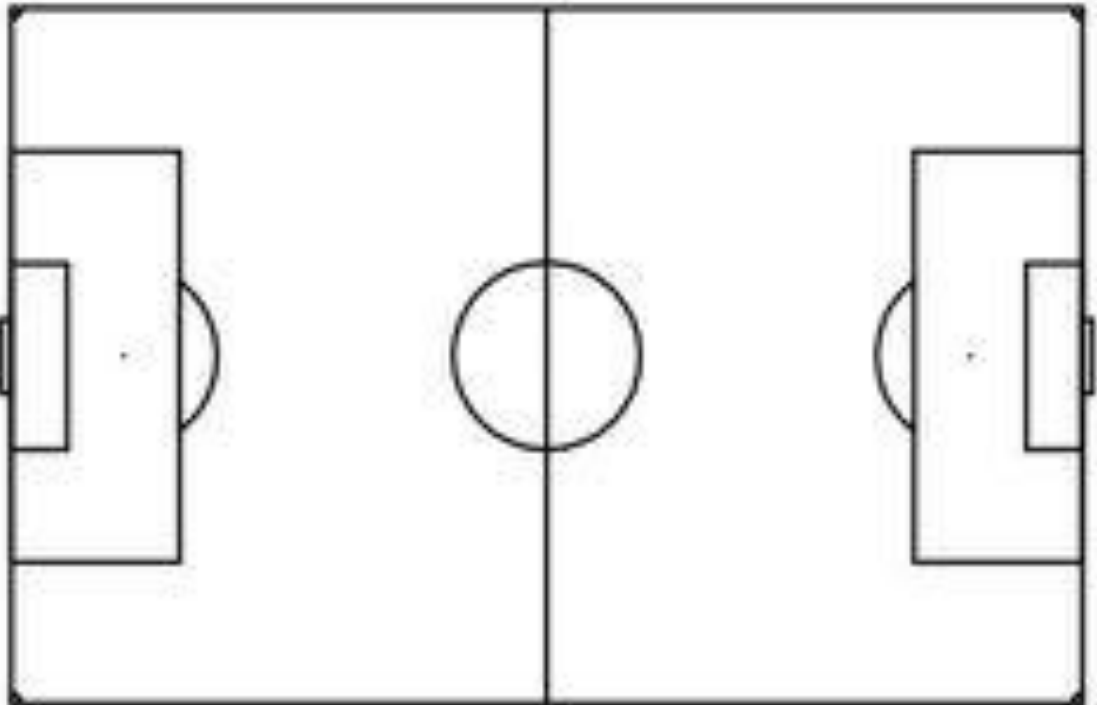
**Matt Bloomfield - First Half (opening ten minutes)**



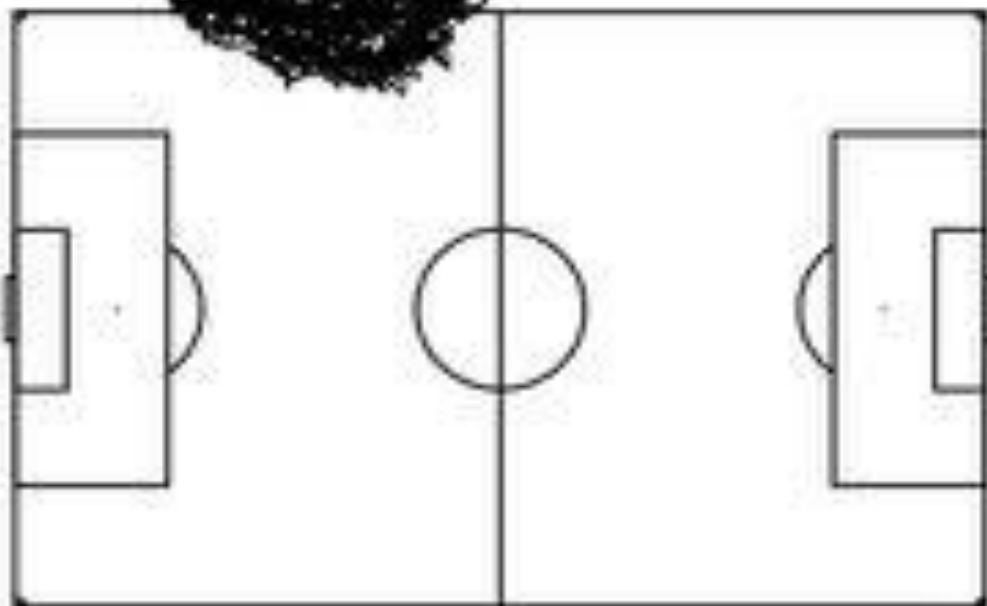
**Stephen McGinn - 2016/2017 Season**



Nick Freeman



Gareth Ainsworth



By Derek Adams

# **PRESS BOX**

## **THAT DEREK ADAMS POST-MATCH INTERVIEW IN FULL**

'I'm delighted with a point. This is a hard place to come to...especially as they keep moving it and hiding it so we have to spend longer on the coach.

They shaded the first half, but they know we've had a hard schedule. We've played 102 games this week alone, whereas I know Wycombe have only had one game, a pizza night and a group trip to see Beauty and the Beast. But that's football and we live with that.

Obviously the crowd were on §our backs. They had more phones than us, which was disappointing and of course the abuse I get: 'Derek Adams, is a w\*nker' - very disappointing, especially coming from the home bench.

They had no players coming off injured, so I wasn't able to ironically clap them for time-wasting, which was disappointing. On the whole though, we created more chances and I was pleased with the energy of my players as we finished the match and as it looks like we'll bottle it again, we'll probably be back to make amends in the play-offs.'

## **ALL THOSE NATHAN JONES POST-MATCH INTERVIEWS IN FULL**

'Very proud. Very proud. Today. On the pitch. Out there. Those players. Those fans. This football club. Our fans. I'm so proud. The players. *My* players. The fans. This club. So proud. Out there today. The fans. And my players. I love them. Love them!

THEIR players? Well. You could see. Out there today...THEIR PLAYERS? Disgraceful! Out there. THEIR fans? Those fans? Did you hear those fans? Did you see those players? I tell you. Disgraceful. They should be ashamed.

We...my...our players, our fans, this football club. I love them. We do things right. On and off the pitch. Out there today. I'm very Proud. Danny Hylton is the best player in this League.'



## **FULL BLOOM**

We caught up with long-serving midfielder Matt Bloomfield at the 500 Club party, just after our Good Friday defeat to Mansfield Town.

**Matt, a frustrating game today. Was it one of those games where it just doesn't fall for us?**

Yeah I think so. On a positive note, I think the performance was a lot better than Cheltenham. We played better, but we got less out of the game. Cheltenham we didn't play too great and got a point, today we played a lot better in my eyes and didn't get anything from the game. It's extremely frustrating, but I think in football sometimes you don't always get what you deserve and I think today is one of those days. In the second half it felt like we were camped in there – the keeper's made some great saves, one's hit their guy on the back of the head and one's just looped over the bar. It was just one of those days and I think we need to take the positives from the performance and not be too down. We've got two days to get ourselves back up and then we go to Barnet on Monday and we want to go there and get all three points.

**Do you think we can still make the playoffs, or do you think we've got to look to next season now?**

No, it's still mathematically possible. If we go and win all four games then we go into the playoffs as the hot favourites because we'll be on the back of a great run. That's how we have to look at it. As I said up on stage earlier on [in his speech at the 500 Club party] football and sport in general and even life isn't about how many times you get knocked down, it's how many times you pick yourself back up again and that's what we have to do. We'll pick ourselves back up, it's still mathematically possible. We're one point further away than we were at three o'clock and that's obviously disappointing, we wanted to win today and be a point outside it, but that's not to be. It's four points, four games to go and we'll keep fighting. While we've all got breath in our lungs we'll just keep fighting for this club, because that's what we've always done and always will.



**You've been here nearly thirteen and a half years now and hopefully you'll be around for a while to come yet. Do you think we'll get back into League One in the near future and you'll play there for Wycombe again?**

Yeah, that's what I've always wanted. Since we came back down I wanted to get back into League One. I felt last time we were there I had a really good season and I really enjoy playing at that level, but it wasn't meant to be. I feel as fit and strong as I have done for years and the feedback I'm getting from a lot of supporters and the coaching staff is that I'm playing better now than I have done for years. I feel good and I desperately want to get this club back into League One. The fans deserve that success. We've been going through maybe a bit of a transitional stage over the last few years where we've been in debt, but we've got ourselves now nearly debt free and we've strengthened the squad with the fabulous help of the 500 Club in January and we're looking strong. We wanted to be in the playoffs and we aren't quite at the moment, but if we can finish the season on a high then we can go into the playoffs being hot favourites. I still want to be around to keep playing and get this club back into League One, that's still a burning ambition of mine. I want to get back playing in League One and we've got the players to do that and the gaffer will strengthen in the summer if it's not meant to be this year. I'm sure we'll strengthen and go again next year, but at this moment in time, whilst it's still mathematically possible, we'll be giving it everything we can to make this season finish on a high.

**You've seen and done it all in your time at the club, but what would you say has been your highlight in a Wycombe shirt?**

As strange as it might sound, it was the Torquay game, not because of what we achieved, because I don't think celebrating near failure is something to be proud of, but equally, for me with my love of the club, I could see what was in the offing if it went bad for us that day. The money situation at the time wasn't great and who knows where we might have been. To be part of a Wycombe squad that took the club out of the league would have been devastating, so that was probably the highlight in a way. Obviously there's my testimonial night and the cup runs – there's been some great highs. They've obviously been a rollercoaster thirteen and a half years and you wouldn't expect anything else in football. No-one has sustained success, that just doesn't happen. There's been several highlights and I've loved my time here and I want it to continue.

**Who's the most annoying player on the coach to away games?**

Sido. Doesn't stop talking. He always wants to create a debate or an argument. I've been sat next to Sammy Wood for several years and we're very comfortable. We room as well, so I sit next to Sam and keep out of all the debates.



**Celebrating staying up at Torquay**

**Who's the most annoying player on the coach to away games?**

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**Do you have a plan in place for what you'd do in a zombie apocalypse?**

No. Maybe I should though...I'll give it some thought.

**Always good to plan. Just in case.**

Yeah I'll give it some thought tonight when I get home.

**What's the most embarrassing dvd on your shelf?**

My wife hates films – she can't concentrate for two and half hours – so we don't get to watch any films, but we do watch lots of embarrassing reality TV programmes. That's what she likes, so I have to sit through it, because I watch so much football that I have to give her some telly time.

**Have you ever found a cartoon character attractive?**

No.

**What's your spirit animal?**

A dog. I love dogs.

**What breed?**

I don't know...the smaller kind. Because we live away from home we've got smaller dogs, just because we can transport them more easily. My wife's always had Westies, I've always had dogs. I love dogs.

**Our thanks to Matt for his time.**



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for more details.

# **SUMMER IS COMING.**

Already worried about how to fill those long days before another ball is kicked? To help you out, The Wanderer assembled a crack panel of academics and media experts to recommend some upcoming entertainment highlights for you to look out for...

## **BOOKS**

### **ALICE IN GASROOMLAND**

*(Internet Classics)*

Another welcome reissue of this Dave Carroll classic, in which Alice finds herself lost in a strange place full of bizarre, idiosyncratic and possibly disturbed characters, who amusingly respond to her satirical observations and witty asides on Wycombe matches by constantly yelling 'Oh bore off you drone!'

### **NO PLAN B**

*(To Me To You Publications)*



Edited by The Chuckle Brothers, this weighty tome provides a welcome insight into the beautiful game, as various League One and League Two managers attempt to clarify why it appears so often to the average fan that they have absolutely no idea what they are doing.

### **DARK ARTS, HOOFBALL AND NECK BRACES**

*(Deja Vu/Vital Football Press)*

The award-winning bestseller - now in paperback! Opposition fans expose referees who 'fall for it every time', the appalling anti-football of the 'big bloke at the back', small, silent crowds and why they are glad they 'don't have to watch Wycombe every week!' (400 pages...all the same.)

# **TELEVISION**

## **RED MIST, RED CARD** *(Amazon Prime)*

Renowned life coach and author of 'Serenity Between the Sticks' Barry Richardson provides insight and advice to footballing firebrands such as Joey Barton, Diego Costa and Alan Pardew about curbing their on-field and touchline excesses. Episode One: 'Opponents? Or just new friends in the dug-out?' (Originally slated for six episodes, Amazon recently announced this exciting series has been reduced to three after a 'slight difference of opinion' with producers.)

## **FOOTBALLERS BACK IN TIME** *(BBC 1 and iPlayer)*



Gareth Ainsworth, Matt Bloomfield, Adebayo Akinfenwa, Garry Thompson and Paul Hayes (pictured) talk about football in their day. (B/W. Silent with piano accompaniment and whimsical subtitles.)

## **THE TRIP - LEAGUE TWO SPECIAL** *(Sky 1)*

Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon employ their usual mix of famous voices and knowing, observant comedic high-jinks on the train to Carlisle for an away game. All goes well, until their spot-on impersonations of Nathan Jones and Derek Adams having a post-match drink ends in a fight and they are kicked off at Preston.



# **FILM**

## **ROGUE TWO (12A)** *(Disney/LucasFilm)*

A maverick duo who like to play by their own rules travel across the galaxy looking for that next big contract. Stars Kevin Ellison and Danny Hylton. (Contains some unpleasant scenes and the handheld camerawork, with all the ups and downs, falling and rolling around screaming in pain, may cause nausea for some viewers.)

## **REFEREE (PG)** *(Artificial Pie)*

After their success with the ground-breaking documentary film following Zinedine Zindane through 90 minutes of a match, the same team turn their cameras on a League Two match official. (Available in Widescreen only. Some sequences may have been severely sped up.)

## **LIVING IN LA LA LAND (15)** *(Bucks Free Press Film Foundation)*

Feel good movie based on the true story of a small Association Football (soccer) team with only 13 players and £12 in the bank that employs a rock singer as manager and then, despite being constantly bombarded with bloody jazz music, stun the Thamesdon Valley by winning successive promotions on their way to a World Series Champions League Trophy Final. Stars Henning Wehn as Garth McAinsworth, Bill Turnbull as The Ice Cream Man, Nicole Kidman as the St John's Ambulance lady and Danny Dyer as HRH King Richard III. (Includes a stunning opening dance sequence filmed on the Bucks New Uni Terrace.)



“Till I look down on the garden green, Down on the roof so brown,  
Up in the air I go flying again, Up in the air and down!”

## **THE STORY OF THE BLUES**

### **PORTSMOUTH (H)**

**League Two, Saturday 4<sup>TH</sup> February**

Att: 6,028

**BLUES 1 (*Kashket 48*) POMPEY 0**

**Verdict:** After shipping eight goals in two games, it was vital to tighten up and grind out a win, which we did today against a wasteful Portsmouth side. It was a tight game that could have gone either way and we got that element of luck with the winner taking a big deflection. Against Spurs a deflected strike went against us, today it went for us. Pompey were wasteful though, with their crossing from the left particularly lacking and their finishing not being much better.

**Ref Watch:** Graham Salisbury - Meh.

**Magic Moment:** ‘You are embarrassing!’ the Pompey fans chanted at our supposed time wasting...before we repeated the song at their very genuine poor crossing. It’s also a good job their fans aren’t on the medical staff, as the song ‘There’s \*flip\* all wrong with you!’ at Pierre proved somewhat incorrect when he went off injured moments later. Another case of our reputation for feigning injury preceding us.

### **COVENTRY CITY (A)**

**The Shaun Harvey Nonsensical Vanity Project Semi Final, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Att: 11,672

**SKYBLUES 2 (*Beavon 11, Thomas 19*) BLUES 1 (*Akinfenwa 55*)**

### **STEVENAGE (A)**

**League Two, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

Att: 2,602

**BORO 3 (*Schumacher 25, Godden 45+1 pen, Pett 49*) BLUES 0**

**Verdict:** Just to be clear – this was a really, really, really bad performance. Ainsworth rang the changes again as our busy fixture schedule continued, but this was a strong Wycombe side that really should have put in a better showing than this.

The first goal came after the impressive McAnuff turned Jombati inside out before crossing for Schumacher to head home with ease. However, if the opening goal came from superior play by the Boro, the following two came from poor play by the Blues. First we toyed around with the ball near our own penalty area for far too long, lost possession and conceded a penalty through Gape’s clumsy foul, then immediately after the restart, Blackman rolled the

ball out to a surrounded Gape, who was easily robbed by Pett, who then rounded the on-loan Chelsea keeper to roll the ball into an empty net. For a side that has a frustrating propensity to launch the ball out of defence and up into the stratosphere, it's rather a shame we didn't do a little more of that at the right times today.

Whilst we were mainly architects of our own downfall, even without the mistakes, Stevenage were still the better side and one shot on target all game tells its own story. The afternoon was summed up when Weston was brought on for the subdued Kashket, but did his hamstring after six minutes and had to be replaced by Thompson.

**Ref Watch:** Dean Whitestone – Terrible, but not as bad as we were. Denied Wycombe what looked a clear penalty when Saunders was shoved over in the box and one has to wonder if our deserved yet at the same time overblown reputation for theatrics is starting to count against us in these situations.

**Magic Moment:** At least it wasn't a long journey home.

**CREWE ALEXANDRA (A)**  
**League Two, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**  
Att: 2,896

**RAILWAYMEN 2** (*Dagnall 11, Jones 87 pen*) **BLUES 1** (*Akinfenwa 75*)

**Verdict:** Another defeat, but a much improved performance by Wycombe after the weak and clumsy showing against Stevenage. After falling behind early on, we began to impose ourselves on the game and of the two sides created the more chances and had the more efforts on goal, our pressure finally paying off when Akinfenwa fired home from Jombati's long ball into the box.

However, as Wycombe pushed for a winner, Salisbury awarded Crewe a highly contentious late penalty, after he adjudged Sido to have fouled George Ray. The players protested and an incensed Ainsworth was sent to the stands. Jamie Jones tucked away the spot kick and despite a decent display, the Blues went away empty-handed. Worryingly, this was the fifth penalty we have conceded in our last nine matches and whilst this latest one was certainly dubious, we clearly need to work on our defending in the box.

**Ref Watch:** Michael Salisbury – Quiet until the 87<sup>th</sup> minute when all hell broke loose. Sido was undoubtedly paying Ray close attention as he shepherded ball and player away from goal, but it's hard to see where sufficient contact is made to make Ray go down so heavily. You do see them given, but even allowing for blue-tinted specs, it does look like the ref was rather taken in.

**Magic Moment:** The fine performance from substitute Will de Havilland after he replaced the injured Pierre at half time.

**CARLISLE UNITED (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 18<sup>TH</sup> February**  
Att: 3,858

**BLUES 1** (*Akinfenwa 2*) **CUMBRIANS 2** (*Proctor 9, Lambe 34*)

**Verdict:** Frustration was the key word this afternoon as again, plenty of attacking play failed to yield goals, while simple defensive errors cost us at the back. Carlisle were well organised and that was perhaps the key difference. Strong in defence, clinical in attack – the opposite of us you might say. Contrast this to earlier performances this season and you can see where we have improved. Creativity did run through the middle with Saunders pulling the strings, but it's clear that we are missing Kashket.

**Ref Watch:** Darren Drysdale – Oh dear. There were some extremely odd decisions made in this one and the failure to give a free kick for what was an obvious attempt at a back pass (albeit a poorly hit one) was laughable. The booking of the Carlisle chap for re-arranging the hoardings was a priceless moment though.

**Magic Moment:** Remembering that the last time we lost at home was before the clocks had even gone back.

**COLCHESTER UNITED (A)**  
**League Two, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
Att: 3,031

**U's 1** (*Elokobi 13*) **BLUES 0**

**Verdict:** Yet another game we've lost despite putting the other side under considerable pressure. Another early goal for the opposition too – we've now conceded within the opening 15 minutes in four of our last five games.

Going into the game in a bad run of form during a busy run of games, with several key players missing and the manager serving a touchline ban did not bode particularly well, but after going behind to George Elokobi's wind-assisted 25-yard cross-shot, we did start to take control of the game, enjoying the lion's share of possession and creating numerous opportunities, which we sadly failed to take advantage from.

We started the second half as we'd finished the first and were well on top, with two shots being cleared off the line in quick succession as the U's defended for their lives. The hosts still looked dangerous on the break though and when Jacobson was sent off late on for a second booking, it looked like it was game over. We had one last chance in stoppage time, but again the ball was cleared off the line. For the third game in a row we were probably the better side, but an apparent lack of a plan B once again saw us come up short.

**Ref Watch:** Trevor Kettle – Yep, him again and as you can probably guess, he was awful. Jacobson's first booking was fair enough – no complaints there – but the second yellow was a complete farce. JJ clearly won the ball and indeed Kettle originally let play continue until

his assistant, who seemingly had a perfect view, inexplicably flagged for a foul. To add on only 3 minutes of injury time despite the persistent time-wasting from the hosts was also staggering. On the other hand, Col U fans won't have been happy when de Havilland, already on a yellow, was just given a talking to after another poor foul just before halftime, before being replaced by Müller for the second half.

**Magic Moment:** Not much to choose from here, so we'll go for Luke O'Nien's wholehearted performance.

**CRAWLEY TOWN (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 25<sup>TH</sup> February**  
Att: 3,206

**BLUES 1** (*Akinfenwa 15*) **REDS 2** (*Cowan-Hall o.g. 42, Payne 84*)

**Verdict:** A sixth defeat in a row and the eighth in our last nine games – this was a thoroughly miserable afternoon. The patched-up defence didn't exactly get the confidence flowing, but after taking the lead we looked comfortable and suddenly we were wondering if this was the game to stop the rot. Once AGAIN though, we f&^k around at the back, GIVE the opposition a corner and then, as if to take the piss out of ourselves, score an own goal. Actually painful. The second half was about as much fun as root canal surgery, although neck surgery was more likely trying to follow Will de Havilland's distribution. This was an awful game, between two awful teams.

**Ref Watch:** Gavin Ward – As bad as the teams playing...which is really saying something

**Magic Moment:** The tearful applause for Paul McCarthy in the fifth minute.

**ACCRINGTON STANLEY (A)**  
**League Two, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
Att: 1,045

**STANLEY 2** (*Clare 45+2, Pearson 63*) **BLUES 2** (*Akinfenwa 56, 58*)

**Verdict:** Praise be to the football gods as we finally ended the run of defeats with a draw at Accy. In truth, it was a fairly poor game on a terrible pitch and perhaps a disappointing result given that Stanley are struggling at the wrong end of the table, but given our terrible recent form and the patched-up nature of our starting eleven, perhaps we should just be grateful that we took a point and stopped the rot. Two goals from set pieces were our undoing though and there is a worry that we over-rely on Bayo to get us out of trouble. It's great to have an in-form striker, but other players need to step up to the plate too.

**Ref Watch:** Mark Brown – No complaints.

**Magic Moment:** Akinfenwa's quick-fire brace. His signing in the summer rather divided opinion among Wycombe fans, but he is staking a strong claim for player of the season and this takes him to six goals in our last seven games and ahead of Scott Kashket as top scorer.



**GRIMSBY TOWN (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
Att: 4,668

**MARINERS 1** (*Dyson 17 pen*) **BLUES 2** (*Collins o.g. 67, Cowan-Hall 71*)

**Verdict:** At last! A win! It wasn't exactly convincing and we had a little help from the referee, but it's a win! Not only that, but with six first-teamers all missing through injury, we showed great character to come back from 1-0 down at halftime to scrape past the stubborn fish-botherers, who will still be complaining about our winner when we play them next season.

After a poor start and falling behind from yet another penalty after Wood's needless foul, we came into the game and we started to put pressure on the Grimsby defence with a sustained aerial bombardment. Credit to Ainsworth for making changes at halftime which undoubtedly swung the game back in our favour, particularly the introduction of Cowan-Hall, who was excellent. Still, it took a freak own goal from Danny Collins to bring us level and there was more than an element of fortune to our second. Town keeper McKeown wiped out teammate Gunning as he punched Jacobson's freekick clear, the ball fell to Cowan-Hall who made space for himself before lashing the ball into the top corner. The Grimsby fans and players weren't happy, but everyone knows you play to the whistle.

A large number of Grimsby fans rolled out the usual 'cheats' accusations for us playing on, but it was the ref's call not to stop play and despite claims to the contrary, replays clearly show that the Grimsby players didn't stop either, with only one rushing to Gunning's aid and only after the ball was already in the back of the net. Besides, the Mariners lost any right to complain when they refused to give the ball back after Muller had gone down injured.

**Ref Watch:** Nicholas Kinseley – Did a good job in the most part. The penalty was correctly awarded and he was right to book Southwell late on for taking too long to leave the pitch after being substituted, but he probably did mess up a bit for the winner.

**Magic Moment:** Ainsworth is often criticised for not making changes, or making them too late, so top marks for the double change at the break that turned the game in our favour.

**BLACKPOOL (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
Att: 3,774

**BLUES 0 SEASIDERS 0**

**Verdict:** The jury is somewhat out on this one. To some, it was a dire game, whereas to others it was quite a tight and tense match between two sides who were eager not to give anything away. It was certainly cagey, as both sides largely cancelled each other out, but given the exploits of our keeper we were certainly happier with the draw.

It was a game in which both defences were on top and showed a marked improvement for ourselves, who have been giving goals away far too easily in recent weeks. The lack of creativity and clear chances was undoubtedly frustrating, but owed much to the organised and resolute visiting defence. We nearly threw it away right at the death after conceding YET ANOTHER penalty, but, not for the first time this season, Blackman pulled off a great spotkick save to earn us what could be a valuable point.

**Ref Watch:** Christopher Sarginson - Not particularly noticed, which is a good thing and the penalty decision was a correct one.

**Magic Moment:** The penalty stop from Blackman was good, but his earlier save from Potts was quite incredible. The visiting fans were already beginning their celebrations when he appeared from nowhere to claw the ball away.

**PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (H)**  
**League Two, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
Att: 3,638

**BLUES 1** (*Weston 18*) **ARGYLE 1** (*Blissett 72*)

**Verdict:** A decent result considering the opposition, but not one that will do our fading playoff ambitions any good. In the first 45 we outplayed Argyle, even the usually myopic Derek Adams graciously admitted that we “probably shaded the first half”! We played some really good stuff and our early dominance was rewarded with Weston’s well taken goal.

Unsurprisingly, Plymouth came at us in the second half and disappointingly we appeared to sit back a bit and invite them on. The impressive Carey was now pulling the strings in midfield - it was his corner that led to their goal and substitute Blissett’s looping header was probably a deserved equaliser on the balance of play. Our players noticeably tired towards the end as Plymouth smelled blood, but Ainsworth showed good tactical awareness to respond to the threat from Argyle’s set pieces by replacing Müller with de Havilland, who put in a great shift stabilising the back line. A point will probably suit them more than us, but a draw was a fair result and it was nice to again avoid defeat to our Devon friends when we were undoubtedly the underdogs.

**Ref Watch:** Charles Breakspear – Had a decent game, despite the predictable bleatings from from the Green Army. Kept on top of proceedings in the second half as the game became scrappier and the foul count rose.

**Adams Watch:** “We have had a very tough schedule. Wycombe have had it easier than us and haven't played the same number of games Saturday, Tuesday, Saturday.”  
Absolute nonsense. Before this game, Plymouth had played 15 games in 2017, with 5 midweek fixtures. Wycombe had played 18 games in that same time, 7 of them midweek.

**Magic Moment:** It was a bit naughty, but the Wycombe fan refusing to give the ball back to an Argyle player was quite amusing, especially given the recent revelations concerning Adams’ less than sporting instructions to the ballboys at Home Park.

**HARTLEPOOL UNITED (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
Att: 3,356

**STELLING'S MONKEY HANGERS 0 BLUES 2** (*Akinfenwa 24, Cowan-Hall 90*)

**Verdict:** A decent display and a good result that keeps our playoff dream alive. We started brightly, looking solid in midfield and dangerous going forward and were rewarded with a fine opening goal after some delightful exchanges between Akinfenwa, Weston and Southwell ended with the Beast finding the bottom corner.

Bayo went off with a knock in the second half and it was interesting that we then started to get the ball on the ground more, playing some really good football at times. The big man's goals basically make him un-droppable, but his presence in the side does also seem to be a catalyst for us hoofing it up the field. Hartlepool were mostly limited to long range efforts and only managed one shot on target, which Blackman saved well. Perhaps Wycombe should have put the game to bed sooner, but the killer second goal finally came in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute, when Cowan-Hall raced past his man into the box and fired home.

Unfortunately, Cowan-Hall tangled with Scott Harrison in stoppage time and after some aggressive hugging, the Wycombe forward was shown a second yellow. Whilst Paris was reacting to a clumsy foul from the Hartlepool defender, it was poor discipline from him with the game sewn up and just minutes remaining and he should have known better.

**Ref Watch:** David Webb – Received some criticism from Wycombe fans for the sending off, but probably got the decision spot on. The handball for Cowan-Hall's first booking may have been accidental, but his hand was raised above head height and it broke up a Hartlepool attack. Some Wanderers supporters claimed Harrison should have been sent off as well, but the scrap really was just a spot of wrestling with no actual punches thrown, so a booking apiece was fair – just bad luck for Paris that it was his second.

**Magic Moment:** Bayo's goal – easily one of the best we have scored this season. If you haven't seen it, it's worth looking up on Youtube.

**NOTTS COUNTY (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
Att: 4,362

**BLUES 0 COUNTY 1** (*Ameobi 25*)

**Verdict:** Unbeaten in five, at home against a side near the bottom, with the sun shining and a ticket promotion...it was all looking good. And then we kicked off. Today was a crushing disappointment with far too many below-par performances. An inability to keep the ball, silly fouls, far too much hit-and-hope and poor substitutions. Weston was the only one who looked like he might create something, but was taken off on 80 minutes.

That said, it's odd that we came close to scoring a few times. O'Nien blazed over with the goal gaping, Weston forced a good save, JJ had a free-kick just wide, Weston was upended just before he was about to tap in and Freeman came close with an overhead attempt. All in all though, this was a dire game in which we played terribly and while faint play-off hopes are still alive, displays like this hardly swell the confidence.

**Ref Watch:** Ross Joyce - Handled proceedings very well, with the exception of his failure to award a spot kick when Weston was upended. It was a remarkable (non) decision that had fans in the stand staring at each other in disbelief. The main reason he got it wrong was due to not being able to keep up with play.

**Magic Moment:** The decent ten-minute performance of substitute Nick Freeman was the only highlight.

**LEYTON ORIENT (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
Att: 4,526

**O's 0 BLUES 2** (*Bloomfield 37, Weston 38*)

**Verdict:** It's the hope that kills you. Just when we'd accepted the playoffs were out of reach, a return to winning ways, coupled with the three sides directly above us all losing, has prolonged the agony of seeing us desperately scrambling about just outside the top seven.

Orient are in a sorry state and it is heartbreaking to see this proud club being destroyed from the inside. That said, despite their rock bottom position and apparently weak starting line-up, the floundering O's were the better side in the opening exchanges, until defender Tom Parkes was shown a straight red for a rash challenge on the half hour mark. The man advantage allowed Wycombe to get a foothold in the game as Orient lost their shape and composure and within ten minutes of the sending off, Wycombe were 2-0 up.

Both our goals had an element of fortune to them. First, some Akinfenwa-inspired havoc led to Kennedy's panicked clearance cannoning off a teammate and into the path of Bloomfield who slipped home the easiest of chances. A minute later, O's keeper Sargeant raced out to gather a long ball from Saunders, collided with defender Janse and Weston hooked the loose ball into the empty net. It was either an unnoticed foul by Weston on Janse, or a comedy balls up by the Orient pair, but either way, that's the sort of luck that goes against you when you're at the bottom of the league.

**Ref Watch:** Charles Breakspear – Orient weren't happy with the sending off, with some fans claiming contact was minimal - but the challenge was late, high and with studs up. He did probably get the second goal wrong though, as Weston appeared to shove Janse into Sargeant. He had an easier time of it in the second half as the game tamely petered out.

**Magic Moment:** Both sets of fans joining together to protest against Orient's shambolic owners. Many Wycombe supporters donated to the O's fans' regeneration fund and Gareth Ainsworth put £20 of his own cash in as well. We wish a great club and it's fans all the best.

**CHELTENHAM TOWN (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April**  
Att: 3,596

**BLUES 3** (*Thompson 21, 43, Jacobson 80 pen*) **ROBINS 3** (*Waters 7, 83, Pell 13*)

**Verdict:** Was this game a parallel of our season? After an awful start that could have oddly been even worse, we steadied the ship and by mid-way looked perfectly capable of achieving something. Hard work got us into a position where we were in control before almost immediately slipping up and, despite much effort and hard work, we ended up with little to show for our endeavours. The last element may well prove to be a falsity as results elsewhere went our way, but this really did feel like two points dropped.

The line-up raised eyebrows and we were at sixes and sevens for a long time. Oddly though, it was the defence, the one element that WAS consistent, that was at fault. This was a game somewhat low on quality but very high on excitement and drama, but ultimately it was another frustrating afternoon.

**Ref Watch:** Carl Boyeson - Not an easy game to officiate, but we can't argue with the big decisions and his quick thinking to put the unfortunate Barthram in the recovery position shows a side to the referee's game that is often unnoticed and sometimes unappreciated.

**Magic Moment:** The long-awaited return of Kashket offers some optimism for the run-in.

**MANSFIELD TOWN (H)**  
**League Two, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April**  
Att: 4,218

**BLUES 0 STAGS 1** (*Pearce 13*)

**Verdict:** We should have guessed this would happen the minute they announced it was Quid-a-Kid. Once again, when we have an opportunity to put on a show and make up ground on the top seven, we fail to turn up. A draw perhaps would have been a fair result - the Mansfield keeper made a couple of great saves to deny us at the end, but make no mistake, this was another dire game, devoid of entertainment. Frustratingly, it's the same old problems; Stubbornly sticking to the aimless long ball forward, no apparent plan B and substitutions being made way too late in the game. Ainsworth has to address this in the summer. Again some results went our way, but we can pretty much guarantee we'll be playing in League Two next season. This is no bad thing in itself, but with the players we have at this club, we could and should be seeing better results and better displays.

**Ref Watch:** Robert Jones – Incredibly fussy, but not consistent with his fussiness either, such as when he made Harriman take a throw-in from slightly further back, but then allowed a Town player to steal several yards less than a minute later. That said, this wasn't an easy game to referee, with two physical, niggly sides trying to batter each other into submission.

**Magic Moment:** Nothing from the game, but the 500 Club party afterwards was excellent.



**Coming to a lower league football ground near you...**

# *Shooty and the Beast*



Shooty, a stunningly beautiful player, is lost in the bleak wilderness when he comes across the old fortress of Adams Park. Little does he realize that the fortress is inhabited by a terrifying beast, but, overcoming his fears, he befriends the monster and meets his friends; The flashy Paris who lights up the room, the reliable old timer Garry, Pierre the wardrobe and loyal Blooms, who is also part of the furniture.

The two begin a heart-warming relationship together, smashing quality goals in against Notts County and Mansfield Town. Can their partnership help break the curse that hangs over Adams Park, condemning all who dwell within to spend their lives playing in League Two?

# **NEWS ROUND-UP**

## **WYCOMBE FANS CONFIRM THEY DEFINITELY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY**

After defeat to Coventry City in the semi-finals of the Football League Trophy, Wycombe fans have officially confirmed that they definitely don't give a toss about the competition.

In a statement, the Buckinghamshire club's supporters explained; *'Now that we are out, we can at last reveal that we never really cared about the competition in the first place and are delighted to have finally been dumped out the tournament before we could get through to the final at Wembley and possibly win the trophy. We couldn't be happier - in fact the jokes on Coventry. Ha ha ha ha ha!'*

Approximately six hundred Wycombe fans made the trip to the Ricoh Arena for the game, but it transpired that they all went just to make sure that Wycombe lost.

## **SHOCKING BIAS UNCOVERED BY FANS AFTER LEAGUE TWO TEAM OF THE SEASON IS ANNOUNCED**

A group of football fans have uncovered shocking bias in the selection process for the League Two Team of the Season, after players from their clubs were not chosen. There has been astonishment and outrage across the division as, despite fan's balanced and helpful suggestions on Twitter that it 'surely must be' their club's hilariously woeful twat-clown in the right back spot, the position was instead given to a player who had actually had a reasonably good season.

*'I first suspected something wasn't right when they announced Doncaster's John Marquis as one of the strikers,'* explained one of the eagle-eyed supporters, *'He's currently the division's top scorer with twenty-five goals, but for him to get selected ahead of the top striker at my club, who is only just behind him with eight, is ridiculous and clearly poorly-concealed bias against my team, who are having a hell of a season and are absolutely dominating seventeenth position in the league.'*

Another fan also spotted irregularities in the team, explaining; *'David Forde in goal? Who made that decision? He may have kept the most clean sheets in the league, but on the one occasion I saw him this season he had a very quiet game.'*

When confronted with this irrefutable evidence, the scoundrels responsible for selecting the team admitted their wrong-doing and confirmed that they were in fact biased against all twenty-four teams in the division.

## **OXFORD UNITED ANNOUNCE OPEN TOP BUS PARADE FOR CHECKATRADE TROPHY RUNNER-UP HEROES**

Oxford's ten billion fans will have the chance to pay tribute to their almost-all-conquering heroes with the news that the massive club will be spending yet more money it doesn't have to put on an open top bus defeat parade through the city.

Oxford have a proud history of putting on parades to celebrate coming second and will be looking forward to celebrating getting beaten by League One's bottom club.

## **ADVOCATE OF TOP QUALITY FOOTBALL STILL OPTS TO WATCH FOURTH DIVISION EACH WEEK**

An advocate of top quality football has expressed his joy at not having to watch 'awful football' each week, despite following a team in England's fourth tier. After his side's recent draw with Wycombe Wanderers, the fan took to social media and message boards to express his delight at *'not having to watch that rubbish every week!'* before booking a train ticket for his side's away match at Accrington next Tuesday.

*'Wycombe are an awful side,'* he told us, *'I couldn't watch that each week. I like watching beautiful, electric, free-flowing, magical, magisterial, free-flowing, magnificent, free-flowing, one-touch, attacking, beautiful, free-flowing, amazing, thrilling football. I'm thrilled I support a team in the basement division that definitely allows me to watch that each and every week'.*

## **SHOCK AS DEREK ADAMS BLAMES DEFEAT ON OTHERS**

Plymouth manager Derek Adams has shocked the world after refusing to take any responsibility for a defeat and instead blaming everything and everyone around him for robbing him of a deserved victory.

Adams was competing for the coveted 'Most Odious Man In Football Award' and was favourite to win after spending vast amounts of money in the summer to sign up big names like Kelvin MacKenzie and Katie Hopkins to come up with spiteful comments for his post-match press conferences. However, despite leading the table for much of the season, Adams faded away after Christmas and ended up coming second, behind recently-sacked Newport boss Graham Westley.

*'I deserved to win!'* Adams wailed to an outrageously biased Plymouth Herald reporter. *'Only one of us came here to to be truly obnoxious, he just cheated his way into the lead and then time-wasted until the award was given out. Everyone knows I'm the most appalling man in football. My mum says I should have won. It's all Wycombe's fault.'*

Westley celebrated his win by offering out a journalist and sacking his entire backroom staff. This was the first time in thirty-five years that the award was not won by Sepp Blatter.

# **Grand Days Out**

## **COVENTRY**

We set off in glorious sunshine to find the Cape of Good Hope, a canal-side pub on the outskirts of Warwick. This was our first time in here and they did us proud - six different real ales and a lager or two that kept Mother T happy. We didn't spend a lot of time here as we had got stuck in traffic, but the food that we had was excellent. It would have been nice to have spent more time there, but the nasty men at the front of the coach ushered us out after only one and a quarter hours! Still, a good time was had by all. Shame about the game as we missed out on another Wembley appearance.

## **STEVENAGE**

We revisited an old favourite for our shortish trip to Stevenage. The Lytton Arms is a welcoming pub on a cold snowy day - a nice open fire was enjoyed by those that 'Hogged' it! Ten beers were on offer, plus a few ciders and Mother T was not left out on her choice of fizzy lager. Apparently the pub was named after the family that owned Knebworth House, that can be seen from the pub. The food was excellent and even Kevin the coach driver had some lunch. Thank goodness for the lunch time venue, as the less said about the football the better.

## **CREWE**

Only nine of us ventured up the M6 and found the most fantastic pub; The Gresley Arms in Alsager Bank. All ten beers were under £3 a pint and there was even a German Weissbeir (wheat beer) for the missing Mother T! You could even get a 16oz steak for under £12. Couldn't you, Buzz? Thank goodness for great pubs as it was a long trip home. Thanks to all that came.

## **COLCHESTER**

We only had a minibus-load for the Col U game, but we were treated to a new pub, the Alma at Copford, just off the A12 and about eight miles from Colchester. Yet another pub from the Good Beer Guide, although one of our regular travellers did also suggest it to us. It may well have had two Greene King 'beers' (yuk) but all four other beers were of good quality and even Mother T seemed satisfied with the lager. The food was good to and the bar staff very friendly. We could always re-visit next season if we find ourselves in the same league as the Scum!

## GRIMSBY

The Sutton Arms at Scawby proved to be an excellent lunch break. Despite the marked absence of our 'Leader', all went well without him. Two good local ales were on offer, plus a couple more and one intrepid traveller was even seen drinking some 'pink' concoction. Mother T was quite happy for a change, managing to sink a whole pint of some awful lager in record time. It was amazing to see that she came to no harm, avoiding falling over, bouncing off a table, or finding a ditch to fall in. Being near Grimsby the fish proved very popular, with no complaints for a change and even the dessert menu being well used. A great stop and getting back to winning ways capped off a good day.

## LEYTON ORIENT

For this game we made a welcome return to the Woodbine, where we went for the Spurs cup game earlier this season. Not quite so many of us this time, but we were looked after splendidly. No Mother T to fuss over us, or worry what lager to drink. The beers were up to the normal good choice and quality and the food went down very well. We were in the pub before 11:30, only to be followed in by a CAMRA club doing a cider survey. Below is a list of the ciders on offer - I would think they must have gone away very happy! A great choice by those that organised it. Such a shame that we might not be back next season, owing to the sad plight of the O's.

The Woodbine Cider Menu				
Springfield Cider	Bludgion	7%	Medium	Monmouthshire
Springfield Cider	Farmhouse	7%	Med/Sweet	Monmouthshire
Apple Cottage	FTJ	6.7%	Medium	Hertfordshire
Apple Cottage	Warp Factor 7	7%	Medium	Hertfordshire
Apple Cottage	Gandhis Flip Flop 6.7%		Dry	Hertfordshire
Apple Cottage	KT	5.6%	Medium	Hertfordshire
Apple Cottage	Special Branch	6.7%	Med/Sweet	Hertfordshire
Apple Cottage	Thirst Aid	6.7%	Med/Sweet	Hertfordshire
Apple Cottage	Morning Glory	4.9%	Med/Sweet	Hertfordshire
Mayfly	Portuguese	7%	Dry	Hertfordshire
Delvin End Cider	Celtic Storm	7%	Oak Whiskey	Essex
Delvin End Cider	Summer Festival 7%			Essex
Delvin End Cider	Waltzing Wasp	7%		Essex
Delvin End Cider	Sailors Run	7%	Rum Barrell	Essex
Dengie	Cherry Bomb	4%	Medium	Essex
Dengie	Medium Dry	6%		Essex
Dengie	Dry	6%		Essex
Herts Cider	Millers Dance	6.5%	Dry	Hertfordshire
Gwynnt Ddraig	Black Dragon	7.2%	Med/Dry	Wales
Gwynnt Ddraig	Haymaker	6.5%	Medium	Wales
Gwynnt Ddraig	Pyder	6%	Medium	Wales
Gwynnt Ddraig	Sleigh Ride	4.5%	Medium	Wales
Gwynnt Ddraig	Dog Dancer	6.5%	Medium	Wales
Kent Cider	Toffee Apple	6%	Sweet/Dry	Kent
Kent Cider	Rhubarb	6%	Medium	Kent
Millwhites	Blackberry Blush 4%		Med/Sweet	Summerset
Millwhites	Original Scrumpy 6.5%		Dry	Summerset
Raglan Cider	Rum Tiddly Tum		Medium	Wales
London Glider	Medium Dry	6%		Essex
London Glider	Dry	6%		Essex
London Glider	Crab Apple	6%		Essex
Westons	Country Perry 4.5%		Medium	Herefordshire
Westons	Old Rosie 7%		Med/Sweet	Herefordshire
Aspall	Cyderkyn 3.8%		Medium	Suffolk



# Next Time...

The next edition of The Wanderer will be released on

## **The first home league game of next season**

This will be available from the WWISC stall on Hillbottom Road. It will be **free** to WWISC members and £1.50 to everyone else.

If you have any articles, pictures, jokes, cartoons, anecdotes or points of view that you would like contribute, please e-mail them to:

**[jonnyking1985@gmail.com](mailto:jonnyking1985@gmail.com)**

The deadline for submissions is **6pm - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**.

**The Wanderer – By the fans, for the fans**

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**Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club**

**Members of the Football Supporters' Federation**

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