

# THE WANDERER

Issue 109, Season 2017/2018

£1.50



## Wycombe's 'distracting' new goalkeeper kit proving to be a little too effective.



“Imagine Wycombe in the Champions League and the Barcelona team coach stuck for four hours trying to get out of the car park.”

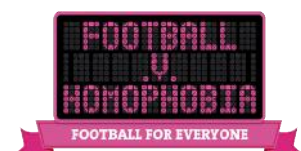
**Henning Wehn speaks to The Wanderer**



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 this fanzine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor, committee or the Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club.

All details of WWISC membership are covered by the data protection act.

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## **Editorial**

It's only November and already it's been a pretty eventful season. There's been the very good (the win over Col U, the excellent signings of Eze and Mackail-Smith, the stunning, late comeback win over Crewe) there's been the very bad (the last gasp defeat to Luton, long term injuries to Harriman and Tyson, the Football League Trophy thrashing by Bristol Rovers) and save a couple of 0-0's, not a huge amount of anything in between. After two seasons of less than scintillating football, Wycombe Wanderers are once again giving great value for money, with an average of nearly 3.5 goals per game so far this campaign.

While it's great to see our previously goal-shy Wanderers banging them in at one end, our defence, that for three years has been meaner than Katie Hopkins, has become alarmingly porous, with opposition strikers stubbornly refusing to be distracted by Scott Brown's amazing technicolour dream jersey and finding the back of the Chairboys net with disappointing regularity. However, with mostly the same backline as last season and with Scott Brown and Adam El Abd finding their feet after inconsistent starts, I have full confidence that this problem will soon be rectified. Still, for those of us that enjoyed the 'Gormania' days of the mid-2000's, it's been nice to see high-scoring games, where no matter how many we concede we can often simply out-score the opposition. For me, it's always more important to get it right up front; You can have the best defence in the world, but you won't win games if you can't stick the ball in the back of the net.

With all these goals flying in, it stands to reason that the one time I go away with WWISC we draw 0-0, but despite failing to beat Newport at Rodney Parade, it was still fantastic to catch up with my Independent comrades at their pub stop and enjoy some good beers and good company. If you are looking to travel to an away fixture, please do consider booking a place on our coach. You'll have a great time and the more people that travel, the lower the cost is for everyone.

Speaking of WWISC, thank you to everyone who attended our recent AGM, where we welcomed Roy and Trevor on to the committee. If you would like to become more involved in what we do, please do drop us a line or collar one of us at a game. Much like at Wycombe Wanderers in general, the success of WWISC is reliant on willing volunteers stepping up and doing their bit. If you feel you have something to offer, then any help will always be gratefully received.

Thank you to everyone who picked up a copy of Issue 108 of the Wanderer in August. The edition was our biggest selling issue for several years, although I'm hoping that Issue 109 might just break that record! In an era where print fanzines are becoming increasingly rare, please keep supporting The Wanderer and we'll keep working hard to give you an affordable, informative and entertaining fanzine.

Forever Chairboy.

*Jonny*



## **UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE**



A big thank you to everyone who came to our AGM at Adams Park on 4<sup>th</sup> October. We are pleased to announce that Roy Wilkinson and Trevor Cox have agreed to join the committee. Following the passing of Ian Nixon, Teresa Slevin and Phil Slatter will take on the role of Joint-Chair for the next year.

Our financial position is still good despite a loss over the past year of just under £500. We are delighted to continue our charity donations and will be donating money to The Marlow Playgroup and Bodger the search and rescue dog.

We will also be investing once again in the 500 Club. Should WWISC win any of the prize draws, we will select a member to receive the prize. We will continue to sponsor Marcus Bean (home) and Sam Saunders (away) for the season.

We will continue to run coaches as often as possible, so please do try an away trip with us. We always stop at a good pub for a pre-booked meal. If you could please book as early as possible, it lets us gauge whether we can run the coach or not. We try to run one to every game, but this is dependent on the number of travellers. If it's not viable we will sadly have to cancel some trips. The more fans travelling on the coach, the lower the price is for everyone. You can find details on how to book towards the back of the fanzine.

We'll be holding the 'WWISC Christmas Quiz' (try saying that after a couple of Sloping Loakes) in the Honours Lounge at Adams Park on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. It's a standard pub quiz (not specific to Wycombe Wanderers) so please do come along and bring friends and family. There will be a well-stocked bar and a raffle during the interval. All are welcome, whether members of WWISC or not.

If you have any questions for WWISC, please e-mail us at [wwindependent@gmail.com](mailto:wwindependent@gmail.com). You can follow us on Twitter at [@WWWISC1994](https://twitter.com/WWWISC1994).

Thank you for all your support,

**The WWISC Committee**

# **GO CHOIRBOYS!**

## **US soccer expert Marty O. Neil looks back at 2017**

After a sweet sixteen streak, Coach Unsworth was real stoked to be taking his Choirboys to sing victory songs at Major League franchise Tottenham Whitehospurs in the Soccer Association Cup. The fans who made the field trip saw Team President Paul Hayles give the Wonderers a shock two-zero mid-point victory and while the Whitehospurs struck back, Barry Thompson's head-kick looked to have sealed the shock W. However, Delboy Alley equalled before Sunshine O'Ming broke Choirboy hearts in the extra game death zone.

The Choirboys then failed to reach Wembley soccer stadium when they were defeated at the Final Elimination Phase of the Check-It-Out-Now Shield by the Coventry Sky Sports Blues. Coach Unsworth still hoped to still make post-season, but his team went zero for six, thanks largely to a number of his ball-players being on the disabled list. They finally achieved a W away at Grimsby Fishermen, although an Awesome Friday showdown loss against Mansfield Stags looked to have put paid to a shot at a play-off berth. However, they picked up two more W's and a final day clash at Adams Ballpark against the Cambridge Educators saw hopes raised. Despite Scotty Cash-Get's headkick, other franchises also picked up victory points and the Choirboys would remain in the EFL Divisional Two Section for the next soccer semester.

Frozen yoghurt salesman Randy Howard then opted to sell the franchise to peanut vendor Trevor St. Rowd, who had to inject some dollars to improve the quality in the clubhouse. The first piece of business was the renew of the contract of last season's MVP, Andy 'The Bear' AkinFenway.

The close season draft saw Coach Unsworth cut left-sided attack middle fielders Miles West-Town and Sammy Woody from the roster, along with Hall of Fame vet Barry Thompson. Centralised defensive blocker Andy Pier opted to swap franchises and is now contracted to the North Hamptons in the EFL Divisional First Section.



Drafted in were blocker Andy the Abs, former boxer Mike Tyson, Craig 'Return of the Mack' Smith and returning goalshot-denier Scotty Brown, hoping to beam the Choirboys up a Divisional Section. The Choirboys made CNN and Fox News headlines with the launch of their new goalshot-denier uniform, specially designed by coach Ricardo's son, to help shore up the end zone.

The Choirboys' home season opener against Abraham Lincoln saw a Lucky O'Nien head strike and a Jock Jacobs field goal achieve a tie game. The first field trip of the season was to Park Vale, where the Choirboys scored three quick touchdowns, meaning the two homers from the Valiants in the bottom of the ninth were rendered meaningless. It wasn't until the trip to New York County in Southern Whales that a shut-out was achieved, but Coach Unsworth must be high-fiving about the number of goalstrikes the Wonderers have been winning. Best of these was a late touchdown by Nate Tyson, who's final goal strike against The Crew sealed an awesome walk-off home victory that had the fans busting some cool dance moves in the bleachers. A tie-game with Belinda Carlisle saw opposition goal-attacker Shane Miller use fake news to win a goalzone infringement advantage kick, for which he later received a double post-game dishonesty timeout, after the sports umpire watched a multi-angle super slo-mo playback on the jumbotron big screen.

In the Check-It-Out-Now Shield, The Choirboys were nuked by a score of five to one against by the Bristol Lightning and a further L to the Swindon Robins saw The Choirboys eliminated from the opening qualifying round divisional system, although an exhibition match against Major League franchise West Side Ironhammers will still go ahead. In the Soccer Association Cup, The Choirboys defeated semi-pro little leaguers Sunny Hill Minors, setting up a Second Elimination Stage Deathmatch against tagteam duo Billy Ricky and Leatherface from the Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

Determined to make the Choirboys the most winningest team in the state of Buckhampshire, Coach Unsworth used the latest round of drafts to trade in Scarface from Birmingham Alabama and rapper Easy E from NWA. Rookie middle-spacer Donny Roe and Team President Paul Hayles were both cut, while Harry Michaelman popped his leg in practice. If Coach Unsworth can keep registering W's, the Choirboys have a major shot at post season or even clinching the EFL Divisional Second Section pennant.

# A CHRISTMAS APPEAL

(NOT INVOLVING ANY SANCTIMONIOUS, HYPOCRITICAL, TAX-AVOIDING POP SINGERS)

Terrible films on TV, supermarkets stocking up on tins of biscuits the size of a small wardrobe and various department stores trying to out-crap each other with inane, sentimental adverts set to someone singing a boring cover version of a previously alright song. That's right kids, Christmas is just round the corner!

If you're like my mum, you completed your Christmas shopping back in April. If you're like my dad, you're waiting till Christmas Eve to have a little nose around Oxfam and see what they've got. If you are a normal person however (and you're reading The Wanderer, so we're taking a bit of a gamble here) then you probably haven't started yet, but are starting to get a bit panicky about it because you have to try and think what to get that nephew that you never see because you hate him and Grandma, who's 134 and doesn't like anything except expressing opinions that are no longer considered socially acceptable.

One thing's for certain though, most of you will probably be doing the vast majority of your festive present-getting online, as we all cheerily contribute to the slow and agonising death of high street retailers. No insanely busy shops, no long queues, no wrestling with desperate parents over the last Michael Gove action figure in Wilkinsons and no annoying kids riding their micro scooters through Boots (seriously, when the hell did that become acceptable?). Amazing isn't it? Well at the risk of making you so happy your eyes start bleeding with joy, what if I told you that you could also raise money for the club with your purchases?

No, seriously! You can collect FREE donations for the Wycombe Wanderers Trust, just by doing your shopping through the Easy Fundraising website. It doesn't cost you a penny, there are no catches or hidden charges and with over 3,000 shops and websites signed up to the scheme, including John Lewis, Sainsbury's and Amazon, you can raise significant donations in next to no time, with all the money you generate going towards helping the Trust make Wycombe Wanderers a successful and sustainable football club, as well as safeguarding its heritage. So far, 97 fans have raised over £1,600 for the Trust, but hopefully with greater awareness of the scheme and with Christmas shopping creeping up Wycombe supporters to do lists, this figure can be greatly increased over the next couple of months.

Getting involved is so easy it's almost a little embarrassing;

1. Head over to **[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wycombewandererstrust](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wycombewandererstrust)** and sign up, completely free of charge.
2. Then, before you start shopping, go to the Easy Fundraising website first and find the website of the retailer you want to visit.
3. Shop away to your heart's content and when you check out, the retailer will donate a percentage of what you spend to the Trust, at no extra cost to yourself.

That's it, it's really that simple. Please do take five minutes to register and remember to use the Easy Fundraising website for all your online purchases. The Trust are extremely grateful for all donations raised. Merry Christmas!

DUNCAN ALEXANDER



'The finest  
resource in  
football'  
GUARDIAN



# OUTSIDE THE BOX

A Statistical Journey Through the History of Football



# **Last of the Summer Whine**

**We compare what Blues fans are moaning about this season to what they were moaning about this time last year.**

**2016** - "Blackman is awful. Get Brown back!"

**2017** – "Brown is awful. Get Blackman back!"

**2016** – "Akinfenwa starting? Ainsworth's lost the plot!"

**2017** – "Akinfenwa not starting? Ainsworth's lost the plot!"

**2016** – "Why can't we score?!"

**2017** – "Why can't we stop the opposition scoring?!"

**2016** – "McGinn could be the answer if he could just get a game!"

**2017** – "What was that Scottish fella called again?"

**2016** – "Our goalkeeper kit is horrible!"

**2017** – "Our goalkeeper kit is *really* horrible!"

**2016** – "We should be playing Harriman at right back!"

**2017** – "We should be playing Jombati at right back!"

**2016** – "The football at Adams Park is rubbish!"

**2017** – "The pies at Adams Park are rubbish!"

**2016** – "Müller is shocking, get rid of him!"

**2017** – "Müller is the new Beckenbauer, get him back!"

**2016** – "Why hasn't Ainsworth bothered getting a reserve left back in?"

**2017** – "Why has Ainsworth bothered getting a reserve left back in?"

**2016** – "Bean is useless!"

**2017** – "We are erecting a statue of Bean in Wycombe town centre."

# **SATURDAY AFTERNOON KITCHEN LIVE**

(RELAX, THAT SMUG IDIOT LOVEJOY IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN)

“Lately we’ve been seeing a resurgence in the popularity of the Marcus Bean, a very handy, versatile bean that can be used in any number of dishes. Previously unfancied and seen as bit bland and one-dimensional, the Marcus Bean is now being used a lot more regularly, with people commenting on how it adds that extra bit of bite and substance to a meal. You can use it with any number of different ingredients, perhaps with a leek or two, or even a leek or nine for a nice, balanced meal, or alternatively you can simply pair it with a small grape, although you could argue that isn’t very adventurous. Alternatively, if you don’t have space for it in the middle of your plate, you can also have it on your right as a replacement for a side, if side is unavailable for whatever reason. However, please do bear in mind that the Marcus Bean doesn’t tend to mix very well with shrimps.”

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## **IN THE BOX**

**We look at some of the TV highlights this winter**

### **JOSH (BBC 1)**

Fun sitcom following young Josh Umerah as he navigates life’s obstacles with the help of his quirky housemates in the Life Skills House and their overbearing landlord Andy. This week, Josh is looking forward to starting upfront in the Check-a-trade Trophy game against Swindon Town, but a series of comedy mishaps see him pick up a really quite nasty injury and be ruled out for several months. Oh Josh!

### **STRICTLY COME DANCING (BBC 1)**

Tune in every Saturday and marvel as Eberechi Eze waltzes through a challenging new defence. He’ll be hoping to score at least one, but will the judges; the mean and grumpy Baz, the elegant, long-haired Gaz and the ridiculously outrageous and over-the-top Dobbo choose to keep him in for a few more weeks, or will he be leaving?

### **BACK (C4)**

Hapless Dayle turns up for work, ready to take charge after the shock sudden departure of father figure Paul, only to find that prodigal son Nathan has returned after a long spell away and has usurped his position. Suspicious, Dayle sets out trying to discover Nathan’s Achilles heel, which in the end turns out to be his Achilles. And both his knees.

## **The Good Old Hayes**

**With Wycombe captain Paul Hayes calling time on his Wanderers career after three and a half memorable years at the club, we look back on the number nine's 9 greatest moments.**

### **1. A debut to remember**

Out of favour at Charlton Athletic midway through the 2011-2012 season, Hayes was allowed to join Wycombe on loan, who were battling relegation at the foot of the League One table. Making his Chairboys debut against Hartlepool, the striker had to endure a goal drought of a whole five minutes before getting his first goal in the blue quarters. He went on to grab a brace as Wycombe romped to a 5-0 win. Forming a deadly partnership with Stuart Beavon, Hayes went on to score six times in six appearances for Gary Waddock's side, with Wycombe winning four and drawing one of those games. Sadly, his good form prompted Charlton to recall him from Adams Park, although frustratingly he only made two more appearances for the Addicks as they clinched the League One title. Wycombe's good form tailed off and they were relegated back to League Two.

### **2. Hayes returns!**

Two years later and with Wycombe narrowly avoiding relegation out of the Football League at the end of the 2013-2014 season, it was clear that Gareth Ainsworth needed to make some drastic changes both on and off the pitch. More quality and commitment was needed on it and more professionalism and leadership was needed off it. Many Blues fans less than excited for what was threatening to be more of the same in the coming season, but Ainsworth had big plans for Wycombe Wanderers and began restructuring the club by making Hayes his first signing of the summer, appointing him captain in the process. The news gave the Wycombe faithful a huge lift and set the tone for the new, improved Wycombe Wanderers that Ainsworth was creating. Hayes used his experience, influence and leadership skills to help bring about a huge culture change at Adams Park that helped pull the club out of the doldrums and push it up the league, a legacy that will hopefully last for many years to come.

### **3. A stunning start to the season**

Any lingering fears Wycombe fans had for the 2014-2015 season were swiftly banished as the Wanderers made a superb start to the campaign, topping the table for much of the first half of the season. A lot of this was down to the goals of the red hot Hayes, who hit 8 in Wycombe's opening 17 league games, including a delightful flick and volley on the turn in a 3-1 win over Stevenage and a thumping strike (and delighted celebration in front of the home fans) in a 2-1 win away at local rival and plucky non leaguers Oxford United.

### **4. THAT penalty**

With the season drawing to a close, a tired and injury-hit Wycombe side were battling to hold on to the third and final automatic promotion place in League Two. The games were coming thick and fast and it was a depleted Wanderers side that went out to face Exeter City at Adams Park on a Tuesday night in April. With the game finely balanced at 1-1, an injury to Nico Yennaris resulted in the six minutes of injury time being doubled to twelve and it was at the very end of the last of these, the 102<sup>nd</sup> minute, that Wycombe were awarded a penalty, for what would be the last kick of the game. Three thousand Wycombe fans fell silent and an eerie hush descended on Adams Park as Paul Hayes, seemingly the only calm person in the ground, placed the ball on the spot in front of the Valley End Terrace and then, after what seemed like an agonisingly long wait, calmly sent Christie Pym the wrong way to spark incredible, riotous scenes among the Chairboys faithful.

### **5. Pummelling Plymouth in the playoffs**

With Wycombe finishing in fourth place, just outside the automatic promotion places, the Chairboys would face a strong Plymouth Argyle side in the League Two Playoffs. Hayes had endured a short and unhappy loan spell at Argyle the previous season and had delighted in scoring at Home Park in Wycombe's league win over the Pilgrims earlier in the season. He repeated the trick in the playoffs, opening the scoring with a clever, close range flick on ten minutes, as Wycombe went on to claim a 3-2 victory in the first leg.

In the second leg at Adams Park, Hayes needed even less time to find the back of the net, again scoring the opening goal with another close range finish after just eight minutes. Wycombe saw out a 2-1 win to claim a 5-3 aggregate victory and a place in the final at Wembley. The jubilant home fans streamed onto the pitch, celebrating a memorable win that will live long in the memories of Wanderers supporters.

## **6. Walking out at Wembley**

Paul Hayes became the first Wycombe captain to walk out at the new Wembley and the first Chairboys skipper at the national stadium since Glyn Creaser eleven years earlier. Although the game ended in heartbreak as the Chairboys lost on penalties, there was also a huge amount of pride in what Gareth Ainsworth's men had achieved, just twelve months on from their final day Football League survival.

## **7. Fan Power!**

The following season got off to bad start for Hayes, failing to score in six appearances before picking up an injury that ruled him out for nearly two months. However, his comeback was accelerated thanks to the Wycombe fans, as the club were able to purchase new specialist medical equipment thanks to money raised through donations from supporters. Hayes returned earlier than expected and started the home game against Carlisle. With the Chairboys 1-0 down in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute, it was Hayes who was able to pay the fans back, chesting down a loose ball on the edge of the area before cleverly lobbing the keeper for a last-gasp equaliser, running to the Wycombe bench to celebrate with the physio who had helped him back to fitness.

## **8. FA Cup adventures**

Wycombe hadn't progressed beyond the second round of the FA Cup for five years and after seeing off non-league Halifax in the first round, a second round tie away at League One Millwall didn't look particularly promising. However, Hayes put the Wanderers 1-0 up at The Den with a well-taken goal and Michael Harriman's late strike set up a third round game against Premier League side Aston Villa. Having held the Midlands giants to a 1-1 draw at Adams Park, the FA Cup once again took the Blues to Villa Park, with Hayes following in the footsteps of Keith Ryan as he proudly led Wycombe Wanderers out onto the pitch.



## 9. Spurs

There were more FA Cup adventures the following season. After seeing off Portsmouth in the first round, Wycombe faced a tricky second round tie away at League One side Chesterfield. Up stepped Hayes to put Wycombe 1-0 with a header, as the Chairboys thrashed the Spireites 5-0. A hard-fought win against a spirited Stourbridge side in the third round put Wycombe into the FA Cup Fourth Round for only the second time in their history and the Blues couldn't have been rewarded with a better draw, against Premier League highfliers Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane.

Wycombe started the game well, taking the game to the North London club and Hayes was unlucky not to score after just 45 seconds when his close range header hit the bar. The Wycombe captain was not to be denied however and in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute he put the Wanderers ahead with a sweetly struck left-footed volley, to the delight of the travelling supporters. After being on hand at the other end of the pitch to clear Sissoko's effort of the line, Hayes then sparked pandemonium amongst the Wycombe fans, when he made it 2-0 with an expertly taken penalty after Wood was brought down by Carter-Vickers.

Although Tottenham went on to win the match 4-3, it was a thrilling encounter and one that can be looked back on with great pride and fondness. Wycombe were the only side to score more than two goals at White Hart Lane that season and Hayes was the only player to score more than once. It was a tremendous game and arguably the finest performance in the blue quarters by Wycombe's heroic captain.



# **Get Involved**

**Thanks to the unstinting work and generous donations of countless Chairboys fans, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club continue to progress under supporter ownership. However, there is still much to be done. If you are interested in assisting the club, there are a number of ways you can get involved.**

## **500 Club**

Following its success last season, Wycombe Wanderers are re-running the 500 Club, with the aim of raising £75,000 for the playing budget, through 500 donations of £150. All money raised will be exclusively for investment in the squad and last season this helped fund the transfers of Dominic Gape and Sam Saunders. Already over 100 supporters have pledged in excess £16,000 for Gareth Ainsworth to bolster the squad in the January transfer window.

Fans can donate either the full £150 up front, or commit to twelve monthly payments of £12.50p. Members will receive a 500 Club badge, entry into a number of prize draws, second priority after season ticket holders for high-demand away cup games, and an invitation to an exclusive event with the players towards the end of the season.

To donate, or for more information, please visit **[www.500wanderers.co.uk](http://www.500wanderers.co.uk)**.

## **Community Share Scheme**

The Community Share Scheme continues to thrive and produce much needed income for the Football Club. To date, over 180 fans have contributed some £545,000, with a further £190,000 committed over the next two seasons, well over a third of the £2m target the Wycombe Wanderers Trust set out to raise over 5 years.

Much of the initial money raised went into stabilising the club's finances and providing some much needed working capital, ensuring Wycombe Wanderers could remain under fan ownership. Since then, the money raised by the scheme has been invested in a number of important projects, including purchasing medical equipment, buying Michael Harriman from QPR and making essential upgrades and improvements around Adams Park, that the club would otherwise have not been able to afford.

Please do consider investing in the scheme, either by setting up a monthly payment plan 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)**. Alternatively, you can visit the Trust table in the Caledonian Suite before a home game, or email **[shares@wycombewandererstrust.com](mailto:shares@wycombewandererstrust.com)**.

## **Wycombe Wanderers Trust**

The Wycombe Wanderers Trust are working tirelessly to keep the club safe, successful and sustainable and have recently celebrated five years since taking control of the club in June 2012. Anyone can join the Trust at the cost of just £10 a season for adults and £5 for those aged 65 or over, 25 or under, or members of the WW Ex-Players Association. Please visit the Trust table in the Caledonian Suite on a home matchday, or email **johnbig@wycombewandererstrust.com** for an application form. You can also pick up a form from reception at Adams Park during office hours or download one from the Trust website; **www.wycombewandererstrust.com**.

The **Trust AGM** will be held at Adams Park on the evening of **Wednesday 29th November**, in the Caledonian Suite.

## **Wycombe PALS**

Wycombe PALS is a volunteer group that assists the club in a number of areas, helping it to achieve stability and success as a supporter-owned club. Recently the PALS have carried out important tasks, such as painting areas of the training ground and cleaning seats at Adams Park, saving the club significant money that can now be spent elsewhere.

Supporters wishing to register their interest in volunteering are asked to send in their name, contact details and a CV or list of suitable skills and areas of expertise, as well an approximate guide to their availability (e.g. Evenings, weekends, specific weekdays) to **media@wwfc.com**. Your details will be passed to the relevant head of department, who will contact applicants to discuss the role in detail. The club will advertise volunteer opportunities on it's website, social media channels and in the matchday programme.

## **BBC Three Counties Radio Coverage**

Phil Catchpole is continuing his excellent work, reporting on Wycombe games for BBC Three Counties Radio. Phil has done a fantastic job increasing the amount of exposure the club gets and the more fans that interact with the station, the greater that coverage will be. 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 iFollow.

**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**.



## **Anne Lewis 1934 – 2017**

**Ann Lewis**, a lifelong Wycombe fan, sadly passed away very suddenly on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017, aged 82. Ann was a long-time member of WWISC and had many friends from her years supporting the Blues home and away.

Ann came from a family of Wycombe supporters, with her father taking her to her first Wanderers game in the early 1950's and she went on to attend games first with her husband Brian and then her son Paul, regulars at first Loakes Park and then Adams Park.

She was at Wembley for the FA Amateur Cup Final in 1957 and then again for our successes under Martin O'Neill in 1991, 1993 and 1994. She was also at our great FA Cup wins at Selhurst Park and Filbert Street in the 2000/2001 season, as well as the Semi-Final game against Liverpool at Villa Park, wearing her self-created Wycombe Wanderers hat.

Although Ann will be deeply missed by her family and friends, the family tradition of supporting Wycombe Wanderers continues with Paul, a season ticket for the past 35 years, his partner Jane and their daughter Aimee, both now season ticket holders for more than ten years and all regulars in The Family Stand.

## A View from Afar - Four Weddings

My summer was spent attending weddings. At one, the father of my goddaughter mentioned the mighty Chairboys, as her husband is a Wigan Rugby League egg-wrestling fan and drinks "girlie lager". Next up, Row H Junior got married to the leader of the Brittany Blues Supporters Club. I was disappointed to see her bridesmaids in dresses rather than the Wanderers shirts I had seen them all in previously. Junior made a fantastic speech which involved peeling off various football shirts. A France shirt for the bride's family, an Ajax shirt for the Dutch relatives and a Wanderers shirt for the Wycombe family, before finishing with a specially printed shirt of husband and wife. All this took place, not in rural France, but near Solihull Moors' ground, so the FA Cup game was a time for a grand reunion with the Brummie Blues Branch.

A week later my nephew got married near Chorley, with the reception 56 miles away, where the highlight was the first dance; my nephew desperately counting the steps to 'A Moment Like This' by Leona Lewis. It's the happy couple's special tune and it's special to me too, for a different reason. December 2006 and Leona wins *The X Factor*. January 2007. Wycombe v Chelsea and the 1-1 draw. Even now I have to hold my breath as Jermaine Easter's shot rolls so, so slowly into the back of the net. At the end of the match, as everyone filed out, the tannoy played 'A Moment Like This' and I stood there, just savouring the moment. I can still feel that emotion in my stomach when I hear the song. I wrote about it at the time in this fanzine.

Many teams never make a semi-final, for Wycombe to have reached two in recent times is amazing, particularly have risen from non-league. It was a dream. It was also a moment to wonder the next time the ground would be full and if such dizzy heights could be reached again. Last season we got Spurs. I guess the optimism makes it all worth while. This is a great club, with a great manager and staff and fans. Please remember we are 'punching above our weight'. With limited resources, the club is surviving where it should be struggling. Be disappointed when we lose, be happy when we win. Play 'what-if?' and don't be hard on the manager and players. Better teams than Wycombe have dropped through the trapdoor into the National League.

Finally, we had a weekend nostalgia trip to Margate. The quicker they progress to League Two for the ultimate away game the better; Dreamland Theme Park, Antique Quarter, sand and beer. We finished at Hythe for a train ride after visiting the parish church where we sang an old hymn:

"I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,  
Should set his love upon the sons of men,  
Or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the *wanderers*"

Keep the faith.

**Row H**



# Sing Wehn you're winning

In March 2002, a young German pitched up in High Wycombe after leaving his homeland to take a job in the marketing department of Wycombe Wanderers. God only knows what happened to him at Adams Park, but fifteen years later Henning Wehn is now one of the biggest names in British stand-up comedy.

We managed to catch up with the German Comedy Ambassador to the UK during his successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe with his new show 'Westphalia Is Not An Option'. As the Scottish weather sent tourists and street performers scurrying for shelter, we settled ourselves down in a quiet corner of a noisy café for cups of tea, an unfeasibly large plate of scrambled eggs and a chat about all things Wycombe...

## **How did your association with Wycombe Wanderers first come about?**

The company I was working for back home in Westphalia was about to go under. I thought my CV looked alright, but I didn't speak English, so I applied for jobs in and around London. I've always worked in sport, so I applied to the 92 league clubs in England, managed to arrange a few interviews and then was very lucky timing-wise that I applied just when Simon Monkman started as the Chief Executive. I could essentially only offer a research project. I couldn't sell anything; my English was nowhere near good enough. But I knew I could work out how the club was seen by all the different stakeholders and where they wanted the club to go, be that staff or local businesses or sponsors. So I offered that and at the time Wycombe didn't really have anything like that, they didn't know much about their customers – I'm sorry for saying customers – but Simon said 'That's exactly what we need, let's give that a go' and then shortly after Simon went then I was gone as well, because he only lasted about four months or so.

## **Were Wycombe your first choice, or were you working your way through the Football League alphabetically?**

I think Wycombe was my choice number 88 when I sent out the application, because I sent it out in alphabetical order obviously, but all on the same day. Then I had that first meeting with Simon and was like 'This is good. This is a fun club'. I had interviews with West Ham, Arsenal and Spurs, but essentially all they were offering was, at best, something like intern. I could see me...I don't know... just tearing off the tickets on matchday or something. Simon offered something that I could actually do, so I thought 'Well let's go for that.'

## **What happened when you rang up Port Vale about sending in your CV?**

I rang all the clubs to work out who to address it to, who's the head of HR and some geezer at Port Vale picks up the phone and goes 'Send it to Barry Bigtits'. Now, in all likelihood that isn't the geezer's name, but if it is his name he'll get very few application and you stand a decent chance, so I did send an application to Barry Bigtits at Port Vale.

**But you never heard back?**

Sadly not.

**Maybe he's just really disorganised?**

He's a tit.

**What were your first impressions of High Wycombe? Did you do the Chair Museum on day one, or did you build up to it?**

I'm still saving that one for a big day. Very positive first impressions of High Wycombe. Keith Allen immediately put me up with Cyril Rance. Cyril was in his eighties and it was like a rite of passage that if you came from out of town and joined Wycombe Wanderers, you would be staying in Cyril's guest room. Keith had done that when he came down from the midlands and so had a few other people. So I ended up staying in some semi-detached with some elderly gentleman in Totteridge with a cat and a sticker on the fridge saying 'Mustn't grumble'. In the evening there was always meat and two veg. It was an absolutely brilliant crash course for life in the UK in a bygone era.

**Can you remember your first Wycombe game?**

Away to Swindon, I think Wycombe lost 3-0. That was the tail end of the 01/02 season. I remember we were going there by coach and I rocked up there with three cans of lager - thinking that's roughly how many you need to go to Swindon - and then I was told you can't have any alcohol on the coach. What? Was this an Alcoholics Anonymous coach or something? I just couldn't comprehend it. You sit on the coach, going to the football and you're not allowed to drink beer? What's the whole point of going to an away game? That was my first thought. So then you really have to cram in as many as you can once you get to the ground and then after that you're sober and you drive home, it just seemed so ridiculous. Now I'm used to it, but at the time, I mean, that's a very hard sell to anyone; sit on a coach being driven to some industrial estate, go into some plastic-looking ground, endure something far too loud coming over the tannoy, then some average at best football, then get back on the coach and be driven back to some other industrial estate in High Wycombe. 'Oh, that's my day out.'

**Do you have a favourite/funniest memory from your time at the club?**

There was a fellow, I forget his name, he was in his eighties and was one of the door to door salesmen for the club lottery and he was always wearing a jumper with the Royal Air Force logo on. He said to me; 'Where in Germany are you from?' I said 'I'm from Hagen' and he said 'Oh I know Hagen, but only from the air.' To make amends he brought me in a tape of British marching songs. It wasn't ill-intended or anything, that was his way of making up.

**Did you like it?**

It was lovely. Very well executed.

### **How did you make the obvious leap from marketing to comedy?**

I left the club and I was working for a sports business magazine called 'Soccer Investor' I was living in London and one night I happened to see a stand up night and thought 'That's enjoyable. I want to give that a go.' I just tried it, had it as a hobby, then I developed it and it became a paid hobby and then at some point I was at a crossroads: did I want to have a well-paid hobby or a shitty-paid job? I said 'Let's go for the job' and then carried on building it up. So essentially all it was was seeing that one night of comedy and saying 'I like the concept of this – stand on stage and say a few things. I wouldn't mind giving that a go.'

### **What's the best Wycombe game you've ever been to?**

There's so many to choose from isn't there? Seeing them wining away to Charlton in the League Cup - that was quite impressive. Equally, not being outclassed at the Bridge playing away to Chelsea. I would probably say the Spurs game except I wasn't there.

### **Who are your favourite Wycombe players, past and present?**

Probably the best player I've ever seen for Wycombe would be Roger Johnson. How his career ended without ever playing for England I'll never know. When you saw him at Wycombe, I mean obviously Wycombe isn't top flight, but he looked so much better than anybody else. And you have to give it to Matt Bloomfield. He's still there doing a shift, year in year out. It's phenomenal, being at that level and so loyal to a club is phenomenal. He's already looking to the future; writing his column for the BBC and setting up his football academy. He's really got his head screwed on.

### **Last season you took over the club's twitter feed to do live updates for our friendly with QPR. Would you ever want to have a go at joining the radio commentary team for a game? You and Bill Turnbull would be an interesting double act.**

Well first of all I have to ask Matt Cecil why I wasn't asked back, that's the first thing that wants finding out. I don't know how much I could possibly bring to the party, but it's seats on the halfway line isn't it, so that's a win right there. The people might not get much out of it, but I've got a perfect view of the game.

### **Has your Wycombe connection ever caused you trouble on stage in certain towns?**

No, not even in Colchester. It's an inoffensive club Wycombe, unless you go to Maidenhead or Chesham, they'd probably tell you otherwise – 'Why do you always win the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup? Give us a chance.' Beaconsfield probably think they're bigger than they are. I remember seeing a friendly away to Henley. It was funny because suddenly Wycombe were the big club from the big town with all ten away supporters. Rena and her gang. It is Rena isn't it, the lady that organises the busses?

### **Yes, for the Officials.**

Are you unofficial?

**We're the Independents. They have to keep us apart at games or we start throwing our packed lunches at each other.**

Is there a bit of rivalry between the different clubs?

**Not really. We just keep it simmering gently.**

A bit like the Judean People's Front in Monty Python.

**Kinda. Have you been able to make Wycombe as popular back in Germany as Franz Beckenbauer did the New York Cosmos in the 1970's?**

It's a slow burner. That will all change with Champions League football. Imagine Wycombe in the Champions League and the Barcelona team coach stuck for four hours trying to get out of the car park.

**Your compatriot Max Müller is settling in after a tough first season. What advice would you give to a young German trying to make it big in the bright lights of High Wycombe?**

He was injured a lot wasn't he? I'm really not in a position to give anyone any advice, but just enjoy your time. Whatever happens, if he comes back home to Germany and speaks fluent English, he'll have the experience of having lived somewhere else. Just living abroad, having that experience, especially for a young man like him, is brilliant.

**And he'll be able to say he's seen the Chair Museum.**

Yeah...

**How do you think Wycombe will do this season? Do you think we can go up?**

Well hopefully at least chasing for the playoffs. They haven't lost many players have they? The only player they've really lost is Pierre.

**What would you rather, Wycombe finish eighth, but Donald Trump gets impeached, or Wycombe get promoted but Trump gets a second term?**

Depends very much on what would happen the season after. If we came straight back down with twenty points, then I'm not too bothered about promotion. It's a good question, because you obviously want the team to do well, you want the team to win. But if Wycombe were winning everything for the next three seasons, then they would be in the Premier League. That would change the character of the club and everything you like about the club beyond recognition. You would end up with something that just isn't what attracted you to the club in the first place.

## **Like Man City?**

Perfect example, who gives a shit about them now? I was there last season and it was quieter than Arsenal. I mean, if all you're interested in is great football, they've got Agüero, De Bruyne...it's brilliant to watch their football. If you go there just to watch exceptionally good football then yeah, you want your team to be like that. But if there's anything else that attracts you to football, like all of you going down to The Hourglass and if you want to play Saturday at three o'clock rather than Sunday at twelve forty-five, are you sure you want to play up there? I want Ainsworth to win the Premier League, but not with Wycombe. You end up with foreign players, foreign owners, foreign supporters, the team off to bloody Asia pre season for no good reason whatsoever and then all of a sudden you've got a global brand in your town that's got absolutely no connection to the town anymore. And that's another beautiful thing about Wycombe, isn't it brilliant that the Trust runs the club? I think the only one who would benefit from Wycombe going up into the Premier League would be Ivor Beeks, because he could charge more for his training facilities. He'd bloody love it.

**It's Battle of the Wycombe Celebrity Fans. It's you, Bill Turnbull and Colin Baker in the ring. Only one of you is coming out alive. Who wins?**

Colin Baker? Isn't he Doctor Who?

**Yeah. Well, he was, but not anymore.**

Well he can travel back and forth. He'll come out alive.

**I don't know if he can still do that now though. I think when you finish you have to hand it all over to the next one.**

No, I think it's like a footballer. Once you have the touch it will always stay with you. You might not be able to execute it as quickly, or quite as precisely, but you still know much better what you're doing than someone who has never been at that level.

**Baker wins by time travel. What's the weirdest dream you ever remember having?**

Oh the other day I had a weird one. I was dreaming that, for whatever bizarre reason, Bayern Munich signed me as their reserve goalie - I mean I don't know how the \*\*\*\* that comes about - and it's just before the game against Schalke and they just say 'Well, we haven't got anyone' so then I go in there and I haven't even got a PE kit and they say 'No, we've got all the stuff for you'. And then the team went off training and didn't ask me to join them and I'm standing there thinking 'Is that because they think I'm so rubbish I can't be helped anyway, or because I'm so good I don't need to practice? Anyway, they all buggered off and then when the game starts I sit on the bench and I'm just crossing my fingers that nothing happens to Neuer, because the last thing I fancied was standing in goal while everyone kicks the ball at me as hard as they can. Yeah, that was quite a weird dream. And it was during the close season.

**They probably signed you just to sell shirts.**

That must have been it. Or some tax dodge, I don't know.



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

No, I can genuinely say...(thinks)...I can genuinely say I have...I mean I want to be mates with a few. With Asterix and Obelix. I want to be mates with them.

**You could pretty much do whatever you wanted with that kind of muscle behind you.**

Yeah. Then the Daltons are good. I'm not sure how popular that is in the UK. That might only be big in Germany. They're four brothers and they're in and out of prison and they go down height-wise from tall to someone really tiny and the really tiny one's the proper aggressive one. I wouldn't mind hanging out with them, they seem good fun.

**What's your spirit animal?**

I don't know. What's yours?

**Not sure. I'd probably go for a monkey, except I'm scared of heights, so I'd have to be a monkey with no arms or legs because I wouldn't want to do any climbing. I probably wouldn't last long in the jungle.**

Which animal loves his peace and quiet? I'd probably be one of those reptiles that lie on hot stones.

**An iguana?**

Yeah, I mean, I'm not as nimble, but the soaking up sun bit I could do.

**Oh, maybe a monitor lizard then?**

Yeah?

**I think maybe they're a bit bigger and not as quick.**

Oh yeah, that's me then. A monitor lizard. They have a pleasant life.

**What's next for you and where can Wycombe fans catch you in the coming months?**

The easiest thing to do is probably to go on my website, that's where the upcoming dates are. They can go to the website or see me at Adams Park probably.

**Do you get to many games these days?**

It's iffy because I work most Saturdays and there's only so many gigs you can do at the Wycombe Swan. If they were playing more games on Monday mornings I would be there a lot more. That's something they could probably introduce. That's when it would be good to have Wycombe in the Premier League, if that meant they were playing more games on Monday morning at ten o'clock so that they could be broadcast in China or something.

**Our thanks to Henning for speaking to us and getting the teas in.**

**Please visit [www.henningwehn.de](http://www.henningwehn.de) for upcoming tour dates.**



## Stevenage Football Club: Statement

In light of the criticism we received after visiting female Grimsby fans were made to lift their tops and show their bras to our stewards, we have felt it necessary to release the following statement to clarify our position;

We're very much looking forward to hosting the fans of Wycombe Wanderers at the Lamex Stadium on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December and want to assure all Chairboys followers that our stewards will continue to provide the highest quality service and hope that your supporters will travel down in great numbers, including lots of lovely ladies.

We would like to assure everyone that our stewards did not act in a sexually inappropriate way towards the Grimsby fans who they pressured into exposing themselves. Most of our stewards have confirmed that the women in question weren't even that fit and they didn't fancy them much. There was one tasty little blondie apparently, but that was it really.

To examine ways in which we can improve our levels of customer service, keep the moaning PC brigade happy and just generally stop women nagging at us in the future, we have brought in a new head of public relations, Kev 'Bants' McGuire, who boasts an impressive CV, including seven years working for Nuts magazine.

If any of you lovely lady Wycombe fans are at all worried about potentially having to lift your top up and show your bra in front of numerous male strangers, we recommend making sure you've got something nice on underneath, as this makes the experience more pleasant for our staff. Please do make an effort, as we see far too many girlies who haven't taken the trouble to make themselves look nice and this can impact negatively on others.

Finally, please do bear in mind that being a steward is a tough and often thankless job, so if you happen to be a bit of a stunner and you see one of our hard working lads, don't be all sour-faced - give them a nice smile and lift their spirits on these chilly winter nights.

Phwoar.

## Sleeping with the Enemy

It might seem innocuous enough, but I was very disappointed to see that Wycombe had played a training ground friendly against MK Dons back in September. This is not because I see the Franchise as any kind of rival, but because their very existence is an affront to the morals and values of football and as such, consorting with them should be avoided wherever possible. Playing the Franchise in any situation is unpalatable, but of course, just like AFC Wimbledon are now experiencing in League One, official league or cup matches have to be played and are unavoidable. But to actively arrange a friendly against them, regardless of whatever benefits to our players, strikes me as a serious error of judgement from those at the club responsible. I am generally very supportive of the club, but this was a poor decision.



It's a little known fact that a home pre-season friendly against them was proposed and even provisionally arranged a couple of years ago, but this idea was thankfully soon scrapped after consultation with Supporters Direct and members of the Wycombe Wanderers Trust, who made their feelings on the matter quite clear. Really, the club probably could have worked that one out for themselves, without having to ask anyone else, but at least it's nice to see that, on that occasion at least, Wycombe fans were consulted on the matter. However, it's sad to see that the feelings expressed back then were apparently not taken on board by the club, as they have quickly revisited the idea, albeit in a behind closed doors training match, rather than a proper pre-season game. I appreciate that these kind of mid-season matches need to be played and finding suitable, local opposition, possibly at short notice cannot be easy, but with the likes of Reading, Watford, Chelsea, Fulham, Brentford and QPR all within a short distance of High Wycombe and considering the links we have with many of these clubs, was it really out of the question to find someone else? Were none of these teams able to find a reserve or development team to accommodate us?

It's been nearly 15 years since MK Dons first mutated into existence. The passing of time is a great ally to those who sin and some of the football fans who were outraged in 2004 will perhaps not be so angry now. People forgive, people forget. There is also now a whole generation of young football fans in this country who will not remember, or were not alive to witness the anguish and destruction that Pete Winkelman, Charles Koppel and the creation of MK Dons caused. For them, the presence of MK Dons in the Football League is as normal as that of Notts County or Sheffield Wednesday. It's up to those who remember and those who are still angry and disgusted to show and tell the footballing world what MK Dons are; a businessman's plaything, built on theft, destruction, greed and the abandonment of our game's proud sporting values.

As a supporter-owned, Trust-run club, I feel we have a duty not to collaborate or otherwise involve ourselves with the likes of MK Dons, as their creation and continued existence goes against a great deal of what this club and its supporters have stood and fought for. We should take a stand and furthermore be seen to do so. Treating MK Dons like a normal, proper football club gives them legitimacy and suggests that we accept them and don't care about the manner in which they were formed.

Let's not forget, it could have been us.

Back in November 1999, after a home FA Cup Second Round game against Wigan Athletic (then a fellow Second Division side) had attracted a gate of 'just' 2,992, then-Wycombe manager Lawrie Sanchez upset a great number of Blues fans when he was quoted in the Bucks Free Press as saying *"This is not a football town. It would be busier if we had a supermarket here. I've given up on the crowd... If they don't want a professional football team there's a few towns that do"*. Then-Chairman and now Club President Ivor Beeks then joined in, adding *"If they don't want football here then perhaps we might have to think about something like that"*.

The following week, Dave Peters wrote in the Midweek; "Yesterday (Monday) worried directors held a board meeting to discuss revolutionary ways of pumping money into the Club including a possible relocation to Milton Keynes, and changing the entire fabric of the club by courting a sugar daddy backer." An official Press Release from the Club also stated that Beeks had refused to rule out such a move away from Wycombe, stating he had *"Refused to rule out a move to Milton Keynes, following disappointing FA Cup attendances at Adams Park."* A few days later, Beeks backtracked, telling the BFP; *"It was a flippant throw-away remark which was seized upon. Wycombe will always be in Wycombe"*. The whole thing went down very poorly with supporters, especially as the Board of Directors at the time were attempting to change the constitution of the club, or even scrap it completely, and bring in a big money backer.

Ironically, the National Federation of Football Supporters Clubs (who later merged with the Football Supporters Association to form what is now the Football Supporters Federation) were holding a meeting at Adams Park the following month. The NFFSC were reportedly appalled at the idea of Wycombe relocating to North Bucks, with the Chairman Ian Todd telling the Chairboys on the Net website; *"Where permanent club moves have been suggested in the past, [the] Federation has extracted from the Football League an assurance that any new ground would be expected to be located within the conurbation it serves and from which the club draws the vast majority of its support. We could not accept that Milton Keynes fell within these criteria and would actively oppose any such application from Wycombe Wanderers to the League."*

It could have been us. We could have been destroyed and turned into MK Wanderers. Thankfully that never came to pass, although this will be of little comfort to fans of the original Wimbledon FC, who suffered instead. Even so, we have almost certainly suffered from the existence of MK Dons, as they aggressively (and quite disrespectfully) target areas of South Bucks with advertising campaigns in an attempt to recruit supporters who might otherwise come to Adams Park on a Saturday.

Funnily enough, a few years later in 2002, when the relocation of Wimbledon FC to Milton Keynes was in the pipeline, Ivor Beeks claimed he was against the move, telling the BFP *"I think it's wrong and it worries me. Perhaps they are a one off, but I don't like to see clubs looking to start up again outside their area."*

He was named Club President in April 2017.

So what about the friendly? Well, the game has been played and there is nothing that can be done to change that, but as a Trust member I would like to see some assurances, perhaps a charter signed by the Trust and the Club President, that something like this will never happen again and from hereon we will only ever agree to play MK Dons in official scheduled matches.

We must show MK Dons, who are still chaired by Winkleman, who masterminded and orchestrated the whole sordid affair, that we do not accept them and never will. We must show other clubs and their fans who oppose franchise football that we stand with them. We must show the FA that we are still angry at their appalling decision to allow this to happen and that it must never be allowed again, because as we all know all too well, football is awash with unscrupulous men with money, who would happily create a franchised football club of their own if they think there is an appetite for it.

And if they think they will be allowed to get away with it.

Jonny

**THE SECOND COMING**  
OR  
**THE PRODIGAL SONS**  
OR  
**HOW MANY BIBLE REFERENCES CAN WE GET**  
**INTO THIS ARTICLE ABOUT PLAYERS WE SIGNED TWICE?**

Leaving Wycombe Wanderers is the worst thing any player can do. They either choose to leave (which is always a mistake) or are released having been considered not good enough (which is heart-breaking, but also to be expected, given our very high standards of football). Here we look at some of the players that we have signed twice. We haven't counted any loan spells, in part because it would make for a somewhat confusing article, but mainly because we couldn't be bothered.

**KEITH SCOTT**

**The first spell** A true club legend, Scotty was a key figure in the club's rise up into the Football League. He even had a club video (it's what we had before DVD's kids – and DVDs are what we had before the interweb thing) named after him. 'Beam us up Scotty' indeed!

**He left because** He was too good. Even for Wycombe. A £375,000 move to then Premiership side Swindon Town saw him scoring at Anfield. Spells at Stoke, Bournemouth, Norwich and Watford followed.

**The second spell** He returned in 1997 when John Gregory signed him from Watford. He told Gregory he would add a few hundred to the gate and that most of them would be women. Whether that's true or not (it's not) is beside the point, as he continued to score on a regular basis.

**A worthy return?** Absolutely. Scotty was a key figure in helping Wycombe avoid relegation in 1997 and scored 13 goals the following season. However, he was approaching the end of his career and played his last Wycombe game at Reading in 1999. Lawrie Sanchez then managed to perform a remarkable piece of business, selling Scotty to Reading for a whopping £250,000. Talk about a good return. He scored just 8 goals in 2 years at Reading before signing for Colchester. We'll forgive him for that.

Just.

## **STEVE GUPPY**

**The first spell** The left winger was one of the most exciting players to watch in the O'Neill side that won every single game, ever (sort of). His final game was the 1993-1994 Division Three Playoff Final.

**He left because** Newcastle said they wanted him. They even paid Wycombe £150,000 for him. They then opted not to play him, like, ever (except for one substitute cup appearance) and he joined Port Vale.

**The second spell** John Gorman got the lad back in November 2004 and he played until February 2005, scoring with a free-kick cross at Swansea in January. We think this stretch of almost eleven years between goals was a record until Nathan Tyson headed in against Col U earlier this year, marking a near twelve-year barren stretch.

**A worthy return?** Guppy was useful in his brief spell back and aside from the goal at Swansea provided a memorable assist for Keith Ryan's 50<sup>th</sup> Wycombe goal, a 90<sup>th</sup> minute winner against Lincoln, in December 2004. So basically, yeah, he did alright.

## **LUKE OLIVER**

**The first spell** A gangly 6'7" centre back called up from the youth team in 2002 by Lawrie Sanchez. He made four fairly unspectacular appearances in two fairly unspectacular years and was released in 2004.

**He left because** He wasn't that good and was released.

**The second spell** Peter Taylor worked with him at Stevenage and signed him up again in 2009. When Taylor left, so did Oliver and he joined up with him again at Bradford.

**A worthy return?** Not particularly. Oliver never really impressed at Adams Park. Yet while it's easy to mock, because he quite often looked pretty ridiculous, he still went on to play over 100 times for Bradford City. Arguably a good league two centre back, his time at Wycombe was largely in Division Two/League One and he may have just been out of his depth when at Adams Park.



## **JON-PAUL PITTMAN**

**The first spell** 'A real whippet' is how Taylor described Pittman prior to signing him from Crawley Town. He wasn't wrong, as JP scored some important goals in the build up to promotion from League Two in 2009, playing with a smile on his face a dance in his feet. The following season he scored some equally big goals; who can forget his wonder-strike against Bristol Rovers, the late goal against Col U in Waddock's first game, or the equaliser away at Leeds, plus strikes against Charlton and Norwich? The debate raged over him being a mere 'impact player', not helped when, in a pre-season game against a Chelsea Youth ninth reserve team, he came off the bench to score a quick-fire hat-trick. The season that followed saw him struggle with injury and score only four goals.

**He left because** He was released. Many fans felt he still had something to offer, especially when he signed for Oxford in League Two and we loaned in Elliot Benyon from Swindon who were in...League Two.

**The second spell** Ainsworth picked him up ahead of the 2013-14 season. He came off the bench against Oxford when we were 2-1 up but down to ten men and seemingly couldn't be bothered. He failed to score and was released after the great escape at Torquay, before signing for Grimsby and missing the decisive penalty in the 2015 Conference Playoff Final.

**A worthy return?** No. He put in a decent shift away at Bristol Rovers in a 1-0 win, but apart from that he hardly featured.

## **ANTHONY STEWART**

**The first spell** Another centre back who came up through the youth team, he really impressed during his first spell, with a string of fine displays.

**He left because** He got some bad advice? Maybe? We can but speculate, but he wound up at Crewe where he made just a handful of appearances.

**The second spell** Ainsworth let bygones be bygones and signed him up again to replace the departing Alfie Mawson in the summer of 2015.

**A worthy return?** So far, so good. He's probably the best defender we have at the club right now and seems to have his head right. If he sticks around he could end up being a club legend.

## **KEVIN BETSY**

**The first spell** Signed on a free from Oldham by John Gorman in 2005, the versatile winger/forward quickly became a fans favourite at Adams Park, with his scintillating pace, exciting attacking play and goalscoring ability, helping Wycombe reach the League Cup Semi-finals in 2007.

**He left because** Bristol City coughed up £150,000 for him, which was probably fair enough.

**The second spell** Rejoined the club from Southend United after a successful loan spell, but couldn't help Wycombe avoid relegation from League One at the end of the 2009-2010 season. However, he was back to his best the following season as he helped Gary Waddock's side achieve an immediate return to the third tier, as well as gaining international caps for the Seychelles. However, he found his first team opportunities limited the following season and sadly departed my mutual consent in December 2012 as Wycombe sank back into the basement division. He retired in 2015 after a successful spell at Woking.

**A worthy return?** Yes. Betsy had the magic to light up Adams Park and only Waddock knows why he let such a good player leave at a time when we were fighting for our lives at the foot of the League One table.

## **NATHAN TYSON**

**The first spell** Signed initially on loan by Tony Adams, Tyson joined permanently from Reading and scored a lot of very good goals. A lot.

**He left because** He was perhaps one of the best players we've ever had, and Nottingham Forest came in for him, paying £675,000 for his services.

**The second spell** A decent career at Forest, he played for a few other clubs, only really rediscovering his scoring form at Doncaster Rovers. Ainsworth picked him up in the summer, following a successful trial.

**A worthy return?** Some were excited, some felt he could well be past it. He has looked pretty useful thus far, with his late winner against Crewe a wonderful throwback to his first spell. Signs are good that once he returns from injury he could prove to be a deadly striker once more.

# **MYTHBUSTERS**

## **Separating the fact from the fiction**

Football is full of myths, misremembered history and false theories. “You’re most likely to concede a goal straight after scoring” – absolute rubbish. It happens now and then but honestly, how often do you see one team score, only to be immediately copied by their opponents? “Ten men often rally and get something from the game” – again, nonsense. If your opponents have a player sent off, it’s to your advantage. And Ronnie Radford’s ‘winner’ for Hereford against Newcastle? Never happened - that goal was actually an equaliser. In a new series, we look at some of the myths and theories surrounding Wycombe Wanderers...

### **EPISODE 1: BOXING DAY BLUES – “WE’RE RUBBISH ON 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER”**

#### **The myth...**

The story goes that we always play badly and lose the day after Christmas. Full of turkey and mince pies, the team are laborious and get out-played, usually resulting in defeat.

#### **The case for...**

Prior to joining the Football League, our record on 26<sup>th</sup> December was pretty standard – **P43, W21, D8 L15**. It’s after we joined the professional ranks that this theory starts. Our first four games in the Football League resulted in three 0-0 draws and a 2-0 defeat, before we finally got our first League Boxing Day goal in a 2-2 draw at Walsall in 1998. A year later we beat Bournemouth 2-1, but the next six post-Christmas outings resulted in five defeats and a draw. It’s not hard to see why fans felt we were cursed at this point, with a record that stood at **P12 W1 D5 L6**.

#### **The case against...**

On 26<sup>th</sup> December 2007, a superb second half performance at Griffin Park saw us beat ten man Brentford 3-1. This appears to have lifted the curse and the Boxing Day record since 2007 reads **P10 W4 D3 L3**.

#### **Fact or fiction?**

Were this an edition of *The Wanderer* from ten years back, it would be a firm ‘Fact’, yet recent history has curbed that somewhat and of the 23 points we’ve won on the Feast of Steven, 15 have come in the past ten years.

**Conclusion:** FICTION. Merry Christmas!

## **DREADFUL IDEAS FOR THE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME**

Forget the manager's notes, the captain's log or the fan pages. We've come up with some ideas for the matchday programme that are much, much worse...

### **STEWART'S STEWARDS**

Centre-back Anthony Stewart interviews the yellow and orange-coated safety enforcers from Adams Park on their lives, loves and careers.

### **JACOBSON'S 'JACOB AND SONS'**

Ever wanted to be a West End star? Cultured left-back JJ gives you tips on how to sing the song 'Jacob and Sons' from the hit musical 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

### **BLOOMFIELD'S BLOOMING FIELDS**

Get tips on how to grow lots of lovely flowers in your field or garden, as long-serving midfielder Matty B gives handy tips on soil, fertiliser, watering and the best seeds to buy from your local garden centre.

### **BEAN'S BEANS**

Runner? Baked? Kidney? Coffee? Allow hard-tackling midfield enforcer Marcus to give you a guide on the very best of each, with additional tips on how to prepare them for delicious meals for you and your family.

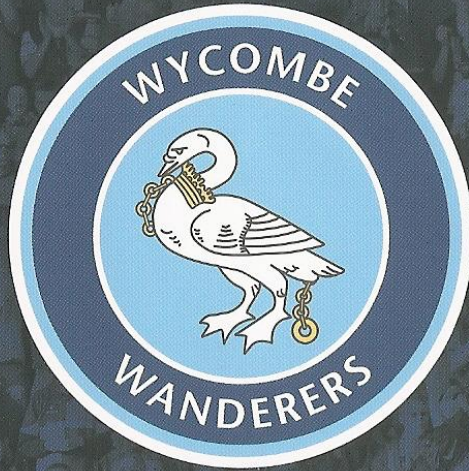
### **PARIS COWAN-HALL'S PARIS COWS AND HALLS**

The pacey forward shares his top breeds of cattle and favourite hallway architecture from the iconic French capital.

### **DISCLAIMER**

*If anyone from ITV, ITV2, ITVBe or ITV2+1=4 is reading this, we are well aware that our ideas are far better than anything currently showing on your channels. Don't nick them – we'll sue you.*





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for more details.



## THE LAS VEGAS INTERVIEWS

As self-appointed (some would say self-important) Wycombe Wanderers Ambassadors to the United States, my wife and I decided to take ourselves to that great crossroads of American culture, the Las Vegas Strip, to both foster and assess Wycombe Awareness in this famously football-indifferent society. With eager feet, we approached that celebrated boulevard, wondering if, like Robin Hood or Sherlock Holmes, the glorious reports of the Blues had spread to these shores. Upon our various approaches, most of the unwashed masses either tremblingly offered up their wallets, or simply backed away in horror, but here are some responses from those kindly folk who were willing to give their sage insights and respond to our carefully constructed and scientifically perfect questions. These are all real answers, from real Americans.



**Amada from Lafayette, Louisiana.**

**Have you ever heard of Wycombe Wanderers?** Not really.

**What do you think Wycombe Wanderers is?** Something that is wandering?

**Wycombe Wanderers are an English football club. Do you know any other English teams?**

The England national team. *(Clever lad!)*

**How do you think 'Wycombe' is spelled?** W-i-c-k-e-m.

**Wycombe's nickname is The Chairboys. Can you guess why?** They put people in their seats?

*(It should be further noted at this juncture, that Amada expressed disappointment that the shirt he held up was not a free gift for him and even began to rummage for dollar bills to pay for it, so taken was he with the blue quarters. Let that be a lesson to all who hate the current home kit!)*



**Katie from Manhattan Beach, California.**

**Have you ever heard of Wycombe Wanderers? No.**

**What do you think Wycombe Wanderers is? No idea.**

**Wycombe Wanderers are an English football club. Do you know any other English teams? No.**

**How do you think 'Wycombe' is spelled? W-i-c-k-e-n.**

**Wycombe's nickname is The Chairboys. Can you guess why? They sit around a lot?**



**Todd and Starla from Las Vegas.**

**Have you ever heard of Wycombe Wanderers? No.**

**What do you think Wycombe Wanderers is? Something to do with travelling?**

**Wycombe Wanderers are an English football club. Do you know any other English teams?**

**Does the Galaxy count?**

**No, they're not English.**

**Well then no.**

**How do you think 'Wycombe' is spelled? W-i-k-o-m.**

**Wycombe's nickname is The Chairboys. Can you guess why? Starla: A bar fight?**



**Melisha from Alabama and Jessica from Las Vegas.**

**Have you ever heard of Wycombe Wanderers?** No.

**What do you think Wycombe Wanderers is?** Melisha: Wizards?

Jessica: I was going to say something to do with witches. (*Wait...what?*)

**Wycombe Wanderers are an English football club. Do you know any other English teams?**

Melisha: I know who David Beckham is, but I can't remember who he plays for.

**How do you think 'Wycombe' is spelled?** W-i-c-k-u-m.

**Wycombe's nickname is The Chairboys. Can you guess why?** Melisha: They spend a lot of time on the bench?

Jessica: They huddle on chairs?

So, having conducted the above interviews, it pains us to report that Wycombe Wanderers, shockingly, tragically and a little outrageously, appear to be unknown in these strange, western parts, as though a sorrowful mist covered the eyes of the locals, obscuring the brilliance of the Chairboys and blinding so many to the wonders of our Buckinghamshire heroes. But, as every cloud has that proverbial silver lining, we can all take solace in the fact that these people, ignorant as they were of any English teams, have now been presented with Wycombe as their first ever club and like a seed that shall ultimately grow into a sturdy tree, they shall carry around this knowledge like a bright hope, perhaps introducing their friends and families to our cherished club. Furthermore, should a Manchester United, Chelsea, or Arsenal fan attempt to coerce these Americans into supporting their monolithic monstrosities, they shall meet with the swift and surprising answer; "I know not of your Manchester Uniteds, your Chelseas, or your Arsenals, but I do know of one club, whose fame has reached even this benighted realm. I do know of *Wycombe Wanderers!*"



## LEAGUE TWO FOOTBALL FACTS WITH DR CHAIR.

Exclusive to The Wanderer, we are delighted to share some extracts from the good doctor's latest compendium; '*Really? Are You Sure About That?*'

At **Lincoln City**, former PE teachers Mr Cowley and Mr Cowley make players arriving without the proper kit train in their vest and pants. (Unless they have a note from mum.)

The five 'Distraction Grouse' signed in the summer by Wycombe Wanderers had their contracts terminated following their disappointing debut in the Carabao Cup loss to **Fulham**. A spokesfowl said: "Gareth introduced them too late to influence the game and then played them out of position. One of the lads was reduced to throwing himself at the terrace to get a reaction..."

Formed in 1876, **Port Vale** were originally to be called Valley Of Ports On the Trent Mersey Canal, but the name had already been taken by a local Nail Bar. (*Possibly check this one before publication? Ed.*)

Michael Keaton based his costume for the motion picture *Beetlejuice* on the 1971 **Notts County** home strip. The *Birdman* actor also keeps a signed picture of Les Bradd in pride of place next to his Oscar.

**Forest Green Rovers** are a vegan team. Vegans have two hearts, green blood and can render an opponent unconscious with a simple pinch to the neck. (*Check his coffee, I think he's been drinking again. Ed.*)

When Harry Kewell took up the reins at **Crawley Town**, his first appearance before the local press was delayed after he was injured during the post-contract signing handshake.

Fourth officials are hoping to introduce audio technology to gauge the level of noise pollution they are subjected to during a match. It is hoped the **Barry Richardson** scale will be in use for the 2018/2019 season if the League can "\*\*\*\*\*ing sort it out!!!" in time.

**Exeter City** manager Paul Tisdale took to wearing flat caps to cover his embarrassment at **Mansfield Town**'s Steve Evans taking his 'Best dressed manager' title. (*Legal this. I don't want that red-faced Scotsman shouting at me down the phone again. Ed.*)

In a move popular with sponsors, the Football League's planned expansion of the **Checktrade Trophy** will include teams selected from television soaps and reality shows. A press release read: "When Four in a Bed FC run out at Grimsby, the fans will know we are serious about this competition."

After **Carlisle United** striker Shaun Miller became the first player to be retrospectively banned for diving, officials have been collating video evidence, following claims that there may be 18,327 similar incidents so far this season, all involving Luton Town's Danny Hylton. (*Fair enough. Ed.*)

# THE STORY OF THE BLUES

## LINCOLN CITY (H)

League Two, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Att: 5,538

**BLUES 2** (*O’Nien 36, Jacobson 39*) **IMPS 2** (*Green 31, Ginnelly 49*)

**Verdict:** A solid start to the season in what was an odd game – low on chances yet high on goals, with a few glimpses of quality. Overall we looked solid defensively, with the exception of Southwell’s poor pass that lead to the opener and it took a quite brilliant through-ball to bring the visitors level after the break.

That aside, Brown only had the one meaningful stop to make and the Lincoln keeper had even fewer. It was frustrating that the ball into Bayo wasn’t working as their defence had his number, yet we persisted and failed to try anything else. Variety is always key and we lacked it in the final third, not to mention the fact that the manager failed to adapt with the substitutions. That said, we were up against a decent side and matched them in all areas. A satisfying, if not spectacular opening.

**Ref Watch: G Horwood** - A physical game that had some of our fans calling Lincoln dirty - they weren’t and Mr Horwood handled proceedings well, punishing what needed to be punished without being too picky.

**Magic Moment:** Seeing O’Nien’s header hit the net so soon after we’d fallen behind.

## FULHAM (H)

League Cup First Round, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August

Att: 3,639

**BLUES 0 COTTAGERS 2** (*Piazon 67, Odoi 81*)

**Verdict:** The same old story as once again we exited the League Cup at the first stage of the competition, despite playing some decent stuff against higher level opposition. It was an experimental formation and a much weakened Wycombe side, albeit against similarly diluted opponents, but they gave a good account of themselves and it took a real moment of quality from Chelsea loanee Piazon to finally break the deadlock. If we can replicate this kind of performance in the league, then we could do alright this season.

**Ref Watch: G Ward** – Had an easy night reffing a game played in the right spirit.

**Magic Moment:** Watching the flock of partridges enjoying a run about in the Fulham half just before halftime.

**PORT VALE (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August**  
Att: 4,909

**VALIANTS 2** (*Turner 88, Whitfield 90*) **BLUES 3** (*Akinfenwa 2, 25, Cowan-Hall 12*)

**Verdict:** For 88 minutes this was a near-flawless display as we steamrolled our shell-shocked hosts with our relentless and incisive attacking. For a team that plays such a narrow formation, we really seemed to enjoy making full use of the width of the Vale Park pitch as we laid merciless siege to Sam Hornby's goal, going 3-0 up within the opening 30 minutes.

It was therefore disappointing that we made life needlessly difficult for ourselves, setting up a tense end to a game we had dominated thanks to two rather soft goals that had us desperately holding out for our first win when we should have been out of sight.

**Ref Watch: C Hicks** – Handled proceedings well and correctly booked Brown for time-wasting embarrassingly early into the second half.

**Magic Moment:** Luke and Bayo's goal celebration after they had combined for our third.

**NOTTS COUNTY (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August**  
Att: 3,785

**BLUES 2** (*Freeman 49, Jacobson 68*)  
**COUNTY 4** (*Duffy 14, El-Abd 15 o.g., Forte 84, Alessandra 89*)

**Verdict:** An awful first 40 and a dreadful last 5, we actually played well in the middle of this game but defensively are abject at best at the moment. We deserved to be 2-0 down thanks to a combination of first awful defending and then even worse defending. Not until Harriman made a late run did we look like we had anything about us.

Ainsworth switched things up at half-time and we looked a different side. Once the equaliser hit the net you felt as though there would be only one winner, but lo and behold it was not to be, as we fell apart at the back once more. You can't say it wasn't entertaining, but defending this bad is as painful to watch as coming back from 2-0 down is fun.

**Ref Watch: G Salisbury** - Did ok

**Magic Moment:** Either of our brilliant strikes.

**GRIMSBY TOWN (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August**  
Att: 4,016

**MARINERS 2** (*Rose 52 pen, Hooper 65*) **BLUES 3** (*Akinfenwa 28, 75, Jacobson 43 pen*)

**Verdict:** Another win that could, maybe should have been a bit more comfortable than it actually was. Again we went in at half time with a healthy lead and again we then conspired to nearly throw it all away with more sloppy defending, despite the hosts having been reduced to ten men with Danny Collins' red card on the hour mark, amazingly Grimsby's fifth consecutive sending off.

Thankfully Bayo was there to save our bacon yet again, although the pessimist in me fears we rely too heavily on The Beast and hopes our other strikers will be stepping up to the plate soon if we are going to start killing these sorts of games off. Still, at least we're getting value for money.

**Ref Watch: M Heywood** – The Grimsby fans weren't very happy with him and Scott Brown will be relieved to have got away with appearing to handle the ball outside his area, but both penalty decisions were correct, as was the dismissal of Collins.

**Magic Moment:** Another brace for Bayo and another celebration special with Luke O'Nien.

**BRISTOL ROVERS (H)**  
**The Cillit Bang Grime and Lime Trophy First Round, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
Att: 1,132

**BLUES 1** (*Southwell 5*) **ROVERS 5** (*Telford 9, 42, Broom 54, 85, Sercombe 63*)

**FOREST GREEN ROVERS (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**  
Att: 3,759

**BLUES 3** (*Cowan-Hall 7, Stewart 22, O'Nien 36*) **ROVERS 1** (*Doidge 68*)

**Verdict:** It was as easy as shelling peas to use an old expression. The visitors have had a tough time adapting to league football and it's not hard to see why, with some poor defending and all round sloppy play. Subsequently, we were just too good and capitalised on their sloppy errors. After some tough opening games this was a welcome and relaxing afternoon, despite a soft goal and a spillage from Brown threatening to get the nerves jangling. It would have been nice to see us go for a fourth at the end though, instead of taking the ball into the corner with several minutes still to play.

**Ref Watch: S Oldham** - Not a hard game to officiate and no complaints from us.

**Magic Moment:** Stewart's tricky feet and subsequent finish.

**NEWPORT COUNTY (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
Att: 3,752

**EXILES 0 BLUES 0**

**Verdict:** After the goalfests of recent weeks, this came as something of a surprise, although at the same time the clean sheet was welcome given some of the recent defensive horror shows we've witnessed. Newport's fancy new pitch, finally with some actual grass on it, suited our new-found attacking style but we failed to take our chances, with Craig Mackail-Smith wasting a glorious chance to open his Wycombe account and Marcus Bean being denied a wonder goal by a good save from Joe Day. On the plus side though, we looked a lot more solid at the back and there was a promising cameo from new loan signing Eberechi Eze, who looks to be a very skilful player.

**Ref Watch: B Toner** – Could have sent Day off for handling outside his area, only for the Newport keeper to be saved by an offside call against Paris that looked correct. More questionable was his decision to not award a penalty after Umerah appeared to be pulled down in the area just before the hour mark.

**Magic Moment:** Finally getting a first clean sheet of the season!

**MANSFIELD TOWN (A)**  
**League Two, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
Att: 2,938

**STAGS 0 BLUES 0**

**Verdict:** London busses and all that, except who would wait for a 0-0? Any disappointment we may have felt about not leaving Rodney Parade with three points was completely dwarfed by the disbelief that we didn't win this one. Mansfield have been tipped by many to challenge for the title this season and we absolutely dominated them.

The defence again looked a great deal more solid, with loanee Dan Scarr putting in an assured debut alongside Anthony Stewart, but it was the marauding midfield display of Eze that really caught the eye, as he ran the Stags midfield ragged from start to finish. A somewhat frustrating evening as we didn't get the victory our performance deserved, but a promising display against one of the teams to beat in this division.

**Ref Watch: R Lewis** – Pulled up injured after half an hour to be replaced by **A Greenwood** – who was absolutely abysmal.

**Magic Moment:** Eze's stunning display of midfield mastery. Looks a great signing.

**LUTON TOWN (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September**  
Att: 5,512

**BLUES 1** (*Akinfenwa 40*) **HATTERS 2** (*Cuthbert 90, Collins – Even later than 90*)

**Verdict:** Well this was like getting kicked in the proverbials, wasn't it? We were in control of the game and took our chance when it came to go 1-0 up. Luton came back at us, but following the penalty miss we were back in control but just couldn't find that crucial second goal. Even after the equaliser we went in search of a winner and when Jacobson's final corner flew out, you felt that would be it. However, one final cross hit about nine players and then seemingly gave us the finger as it crawled over the line.

**Ref Watch: J Linington** – The Luton fans didn't seem too happy with him giving us free kicks when our players had the nerve to be fouled by theirs. Interesting that their player got a retrospective ban for the incident in the area, not that it helps us much now...

**Magic Moment:** Brown saving Hylton's penalty...and Diving Danny legging it when The Beast came after him at the end.

**COLCHESTER UNITED (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**  
Att: 3,562

**U's 1** (*Hanlan 43*) **BLUES 2** (*Tyson 32, Mackail-Smith 67*)

**Verdict:** YEEEEEEEEEEEEAAAAAAHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

After the crushing late disappointment of last week, a long overdue win away at our bitter rivals was the perfect way to respond. Nathan Tyson scored for Wycombe for the first time since 2005 and 'CMS' finally bagged his first goal for the Chairboys to give us a deserved win against our old foes.

We rode out luck at times; Jacobson cleared one off the line and Brown made three absolutely stunning saves to keep us in the game at 1-1, but after some late defensive crumbles, it was great to see our backline stand up to the test as the hosts piled the pressure on towards the end. A wonderful, wonderful win.

**Ref Watch: B Huxtable** – Amazingly, no major complaints. This time.

**Magic Moment:** Beating our old enemies in the league for the first time since 2002.

**CREWE ALEXANDRA (H)**  
**League Two, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September**  
ATT: 3,295

**BLUES 3** (*Mackail-Smith 29, Harriman 88, Tyson 90*) **ALEX 2** (*Dagnall 42, 66*)

**Verdict:** Defensive frailties once more reared their heads tonight, as Ainsworth made the decision to change the back four once again. There is always a case for consistency. Our centre-backs have each proved their worth in recent weeks and the constant changing of the backline can't help things.

Right, enough of the negative - What a fantastic attacking performance! Ainsworth received some criticism for signing so many strikers, but we now have a variety and depth up front that has been sorely lacking in recent seasons. The first goal was route one, the second involved passing from midfield to forward to defender and the third was a great piece of individual skill as Tyson rolled back the years. It's exciting to watch and let's face it – watching Wycombe is fun again with even the games we've lost being good value for money, but we will need to be stronger at the back if we are to have a shot at promotion.

**Ref Watch: A Haines** - Not a bad game, but the decision to not play any of the two added minutes at the end of the first half was a real head-scratcher.

**Magic Moment:** The stands when Tyson's shot almost tore the net off the goal. We believe that the vernacular some of the younger folk use to describe these situations is 'scenes'.

**BARNET (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September**  
ATT: 4,025

**BLUES 3** (*Akinfenwa 25, Umerah 65, Freeman 76*) **BEES 1** (*Vilhete 78*)

**Verdict:** We were slow out of the blocks today and Barnet took the game to us. Fortunately, Scott Brown continued to prove his worth with some fine saves and we took the lead with our first real opportunity. After that we grew in confidence and were actually good value for the second and third goals. It was a comfortable afternoon but, as with Forest Green and Port Vale, we switched off at the end to make it slightly more nervy than it needed to be. That said, the strength in depth of our attacking options is remarkable. Six different scorers and that's with Cowan-Hall, Kashket and O'Nien out injured!

**Ref Watch: R Joyce** - Not a difficult match to officiate and proceedings were handled well.

**Magic Moment:** Wycombe 'Cheating, anti-football, time-wasting' Wanderers becoming the joint highest scorers in the Football League.

**CAMBRIDGE UNITED (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
Att: 5,365

**U's 1** (*Elito 70 pen*) **BLUES 3** (*Eze 48, 57, Umerah 89*)

**Verdict:** Two stunning strikes and professional performance helped us to another three points and took us up to fourth in the League Two table. An entertaining and even first half finished goalless, but after the break we really came to life, with Eberechi Eze hitting not one, but two goal of the season contenders to out us firmly in the driving seat.

Cambridge got themselves back into it courtesy of an extremely soft-looking penalty decision, but the ref evened things up ten minutes later when he showed United captain Leon Legge a second yellow card. Ainsworth showed tactical nous to send on Scarr for Eze to keep things tight at the back and he was rewarded when Umerah made the game safe in the closing minutes. The only downside was what looked like a serious injury to Tyson midway through the first half.

**Ref Watch: G Ward** – The penalty was extremely soft. Yes, Bean did appear to tug Uche Ikpeazu's shirt, but the way the big striker hurled himself to the turf was completely disproportionate to any force being exerted on him by the Wycombe midfielder.

**Magic Moment:** Take your pick from either of Eze's exquisite strikes.

**EXETER (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October**  
ATT: 5,006

**BLUES 0 GRECIANS 0**

**Verdict:** A predictably tight game between two evenly matched sides, we ended the game the more frustrated of the two after a rare off day from Bayo. We shaded the opening exchanges before the Grecians grew into the game, ending the first half on top after forcing a good save from Brown and grazing the top of the crossbar. The second half saw us defend very well when called for, in particular El-Abd's block and Jombati's remarkable recovery tackle, yet we showed more ambition as the game progressed, with Freeman a constant thorn in the opposition's side and Bayo going close on more than a few occasions. Still a clean sheet and a point against the league leaders is not to be sneered at, indeed, with our injury list it is extremely encouraging that we played so well and could so easily have snatched the points.

**Ref Watch: R Jones** - A big shout for a penalty and a disallowed goal. On first glance the handball looked blatant, but the push before Stewart rifled home was perhaps equally so.

**Magic Moment:** There were a few idiots from Exeter outside afterwards, throwing a can at a building and swearing at people getting on the bus. Nothing magic about that, but seeing one of the morons getting caught trying to steal a traffic cone brought a smile to our faces.



**CARSLISLE UNITED (A)**  
**League Two, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**  
Att: 3,562

**CUMBRIANS 3** (*Lambe 4, 84, Devitt 38 pen*)  
**BLUES 3** (*Saunders 45, Akinfenwa 72, Cowan-Hall 90*)

**Verdict:** A very pleasing result in the circumstances, as our tenacity and never-say-die spirit earned us the justice of a point after Shaun Miller's dive had put the hosts in the ascendancy. Miller's dive, for which he has since received a two game retrospective ban under new laws passed for this season, allowed Jamie Devitt to put the home side 2-0 up and firmly in charge as half time loomed.

Saunders' excellent freekick in first half stoppage time gave us a huge psychological boost, but after drawing back level through Bayo, it looked like Notts County all over again when Lambe got his second with just six minutes remaining. We refused to let our heads drop however and got the point we deserved when Paris headed home deep into injury time. A great comeback and a real testament to the team spirit that Ainsworth has instilled here.

**Ref Watch: S Duncan** – Hoodwinked for the penalty and then booked Saunders for his protests, although Sam only has himself to blame for that one. Dissent is dissent, regardless of whether the original decision was correct or not and a pro of his experience shouldn't be picking up cheap bookings like that.

**Magic Moment:** The 'Goal Cam' footage of Cowan-Hall's late equaliser and the Carlisle defender's anguished cry of 'Noooooooo!' as the ball hit the back of the net. Worth a watch.

**SWINDON TOWN (A)**  
**League Two, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October**  
Att: 7,114

**ROBINS 1** (*Smith 15*) **BLUES 0**

**Verdict:** Our long unbeaten run finally came to an end as an injury-hit Wycombe side limped to defeat at a gale-swept County Ground. Injuries aside, there were some questionable selection choices by Ainsworth for this game, with Gape the surprise choice to fill in at right back and Eze and CMS both dropped to the bench.

Swindon had the rub of the green, or the gust of the wind in this game. Smith appeared to push Jacobson off the ball just before he hooked home what proved to be the winner. It took Ainsworth 65 minutes to make a change, but even then it didn't appear to affect the game much and to be perfectly honest we never really looked like scoring.

**Ref Watch: J Brooks** – Missed what looked like a foul on Jacobson just before the goal, but was probably correct not to award a penalty for handball against Adam El-Abd.

**Magic Moment:** Remembering how long that magnificent unbeaten away run went on for.

**CHELTENHAM TOWN (H)**  
**League Two, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**  
ATT: 4,165

**BLUES 3** (*Eze 47, Akinfenwa 50, 62*) **ROBINS 3** (*Graham 22, 89, Winchester 70*)

**Verdict:** With a very patched up defence and a decent looking forward line, there was always likely to be a lot of goals once more today. As it transpired the score was a repeat from April, only this time a lot more frustrating. We started well, but the predictable goal from a set-piece undid our weak defence. We came out from the break like a bat out of hell and once it got to 3-1 looked to be coasting. The triple change from Cheltenham had an instant impact and the game became very exciting and stretched. A sixth goal seemed to be almost inevitable, although it was anyone's guess as to which way it would go. As it turned out, the officials got it. Are we right to be so cross about our defending? We really are struggling at the back with two right-backs out and two centre-backs out injured and we can but speculate as to whether training is having an adverse effect. Yet should that excuse the lack of marking at times? There's definitely things we can do better with what we have.

**Ref Watch: L Collins** - A whistle-happy performance. His assistant, who missed a blatant foul on Eze before the equaliser, really took the biscuit. To be fair, he was at least consistent and missed an equally big foul on CMS in the 1st half. What's the answer? Professional officials? Video replays? A rule where officials have to open their eyes now and then would be a start.

**Magic Moment:** Eze's run before the equaliser. The ball was like a magnet to his feet.

**SWINDON TOWN (A)**  
**The Pat Sharp 1996 Mullet of the Year Award First Round, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October**  
Att: 1,236

**ROBINS 1** (*Preston 88*) **BLUES 0**

**SOLIHULL MOORS (A)**  
**FA Cup First Round, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
Att: 1,544

**MOORS 0 BLUES 2** (*Freeman 16, Mackail-Smith 28*)

**Verdict:** A solid, professional display and a potential FA Cup banana skin avoided as we comfortably progressed into the second round. There wasn't much sign of the exhilarating, attacking football we'd seen in some of our earlier games and there was more than a whiff of fortune about Nick Freeman's opener, but we got the job done in the first half and were happy to sit back in the second, with the Conference side offering little attacking threat.

**Ref Watch: B Huxtable** – Had very little to do.

**Magic Moment:** The news that Oxford City had gone further in the Cup than their Plucky Non Leaguer neighbours.

# **FAKE NEWS**

## **Wycombe Wanderers sign the Lindow Man**

Gareth Ainsworth has brought in yet another veteran striker after he signed leathery human fossil The Lindow Man to play up front with Nathan Tyson, Bayo Akinfenwa and Craig Mackail-Smith.

"I felt we needed a bit more experience up top and 'Linds' fits the bill," said the Wycombe boss, "It feels like he's been around forever, because he pretty much has."

However, Ainsworth admitted that Lindow may not be making his Chairboys debut just yet. "He's got an ongoing rigamortis problem, which we're managing carefully. He's also dead, but I've got a great medical team here who are working very closely with him, along with a couple of Paleontologists from the Natural History Museum."

Ainsworth revealed he has high hopes for his new centre-forward. "I'm really hoping to build a team around him, as basically he cannot move. On his day he's very lively. Unfortunately, that day was in 2 BC, but if he can recapture some of that old form then we have a real gem on our hands."

## **Hylton reveals plan to avoid diving bans**

Luton Town striker and allround tosser Danny Hylton has revealed how he will get around the new rules regarding retrospective punishment for players found guilty of diving. "You just need a good disguise," the professional cheat smirked to our reporter, "I used to wear a facemask so that refs wouldn't know it was me hurling myself to the ground seventeen times a match."

And with the mask now too well known to work, Hylton has found a new way of avoiding being recognised. "I just stand up," he explained, "No-one will recognise me on my feet,"

## **Carabao Cup hoping to emulate Checkatrade success**

The organisers of the Carabao Cup have expressed their admiration for the Checkatrade Trophy and have revealed that they are hoping to follow in the footsteps of those responsible for somehow managing to make the Football League Trophy even more tragically pointless.

"We saw what an amazing job the guys at Checkatrade did completely ballsing everything up," said a Carabao spokesperson, "And we hope we can be similarly successful at making a complete and utter pig's ear of this competition at every possible opportunity. We've already copied them by rebranding the League Cup with a name so stupid most footballers would actually be embarrassed to lift the trophy. Now we are working on developing new ways of turning the competition into a complete farce, such as pulling some teams out of the hat twice in the draws and using exciting new modern technology to ensure we are repeatedly suffering from 'technical difficulties'."

Football League Chief Executive Shaun Harvey said "The BBC thought they had it cracked a few years ago when they did the FA Cup Third Round Draw on the bloody One Show, but I think the exciting new levels of ineptitude on display here show that we really are leading the way when it comes to being completely and utterly useless."

## **Idiot kicked out of party after letting off pyro**

A teenager has been handed a lifetime ban from attending parties in England, Scotland and Wales, including international parties, after he was caught letting off a pyrotechnic device.

The teenager, who has been described by everyone as 'spectacularly dumb', claims he was misled by advice he read online that appeared to suggest that without the use of pyrotechnics, the party would not be permitted to go ahead.

# **AWAY TRAVEL**

Travel with WWISC to any Wanderers away game and enjoy the following;

**\*Passenger insurance\***

**\*Stop at a pub serving hot & cold food\***

**\*Food pre-ordered on the coach to minimise waiting time\***

**\*Sweepstake with a guaranteed cash prize for at least one traveller\***

**\*Discounted prices for members, students, under-16's & senior citizens\***

## **We Pick Up From:**

**Pick-up 1:** Wycombe Train Station, High Wycombe Town Centre.

**Pick-up 2:** Wycombe Park & Ride by the Empire Cinema, (M40 J4).

**Subject to demand, we are running coaches to:**

<b>Opponents</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Stadium</b>	<b>Last Time</b>
Accrington Stanley	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Wham Stadium	D 2-2 (1,045)
Stevenage	Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Lamex Stadium	L 3-0 (2,602)
Coventry City	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Ricoh Arena	L 1-2 (11,672)
Forest Green Rovers	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	The New Lawn	NA
Luton Town	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Kenilworth Road	L 1-4 (8,097)
Crewe Alexandra	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gresty Road	L 1-2 (2,896)

## **To Book**

Please either visit the WWISC stall on Hillbottom Road before home matches, or call Colin on **01494 536 270** (If you leave a message please remember to leave a name and number). Please do not call Colin's mobile to book. Please let us know if you need to cancel a seat. This frees up seats to allow others to travel to support the team and means we will not be waiting for you on the day. Failure to cancel may result in us not taking future bookings from you.

**PLEASE BOOK AS EARLY IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.**

**\*\*\*  Non-smoking coaches  \*\*\***

# Next Time...

The next edition of The Wanderer will be released on

**Saturday 27th January 2018 (Wycombe vs Coventry City)**

This will be available from the WWISC stand 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**

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**.

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

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**Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club**

**Members of the Football Supporters Federation**

## **Contact Us**

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# Oily Sailor's 2017 FA Cup Poem

Professional schemers hate non-league dreamers, I'm sorry but it's true,  
O'Neill's Wycombe, strutting like peacocks, hey Chelmsford, hey Hitchin, it's over for you.  
But three years later at Basingstoke, there are terrible scenes from terrible blokes,  
Hampshire heroes, a shootout thriller, Gregory's already on the phone to Villa.

In '99 it's Oxford City, where the dons are hot and the girls aren't pretty  
Fire on the hemisphere, sick in the gob, everyone thinks it's an inside job.  
Harrow Borough at home in the year 2000, Barry Silkman is on for the cash,  
A mockery, a shambles, a geriatric crime, there goes the spirit of the game in a flash.

Hayes away on the telly, Andy Rammell a monster, Darren Currie in his slow motion prime,  
The Friday night lights show Sanchez glowering, planning endless aesthetic crimes.  
Oxford at home in 2006, bring out your M40 vinyl,  
Such a shame for the minnows to lose 2-1 in what remains their only cup final.

Wimbledon crushed in 2008, we'll never be bested by a non-league punk,  
But three weeks later, we lose up at Eastwood, the good, the bad and the drunk.  
Hayes & Yeading, Chelmsford and Yeading, we're better at passing, we're better at heading,  
But then comes Fleetwood, having a party. We've got Grant Basey, they've got Jamie Vardy.

Since then we've recovered, with Barnet and Halifax and Stourbridge all easily beaten,  
But November brings fear, the old creeping fear, via the classic non-league cup meeting.  
Solihull Moors: a club younger than Facebook, a club younger than Bebo and Twitter,  
Forget memes, forget dreams, we just need 11 characters, and also, our players are fitter.

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