

THE WANDERER

Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club









Issue 108, Season 2017/2018

£1.50



The Battle For Number 10

Who gets your vote?

	Owned by the many – Not the few	
	Strong and Sta- whoops!	
	We want a second go at breaking away	
	Owned by a coalition of chaos	
	The Nasty Party	
	Keeping the pound (in our manager's back pocket)	
	The Welsh one with no chance	
	Carrots? Yum!	

GARETH AINSWORTH INTERVIEW

“I'd love to get Wycombe Wanderers up into League One”

Also Inside

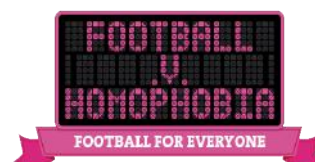
Tributes to Ian Nixon



By the fans



For the fans





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Phil Slatter	James Hemmings	Phil Capron	Jonny King – Fanzine

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

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

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Editorial

Welcome to the start of the new season and the first issue of The Wanderer of 2017/2018.

Like many of you, my excitement and enthusiasm for the new season has been greatly tempered after the sudden death of WWISC Chairman Ian Nixon over the summer.

I first met Ian a couple of seasons back, when Dale introduced me to him in the Vere Suite before a game. Straight away I was struck by his warmth and friendliness and immediately felt at home with him. An infectiously enthusiastic Blues fan, he was always very sociable and chatty, even after a bad defeat and his pub stops on away coach trips are the stuff of legend. Ian loved the social side of following Wycombe and having a drink with him pre or post match was always good fun. He liked meeting new people and was always on the lookout for new recruits to WWISC!

During his tenure as Chairman, Ian continued the good work of his predecessors, taking the Independent Supporters Club from strength to strength; building closer ties with the club and overseeing a huge amount of positive work done by WWISC, including raising considerable sums of money not only for the club, but also for local charities. As well as running the Supporters Club, he was a Trust member, Share Scheme investor, 500 Club contributor and in his spare time worked for the club as a Blues Cashline Draw agent. Just going to the game wasn't enough for Ian, he was always keen to do more.

I last saw Ian at the 500 Club dinner towards the end of last season. I got there late and every table seemed to be full. Ian spotted me looking lost and immediately jumped to his feet, ushering me to a spare seat at his table. Many of you will have known him far better and longer than I did, but that's how I'll remember him— as someone who was quietly kind and always making sure that everyone else was happy.

Ian regularly contributed to The Wanderer, with his Chairman's notes and away day pub reports and whilst it's been hard trying to fill this issue with witty and cheerful articles, it's the most fitting way for us to pay tribute to someone who was so gregarious and so committed to our Supporters' Club. I don't think Ian would have wanted everything to come to a halt on his account and whilst everyone at WWISC has been left reeling at his passing, I believe he would have wanted us to carry on; enjoying our away days and pub stops on the coach, producing an entertaining fanzine and of course, cheering on the Blues.

I hope we at WWISC can do Ian's memory proud by carrying on his fine work and continuing to be an asset to Wycombe Wanderers and its supporters. As Ian proved in his life, being cheerful, friendly and kind can have a hugely positive impact on those around you.

Enjoy the season, here's to a successful one.

And here's to Ian.

Jonny

WWISC NEWS

IAN NIXON

We were devastated to suddenly and tragically lose our friend and Chairman, Ian Nixon, over the summer. His funeral was held on Friday 23rd June at Amersham Crematorium, with the wake being held at Adams Park. WWISC have made a donation to the charity 'Brake' in his memory. He will be sorely missed by all of us and our thoughts and condolences go out to his friends and family.

WWISC AGM

Our AGM will take place on Wednesday 4th October in the Honours Lounge at Adams Park, 7:30pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This will be a very important meeting for obvious reasons. We will need to appoint a new Chairperson and are also desperately looking for new committee members, as we are currently down to just seven. Please do consider putting yourself forward if you would like to get involved. We need help running the away day coaches and selling the fanzine four times a season.

MEMBERSHIP 2017/18

Existing WWISC members should have received your membership forms for the coming season. If you haven't, please get in touch via the new email address. You may have noticed the postage price has gone up and this is due to price increases by Royal Mail. If you are not a WWISC member and would like to join, a membership form can be found towards the back of the fanzine. This can be photocopied if you're worried about ruining the auction value of your priceless Wanderer back catalogue. Forms are also available from our stall on Hillbottom Road on home matchdays. Alternatively, contact us using the email address at the front of the fanzine. Membership of WWISC, among other things, entitles you to reduced travel on our away day coaches and also entitles you to free copies of The Wanderer. There is an option on the membership form for you to have your copies posted to you for an extra £10 a season.

AWAY COACH TRAVEL

As always, we will aim to run coaches to as many away games as there is demand for, but can only do so with your continued support, so if you are planning on travelling to a match, please do join us. 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 magazine.

PARKING

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

TWITTER

You can now follow The Wanderer on Twitter: @WandererFanzine.

WWISC END OF SEASON AWARDS 2016-17

Thank you to all who voted in our end of season awards.

The winner of the WWISC Player of the Season award was Adebayo Akinfenwa. He was presented with the trophy by Harvey Weever prior to the final game of the season against Cambridge.

The full result was:

Adebayo Akinfenwa – 78.05%

Anthony Stewart – 7.32%

Jamal Blackman – 7.32%

Scott Kashket – 4.88%

Joe Jacobson – 2.44%

The winner of The Glyn Pierce Memorial Trophy for Most Improved Young Player of the Season was Scott Kashket. He was presented with the trophy by Roy Wilkinson at the Cambridge game.

The full result was:

Scott Kashket – 32.43%

Jamal Blackman – 24.32%

Luke O’Nien – 24.32%

Will de Havilland – 5.41%

Danny Rowe, Max Muller, Michael Harriman and Matt Bloomfield(!) – 2.70%

The WWISC sponsored Mark Philo Trophy for Player’s Player of the Season was won by Adebayo Akinfenwa. He was presented with the trophy by Nick Slevin at the end of season awards dinner.

The full result was:

Adebayo Akinfenwa – 73.91%

Jamal Blackman – 8.70%

Luke O’Nien – 8.70%

Dominic Gape – 4.35%

Matt Bloomfield – 4.35%

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR WANDERER READERS

*CHERRY RED RECORDS CUP WINNERS
COMMEMORATIVE PLATE*



Own a piece of history with this attractive handcrafted plate, depicting the historic moment when Paul Hayes received the Cherry Red Records Cup from a man, picking up Wycombe's first major trophy since they beat Oldham on penalties to win the San-An Cup in Ibiza in 2005.*

The plate will look fantastic on your wall, in your trophy cabinet, or underneath a dusty kayak in Richard Dobson's garage.

HURRY! LIMITED EDITION – JUST 19,500 MADE!

Please note that the Cherry Red Records Cup Winners Commemorative Plate does not count as a proper piece of dishware and should not be considered as such.

*Just to clarify to younger readers – this did actually happen.

THE BIG FAT QUIZ OF THE SEASON

How well do you remember 2016-17?

1. How many players made their debut at Crawley on the opening day?
2. Who knocked us out of the League Cup?
3. Wycombe's last goal of the 2015-16 season and first goal of the 2016-17 season were scored by which player in what way?
4. Who scored his first Wycombe goal in the 1-1 draw at home to Accrington?
5. Which was the only Wycombe game to be shown live on T.V.?
6. Who made his only appearance of the season in the 3-0 Football League Trophy win at Northampton?
7. Including shoot-outs, how many penalties did Jamal Blackman save last season?
8. Who scored his first Wycombe goals in the 5-1 thrashing of Crewe?
9. Which game saw the highest attendance at a Wycombe away league game?
10. What was the highest attended game at Adams Park?
11. Wycombe beat Cambridge away in November to clinch their first away victory since a 2-1 win against whom in February 2016?
12. Wycombe went 16 games unbeaten between 12th November and 28th January, but how many of those games did they win (including victories on penalties)?
13. Who inflicted Wycombe's final league defeat of 2016 on them?
14. Against Newport on 2nd January, Wycombe came from behind to win a game for the first time since when?
15. Which two teams did Wycombe fail to score a league goal against?

16. Which two teams failed to score a league goal against Wycombe?
17. How many goals did Wycombe score in the F.A. Cup in total?
18. Exeter fans unveiled a banner towards the end of their 1-0 defeat at Adams Park back in October. What did it say?
19. Who scored his only goal of the season against West Ham's B team in the Football League Trophy?
20. Who scored on his Wycombe debut away at Exeter City?
21. How many teams did Wycombe do the league double over?
22. How many teams did the league double over Wycombe?
23. Which team did Wycombe lose to, but also beat twice?
24. The goalkeeper for Stourbridge in our F.A. Cup Third Round match is the great nephew of which former F.A. Cup winning manager?
25. Which film did the Wycombe players reference with a celebration at Chesterfield in the F.A. Cup Second Round when they all fell to the floor and lay still?
26. Which boxer did Adebayo Akinfenwa say he would take on "anytime, anywhere" on Sky Sports?
27. Who was sent off within minutes after scoring away at Hartlepool?
28. Who inflicted Wycombe's final away Saturday defeat of the season upon them?
29. Who scored his first goal of the season away at Barnet?
30. On the final day of the season, Wycombe needed to win and were relying on three of which four teams to drop points?

Answers at the back of the fanzine

A look back at 16/17 and a look forward to 17/18

Here we go again. Another new season and a fresh assault on the League Two promotion places. Whilst the last season ended the same way as the one that preceded it – no playoff place – we did at least reach that disappointing position in a less disappointing fashion.

Despite a horrific, injury-hit start to the season and a fatigue-induced slump after our cup adventures came to an end in North London and the West Midlands, we came back from numerous missed chances against the likes of Notts County, Cheltenham, Mansfield and Morecambe to go into the final day of the season still with a mathematical chance of finishing in the top seven. We didn't of course, having more than used up our nine lives over the course of a season that was certainly frustrating at times - but to endure those two big slumps, the early injury disasters and teeth grindingly inconsistent form in the run-in and STILL come so close to finishing in the playoff mix does perhaps offer some encouragement for the coming season.

Or, did we just miss a golden opportunity to escape a weak League Two with a promotion that was there for the taking? We certainly weren't the only team to struggle for consistency in a topsy-turvy league that was perhaps best summed up by the almost farcical title race played out between three teams who set about taking it in turns to sabotage their own title bids with a series of extraordinary capitulations. It was as if no-one actually wanted to win it. It wasn't just the top three either; Exeter spent the first half of the season seemingly in a relegation battle and ended up at Wembley. Newport County looked dead and buried until a late rally saw them stay up on the final day.

Still, if it was a weak division last season, it's arguably weaker for the coming campaign. Two of the biggest fish are gone, leaving Luton as the last outsized pond-dweller, although they are now joined by fellow fallen giants Coventry City. With their financial clout allowing Nathan Jones to add more quality to his already strong squad, it's hard to see any outcome other than the Hatters carrying off the League Two title, but then they've been getting tipped for promotion for the last three seasons and haven't managed it yet. As other massive super-clubs like Portsmouth, Plymouth, Oxford and Bristol Rovers would never admit – this is a difficult division to get out of even at the best of times.

Lincoln City are being tipped to do well this season and certainly boast a decent (if small) squad, ably led by the impressive Cowley brothers. There have been numerous cases in recent years of clubs coming up from the Conference and taking that form into a successful season in League Two and after such a fine campaign last season, I wouldn't bet against them achieving a top ten finish. Journalist's dream Forest Green Rovers have certainly got plenty of cash to spend on chasing down a top seven place, but it's still hard to see them really setting the league alight and they could be in for a baptism of fire in their debut Football League season.

Of the teams that have come down from League One, it's worth noting that three of them, Chesterfield, Port Vale and Coventry are currently experiencing varying degrees of financial difficulty and ownership issues. Blackpool showed last season that off-field problems aren't

necessarily a barrier to promotion, but Leyton Orient also hinted that they don't particularly help either. With fiscal matters likely to get worse before they get better for the some of those clubs, a season of consolidation in the fourth tier might go down better with their long-suffering fans than you might think.

As for our own long-suffering fans, the impatience to achieve promotion is growing ever palpable with the usual complaints resurfacing over the summer "We use our small budget as an excuse...the club isn't showing any ambition...why haven't we signed anyone...ok we've signed someone but he's rubbish!...etc etc." Personally, I felt last season was, by and large, a successful one. We enjoyed two excellent cup runs, which brought in some much needed funds and we took huge strides forward off the pitch, including being able to pay off the remaining debt to Steve Hayes thanks to Liverpool eventually deigning to cough up the money they owed us from the Jordon Ibe sale. Finishing ninth might not win you any prizes, but it shows improvement and gives us a platform to build on. To not improve on ninth place this season would be a disappointment and though I am slightly reticent to bring up the oft-maligned 'Five Year Plan', we are now in year four of this and the projected target is promotion. I certainly wouldn't start calling for Ainsworth's head if we fall just short of this goal come the end of the season, but the Wycombe boss certainly has a big season ahead of him, a victim of his own success as each cup run, each spell of good form and each flirtation with the playoffs increases the expectation levels around Adams Park.

With that in mind, the lack of transfer activity over the last couple of months has been somewhat surprising. It's certainly been one of the quietest summers I can ever remember having at Adams Park and many Blues fans have been left frustrated at the lack of new additions, particularly given the high profile departures of Blackman and Pierre and the perceived failure to adequately replace them. The lack of signings can partly be attributed to the success of the last January window, when Ainsworth was able to bring the likes of Saunders and Gape in on permanent deals, as well as extending the deals of Kashket and Müller, essentially doing the bulk of his summer work in the winter. The Pierre saga certainly won't have helped either, as Ainsworth would have had his hands tied with the money set aside for Aaron's new contract offer, unable to spend it elsewhere until the wantaway defender's future was decided. The messy drama of his protracted departure hasn't done anyone any favours, but Aaron has been a great player for us in his time at the club and can't be faulted for wanting to try his luck at a higher level.

The signing of Adam El Abd to fill the Pierre-shaped hole in our backline has allowed some Wycombe fans to continue the now annual tradition of writing off a new player before he's even kicked a ball for us. It may not be a signing to get the pulse racing, but then very few Wycombe signings are. He's no Pierre - he's a completely different player to him, but what he lacks in pace, presence and power, he makes up for in experience and pedigree and his organisational skills should bring a more steadying influence to our backline. Let's not forget, this is a man who has played almost his entire career at a higher level and has been capped by Egypt, who may not exactly be Germany in the international stakes, but are also a fair old step up from Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda. The rest of the backline remains settled, which is encouraging. Jombati has proven himself to be a competent replacement centreback and Müller and de Havilland will hopefully kick on a bit this season.

Of course, signing lots and lots of players is not necessarily the path to success. According to some internet pundits, Mansfield may as well be handed the trophy now, having signed, so far, a staggering thirteen new players (and releasing eleven), but history has repeatedly shown that making wholesale changes rarely yields instant results, as new players take time to bed in and gel. Crawley made a huge number of signings last season and finished nineteenth. I'm happy enough with Ainsworth biding his time and making a few considered, quality additions to the squad, particularly when the loan market comes to the fore once the Premier League sides have named their squads for the season.

Another big summer deliberation has been the Brown v Blackman debate, which is all rather moot seeing as Blackman is gone and was never really likely to be coming back. It's an unfair comparison; Of course Blackman is the better player, that's why he's at Chelsea and he will hopefully go on to have a great career, but Brown is a perfectly good, well-proven keeper at this level. Anthony Stewart isn't as good as Jason McCarthy, but I don't remember having this debate last summer when Tools replaced Macca in the Wycombe defence. Instead of getting upset when a loanee leaves, perhaps we should just be happy that Ainsworth is able to attract such quality players to come and turn out for us in League Two.

Brown will of course look splendiferous this season, stepping out in a keeper's top that looks like a cross between a drug induced coma and a wall that a unicorns thrown up on. The less than subtle design and colour scheme, created by Baz in a calculated attempt to distract opposition strikers, has proved surprisingly popular with many Wycombe fans, but also seems to have really upset a few others, though I'm not entirely sure why, as no-one's forcing them to have to wear it themselves. It will be more or less impossible to tell how much it really works as a concept, but anything that gives us an advantage while staying within the laws of the game is fine by me.

At the other end of the pitch, Wycombe fans will have their fingers and toes crossed that Adebayo Akinfenwa can achieve the same high levels of Beast Mode as he did last season and that Scott Kashkett can manage more than four games in a row without one of his legs falling off. In fact, a lot of our attacking threat relies on injury-prone players such as Kashkett, Saunders, Cowan-Hall, Hayes and Tyson. Keeping these guys fit and firing will be a huge factor in how well we do this season. It's no coincidence that we were very lucky with injuries the season we got to Wembley, whereas last season was a disaster, quite literally from day one. We have a marginally bigger squad at this stage of the season than we've had in previous campaigns, so hopefully this year we might avoid what looks worryingly like becoming our traditional post New Year slump, that has derailed our last three attempts at promotion. If our forwards can stay fit and show more consistently the flashes of genius we glimpsed last campaign, then we shouldn't struggle for goals.

Whether these goals come from intelligent passing and fine wing-play, or from giant punts upfield remains to be seen, although recent experience suggests that we might be in for the latter. The persistence with a narrow pitch at Adams Park and the summer departures of Wood and Thompson (and also Weston, albeit in extenuating circumstances) do little to suggest that Ainsworth has any interest in playing wide midfielders, with our one remaining natural winger, Paris Cowan-Hall, now playing more as a striker. Our hopes of creativity in a midfield three lie mostly on the shoulders of Sam Saunders. Luke O'Nien showed in his

debut season that he can be a useful playmaker himself, but he seemed oddly shackled last season, rarely playing with the same enthusiastic, instinctive abandon that delighted Wycombe fans the season before. Hopefully he can recapture this old form, as Saunders is unlikely to be an ever-present in the Chairboys starting eleven.

It's not just the likes of O'Nien that need to kick on this season. Squad players like Rowe, Freeman, Müller and Southwell really need to step up to the plate and show what they can do when called upon. Our squad is bigger, but still small and we don't have the luxury of carrying 'squad fillers' who might come good in a few years' time. Yes, they are feeding off scraps, the odd substitute appearance here, a game in the Checkatrade Trophy there, but football is an unforgiving game and they must make the most of what opportunities they get. Hopefully Ainsworth will be able to bolster the ranks with an astute loan signing or two. With a few notable exceptions, Ainsworth has proved himself to be a fine player of the Game of Loans and I hope our good relationship with Southampton can continue to bear fruit, as to my mind they have arguably the best youth setup in the country right now.

So to conclude; basically anything could happen! We have a stronger squad to the one that started last season, but a weaker squad to the one that finished it. The division is weaker, with off-field issues likely to play a big part in several club's promotion hopes, whereas keeping our forwards off the treatment table will be key to our own prospects.

Wycombe continue to make steady progress on and perhaps more importantly off the pitch. We are so much more professionally run behind the scenes now and whilst our finances remain desperately meagre, things are improving with every season that passes and we are at least now in a position where we aren't forced to sell our best players at knockdown prices just to stay afloat.

I hope we can keep moving forward and improving and ideally translate this positive progression to the pitch, cutting out the dark arts and hoofball side of our game. Even if Ainsworth is determined for us to play as narrow as possible, we have some good technical footballers in our squad, capable of playing some really good stuff like we saw against Crewe, Chesterfield and Tottenham. Let's cut out the timewasting and theatrics and prove the haters wrong by showing just how good a footballing side we really are.

A top three finish is possible, although a playoff place would seem more realistic. I hope we win the league. I hope Kashket and Bayo get fifty goals between them and I hope a late, wind-assisted goal by Brown condemns Col U to an unlikely January relegation. But I'd settle for seventh place and making the third round of the cup.

Will the season end in triumph, heartbreak, or mid-table indifference?

Its League Two, so anything could happen. And its Wycombe, so it probably will.

THOSE PRE-SEASON RUMOURS IN FULL

Following the success of his work with Shaun Ryder on the new goalkeeper shirt, West End sources claimed Barry 'Bez' Richardson had been approached to design the stage set for the new Happy Mondays jukebox musical *Thrills, Bellyaches and Incomprehensible Shouting*.



Fans on the Gasroom confidently predicted that we would retain all our best players, significantly strengthen the squad with one or two excellent additions, win two cups, be promoted by Christmas and then romp to the summit of League One within a year.

A report that the club shop had ordered extra X's at great expense fuelled rumours that AFC Finton midfield enforcer Xerxes Xavia Xerxexisx was on his way to Wycombe Wanderers. Once it was clear that the Pulagbrigistan international had actually re-signed for Pulag Ar Alpacas, Adams Park denied that Andrew Howard demanded Gareth only sign Albanian or Greek players for the next ten years, or that staff had been ordered to re-name all of their children from a prepared list of names (Alex, Roxanne, Xavier, Phoenix, Hendrix, Maximus, Myxomatosis...) and buy them all a personalised goalkeeper shirt.

Fans on the suspiciously-renamed 'Xasroom' confidently predicted that we would lose all our best players, significantly weaken the squad with one or two terrible additions, face early exits in two cups, be relegated by Christmas and then be lucky to be playing home games in a

pub car park within a year.

Idris Elba has been playing down rumours that he is to be the next Wycombe Wanderers manager. (See also; James Bond, Dr Who, UKIP leader, Harry Potter, Gollum, voice of Peppa Pig, Dalai Lama and Secretary General of the United Nations).

Fans on the Gasroom got into a long, complicated and ultimately confusing argument about how far into the five year plan we are and at what point we were supposed to qualify for Europe.

A controversial secret EFL report aimed at increasing attendances, improving respect and cutting down on time-wasting was leaked online. Suggestions included every fan getting their first milk stout free (ginger wine for the womenfolk), games reduced to ten minutes each way, players no longer allowed to smoke their pipes on the field of play and expected to refer to the officials as 'Sir' or 'Madam'. Additionally, all incidents of 'handbags' during games would have to include actual use of handbags and livestock would no longer be allowed to graze on the pitch in between matches. The EFL quickly claimed the report was merely a consultation document and the leak was a malicious fabrication designed to make them look foolish and out of touch with the game.

Fans on the Gasroom confidently predicted that they had absolutely no idea what the forthcoming season would hold, were happy with a home Boxing Day fixture and had their fingers crossed that everything would turn out fine.

Club lawyers were forced to point to the small print on the season ticket application form, when those who had purchased *Early Bird* season tickets were disappointed to find their £320 had only secured them a small plastic container with a dead worm in it.

All information more or less correct at time of publication.

Wycombe Wanderers Legends vs Aylesbury United Legends



Over the close season, Keith Scott's Wycombe Legends side dusted off their boots once more, this time to take on an Aylesbury United Legends XI in aid of a very worthy cause; Ollie's Fund, which is raising money for 13-year-old Ollie Gardiner to finance treatment that he desperately needs in his battle against cancer.

Ollie was diagnosed with brain and spine cancer in May 2015 and since then has gone through 3 brain operations, 10 cycles of chemotherapy and 34 sessions of radiotherapy. Despite all the arduous treatment and therapy he's gone through, Ollie has remained positive and cheerful throughout and became a star patient in the hospital, with nurses arguing over who got to care for him because he was such a pleasure to treat.

Unfortunately, Ollie relapsed in September last year and the NHS made the heart-breaking decision to not pay for any further treatment. The Gardiners have not lost hope and have relentlessly raised funds to send Ollie to Austria for ground-breaking treatment called 'The Vienna Protocol' or 'MEMMAT', which has turned the tide on the tumours and seen welcome positive reaction. The treatment itself is very costly, with £440,000 needing to be raised for two full years' worth. Incredibly, Ollie's Fund has already raised £405,000, but going into the match it was still £35,000 off its final target.

The Chairboys and Ducks legends both jumped at the opportunity to pull on their old club's shirts once again and raise some much needed funds for local lad Ollie, who lives in Aston Clinton in Bucks. The match was held at Thame United's ASM Stadium at Meadow View Park, with the generous hosts, managed by former Chairboys hero Mark West, also laying on an array of family fun events held alongside the match to keep everyone entertained.

The Wycombe Legends, wearing kit provided by the club, included former Chairboys greats Keith Scott, Mark West, Matt Crossley, Keith Ryan, Steve Thompson and Glyn Creaser (now manager of Aylesbury), alongside former Blues Mo Harkin, Darren Currie, Leeyon Phelan, Martin Lee, Craig Faulconbridge, Scott McGleish and Danny Senda.

The Aylesbury Legends side featured the likes of Matt Hayward, Greg Williams, Kevin Davies, Cliff Campbell, Derek Duggan, Roni Joe, Jack Sillitoe, Paul Hackett, Dave Botterill, Simon Mason and Pete Robinson, as well as legendary striker Cliff Hercules, the Ducks' all-time leading goalscorer and appearance maker.



The match was a close-run affair, with Glyn Creaser a rock in the Wycombe defence (even if his shirt did appear to be a couple of sizes too small) and the Chairboys legends took a 2-0 lead into the half-time break. Aylesbury fought back in the second half, scoring three, but with McGleish and West putting in fine performances up front, Wycombe also grabbed a further three goals, with the score 5-3 to Wycombe at the final whistle. Wycombe's scorers were McGleish (2), Thompson and West, with Westy's son also grabbing a goal.

Overall, the match raised £2,881.62p for Ollie's Fund, taking it a huge step closer to reaching its final goal.

If you would like to make a donation to Ollie's Fund, please visit:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/peteandjane-gardiner

TWEET ALL ABOUT IT

The Twitter highlights of Wycombe's 2017/2018 season.

The club allowed German Comedy Ambassador (and reader of this fine publication) Henning Wehn to run the Twitter feed for the pre-season friendly against QPR and his first tweet was an irrefutable fact...



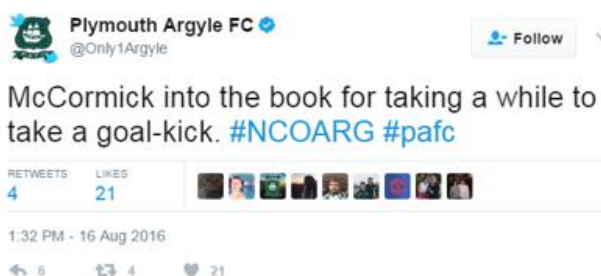
Another undeniable fact followed after our 1-1 draw with Le Havre during the pre-season trip to France, one which we presume the Wycombe supporting German took great pleasure in following the Euros...



Plymouth waited until the second half of their opening day defeat to start whingeing about our time-wasting, despite not even playing against us (unless by 'touch of the Wycombes' they were referring to the away side winning at Home Park...)



The irony was lost on them ten days later...



Gareth Ainsworth made his 601st career appearance, bringing himself on as a sub away at Northampton. He set up a goal, but then dropped himself the following Saturday...

 **The Wanderer Podcast**
@wandererpodcast Following

Disgusted that Ainsworth has dropped Ainsworth from the squad after his display on Tuesday. Can't imagine Ainsworth will be happy with that.

RETWEETS 11 LIKES 20

6:14 AM - 3 Sep 2016

11 20

On the day that a certain Donald Trump won a voting thing in America, the club may have slightly oversold our Check-a-Trade group game against Coventry...

 **Wycombe Wanderers**
@wwfcofficial Following

A huge day in world history. We get to find out who comes top of the @CheckatradeTrpy Southern Group D - it's matchday!
[#WYCVCOV](#)

RETWEETS 29 LIKES 44

11:59 PM - 8 Nov 2016

Plymouth would crop up again following the 3-3 draw on Boxing Day, with one fan reporting the result to the local police...

 **ben robinson**
@benrobinson97 Follow

@DC_Police can I report a robbery that took place at home park on saturday afternoon, @wwfcofficial stole 2points from @Only1Argyle #pafc

RETWEETS 42 LIKES 32

3:42 AM - 28 Dec 2016

3 42 32

The police response was a thing of brilliance...

 **DevonCornwall Police**
@DC_Police Follow

Replying to @benrobinson97 @Only1Argyle

we've looked into this, it appears the only crime was your defending from long balls late into the match. Sorry

RETWEETS 698 LIKES 1,119

3:51 AM - 28 Dec 2016

16 698 1.1K

Meanwhile, this Plymouth supporter must demand a lot from their strikers, as despite Bayo scoring one goal, making another, hitting the post and then playing a big part in our 90th minute equaliser, he is apparently talentless...



The big man responded as only he can.



The New Year was a time of great excitement around Adams Park, but our fanzine editor is a man of very simple dreams...



Meanwhile, a victory in the F.A. Cup prompted a comment from a cleric and T.V. broadcaster. This is the word of the Lord.



Beating Stourbridge and Blackpool had a former WWISC chairman getting a bit excited.



The Quarter-Final Football League Trophy win at Mansfield was the result of the deadly Akinfenwa/Kashket combo and prompted this brilliant quip.



The Spurs match saw us trending on Twitter and the funniest comment was this one.



The club were in a dry mood when asked about the signing of Cowan-Hall...



On a more serious note, the club was highly praised for its assistance to Crawley media man and cancer sufferer Alex Stedman, who is raising money for The John Hartson Foundation. When he received the all clear, his tweet was funny, moving and uplifting.



“IT’S THE HOPE THAT KILLS YOU...”

This is a saying we all hear regularly in football. It’s not so much the crushing defeats, the last minute heartaches, the decisions that go against you or the chances that you miss, but the belief that it *might* not end in tears. You score with ten minutes left to reduce the deficit to 2-1, you’re stuck at the bottom of the table in March but pull a couple of wins together, you’re a point off promotion with one game left. More often than not, it never comes to fruition but you always believe that it will. Football fans are the eternal optimist. Why else would we turn up on a Saturday despite seven defeats on the spin?

It’s this saying that perhaps sums up last season on three fronts. A point from the play-offs, a game from a Wembley final, minutes from a win over Spurs and seconds from a replay. So near, yet so far. To this end we can’t sum up last season as a success, but it was still a positive one for many reasons.

The **F.A. Cup** saw us embark on the club’s second best ever performance in the competition. ‘We’re out!’ everyone cried when we drew Pompey away, only for an excellent away win to kick-start our season on all fronts. Then a remarkable win at Chesterfield set-up a lucrative third round draw against...oh, Stourbridge. Yet this turned out to be one of my favourite games of the whole season. A really good cup tie, played in the right spirit (competitive, but not dirty) and in front of a decent crowd (likely far bigger than it would have been had we drawn a side from Leagues One or Two or the National League). It was tight and tense but we squeezed through and with the exception of the few people who were at Grimsby in January 2001, Wycombe fans saw us win an F.A. Cup Third Round tie for the first time. The handshakes and sporting congratulations from both teams afterwards was equally refreshing. Then there was White Hart Lane. ‘We just want one moment!’ we cried before the game. Something to remember the day – just one goal. We got three. For me, I will never forget the awarding of the penalty. I jumped up and cheered before turning and looking at the ground. This wasn’t real, it just couldn’t be. I looked at the fan stood behind me. ‘Yes mate, it’s happening.’ he said. More than just hope at that point.

The 89th minute equaliser was expected, but more gutting than the winner on reflection, given that it came from a poor clearance. Oddly, when the game finished I wasn’t overly upset – it had been an amazing game, we’d done ourselves proud and still had much to play for. Instead of a replay with Spurs, we had a semi-final at Coventry. It was only later that the disappointment really sank in.

The **Football League Trophy** was another oh-so-near. We all moaned about the competition's format and the inclusion of the B teams. I didn't go to any of the games, but was still desperate for us to beat Coventry. I ended up telling myself that all the B teams were out and *someone* had to win the trophy, so it may as well be us. I also had personal reasons. I missed out on Wembley in 2015 and my daughter (now an ardent fan) turned six on the day of the final. I promised her a trip to the Arch were we to make it. You're never too young to learn that it's the fabled message of hope.

And then there is **League Two**. Every season there are good, bad and indifferent matches, but the variance last season seemed to greater than usual. Some games were beyond the pale; Colchester at home (our first shot on target was in injury time), Mansfield on Good Friday and Notts County at home. The worst of the lot for me was Crawley. We were dreadful that day, but so were they, which made it even worse. A weakened Wanderers side were 1-0 up before we won a throw. Four touches of the ball later (three of them ours!) and it was 1-1. The second half saw us failing to break through a rubbish defence, before one moment of brilliance saw them nick the points. You feel had we gone in at half-time 1-0 up, we may have grabbed a second and would have been looking back at a scrappy but important three points. Instead, it was the lowest of the low.

On the other hand...what about the 5-1 demolition of Crewe? The comeback win with two cracking goals against Newport? The confident victories against Hartlepool and Morecambe? The low on quality but high on drama 3-3 draw with Cheltenham? Not to mention the final two home wins against Doncaster and Cambridge? It was very Jekyll and Hyde. Overall, our second best season since being relegated back to League Two in 2012 - a step forward from last year for sure.

We ended the season on a high, battling for the play-offs, but despite a good sprint, we came up just short in the overall marathon. Yet we ended on a positive and can now look forward to 2017-18. This time, we will beat a top four Premier League side in their own back yard, we will get to Wembley and we will be promoted.

Well, that's the hope...

ONE HIT WONDERS

They came, they scored, they disappeared

Every footballer has two main goals in their career;

1. Play for Wycombe Wanderers.
2. Score for Wycombe Wanderers.

Some ('The Chosen') succeed in this goal many times over (Keith Scott, Bayo Akinfenwa, Stewart Castledine in his first spell), some never even come close (Lionel Messi, Alan Shearer, Carlos Lopez) whilst others find the net just once in the famous quarters, never hitting such dizzy heights ever again.

Here, we look at the players that scored once and only once, for the mighty Wycombe...

The 1990's

Hakan Hayrettin – 27th November 1993 Preston North End 2 Wycombe Wanderers 3, Division Three

Where did he come from? Midfielder signed from Barnet on a free transfer in July 1993 following a loan spell at Adams Park the previous season.

The goal – A stunning, 40-yard, 90th minute bullet that flew past stunned substitute goalkeeper Steve Woods, who stayed rooted to his spot. A breathtaking goal, that proved to be the winner as the final whistle went just seconds later.

Where did he go? Despite his wonderstrike at Deepdale, he struggled to hold down a place in the Wycombe side and joined Cambridge on a free transfer at the end of the season. Forced to retire early due to injury, he moved into coaching and management and after taking Grays Athletic up into the Isthmian League, was appointed first team coach at Luton under John Still. Last season he joined Braintree Town, but left the club at the end of the season as they were relegated from the National League.

Mark Cooper- 25th January 1994 Wycombe Wanderers 1 Mansfield Town 0, Division Three

Where did he come from? Midfielder signed on a month-long trial contract in January after leaving Fulham.

The goal – Coming off the bench on the hour mark, the debutant smashed home Terry Evans' flick-on fifteen minutes later. The win was wildly celebrated by the Wycombe players, as it later transpired that the win had seen them hit a points target, with a trip away being the reward. Martin O'Neill later said of the game; *"You would have honestly*

thought in the dressing room that we had won the World Cup...If the lad Cooper never did another thing, well he didn't at this Football Club, he is forever in the memory of the players because he won a trip for them."

Where did he go? Not offered an extension to his deal, despite his debut heroics, Cooper rejoined former club Exeter City. Moving into management, he won the Conference North with Kettering in 2008 in a hugely successful spell. He went on to win the FA Trophy with Darlington in 2011, before taking Swindon to the 2015 League One Playoff Final. He is now manager of League Two newcomers Forest Green Rovers.

David Titterton – 12th March 1994
Colchester United 0 Wycombe Wanderers 2, Division Three

Where did he come from? Defender picked up on a free transfer from Hereford in 1993.

The goal – With Wycombe leading bitter enemies Colchester 1-0 at a hostile Layer Road, O'Neill sent Titterton on with ten minutes to go, pushing the fullback into an unaccustomed forward role. It paid almost instant dividends, as with one minute of normal time remaining, he tucked home from Guppy's left wing cross. Furious Col U fans invaded the pitch, prompting the referee to blow for full time, as Wycombe claimed a welcome win in their arch-rivals' back yard.

Where did he go? Left Wycombe in 1995 after failing to cement a place in Martin O'Neill's side. Had a short spell at Hednesford Town before retiring that same year.

Nick Cusack – 16th April 1994
Scarborough 3 Wycombe Wanderers 1, Division Three

Where did he come from? Midfielder who joined on loan from Oxford (boo!) in March 1994.

The goal – Already assured a playoff place, Wycombe were already 2-0 down, when, with ten minutes remaining, Cusack stabbed home from six yards after Steve Guppy's shot had come back off the crossbar.

Where did he go? Left Oxford at the end of the season and joined Fulham. Sold to Swansea for £50,000 in 1997, he played over 200 times for the Swans, briefly serving as player/manager before retiring.

He became Swansea's PFA representative, before being elected Chairman of the PFA in 2001, playing a key role in defeating a bid by some Premier League clubs, led by then-Manchester United Chairman Peter Kenyon, to reduce the number of professional football clubs in England to 40. In 2016 he was elected to the General Council of the Trades Union Congress.

Jason Soloman – 4th April 1995
Wycombe Wanderers 3 Bradford City 1, Division Two

Where did he come from? Midfielder/defender who arrived on a free in 1995 after making over 100 appearances for Watford.

The goal – Just two minutes into the game, Dave Carroll burst through the midfield and played in Soloman, who collected Jesus' through pass before firing past Paul Tomlinson.

Where did he go? Left in 1996 and had a brief spell at Wrexham before going on to play for Fulham, Stevenage and Barnet, retiring in 2004.

Terry Skiverton – 13th April 1996
York City 2 Wycombe Wanderers 1, Division Two

Where did he come from? Chelsea, on loan.

The goal – Racing in on the hour mark to head home from John Williams's skilful overhead kick.

Where did he go? Made the switch to Adams Park permanent for the following season, but never really found his feet under Alan Smith and left in the summer, dropping into the non league game with Welling, before signing for Yeovil in 1999. The centre back went on to become a hero for the Glovers, playing nearly 400 games for them in an eleven-year spell before retiring in 2010. He became Yeovil manager in 2009 but stepped down in 2012, becoming assistant manager to Paul Sturrock in 2015.

Brian McGorry – 9th January 1997
Swansea City 1 Wycombe Wanderers 1, Football League Trophy
(Swansea win 6-5 on penalties)

Where did he come from? Midfielder who was a free transfer from Peterborough United in August 1995.

The goal – Touched home Steve McGavin's right wing cross to equalise with fifteen minutes remaining, but, Miguel de Souza's shootout miss saw the Chairboys exit the AutoWindscreens Trophy on penalties.

Where did he go? Joined Hereford in 1997 and played for a number of professional and amateur clubs before retiring in 2005, joining the coaching staff of Vauxhall Motors in 2006. Later set up his own business – Executive Personal Training in his native Liverpool and runs a PE BTEC course at St Margaret's High School.

Wycombe PALS

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

People 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 as an approximate guide to their availability to help out to media@wwfc.com. Your details will be passed to the relevant head of department at the club who will contact applicants to discuss the role in further detail. The club will advertise volunteer opportunities on its website, social media channels and in the matchday programme.

Community Share Scheme Update

The community Share Scheme continues to thrive, reaching well over a third of the £2m target the Wycombe Wanderers Trust set out to raise over 5 years. The money raised through the scheme will help finance the football club and will ensure it can remain under fan ownership. Since its launch in 2015, the money raised by the scheme has been invested in a number of important ways, including purchasing medical equipment, replacing broken seats in the stands and buying Michael Harriman from QPR.

Please do consider investing in the scheme, either by setting up a 5-year payment plan (monthly or annually) or by donating a one-off payment of whatever you can afford. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum is £100,000. If you would like to invest, or find out more about the scheme, you can find a brochure with all the necessary information at www.wycombewandererstrust.com. Questions can be also emailed to the Trust at shares@wycombewandererstrust.com, or alternatively visit the Trust table, which can be found by the door in the Caledonian Suite before all home games.

BBC Three Counties Radio Coverage

Phil Catchpole is continuing his excellent work, reporting on Wycombe games for BBC Three Counties. Phil has done a great job increasing the amount of exposure the club gets and the more fans that interact with the station, the more coverage we'll get. Fans can tune in to Three Counties Sport every Saturday from 2 - 5pm. This is followed by Three Counties 5-0-5, which is your opportunity to call, text or tweet your opinions from the afternoon's game. Midweek games are also covered from 7pm. The best frequency for listening to Three Counties in High Wycombe is 98.0FM. You can also tune in on 95.5FM, 103.8FM and 104.5FM from other areas in Beds, Bucks and Herts, or listen on iPlayer.

CALL: 08459 45555

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.

MEMORIES OF IAN

When my time as WWISC chairman was coming to an end, there was the inevitable search for a replacement. Ian had been on the committee for a short while and a few people had mentioned that he would be ideal to take up the role.

His love for Wycombe Wanderers (and ale!) made him ideal for WWISC as it was, but his diplomatic attitude at meetings, along with his friendly and approachable nature (which made him such a popular driving instructor) made him the ideal candidate. He ~~had his arm twisted~~ willingly volunteered and did a terrific job.

There are many memories of Ian that people have and will continue to share but one that sticks out for me was prior to that memorable trip to White Hart Lane last January. In the pub, a few fans hyped up on beer and excitement, started a rendition of 'There's only one Ian Nixon!' which soon had much of the pub joining in as he and I collected the food money. He laughed it off, even when we started the chant again on the long walk to the stadium.

One of the last times I saw Ian was at the sponsors dinner back in April. I took the below photo of him with Adebayo Akinfenwa and remember Ian then thanking Bayo for his performances last season. Bayo, typically, thanked Ian for his support.

It's so sad that he is no longer here. We will miss him greatly, but will cherish the memories.

Sleep well, good Sir.

Phil.



That June morning when I was told the sad news about Ian will stick in my memory for ever.

A couple of days earlier, I had been having a beer with him and Sue at a canal side pub and we had arranged to help him move his boat the following Saturday. That boat was his pride and joy as well as his home. I can still hear him now saying 'See you Saturday chap!' as he left the pub. It still hasn't really sunk in yet.

Football (specifically Wycombe Wanderers) brought us together many years ago. After Ian joined the WWISC committee we became great friends and had many laughs together. He was a real boon on the coach away trips, helping me with arrangements and planning pub stops etc. I don't think he ever had a cross word with anyone and he always managed to turn any awkward situation into a laugh. One trip that really sticks out in my memory was a trip in his car with Brian and Tony (Peanuts) to Accrington and Carlisle. It was four days of hilarious madness; mixing rambling, football and the occasional pub stop - I did help with the some of the driving! It was a brilliant few days, even if the Blues didn't win.

Ian mate, you may be gone, but you will never be forgotten and will be badly missed.

Colin

If you wish to make a charity donation in Ian's memory, cheques can be sent to;

Arnold Funeral Service
891 London Road
Loudwater
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP10 9TB

Alternatively, you can donate online at www.arnold-funerals.co.uk.

Donations will be shared between three charities;

Coeliac UK
Dementia UK
Brake – The Road Safety Charity

The Gazroom



We chatted to Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth before a pre-season training session.

We just missed out on the playoffs last time out and whilst promotion is obviously the target this season, where do you think we can realistically hope to finish?

Yeah thanks for this one, putting me under pressure straightaway before a ball's been kicked! But I do believe that we can go better than last season. I think the start was a poor one and with a good start and momentum I think we can definitely make a push for the playoffs this season.

This season sees us facing Col U again. Are you looking forward to it and are the players aware of the rivalry?

If I'm being honest, it's diluted a little bit over the years. It was more heated back in the day. They know that Colchester United are our rivals - they don't know why, so that's an explanation we have to make now and again, but they always look forward to every game and when the fans travel to Colchester and turn up like they do, I think they make it the derby that it is. I'll be making the players aware, don't worry.

How much will you miss Derek Adams this season?

(Laughs) There's a little bit more made of this than people think. We talk and we shake hands whenever we see each other, so there's no grudges and Derek's done a fantastic job at Plymouth. Not so much Derek Adams, but I'm glad Plymouth are out the league. They're a bigger club than League Two and it's about time they tried it elsewhere. Hopefully we can maybe play them next season, but at the moment it's nice not to have to make the long journey down to Plymouth, although it's been good - there's been some good pickings down there recently, but me and Derek are absolutely fine now.

Speaking of Plymouth, can you remember how you felt when Barry Richardson was getting ready to go on at Home Park?

Very worried! *(Laughs again)* Baz was shocked – he thought Lynchy wasn't as injured as he was. There were a few swear words between us and I just said 'Go and do your best Baz' and he did. I can't say I wasn't worried, but I shouldn't have been, because he trains like he's still twenty-five years-old. He's training every day and I could trust him in any situation. I've even seen him play outfield once, but I'll definitely be getting on before him if that ever comes up for consideration!

Our tactics and style of play have come in for some criticism over the last few seasons. Do you feel there is any justification to the complaints or is it all being blown out of proportion?

Totally out of proportion. If people want to come in and see the tactics then they're very welcome. You give me the best players, the best budget, we'll go and play the best football, but this is League Two Wycombe Wanderers. The pain of four years ago is still fresh in my mind and we still celebrate when we get to fifty points every year.

Last summer you pulled off a fantastic signing when you answered Bayo Akinfenwa's call to 'Hit him up on Whatsapp'. Is that the first time you've signed a player using social media and did you have to get your kids to help you with the emojis?

I have to admit, the kids know more about phones than I do, but it was a text message rather than a Whatsapp, I'm not that technical. Yeah, a fantastic signing, but again, the style of play – people love Akinfenwa but then they'll criticise us getting the ball to him early, so you can't win sometimes in football. But what a guy, an absolute gentleman off the pitch and on the pitch and absolutely crucial for another successful season.

Did the success of that signing surprise you at all? With all due respect, few Wycombe fans would have predicted he'd end up as top scorer and player of the season?

They were surprised, but I wasn't. I knew what I was getting. I've played against him enough times and know the person and know he's got that in the bag and I'm hoping he has again this season. It took us a few weeks to get used to him in the team, but once we knew how to play with Akinfenwa he was a huge strength for us last year.

What would you say has been the highlight of your time at Wycombe so far, both as a player and a manager?

As a player, probably the promotion against Southend where I skippered the team up to League One. It was a great season and we really worked hard that year. As a manager, the highlight is tough; The Spurs game, getting to the Playoff Final, the game against Plymouth at home to get to Wembley was fantastic and I'll never forget Torquay - it's not really a highlight, but it was probably one of the most amazing moments in my managerial career. So a few there, couldn't pick between them really.

What is your overall ambition with Wycombe Wanderers?

I'd love to get Wycombe Wanderers up into League One, be a sustainable League One team and maybe even start talking about the Championship one day with tongue in cheek, but to do that we have to get to League One first. Realistically I think we have a chance of getting to League One, I'm not giving a timescale on that one, but once you're in League One, to even talk about the Championship, which for me is miles and miles away from Leagues One and Two, would be unbelievable for a club like Wycombe.

You've got pretty good taste in music. Are you routinely horrified by what the lads put on in the changing room, or over the years have you grown partial to a bit of 'Fetty Wap', whoever they are?

Who the hell are Fetty Wap?! I have never heard of that. That just sounds like a swear word to me. I'm a little bit stuck in the past with my music so I don't even give new music a chance. Give me The Kinks, The Doors, The Who or The Stones any day and I'll listen to that all day. I have no idea what some of the songs are, it sounds like one big song for about two hours before the game, but if it gets the boys going who am I to argue?

What's the most embarrassing track/artist on your iTunes? Cheeky bit of Katy Perry perhaps?

I'm really sorry, but I have got Katy Perry on my iPad, because my little girl loves her and she made me download it along with Taylor Swift. Rockers around the world will be kicking me out of their clubs! All music's great, but I'm a genuine rocker.

What's the most embarrassing DVD on your shelf?

I don't know. I'm not usually a DVD man to be fair, but I do love my films. There'll be some romantic chick-flick in there somewhere which the missus has got, which she'll say I bought, but believe me I didn't. I like my cool films rather than my chick-flicks.

Has Anthony Stewart been disciplined over his new hairdo?

No, but we do call him 'The Blonde One' now.

How is the new band going? Can we look forward to a performance at Adams Park if we win promotion this season?

That'd be nice, yeah. Let me get the promotion out the way first and then we'll see. The band's going well. We're enjoying it, we're in studios recording tracks and hopefully we'll be able to get something out which people can listen to one day. It's been a long time in the making, but we're proud of what we do and it's a great release from football.

You sing in a rock band, Andrew Howard is a GT racing champion. What does Dobbo do in his spare time? Stuntman? Pro Wrestler? Astronaut-Spy-Cowboy?

Dobbo has little phases, believe me. He's just moved house down to the coast so he bought a kayak and he had a spell of going out in the kayak, but then it ended up in his garage getting cobwebs on it. He likes riding his bike. His knees are absolutely shattered, so any sport and Dobbo struggles, but he gets on his bike with his kids and I think he enjoys his bike rides after a long day. He has these phases of little things he does. He's a great guy.

Did you get to have a ride on the Gareth Ainsworth bus and did you have to pay?

No I didn't pay. I was flattered and surprised at the Gareth Ainsworth bus. There'll probably be some eggs thrown at it and graffiti on it, but it's great to have a bus named after you. One of the few things I could never have envisaged happening at Wycombe Wanderers, but it's fantastic. Thank you to the town for that one.

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

What a question...erm...Donald Trump has no bearing on Wycombe Wanderers, so Wycombe Wanderers get promotion. Donald Trump can do what he wants across the pond, we won't be going over there.

What would be your immediate plan of action in a zombie apocalypse?

Family first and then a million miles away from anywhere. I'd probably stick on *28 Days Later* and see what they did and try and copy it.

Have you ever found a cartoon character attractive?

Apart from Jessica Rabbit, like every other man did in the 1980's...no.

What's your spirit animal?

Oh wow. Spirit animal...that's a great question, probably the most sensible question out of the whole lot. My spirit animal...I don't know...a rock and roll cool animal....whatever that is...

Thanks Gareth.

Thanks for taking up most of the time before training on a Thursday!

Thanks to Gareth for his time, Matt Cecil for arranging the interview and Phil Catchpole for asking the questions.





George Starkey-Midha from anti racism organisation ‘Kick It Out’ tells us more about the work they do in football.

Kick It Out is English football’s equality and inclusion organisation, campaigning to kick discrimination out the game. Working throughout the professional, grassroots and non-league game, as well as in schools, colleges and local communities, we aim to ensure football is open and welcome to all.

When the organisation was launched in 1993 as ‘Let’s Kick Racism Out of Football’, racism was rife both on and off the pitch, with black players facing disgraceful abuse on a weekly basis. Almost 25 years later, football has come a long way and although racism remains a serious issue, we are extremely proud of the role we’ve played in making the game more inclusive. Racism is not Kick It Out’s only focus however – far from it. In 1997, we expanded our remit to include ALL forms of discrimination because football should be open to all, regardless of age, disability, faith, gender, gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

Kick It Out continues to play a leading role in spreading that message of equality in the professional game, delivering educational workshops to first-team and academy players, coaches and backroom staff, as well as supporting the 92 league clubs in hosting one game every year dedicated to the organisation. We also have a number of player ambassadors from across the Premier League, English Football League and Women’s Super League, including Wycombe Wanderers’ own Michael Harriman. Michael has been a fantastic supporter of the cause and every year joins a member of Kick It Out’s staff to deliver an equality workshop with a school in the local area. Speaking after his last event, he said: “We’ve got a role model status, so if we can help make them better people than that’s the main thing. Even for them just to get some advice and feel like they can talk to us, that’s brilliant.”



Michael Harriman representing Wycombe at a Kick It Out event.

Fans For Diversity

Kick It Out is passionate about working with supporters to combat discrimination. In 2014, we teamed up with the Football Supporters' Federation to launch a campaign called Fans For Diversity, which provides funding and support for any fans who wants to run an event or initiative that celebrates diversity in football.

Since its launch, Fans For Diversity has helped fund over 100 events and those have ranged from an LGBT History Month tournament, to a disabled supporters' association open day, to a photography exhibition and much, much more.

Former Dagenham & Redbridge skipper Anwar Uddin is the lead on the Fans For Diversity campaign. Anwar has fond memories of turning out at Adams Park during his playing days. He said: "I loved playing at Wycombe - the games were always tight and I remember one of the first times Dagenham were entered into the League Cup, we played Wycombe and they came from a goal behind to beat us 2-1.



Former player Anwar Uddin now heads up Fans For Diversity

Wycombe for me, are one of the bigger clubs in League Two. Going there was a good experience and the crowd were brilliant. They always had good players like Tommy Mooney and Kevin Betsy, up to today including the likes of Sam Saunders and Adebayo Akinfenwa. Wycombe are underrated, they have a good pitch and stadium in a lovely part of the world. They're a club I would have loved to have played for!"

Fans For Diversity is always looking for new fans to engage with, so if you have an idea for an event you'd like to set up or you'd like any more info, please contact Anwar via email at Anwar.Uddin@fsf.org.uk – or on Twitter [@AnwarU01](https://twitter.com/AnwarU01). Kick It Out cannot eliminate discrimination from football alone, we need the support of fans just like you. If you witness or experiences discrimination at a match, whether that's a professional, non-league or even a grassroots game, report it at www.kickitout.org or by downloading our app on Android or iPhone.



After last season's Checkafact Trophy was won by (The) Coventry (Telegraph), the 2017/18 season should see an exciting tussle for this prestigious award. Here, we look at a couple of the hot favourites for this season's competition.

DAN ASHWORTH
F.A Director of Elite Development

After England's Young Lions carried off the Under-20 World Cup in the summer, the Technical Director couldn't resist citing the Checkatrade Trophy in the midst of all the backslapping at Soho Square.

Ashworth stated he is "a fan of the trophy", but could the inclusion of Premier League B teams in the Football League Trophy, a move that EFL Chief Exec Shaun Harvey claimed would "assist the development of the very best young players in English football", really be said to have contributed to the triumph in South Korea?

Probably not.

Of Paul Simpson's 21-man squad, just three players featured in last season's Football League Trophy, amassing just six appearances in the competition between them. Only one of those three featured for a B Team - defender Fikayo Tomori, who played twice for Chelsea U21's. The other two were at League One clubs; Defender Ezri Konsa, who made three appearances for Charlton and midfielder Harrison Chapman, who played once for Sheffield United, on loan from Middlesbrough. In fact, the Scottish Premiership gave more game time to Simpson's players than the Checkatrade Trophy, courtesy of goalkeeper Freddie Woodman's fourteen-game loan spell at Kilmarnock.

For the record, Tomori was ever-present for England, playing every minute of all seven games. Chapman made two last-ten-minute substitute appearances in the early stages of the tournament and Konsa, a late call-up to the squad to replace injured Birmingham left back Rico Henry, made a solitary appearance as a stoppage time substitute in the semi-final against Italy.

THE BUCKS FREE PRESS

Local Newspaper

Apparently taking a leaf out of the Coventry Telegraph's book, the BFP ran a very disappointing headline after a man was sadly attacked in Maidenhead in the early hours of Saturday 29th July, having attended Wycombe's friendly at Maidenhead United the previous evening.

Under the snappy headline "Football fan left needing 13 stitches to his face after attack following Wycombe Wanderers' match against Maidenhead United in York Road, Maidenhead" (*Bucks Free Press, 30th July*) the typo-riddled article explained how a 30-year-old man who had attended the Friday evening fixture had been punched by a man with an "Easter European" (sic) accent whilst walking through a park in the early hours of the following morning.

The article didn't state if the victim was a Wycombe fan, a Maidenhead fan, or a neutral - only that they had attended the game. Neither does the article provide any evidence to suggest that this crime was football-related. In fact, the article provided very little information and appears to have been based on a tweet by Thames Valley Police the day before, appealing for information.

Although the match finished around 21:30pm on Friday night and the attack actually took place the following day, according to the Football Spectators Act (1989), a relevant offence can include any crime or disorder that takes place going to or from a regulated football match and that occurs within 24 hours of both kickoff and the full time whistle. However, given the complete lack of supporting evidence, it seems pretty clear that this is yet another example of a violent crime being tenuously linked to football supporters, something pointed out to the paper by a number of Wycombe fans online.

The BFP felt moved to defend its coverage of the incident, saying in a series of tweets; "Thames Valley Police have made the connection with the game as part of their ongoing witness appeal, which we are helping share... They may feel that mentioning the event (the only part of the night the victim remembers) could help locate the attacker or find witnesses. We are only doing our bit to help officers with their investigation..."

That's all well and good, but in the process, their insistence on heavily linking the attack to the match will not be much 'help' to Wycombe Wanderers, who for the second time in less than 6 months have been weakly, yet heavily implicated in an act of violent disorder.

I went on at length about the damaging impact this kind of reporting could have on Wycombe in the article on the Coventry Telegraph incident and won't repeat it all here, but in short, spreading this kind of misleading speculation is damaging to the good reputations of the two clubs implicated, could potentially dissuade people from attending their matches and has the wider effect of promoting outdated and unhelpful stereotypes about football supporters.

**“Duuu du du duu du-du du du,
Duuu du du duu du-du du du,
Duuu-du du du duu-du du...”**

We all *flippin’* hate Slough, but July’s pre-season friendly against them was more important than just a local derby.

Since they first met back in November 1891, Wycombe against Slough was and always will be a fierce local derby and although three leagues now separate the Blues in League Two and The Rebels in The Southern League Premier Division, it wasn’t always this way and the two rivals have fought many competitive matches over the years.

In the 1992/93 season, Martin O’Neill’s Wycombe tussled with their local rivals for the Conference title. A freezing Tuesday night game saw over 10,000 fans pack into Adams Park, despite the ground only officially being able to hold around 6,000. It was standing room only, with those who couldn’t get in watching the game from the hillsides or shimmying up the tall trees of Sunters wood. It was a full-bloodied affair, choppy and vicious with a nail-biting atmosphere. Keith Scott gave Wycombe the lead on 27 minutes and despite captain Andy Kerr being sent off in the second half, the Blues held on for a valuable three points.

Wycombe went on to win the title and promotion to the Football League, beating second-placed Bromsgrove Rovers by a clear 15 points. The promotion that season was the beginning of a halcyon era for the Blues, as they went into the professional ranks with the big boys for the very first time. Slough on the other hand, were left behind and were relegated to the Isthmian League at the end of the 1993/94 season. Controversy was to follow for The Rebels, when in 1997/98 they finished 8th in the Conference, but were ejected from the league, with many conflicting reports as to the reasons why. Following a long-running dispute between the club and the local council, Slough Chairman Alan Thorne, who had bought the club out of receivership seven years earlier, resigned, being replaced by his son, who elected not to make ground improvements (installing 49 additional seats) as required by the Conference. He also sacked manager Brian McDermott and placed the entire squad on the transfer list. The official reason given for Slough’s expulsion was the issue of the 49 seats, but it has been suggested that there were also serious financial irregularities at the club. The following years saw Slough suffer a series of financial crises and changes of ownership, eventually being relegated from the Isthmian League in 2000/01.

A disagreement over rent in 2003 saw Slough forced to move out of Wexham Park, their home since 1973 and thus began over a decade of ground-sharing and playing outside of Slough for the nomadic Rebels, who began 2003/04 playing their home matches at Windsor and Eton’s Stag Meadow. Abandoned, Wexham Park has since fallen into a sorry state of serious disrepair. In 2007/08, Slough, now playing at Beaconsfield SYCOB’s Holloways Park, finished second bottom of the Southern Football League Division One South and West, but were spared relegation after Halifax Town went into administration.

Since then, Slough’s fortunes have gradually improved and in 2013/14, promotion was won to the Southern League Premier Division. The Rebels came back from 2-0 down at halftime to beat Kettering Town 3-2 in the playoff final, with former Wycombe youth teamer Jamie McClurg scoring a late winner to earn Slough their first promotion in two decades. Last season they reached the Southern League Premier Division playoffs.

Last month's match was both team's first friendly of the season and a rare meeting for the two old rivals. But more importantly, it marked the official opening of the newly-completed Arbour Park, Slough's new ground, which sees the Rebels back playing in Slough after a nearly fourteen-year absence. Boasting a capacity of 2,000 (including 500 seats) and a FIFA-approved 3G pitch, it was recently declared Best Non League Ground of 2017 by Groundtastic magazine, who praised it's 'pleasingly individualistic appearance'.

Slough v Wycombe, Saturday 8th July 2017
Attendance: 1,047

Over a thousand supporters turned up for unveiling of Slough's new ground and both side's opening friendly of 2017/18. The Blues named a number of trialists in the team, one a particularly familiar face as striker Nathan Tyson returned to the club he last played for eleven years previously, hoping to secure a contract with the Blues since his release from Kilmarnock last season.

Six minutes in, Andrew Fox, the trialist playing left back for the Wanderers, had the ball in the back of the net from the halfway line, but the referee had already blown for a free-kick to Wycombe, just moments before the ball nestled in the net. Both clubs found the going hard and chances dried up in the early afternoon heat, but Wycombe were comfortably on top and happy to play it about and bide their time.

In the second half, Dayle Southwell struck the bar with a stunning free-kick, leaving Slough keeper Jack Turner well beaten. Turner went on to make a string of fine saves to keep the Chairboys at bay with an impressive performance. Wycombe dominated, but Slough had a few chances of their own, with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines international Gavin James squirming free inside the box before shooting wide of the far post. Another good save by Turner late in the game earned the Rebels a 0-0 draw in an entertaining first game at their new ground, with the Slough keeper unsurprisingly being named Man of the Match for his steadfast performance.

Some Wycombe fans may have been disappointed that we didn't manage to get the win against our old, bitter rivals, but after all the upheaval and heartache Slough have suffered since those glory days in the early 90's, maybe, just maybe, we can let them have this one.



Photo by Jeremy Spolander

Could 'right to buy' save football clubs?

Jeremy Spolander takes a look.



With the list of 'dodgy' owners growing every year, could we ever see the day where supporters' trusts are given the right to buy out unpopular proprietors?

Most football club chairmen and directors will be unpopular at times. Forums, phone-ins and your average chat down the pub prove that. 'The game is all about opinions' and consensus is rare. Football clubs can swallow cash at alarming rates without any guarantees of success and many owners only get involved to save or help the club they grew up supporting, ploughing in much of their own time and money along the way. It's naïve, however, to suggest that there aren't also asset strippers, property developers and ego maniacs in the mix and even owners who start out with the best intentions can get into trouble. We hear more about investors than volunteers or benefactors higher up the leagues, as there is a huge TV fortune to be gained if you can get your club into the bloated cash cow that is the Premier League.

Problems can appear with board arguments, changes in circumstance, relegations or when throwing good money after bad hasn't yielded the expected success. Maybe by this stage some promises haven't been kept, people have been rubbed up the wrong way, debts are rising and external sources of funding are becoming exhausted.

There are breaking points, where even the most loyal through-wind-and-rain diehards say 'no more' to a club's owners and where the football community comes together to sympathise and demonstrate. Owners stand accused of incompetence, failure in their roles as guardians of their clubs and of contempt towards their own fans.

Whilst clubs may be bought and sold, they remain important community assets, founded and supported in their locality. Clubs regularly appeal to fans for support and funding, or for goodwill from local businesses and councils. Can they then later claim to be independent businesses to be bought, sold and run entirely at the owner's will?

Blackpool, Coventry and Leyton Orient are the kind of recent cases where club owners are firmly under scrutiny for relegations, growing losses, falling attendances, outrageous behaviour towards fans and even the real threat of going out of business. Blackpool fans, for example, aren't staying away because they are in the lower leagues, they are actively boycotting an ownership regime charged with chronically failing to invest, making poorly thought out managerial choices and causing a seemingly irreparable breakdown in relations that includes litigating against Blackpool fans who dared to criticise the ownership. "Not a penny more" is their cry.

Boycotts can hit owners in the wallet and protests can harm their standing in the community and media, but the owner remains the owner if they have thick skins and deep pockets. Even when an owner agrees that they are best off leaving, they often want to recover their outlay, however misplaced it may have been in the first place. This wouldn't be desired in other businesses - the company would be liquidated, but football has to skirt round this in order to avoid the club being lost to the community entirely.

Could and should failing owners be forced out under any circumstances? Can anyone independently decide if an owner is negligent? The FA, Premier League and Football League all have legislation regarding 'fit and proper' directors. Owners are vetted on the way in, mostly to confirm that they haven't been fraudulent in the past. Very few directors of football clubs have ever been held to account and the case of Massimo Cellino at Leeds has highlighted that appointed directors and management can carry on, regardless of any ban. The Football League have a notion of a 'Golden Share' that enables them to effectively withdraw a place in the league, but this would only help the fans if it could then be transferred to new, better owners.

Fans can now apply to have their stadiums listed as assets of the community, protected against redevelopment or changed usage and I wonder if agreeable legislation could be found to extend this to the clubs themselves. 'Compulsory purchase' is a term more often heard in football when clubs are building new stadiums and need to clear properties or other businesses from land intended for development. 'Right to buy' is the nicer sounding equivalent, giving people the optional right to buy their rented council houses at a set price if they have lived there a certain length of time. It could be difficult legally to set out the criteria under which supporters could be said to represent their own team and what would represent poor performance from club owners, but if, for example, a club made regular losses over three to five years and was relegated down two divisions in that period, if a trust with the support of over 70% of season ticket holders could come up with an independently audited value, then maybe they should be allowed to take over?

A View From Afar

New Season Blues and the Managerial Merry-Go-Round

Here we go again; New season, new hopes, new realities. Prediction for the next 10 months? More of the same. A good start would be nice, but not expected, before settling down to being a difficult team to beat. Hopefully enjoy some cup runs, before we fall away a bit, limp past fifty points and then finish strongly to end up just outside the playoff places. I would be happy with that. A lack of ambition? Possibly, but a sense of reality too.

The odd-year summers are eerie with no football. ITV helped by showing the Confederations Cup, ominously won by the German B team. The star of the tournament was VAR (Video Assistant Referee) which was adjudged to be as useful as the two assistant referees who stand behind the goal line. I have always believed the principle of football is the same game from jumpers for goalposts to the World Cup. Tournament football can hinge on controversial decisions so it's worth getting it right, particularly when players "simulate", or as we say, "cheat". Top class football is played at a very fast pace and it can be difficult to interpret what happened in slow motion from six different angles, let alone in real time. The Blues are no slouches when it comes to running, despite the fat bloke who used to sit behind me always calling the players "lazy, slow and useless" before he waddled off to the bar. Trouble is, the officials are not the quickest keeping up with the game, even at League Two level.

Talking of pace, I am pleased to see Nathan Tyson back with the Chairboys. Oh the glory days of Nathan charging down the left wing! I have Forest mates who adored him. Perhaps his unselfish nature led to him not scoring as many goals as he deserved and subsequently not going on to greater success, despite the 39 goals he got for Wycombe. Oh to see Danny Senda and Kevin Betsy on the right again as well! Roger Johnson is a free agent again, a hero with Birmingham to a zero with Wolves – his career has never recovered.

I was disappointed to see Myles Weston leave, but good on the gaffer for allowing him to leave for family reasons. An important part of Wycombe Wanderers is being a family friendly club both on and off the field, despite most outsiders only knowing the Chairboys for 'The Beast' and our lairy goalkeeper kit.

The rest of the squad looks like the usual journeymen, old favourites, free agents and loanees. The Championship is meant to be a rich league, but most transfers there are also free or loans, except for Bristol City, who have surprisingly splashed out £5.3m for a Senegalese striker. The Premier League pound is all mighty. Gone are the days of buying Nathan Tyson for £140K and selling him for £675K. Further down the leagues money is even tighter, I spotted in the news that 51 year-old Steve Claridge is turning out for Salisbury, where he is player-manager.

As usual, the summer has seen the football gossip pages full of speculation of managers on the move, being sacked, being touted or staying put. Our Gaz gets the occasional mention when one of his old clubs are recruiting, but most of the white noise comes from social media. 'Ainsworth Out or 'In Ainsworth We Trust' was a common theme last season with some of our frustrated fans. The only thing missing has been an aeroplane flying a banner over Booker.

Arsene Wenger has experienced this. After twenty years of service to Arsenal, suddenly the success of consistently keeping the club in the Champions League places, despite a limited budget, is not enough. Man Utd's recent managers have mostly failed; Louis van Gaal spent £250 million, Mourinho £150 million and yet they rely on a 35 year-old to score most of their goals. Money isn't everything.

Conte took over from Mourinho at Chelsea. Similar squad, but playing with passion and a system has provided success. Perhaps a new manager can turn things around, although statically it is usually short lived in terms of points. So perhaps the number of fixtures make a difference? For the second year running, a team not playing in Europe won the Premier League Title, which suggests cup runs and extra games do make a difference. Our loss of form after the Spurs game is similar to Arsenal's now annual falling away in spring before a strong finish. Perhaps no European football could be the way ahead for Arsenal, so that fixture congestion has a lesser impact?

The trickiest part for a manager is getting players for the squad and then getting them to play. Ask any Sunday league manager. Diego Costa is reported to want to leave Chelsea because he misses the sun. Spurs, Chelsea and Man Utd could all lose players to Spain, France or even China, despite them being among the biggest teams in the world. Talking of Spain, nice to see former Blues manager Tony Adams popping up at Granada, who's wealthy Chinese owner just happens to be a friend of his.

History and tradition is the backbone of any club. Unfortunately, a spinal fracture can happen at any time. Just ask Leyton Orient fans. League Two is and has regularly been littered with clubs who have once been at the top table only to find themselves languishing in the bottom tier. Personally, I believe the National League should become League Three, to help improve the lower leagues and act as a safety net for smaller historic clubs.

What is the Chairboys' USP (Unique Selling Point)? Family atmosphere? Beautiful location? 'Rock and Roll football'? I'll ask former club employee Henning Wehn when he tours here in June. I should also ask him how to improve attendances. In the meantime, I have found a website with 4,327 Chinese furniture manufactures, who I have emailed asking if they would like to invest in a historic furniture production-based football team.

Keep the faith.

Row H

THE STORY OF THE BLUES

BARNET (A)

League Two, Monday 17th April

Att: 2,507

BEES 0 BLUES 2 (*Saunders 21, Jacobson 90 pen*)

Verdict: After definitely, surely, absolutely positively throwing away any remaining hope of making the playoffs three days earlier against Mansfield, we once again, somehow, almost frustratingly, found ourselves back in the hunt.

The opening exchanges were pretty even, before Sam Saunders tried a cheeky pop from 40 yards out and stunned everyone by finding the back of the net. An excellent double save from Jamal saw us take the lead in at halftime and he was the hero again ten minutes from time when he made another exceptional stop to turn Ruben Bover's shot onto the post. We actually played some pretty good stuff when we had the ball and in the 90th minute, Garry Thompson, making his 700th career appearance from the bench, made a great burst into the box before being brought down by Curtis Weston. Another ice-cool penalty finish from JJ sealed the points and a few results going our way elsewhere meant we finished the day in 13th position, but just two points off 7th place.

Ref Watch: Gavin Ward – Dished out five yellows each to both teams, despite a relatively low foul count (Wycombe only conceded six all game). The penalty looked incredibly soft and Mr Ward certainly won't be a popular man down at The Hive next season.

Magic Moment: Sam Saunders' stunning Beckham-esque lob to give us the lead.

DONCASTER ROVERS (H)

League Two, Saturday 22nd April

Att: 4,587

BLUES 2 (*O'Nien 9, 32*) **DONNY 1** (*May 18*)

Verdict: Our best home display of the season? It's certainly up there and after serving up some dross recently at Adams Park, we took on the league leaders and ran out deserved winners. Rovers may well have had one eye on the beach after an impressive season, but Saunders was superb in the middle of the park, spraying the ball around wonderfully and providing the dynamic that has often been bereft in our flatter displays.

We played well, worked hard and dug deep, right when it mattered. Wycombe up to 9th, one point off the playoffs. A refreshingly cheerful afternoon!

Ref Watch: Graham Horwood - Par for the course.

Magic Moment: Ainsworth rallying the fans at the end. There's wind in our sails...

MORECAMBE (A)
League Two, Saturday 29th April
Att: 1,742

SHRIMPS 1 (*Ellison 81*) BLUES 1 (*Akinfenwa 89*)

Verdict: Ok, so that pretty much is it now...sort of. Once again, bloody Morecambe put the breaks on our promotion bid, but again we got a few favours around the division and a win against Cambridge coupled with an unlikely set of final day results in our favour could still see us sneak into the top seven, as we stay one point off seventh place, despite slipping down to eleventh in the league table.

Despite dominating possession and peppering the Morecambe goal, it looked all too familiar when (of course) the ever-delightful Kevin Ellison scored a superb opener with just ten minutes remaining. Fortunately, Bayo was once again on hand to bundle home a loose ball at the death.

Realistically though, that is that for 2017/18, although a victory on the final day should at least give us a confidence-boosting high finish in the table and a platform from which to build next season.

Ref Watch: Darren Drysdale – Not one of our favourite refs, but he wasn't too bad in this game. Showed some restraint to just book both Pierre and Ellison after the pair clashed late in the game.

Magic Moment: Bayo's late equaliser sparing us the sight of further gloating from Shrimps pantomime villain Ellison.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (H)
League Two, Saturday 5TH May
Att: 6,313

BLUES 1 (*Kashket 65*) U's 0

Verdict: A must win game at home in front of a good crowd and thankfully on this occasion we delivered. Other results meant it was an ultimately disappointing end to the season, but also gives us some optimism for the next one.

We went at Cambridge from the start, with only a remarkable rare miss from Kashket keeping it goalless. Not to worry though, as the combination of Bayo and Scotty that has proved so effective this season came good once again to give us a deserved lead. The visitors eventually woke up and finally started to threaten, but again we dug out a win with a bit of flair alongside the usual grit and determination.

Ref Watch: Mark Heywood - Did ok.

Magic Moment: Michael Harriman's remarkable last minute goal-line clearance.

The Great, The Good, The Bad, The Ugly.

The Wycombe squad's highlights and lowlights of 2016/2017.



SCOTT BROWN

The Great: His clean sheet and MOTM display in the 1-0 win over former club Cheltenham.

The Good: His successful loan spell back at the Robins, helping them avoid the drop.

The Bad: Being beaten four times in the second half of his comeback game versus Coventry.

The Ugly: His injury on the opening day at Crawley that ruled him out for three months.

SIDO JOMBATI

The Great: His delightful free kick into the top corner in the home win over Grimsby.

The Good: An string of impressive displays at centre-back towards the end of the season.

The Bad: Being subbed at half-time in the semi-final loss at Coventry after a poor first half.

The Ugly: Conceding a harsh last-minute penalty to hand Crewe three points at Gresty Road.

JOE JACOBSON

The Great: Any of his numerous pinpoint crosses right onto Akinfenwa's forehead.

The Good: His superb run and cross to set up Bloomfield's opener in the draw at Doncaster.

The Bad: Being subbed on the hour against Accrington after being ran ragged by Donacien(!)

The Ugly: Getting sent off late on in the demoralising away defeat at Col U.

STEPHEN MCGINN

The Great: A very good performance in our Football League Trophy win at Northampton.

The Good: His well-taken goal against Coventry in the same competition.

The Bad: Being shipped out in the January transfer window...

The Ugly: ...By which point he wasn't even getting picked for Checkatrade Trophy games.

ANTHONY STEWART

The Great: His stoppage time winner against Grimsby to hand us our first win of the season.

The Good: His outrageous piece of skill to waltz round Exeter wonderkid Ollie Watkins.

The Bad: Being given the runaround by Yeovil Town striker François Zoko.

The Ugly: Inexplicably losing his place to de Havilland for the away game at Doncaster.

AARON PIERRE

The Great: THAT tackle on Diving Danny Hylton.

The Good: His late goal at Cambridge that earned us our first away win since February 2016.

The Bad: His clumsy challenge on Janssen to hand Tottenham a penalty in our FA Cup tie.

The Ugly: The grim inevitability that he was going to be on his way in the summer.

GARRY THOMPSON

The Great: His headed goal at White Hart Lane that had us all dreaming.

The Good: Making his 700th career appearance in the win over Barnet

The Bad: Being let go in the summer despite his good form towards the end of the season.

The Ugly: The dad-dancing moves after his goal against Northampton in the FLT.

MARCUS BEAN

The Great: Putting in arguably his finest Wycombe performance in the win over Doncaster.

The Good: A string of good defensive midfield performances towards the end of the season.

The Bad: Narrowly avoiding picking up a second yellow at Newport in a scrappy first half.

The Ugly: ...And subsequently having to be withdrawn at half time.

PAUL HAYES

The Great: His two goals against Spurs, particularly his stunning volleyed opener.

The Good: Making his 600th career appearance in the home win over Portsmouth.

The Bad: His terrible miss at Blackpool in our Football League Trophy Quarter-Final win.

The Ugly: His free header that hit the bar at Spurs. A real 'If Only' moment.

MATT BLOOMFIELD

The Great: Playing his 400th game at Blackpool to become our top FL appearance maker.

The Good: His excellent two goal display in the draw at Doncaster – his first ever brace.

The Bad: Being caught out of position for Jimmy Smith's goal in the away defeat at Crawley.

The Ugly: Missing out on the Spurs game after picking up an injury in the previous round.

SAM WOOD

The Great: An excellent performance against Spurs, one of his finest in a Wycombe shirt.

The Good: His scissor-kicked goal and MOTM performance in the home win over Newport.

The Bad: His poor attempted clearance that led to Accrington's equaliser in the 1-1 draw.

The Ugly: Not appearing in any of our last five games as his Wycombe career petered out.

PARIS COWAN-HALL

The Great: His long-range cross/shot stunner to give us a 2-1 win over Newport.

The Good: Spraying Darren Ferguson with his water bottle in the draw at Doncaster!

The Bad: Picking up a stupid, late red card just moments after scoring against Hartlepool.

The Ugly: His tackle on Cambridge's Josh Coulson that left the U's man with a broken leg.

DAYLE SOUTHWELL

The Great: Being in the Lincoln side that beat Burnley to reach the FA Cup Quarter-Finals.

The Good: Scoring his first goal for the club with what proved to be winner vs Stevenage.

The Bad: Inadvertently blocking Bloomfield's goal-bound shot in the draw with Accrington.

The Ugly: Picking up a groin injury that kept him out for five months.

MICHAEL HARRIMAN

The Great: His stunning goal-line clearance in the final day triumph over Cambridge United.

The Good: His superb goal-saving tackle on Tom Pett in the home win vs Stevenage.

The Bad: Conceding the late penalty that gave Cheltenham an unlikely draw at Adams Park.

The Ugly: Being booed by Argyle's charming fans as he was stretchered off at Home Park.

LUKE O'NIEN

The Great: His match-winning brace in the home win over Doncaster Rovers

The Good: The bollocking he gave Alex Jakubiak after he bottled that header vs Mansfield.

The Bad: Being dropped for our crucial home game against Cheltenham after arriving late.

The Ugly: His opening day injury against Crawley that kept him out for nearly three months.

DANNY ROWE

The Great: His excellent goal-line clearance from Watkins in the home win over Exeter City.

The Good: His FLT goal versus Northampton. Both his career goals have been against them.

The Bad: His rubbish defending in the build up to Grimsby's goal in our win at Adams Park.

The Ugly: Getting injured away at Doncaster and never regaining his place in the side.

MYLES WESTON

The Great: His excellent run and cross at Tottenham to set up Thompson's goal.

The Good: His stunning 89th minute equaliser to cap a superb fightback at Plymouth.

The Bad: Lasting just 14 minutes into the 2016/17 season before going off with an injury.

The Ugly: ...And lasting just 13 minutes on his return game before getting sent off v Barnet.

ADEBAYO AKINFENWA

The Great: His late winner vs Stourbridge that booked our place in the FA Cup 4th Round.

The Good: Scaring the pants off West Ham U21's players in the tunnel before our FLT win.

The Bad: His harsh sending off for a second bookable offence in the 2-0 win at Notts County.

The Ugly: Being racially abused during our 2-1 victory over Cambridge United.

MAX MÜLLER

The Great: Finally making his debut and putting in a good shift in the FLT win at Millwall.

The Good: A good performance and a clean sheet in the 0-0 home draw against Blackpool.

The Bad: The endless, terrible jokes about putting him on corners.

The Ugly: The absolute mauling he and de Havilland got in the 4-1 thumping away at Exeter.

NICK FREEMAN

The Great: A string of impressive attacking displays towards the end of the season.

The Good: Getting his first professional goal vs West Ham in the Football League Trophy.

The Bad: Missing the start of the season through injury.

The Ugly: A long spell out the team either side of an underwhelming loan at Wealdstone.

WILL DE HAVILLAND

The Great: His superb last ditch challenge to deny Bristol City striker Tammy Abraham.

The Good: A very good display in our FLT away win at Northampton Town.

The Bad: ...But then ravaged in his next game by the cynical play of Diving Danny Hylton.

The Ugly: The appalling treatment he received from a small handful of idiot 'boo boys'.

CAMERON DAWSON

The Great: Making an assured professional debut in the League Cup game vs Bristol City.

The Good: A great double save to preserve our lead in the 2-1 home win over Grimsby.

The Bad: Despite a good display, being beaten by Tammy Abraham's scuffed finish.

The Ugly: His loan spell coming to an end despite Wycombe's attempts to keep him on.

SCOTT KASHKET

The Great: His first ever hat-trick versus Chesterfield to send to the FA Cup 3rd Round.

The Good: Scoring the winner against former employers Leyton Orient at Adams Park.

The Bad: Being denied a fine debut goal when his strike hit the the post away at Carlisle.

The Ugly: The injury in the away defeat at Crewe that kept him out for two months.

DOMINIC GAPE

The Great: Capping a fine display with the assist for Bayo's FA Cup winner away at Pompey.

The Good: The news he'd signed on a permanent deal from Southampton.

The Bad: The awful foul on him by Chesterfield's Nolan that saw the Spireites man sent off.

The Ugly: Losing 4-2 away at Saints' bitter rivals Portsmouth the day after his 22nd birthday.

ALEX JAKUBIAK

The Great: Scoring a well taken goal on his debut away at Exeter City.

The Good: A good performance on his first start away at Crewe Alexandra.

The Bad: An utterly anonymous display in the drab 1-0 defeat at home to Notts County.

The Ugly: Cowardly pulling out of a good headed chance in the 1-0 home loss to Mansfield.

JAMAL BLACKMAN

The Great: Take your pick from the many top class saves he made throughout the season.

The Good: His penalty shootout heroics in the FLT Third Round win away at Blackpool.

The Bad: A nightmare game in the 4-2 defeat at Portsmouth.

The Ugly: His 89th minute miskick that gifted Spurs their equaliser in our 4th round defeat.

SAM SAUNDERS

The Great: His absolutely stunning 40 yard lobbed goal in the 2-0 win at Barnet.

The Good: Changing the game when he came on against Luton in his first game back.

The Bad: His man bun. No place for that kind of thing in football, or indeed life.

The Ugly: Defeat to Coventry in the FLT semis robbing him of a second shot at Wembley.

GARETH AINSWORTH

The Great: Bringing himself on against Northampton and setting up Thompson's late goal.

The Good: Winning Manager of the Month for November after winning 4/4 in the league.

The Bad: Having to be held back by Bayo whilst trying to confront referee Brett Huxtable.

The Ugly: Getting grief from a small section of supporters after the home loss to Colchester.

Big Fat Quiz Of The Season Answers

1 Four (Scott Brown, Dayle Southwell, Myles Weston and Adebayo Akinfenwa).

2 Bristol City.

3 Sido Jombati free-kicks.

4 Adebayo Akinfenwa.

5 Coventry in the Football League Trophy Semi-Final.

6. Gareth Ainsworth.

7 Six (1 v Luton in the league, 2 v Blackpool in the Football League Trophy, 1 v Blackpool in the league, 1 v Millwall in the Football League Trophy and 1 v Cheltenham in the league).

8 Scott Kashket.

9 Portsmouth (16,262).

10 Our win vs Cambridge United on the final day of the season (6,313).
The FA Cup match against Stourbridge game was watched by 6,312!

11 Dagenham & Redbridge.

12 Thirteen.

13 Barnet (on 22nd October).

14 December 2014 (4-1 v Southend at home).

15 Colchester and Blackpool.

- 16** Blackpool and Leyton Orient.
- 17** Twelve.
- 18** 'Tisdale Out'. Exeter finished fifth and made the Playoff Final.
- 19** Nick Freeman.
- 20** Alex Jakubiak.
- 21** Five (Cambridge, Leyton Orient, Hartlepool, Grimsby and Newport).
- 22** Two (Crawley and Colchester).
- 23** Portsmouth (We lost 4-2 away in the league, but beat them 1-0 at home and 2-1 away in the first round of the F.A. Cup.
- 24** Bobby Gould.
- 25** *Toy Story*.
- 26** David Haye.
- 27** Paris Cowan-Hall.
- 28** Stevenage (11th February).
- 29** Sam Saunders.
- 30** Blackpool, Colchester, Carlisle and Stevenage.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- 25 - 30** Martin O'Neill
- 20 - 25** Gareth Ainsworth
- 15 – 20** Lawrie Sanchez
- 10 – 15** Gary Waddock
- 5 – 10** Tony Adams
- 0 – 5** Alan Smith

FAKE NEWS

Wycombe fans reveal they never rated Pierre anyway

The announcement of Aaron Pierre's inevitable transfer to a club in a higher division has sparked a flurry of social media activity from Wycombe fans, who have taken to Twitter and Facebook in their droves to explain how the player who's praises they have been singing for the last three and a bit years is, in fact, 'overrated', a 'hoofball merchant' and 'not a particularly nice chap'. It has been suggested by some that these claims are being made by a spiteful group of fans, still upset about an incident last season when Aaron refused to share his Tesco Finest cookies with them, in an incident that was accurately described as 'unsavoury'.

Oxford fan calls ex wife twenty-seven times to say he definitely, doesn't care about her anymore

An Oxford United supporter has gone to extraordinary and arguably obsessive lengths to finally get the message through to his ex that he doesn't give two hoots about her and never has. Making the calls from his three-sided house, the plucky fan bombarded the woman with calls, telling her she was insignificant and should stop being so obsessed with him as he only cares about his other ex in Swindon - unless they ever happen to meet, in which case he's never cared about her either and she's insignificant and tinpot too.

Ainsworth thanks Twitter users for helping him identify summer transfer targets

Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth has praised Wycombe fans on social media after they helpfully did month's worth of carefully-planned scouting for him in just a few seconds. "I wouldn't have coped this summer if it hadn't been for them" the Wanderers manager explained, "I didn't have a clue who to sign, as I always leave it until late July before I remember I'm supposed to be getting people in. Fortunately, there was no shortage of Wycombe fans on Twitter, tagging the club in posts about every single professional footballer available on a free transfer and telling us that we've 'surely got to be taking a look at him'. Without them, I'd never have known about 32-year-old Barry Cloggit being released by Newport County despite scoring 4 goals in 39 appearances last season. Unfortunately, he chose to go and play for Kimberly Miners Welfare in the East Midlands Counties League instead, but at least we're competing for these kind of players."

Inquest to be held after rugby fans forget to use conversation about rugby to slag off football

The RFU is to chair an emergency enquiry after four rugby fans were found to have held a seventeen-minute long conversation about rugby without once criticising football or footballers. Tarquin Forsythe-Jolie, Austin 'Bunty' Betteridge IV, Toby van der Hoofenstrasst and Lady Tabatha-Jane Crumpetface were overheard in a pretentious winebar having an in-depth discussion about a rugby match they had watched, without once saying how footballers were all namby-pamby crybabies who get paid too much or how all football fans are hooligans who can't handle their chardonnay.

"This is all very upsetting" said a man wearing chinos, 'in fact, this is more the kind of crass behaviour one would normally expect from soccer fans - there you see? It's not difficult."

League Two fans telling their clubs to 'Announce Mbappe' voted funniest joke of all time.

Supporters of League Two teams demanding they announce the signing of players they have no realistic chance of signing has been voted the funniest, cleverest and most original joke in the history of the world and universe.

The result was announced by 'internet-reality-socialmedia-homeTV-attention-lookatme-notalent', Mr Laddy McBants. "It's hilarious, all these fans of teams like Stevenage and Notts County telling their clubs to sign Mbappé, Aubameyang and Mahrez", he helpfully explained in between tears of laughter, "because they're all world class footballers worth millions, there's no way these small clubs can afford them and even if they could they probably wouldn't want to go - so it's actually doubly hilarious" he managed to splutter, before collapsing in hysterics.

Other headlines

Journalists continue to purr over the fairy tale story of little Forest Green Rovers reaching the Football League after only spending £68 billion.

'Thanks for the bites' says football forum user with limited social life and terrible GCSE results.

CONSCRIPTION SHOCK: All healthy males aged between 18-35 to be called up to join Mansfield Town.

AWAY TRAVEL

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

Passenger insurance

Stop at a pub serving hot & cold food

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:

<u>OPPONENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STADIUM</u>	<u>LAST TIME</u>
Port Vale	Sat 12 th Aug	Vale Park	L 1-4 (5,303)
Grimsby Town	Sat 26 th Aug	Blundell Park	W 2-1 (4,668)
Newport County	Sat 9 th Sep	Rodney Parade	W 1-0 (2,010)
Mansfield Town	Tue 12 th Sep	Field Mill	W 2-1 (2,047)
Colchester United	Sat 23 rd Sep	Weston Homes Stadium	L 1-0 (3,031)
Cambridge United	Sat 7 th Oct	The Abbey Stadium	W 2-1 (4,139)
Carlisle United	Tue 17 th Oct	Brunton Park	L 1-0 (4,354)
Swindon Town	Sat 21 st Oct	The County Ground	L 2-1 (3,940)
Morecambe	Sat 11 th Nov	The Globe Arena	D 1-1 (1,742)

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.

Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club

Membership Application - Season 2017 / 2018



Club Address:
57 Alford Road,
High Wycombe,
Bucks. HP12 4PP

Phone:
07940 578885
E-mail:

www@wiscps.com

I wish to become a member of Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club (WWISC).
I agree to abide by all rules & regulations regarding my personal conduct at home and away matches.
I understand that failure to do so may result in the loss of my Membership.

Please use clear block capitals to fill out this form, thank you.

Mr / Miss / Mrs / Ms:		Country:
Address:		Mobile:
Town / County:		
Post Code:		
Phone No. (incl. STD):		
E-mail Address:		

Adult - £12 fee	
Senior Citizen (60) - £7 fee	
Concessions * - £5 fee	
* Concessions: Children under 16, full-time students (with valid Student Card)	

Postage is now £10 per season-Do you require you mag to be posted?	
YES	No
'X' in box	

Are you a Season Ticket holder?	
YES	No
'X' in box	

Signature

All details of WWISC membership are protected by
The Data Protection Act.

If you would not like to be contacted by e-mail regarding WWISC news or upcoming events, please 'X' here (your details will not be shared with a 3rd party).

Membership No. WWISC USE ONLY

Once More Unto The Breach

The Earl of Ainsworth looked up grimly at the imposing fortress before him. He and his men stood in the shadow of the multi-tiered Lieg Castle, a vast and mighty stronghold that was known not just for its four massive tiers, but for the pyramidic dungeons that stretched far down into the earth below. They stood upon the fourth tier, assessing their strategy for the pending assault upon the next level of the castle.

“How shall we attempt to take it this time, my lord?” asked the Earl’s close advisor, Lord Dobson. “Forsooth, we have tried many times to gain the third tier, and have oft been repelled. Peradventure thou hast thought of a cunning plan?”

The Earl gazed around at his troops intently, seeing the begrimed, blood splattered faces, all looking to him for direction. Sternly, he pointed his sword at the towering walls above and spoke in a bold confident tone.

“Men, look ye ahead and see the object of all our fell battles. Long ago, our army stood upon yon third tier above. Many moons have cast their gentle light since, and we have been battling upon this level for many a day, with bodkin and buckler, arrow and sword, all the while in the teeth of the enemy’s calivers. Ye may grow discouraged when ye remember the Battle of Wembley, when by fate unthrifty, the forces of Southend repelled us at the very battlements, or even this last long fight, when we were only stopped by the dark waters of the Black Pool and those varlet soldiers from the Isle of Car, weraday! And yet, I urge ye to remember the time, not so many years ago now, when we were teetering on the edge of the abyss, so close to that terrible drop, and yet fought our way back from the dangers of the collied dungeons below at the glorious victory of the Plain Moor. So I pray ye, be of good cheer, fight with strength unhoused, and we shall win the day!”

Far from the guttural, resounding cheers he expected, the Earl was perplexed to instead hear grumblings and mutterings from his men. Lord Dobson coughed awkwardly, before addressing his liege.

“My lord, I ask thee anon, what strategy shall we use? For many have grown distrustful of thine reliance on longbow tactics, as ‘tis rather a brainsickly method. We are indeed weary and discouraged, for even the unleashing of our mighty man, the termagant Beast, did not carry the battle at this last attack, helped betimes though he was by our brave knight, Sir Kashket. Not only this, but there are new, dread armies joining the fray against us, from the moneyed hordes of Lincoln to the desperate warriors of Coventry, and even those merry minstrels from the Green Forest, with their

strange vegetable diet, will soon be among us to distract and obstruct. From whence then shall our victory come?"

The Earl stood in deep thought, perturbed at the wavering of his troops. When at last he spake, it was with the passion and vigour of a true leader of men.

"My fellow warriors, and brave lads," quoth he. "Make me not tristful by your weak supposals! For we are not like other armies, who take their pay from a petty king or despot. We are not ruled over by any towering sovereign, who might swoop in to take our lands and homes whenever he might please. No, we are hired and paid by the very townsfolk themselves, and we are gaged to the fair people of High Wycombe to fight with courage and honor. By my troth, I would rather my body be broken upon those bosky Chiltern hills, and our army be scattered like dust in the Buckinghamshire wind, than to bring a single ounce of shame upon that chariest town, or be found to have acted asquint." Heads began to nod in agreement at these true words, and the Earl pressed home his advantage.

"Prithee remember just a few months ago, when the terrible fighting men of Hotspur came forth from the very top tier of yon castle, all festinate and enchafed. Remember how, with such fierce sallies, ye fought blade to blade with these elite warriors – some of the greatest soldiers of our times – and how ye drove them back, almost to victory, faltering only at the very doorstep of their lair? 'twas more than dormouse valour! Our fame rang forth across the nation, and glorious songs were sung of our unlikely feat of arms. Where is that fighting spirit now? Having fought against the Hotspurs, are ye now afraid of the villainies of mere Barnets and Accringtons, bawbling armies as they are?" Heads began to hang guiltily now, and the Earl gathered himself up for a suitably rousing finish.

"Nay, my brave Chairboy clan. Straighten those shaking hams! We shall not cower in fear of the shadows, nor take a step backwards in doubt. But we will set our eyes upon the goal, and look neither to left nor right. We will fight with courage, with wisdom, with skill, and for the love of all that is right and good. Are ye with me?"

"We are with you!" came the mighty roar.

"Then onwards, men. If we hold not carelessly our charge, we shall bray out 'ere the day is done. Onwards to battle! Onwards to glory! Onwards to the third tier!"

And with a shout that echoed upon the walls above, they charged.

Next Time...

The next edition of The Wanderer will be released on

Saturday 18th November (Wycombe vs Crawley Town)

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

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

jonnyking1985@gmail.com

The deadline for submissions is **6pm - Sunday 5th November**.

The Wanderer – By the fans, for the fans



Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club

Members of the Football Supporters' Federation

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Dedicated to Ian Nixon
17th June 1953 - 6th June 2017

