



THE WANDERER

£1.50

Issue 111

Season 2017/2018

WE ARE MAYBE GOING UP!



By the fans



For the fans





WWISC

COMMITTEE



		
Teresa Slevin Joint Chairperson	Phil Slatter Joint Chairperson	James Hemmings Vice Chairman
		
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The Wanderer is written and compiled by fans of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and on occasion fans of other football clubs. Our aim is to be as truthful, informative and entertaining as possible. The views expressed in this fanzine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor, committee or the Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club.

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Editorial

And just like that, another season comes to a close and regardless of what happens over the remaining weeks, what a season it's been! Plenty of ups and downs, although thankfully a significantly higher number of ups means we go into the final few games well in the mix for automatic promotion. Whatever happens; whether we go up automatically, through the playoffs or fall just short, it has been an incredible season, with some of the most exciting football played by a Wycombe side for several years. We continue to run riot up front, the second highest goalscorers in the division and since the New Year the defence has steadily improved and at the time of going to print (just after the Yeovil game) have conceded just three goals in our last six outings, keeping four clean sheets.

Here's hoping we can keep this good form going for just a few more games and get ourselves over the line. This squad, this club, deserve promotion and it would be superb to see Gareth Ainsworth achieve what he set out to do back in the summer of 2014, when, having rescued the club from relegation and probable financial oblivion, he laid out his five-year plan to get Wycombe Wanderers away from the bottom of League Two and up into League One. Gareth has poured his heart and his soul into achieving this. No-one deserves it more than him.

Hopefully the prospect of promotion means we will see some big attendances at our final two home games and with any luck this will see a healthy spike in Wanderer sales, with newcomers mistaking this for the matchday programme. Seriously though, if you are a new addition to the Chairboys family – welcome! Hopefully you'll like what you see and want to come back next season, in which case don't forget to join WWISC and pick up a copy of The Wanderer as well!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to The Wanderer this season; all the brilliant writers who have penned articles, all the wonderful volunteers who have stood in the wind and rain selling copies, Ian and Bodger, Phil and Teresa for everything they've done and everyone on the WWISC Committee. Thanks also to Matt Cecil for setting up all our player interviews and Paul Hollingshead at Blueprint for another season of me emailing him the completed fanzine at 3am on a Thursday with the message 'Can you do these for Friday?' Sorry Paul.

Thank you, finally, to you, for continuing to support our fanzine. Print fanzines are becoming increasingly rare at football matches (a subject I've covered in greater detail elsewhere in this issue) and we are grateful to you for paying your £1.50 and keeping our humble little effort going. If you would like to subscribe to the Wanderer and have all four editions a season posted out to you, simply join WWISC for a small membership fee and tick the box on the membership form to have your copies posted out. If you would like to join WWISC, please email **WWIndependent@gmail.com** for more information.

Enjoy your summer. But first, one last charge!

Jonny



UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE

QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to all who came along to our quiz night on 29th March. Huge thanks to Paul the Quizmaster, Mike Davies and all at the football club for helping to organise it. Congratulations to 'Bomber Harris's Big Throw' on their victory.

AWAY COACH TO CHESTERFIELD

Subject to demand, we are aiming to run a coach to Chesterfield on Saturday 28th April. If you would like to join us, please book as early as possible by calling Colin Butler on **01494 536 270**. We will do pickups from Wycombe Train Station and The Empire Cinema and will stop for a pub lunch on the way. Please do not call Colin's mobile to book.

END OF SEASON AWARDS

Thanks to all our members who voted for the WWISC Player of the Season Award and the Glyn Pierce Memorial Shield for Most Improved Young Player of the Season. The awards will be presented at the end of the season, most likely before the final game against Stevenage. The WWISC-sponsored Player's Player of the Year Award will be presented at the end of season awards dinner.

MEMBERSHIP 2018-2019

All WWISC members will receive their membership renewal forms for next season in the post during the summer. If you are not currently a WWISC member, but would like to join, please contact us via email at **WWIndependent@gmail.com**.

THE WANDERER

The next edition of The Wanderer will be released on the first Saturday home game of next season. If you would like to submit any content for publication, please send it to **jonnyking1985@gmail.com** by Sunday 22nd July. Submitting content to The Wanderer is open to anyone, whether you are a member of WWISC or not.

AND FINALLY – THANK YOU

Thanks, as ever, for all your support this season; to all our members and anyone who has travelled on our coaches, purchased a fanzine, or been involved in any way. Don't forget, you can keep up to date with WWISC via our website (**www.wwisc.com**) or via Twitter (**@WWISC1994**). Have a great summer and we'll see you next season.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I must congratulate you on a most magnificent edition (Wanderer 110). After leaving the Carlisle game after 89 minutes to beat the traffic, I trudged home saddened by the 3-2 home defeat. As I arrived at my humble abode, I settled down with a fine glass of port and your esteemed publication. My mood was lifted immediately!

The piece on the 'Worst *Four Four Two* Covers' was a work of comedic genius, while I smirked at the pun on the front cover ('Game of Loans' – LOL as I believe is the young persons vernacular). I also vastly enjoyed the interview with young scallywag Luke O'Nien and the piece on football club badges was most magnificent.

However, I would like to draw your attention to the match report on the Football Association Challenge Cup Third Round tie versus Preston North End. You stated that the Wanderers goal occurred on 45 minutes, yet the said strike actually occurred one minute into added on time at the end of the first half. As a result, it is quite clear that you should have in fact stated the goal timing as 45+1.

I will never buy this disgraceful excuse for a magazine again.

Yours,

Mr E Delaney, Flackwell Heath.

Sir,

Kevin Nolan would like to express Kevin Nolan's annoyance at the performance of your editor during the compiling of issue 110 of The Wanderer.

During the meeting to decide the layout of the fanzine, the editor made numerous decisions against Kevin Nolan, not picking any of Kevin Nolan's articles for inclusion in the issue and picking all the articles written by inferior, lesser-known writers. If he picks a Kevin Nolan article, it's a different fanzine and that gets the readers going. It makes the fanzine a lot better.

For him to send Kevin Nolan out the office for debating it (*you called me a '***** ****'* **Ed.**) was laughable and Kevin Nolan told him that and it's the first time Kevin Nolan's been sent out the office as a writer. The sub-editor didn't want to talk to Kevin Nolan, when he's supposed to be the go-between Kevin Nolan and the editor.

Kevin Nolan thinks he was looking to make a bit of a name for himself because he sent Kevin Nolan out the office. That's how Kevin Nolan's seen it, because he was very arrogant all day. Kevin Nolan thought the whole team of them were really, really poor.

Yours,

Kevin Nolan, Nottingham

What Would Jesus Do?

Wycombe's midfield messiah turns agony aunt for troubled Chairboys

Dear Jesus

My husband and I have been married six years and have two young children. We still love each other very much, but recently we've been becoming increasingly distant from one another and almost seem to be living separate lives. We rarely do things together as a couple anymore and sometimes go a whole day barely saying a word to each other.

I feel unfulfilled physically and emotionally, but I'm worried that raising the subject could result in an argument and a further deterioration of our relationship. How should I approach this? Do you think couples counselling would be a good idea?

Alice, High Wycombe



These kind of problems are not uncommon among married couples and can often be resolved through open communication, but it's important that you both approach this with honesty and sensitivity.

If it were me, I'd pick the ball up just inside my own half, show a good turn of pace, drop a shoulder to get goalside of the centre-back, drift across the box, cut back onto my right to wrongfoot the left back, take another touch to set the ball up nicely, and then fire one in off the inside of the keeper's right hand post.

That's what I'd do.

Good luck!

Jesus

Get Involved

Thanks to the work of countless people, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club continue to flourish under supporter ownership. However, there is still much to be done. If you are interested in assisting the club, there are a number of ways you can get involved.

Fans Council

The Wycombe Wanderers Fans Council was established in 2016 and meets once a month to discuss a variety of topics relating to the ongoing operation of the club. Run by a committee made up of a cross-section of supporters, the Fans Council is a key link between the club/Trust and those fans who are keen to have their say. Feedback from each meeting is passed to the club and Trust for consideration. Meetings are held on the final Thursday of every month, with the next meeting due to take place on **Thursday 26th April** in Monty's bar at Adams Park, starting at 7.30pm. These meetings are open to everyone and are a fantastic opportunity to voice any opinions, concerns or ideas you have about how the club operates. If you have any questions, please email the council via fanscouncil@wycombewandererstrust.com.

Wycombe Wanderers Trust

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

Community Share Scheme

The Community Share Scheme continues to produce much needed income for the club. To date, over 180 fans have contributed some £570,000, with a further £174,000 committed over this and the next two seasons, well over a third of the £2m target the Trust set out to raise over 5 years. Much of the initial money went into stabilising the club's finances and providing much needed working capital, ensuring the club could remain under fan ownership. Since then, the money raised has been invested in a number of vital projects that the club wouldn't have otherwise been able to afford – a full list of what has been achieved with your money can be seen on the Trust website.

Please do consider investing in the scheme, either by setting up a monthly payment plan or by donating a one-off payment of whatever you can afford. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum is £100,000. If you would like to invest, or find out more about the share scheme, you can view a brochure with all the necessary information at www.wycombewandererstrust.com. Alternatively, you can visit the Trust table in the Caledonian Suite before a home game, or email shares@wycombewandererstrust.com.

Wycombe PALS

Wycombe PALS is a volunteer group that assists the club in a number of areas, recently carrying out important tasks such as painting areas of the ground, cleaning seats in the stands and selling programmes, saving the club significant money that can now be spent elsewhere. Supporters wishing to register their interest are asked to send 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 (e.g. evenings, weekends, specific weekdays) to **media@wwfc.com**. Your details will be sent to the relevant head of department, who will contact applicants to discuss the role in detail. The club will advertise volunteer opportunities on its website, social media channels and in the matchday programme.

A working party is scheduled to take place at the training ground on **Sunday 22nd April**, beginning at 9:30am. If you are interested in helping, please contact John Derben either by email on **j.derben123@btinternet.com** or by calling **01494 441145**. Lunch and tools will be provided, but you'll need to bring your own gloves and any hot drinks you want.

Easy Fundraising

An easy way to raise money for the Trust, at absolutely no cost to yourself, is to register with Easy Fundraising. Every time you make an online purchase, that retailer will donate a percentage of what you spend to the Trust, with over 3,000 shops and sites signed up to the scheme, including John Lewis, Sainsbury's and Amazon.

Simply visit **www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wycombewandererstrust** and sign up, completely free of charge. Then use the website to find the website you wish to buy from. You can raise significant donations in next to no time, with all the money you generate going towards helping the Trust make Wycombe Wanderers a successful and sustainable.

BBC Three Counties Radio Coverage

Phil Catchpole continues his fantastic work, reporting on Wycombe games for BBC Three Counties Radio and greatly increasing the amount of airtime the club gets. The more fans that interact with the station, the greater that coverage will be. Tune in to Three Counties Sport every Saturday from 2 - 5pm, 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 covered from 7pm. The best frequency for Three Counties in High Wycombe is 98.0FM, but you can also tune in on 95.5FM, 103.8FM and 104.5FM from other areas in Beds, Bucks and Herts, or listen on iFollow.

CALL: 08459 455555

TWEET: @BBC3CR or @bluntphil

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

Phil also writes an excellent blog; 'Phil Catchpole – Football from the Frontline', which you can enjoy by visiting **www.philcatchpole.com**.

MYTHBUSTERS

Separating the fact from the fiction

Here, we continue to look at some of the myths and theories surrounding Wycombe Wanderers Football Club...

EPISODE 3: WE PLAY RUBBISH AND LOSE EVERY TIME THERE'S A TICKET INCENTIVE

The myth...

The theory goes that every time the club tries to swell the home crowd by doing some promotion with reduced ticket prices, the team inevitably produce a terrible, lethargic performance and usually lose, thus ensuring any tag-alongs vow never to return.

The case for...

This can be traced back to two home games, both against Accrington Stanley. In 2013 there was the 'Talk of the Town' game, which was actually a meaningless match that nonetheless enticed a decent home crowd, only for them to endure a dire 1-0 defeat. A year later, with Wycombe in a relegation battle, the same fixture had the tagline 'Big Game, Small Prices!' and was an awful 0-0. Things haven't exactly improved recently, with the 'Bring a Friend for a Fiver!' initiative for our game against Morecambe....

The case against...

In 2005, doing well in League Two following relegation the previous season, the club ran a 'Free Game' against Chester City. That's right – free entry for all. Wycombe promptly went 1-0 down, but equalised just before the break, before scoring three times in eight minutes as they romped to a 4-2 victory in front of a crowd that, perhaps somewhat disappointingly, numbered just 8,124 (440 away) meaning we *literally* couldn't give Wanderers tickets away back then. In 2008, also against Chester, the club ran a rather odd 'Celtic Day', hoping to attract southern-based Hoops fans to come and support ex-Celtic captain Paul Lambert's promotion-chasing Wycombe side. We won 1-0.

More recently, last season's 1-0 win over Leyton Orient was also a 'Bring a Friend for £5' deal and the 3-1 win against Barnet this season was 'Quid-a-Kid'. When we played Mansfield on Good Friday in 2016, the club ran a 'Try Before You Buy' promotion and we won 1-0, although admittedly it wasn't a great match; Mansfield didn't have a single shot all game and our winner came courtesy of a Michael Harriman cross-shot that even Gareth Ainsworth admitted "probably wasn't the prettiest of goals".

Fact or fiction?

The fact is, putting ticketing incentives behind a random game when the team is in indifferent or poor form is not likely to result in a good game because...the team is in indifferent or poor form. When we're doing well, people come and when we're not, they don't. But the idea that we play badly and lose whenever we try to get more people through the gate is perhaps only emphasised when we do actually play badly and lose.

Conclusion: FICTION.

Ray Wilkins 1956-2018

Football lost a respected and well-liked figure earlier this month when former England midfielder Ray Wilkins passed away following a cardiac arrest, aged just 61. Although best remembered for his spells at Chelsea, Manchester United, AC Milan, Rangers and QPR and earning 84 England caps in a 14-year career, he will be remembered by Wycombe fans for his single game in the blue quarters towards the end of his career.

After a spell as player-manager at QPR, Wilkins left Loftus Road in September 1996, following the West London club's relegation from the Premier League. He quickly joined up with Alan Smith, his former manager at Crystal Palace and now Wycombe boss, on a non-contract basis and was handed his debut when he started a Division Two match against Luton Town at Adams Park on 7th September.



Lining up in midfield alongside Chairboys legend Dave Carroll, Wilkins showed his class in a side that was struggling under the unpopular Smith, making some clever flicks and neat passes, but struggling to influence the rest of his team. He and Carroll linked up well, nearly allowing Wycombe to open the scoring with a great exchange of passes on the 38th minute, but after Luton took the lead on 52 minutes, Wycombe were unable to find a way back into the game and lost 1-0.

This was Wilkins' one and only appearance for the Chairboys, although it was enough to earn him the distinction of becoming the oldest player to represent the club in the Football League, aged 39 years and 358 days. This record lasted until February 2006, when it was broken by another ex-England midfielder, Rob Lee, who played for the Blues aged 40.

Wilkins left Wycombe and went on to play for a further three clubs in the 1996/97 season, with brief spells at Hibernian, Millwall and Leyton Orient. After retiring, he continued his coaching career and was assistant manager to Carlo Ancelotti as Chelsea won the double in 2009/10.

Although his Wycombe career was fleeting, Ray will be both sorely missed and fondly remembered as a gifted footballer who was also one of the game's good guys. He leaves behind his wife, two children and six grandchildren. Our thoughts are with them.

R.I.P

GO CHOIRBOYS!

US soccer expert Marty O. Neil looks back at the last couple of months.

Coach Unsworth was major stoked with the start his Choirboys made to 2018 as they scored a perfect streak in January. This climaxed with a 3 to 2 edging of the EFL Divisional Two Section leaders, the London Town Hatmakers, with Mike Tyson making a double-score. The streak saw Unsworth named 'January Best Coach of the Month' by the EFL Board of Congress.

There was an awesome game at Adams Ballpark the following Saturday against Car Island Unity. The Choirboys held a two to zero mid-point advantage, but early in phase two, Lucky Luke O'Nine received a major felony card from the umpire for a hand-block goal denial. Unity converted the deathstrike to make it a 2-1 ballgame. Moments later, Iron Mike was felonised by the goalshot denier and left-side backer Jock Jackson had a deathstrike of his own, only to be shutout. Unity scored two quick-fire touchdowns which made it looked like they would secure the W. However, Paris Cow N. Hall tied the game with a headstrike in overtime and then an awesome walk-off win was sealed, with a tie-winning homer from middle-fielder Mark Beans, despite him having one of the worst strike rates in the clubhouse.

The Choirboys secured another home W against the Swindle Town Robins with a tardy headstrike from Andy 'The Bear' Akinfenway and then beat Chiltern Ham Town two to zero, but suffered a shock 4 to 2 reversal against Morecome Shrimps. A further home L followed as a deathstrike sanctioned against Adams 'The Abs' allowed Coventry Sky Sports Blues to take three victory points and a collegiate game against Cambridge Varsity ended in a tie after an end-zone touchdown for the university franchise.

However, Coach Unsworth told his team to sports better and this bold tactic paid off, with victory roadtrip points versus Barnet Wasps and Cruelly Town, with Spanish linebacker Sid-Jon Barty shooting the winning basket in a match that was marred by a major felony card to Cruelly and their Coach using fake news in his post-match address. A shut-out at Not County Magpies was followed by a two to one W against Grim B-Town, with a first ever Choirboys touchdown for team president 'The Abs' and a victory-strike from Scotty Cashget, his first homerun of the series after a super-long tenure on the disabled roster. A field trip to traditional booger side Yo-Ville also saw Whycome get the victory, thanks to a three-pointer from William Randall, who is on a cross-franchise borrow agreement from Major Soccer League giants Whatfor Hornets.

Thanks to these victory points, the Choirboys still find themselves in a position where elevation to the EFL Divisional One Section is possible and Coach Unsworth will be hoping he doesn't need to go to post-season and that the pennant can be clinched before summer vacations begin.

A View From Afar

Over the years I have written about other teams I follow from Europe, including Cowdenbeath from Scotland. It started when collecting Esso Club Badges back in the day. Currently, 'The Blue Brazil' are adrift at the foot of Scottish League Two and may drop into the Highland League, or worse, disappear. The club lost control of their Central Park ground in 2010 and so get no revenue from car boot sales and stock car racing events held there (yes, the pitch is inside an oval race track). For a year, the club has been trying to raise money with 'Club 135' which aims to raise £135,000. One way you as a football fan can help is to donate £10 and your name will appear on an Honours Board along with Ally McCoist, Stuart Hogg, Judy Murray and others at **Cowdenbeath.com**.

I have also been a Gooner nearly as long as a Chairboy and remember the empty years when the team were always mid-table in Division One. The debate about Wenger seems to mirror our own Gareth Ainsworth. Hero to zero and then back to hero. However, so far I haven't seen any 'Gazexit' banners at the ground or around the world, whereas 'Wenger Out' signs have been seen at the Vatican, Zimbabwe presidential protests, a Coldplay gig in Thailand, New York's Time Square and cricket matches in India and Sri Lanka. My personal view is, in a business or gambling situation, stick with what you have got and works.

When I was 15 at school I had an interview with the careers guy. I say guy because he was a bit of a hippy. I told him I wanted to be an engineering apprentice, but didn't know whether to work with a smaller company or one of the larger firms in the town. He asked, "Do you want to be a small fish in a big pond, or a big fish in a small pond?"

I have never been able to answer that question and it still haunts me. He then suggested "Go for an early lunch" and I got to be at the front of the dinner queue. The same question applies to Gareth. He has caretaker managed QPR, so he knows a "big pond". Adams Park is a "small pond" and he is a "big fish". I hope he stays on the rollercoaster for many years to come.

Promotion or not? League Two is a small pond and we are a medium fish. League One is great because we are one more league away from 'doing a Cowdenbeath' and dropping out of the Football League, but the pond is bigger and there are ten other small fish fighting for survival. So automatic promotion, or a gallant Playoff, I'm not bothered. Enjoy the ride and scream if you want to go faster.

Keep the faith.

Row H

THE WANDERER FILM PAGE

FAVOURITE SCENES

Professionals from the world of film choose their most memorable cinematic moments.

This month, Monty Carlisle (Clapperboy on *The Bridge On The River Kwai* and more recently Third Unit Caterer on *Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie*) reminds us of this Hollywood classic...

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN III: THE FINAL PIECE OF THE JIGSAW. (2016)

FADE IN.

Int. Saloon - Day.

*Tasked with putting a small town on the map, **Mad-Dog** (Gareth Ainsworth) waits for volunteers with his hastily assembled ragtag team of journeymen; **Double Barrel** (Craig Mackail-Smith), **Speedy** (Nathan Tyson), **The Accountant** (The Oscar-nominated Joe Jacobson), **Beano** (Beanie) and **The Kid** (Luke O'Nien). Suddenly the room grows dark and they all look up. It's **The Beast** (Adebayo Akinfenwa), silhouetted against the saloon doors.*

BEAST: Just come from Costa in Marlow. I heard yer lookin' for real men?

MAD-DOG: Yer heard right. Yer comin' in?

The Beast walks slowly into the room. Six sets of steely eyes following him as The Kid gives an impressed whistle.

THE KID: Yer kinda look like two men. *(He giggles but no-one joins in)*

SPEEDY: Well, if it ain't The Beast!

MAD-DOG: Yer know this guy?

SPEEDY: Know of him.

BEANO: Didn't expect to see yer in these here parts again...

BEAST: Well, Beano, good to know yer still around. I heard yer been scorin' goals...

BEANO: That's right. The first was a real screamer, right in the top...

DOUBLE-BARREL: *(Interrupting)* Last I heard The Dons were lookin' for yer.

BEAST: They found me.

The Accountant grins.

THE ACCOUNTANT: Now that musta been some meeting.

BEAST: It was. Let's just say we disagreed strongly about contract length and win bonuses.

Lefty, Speedy and Double Barrel exchange a meaningful look, The Kid whistles again, but stops grinning when The Beast fixes him with a stare.

The Beast turns to Mad Dog.

BEAST: So, I hear yer plannin' a job?

Mad-Dog nods.

MAD-DOG: That's right. Might not be big enough for yer though. Small town club halfway through a five-year plan. Hardly any money in it.

Pause. The Beast's eyes narrow.

BEAST: Image rights?

The Accountant grins again.

THE ACCOUNTANT: I'm reckonin' on there bein' some deals to be done.

Another pause. The Beast thinks for a minute.

BEAST: The way things are right about now... yer can count me in. I ain't goin' to no polluted air, sandy pitch Chinese club, so I got nothin' better on at the moment.

Mad Dog steps forward with his hand out. The Kid stands up and gets between them.

THE KID: Now hold on just one minute. What yer got or ain't got goin' on, don't mean nine minutes of inexplicable extra time to me. We're young, hungry and willin' to take a push and roll over face down in the dirt as if we've been shot. Yer may be big, but how do we know yer've got what it takes?

Tense silence.

DOUBLE-BARREL: The Kid's gotta point...

SPEEDY: We gotta replace two popular agin' pros, in a place it's almost impossible to get to, in a town with a vicious internet forum, that thinks it can go toe to toe with the big boys by sellin' poor quality hot drinks and townsfolk throwing ten bucks a year into a Stetson hat.

BEANO: Everyone already hates us.

BEAST: Well yer know I pay that no mind.

DOUBLE-BARREL: *(almost spitting it out)* They call it 'Game Management'!

MAD-DOG: I'll be straight with yer. We'll be goin' up against The Reverend Jones, Angry Scouser Nolan, Red Jock Evans and Leg Breaker Kewell. Not to mention Poor Man Coleman, Tisdale the Hat...

SPEEDY: *(with real hatred)* Robins the Kid.

MAD-DOG: They all got their eyes on our points. It 'aint gonna be easy.

BEAST: Easy? What's easy? I've spent my entire life fightin' off gangs of men tryin' to rip the shirt off my back, people whistlin' in my face, shakin' their heads and pointin', crowds of fat, bald men and women yellin' that I'm too fat and my goddamn ass is offside. That don't bother me none. I join (and yer let me do some promo work on my days off) and I'll have the last laugh. And the goddamn WWISC Player of the Year Award.

Mad-Dog looks at his men in turn. They nod, one by one. He smiles and shakes the Beast's hand.

MAD-DOG: Welcome to the team.

He pulls The Beast close and whispers in his ear.

MAD-DOG: Keep to Plan A and we'll play to your strengths. Meet Dobbo at the Handy Cross Roundabout in two days.

BEAST: Fine, but there's just one more thing...

They all tense up, The Accountant, his grin hardening, pushes his coat behind his pearl-handled pistols and The Kid's hand drops to the shotgun at his side.

BEAST: Y'all look terrible. You need some style. I got some really great gear in my saddlebags. All the best stuff; T-Shirts, hats, the lot. I can do yer a great deal. I've written a book as well...

They laugh and their voices trail off as they follow him out of the saloon.

BEANO: I actually scored TWO goals, yer know...

FADE OUT.

Wycombe Strong(er)

Nearly a year after first recording Chairboys anthem 'Wycombe Strong', singer-songwriter and American-based Wanderer Michael Shevlane has been back in the studio recording an updated version, improving the sound quality and adding string and drum tracks.

Inspired by Wycombe's fan-ownership and family mindset, 'Wycombe Strong' has been played on several occasions at Adams Park and Michael hopes the new version will also be played at our final two home games as the Chairboys push for promotion to League One. Michael normally follows Wycombe's games from America on the iFollow livestream, but he and his wife are flying over from Denver for the final game of the season against Stevenage and are looking forward to attending their first Wanderers match.



You can listen to the updated version free of charge by visiting [**soundcloud.com/michael-shevlane/wycombe**](https://soundcloud.com/michael-shevlane/wycombe) or by searching 'Wycombe Strong' on Youtube. Alternatively, if you would like to download the song, Michael had kindly agreed to email an MP3 to anyone who requests one. Please email Michael at [**michaelshevlane@zoho.com**](mailto:michaelshevlane@zoho.com).

Football Fans In Training

Football Fans in Training (FFIT) is a hugely successful lifestyle programme aimed at men aged 35 – 65 years old with a waist size of 38 inches or more. Run by Wycombe Wanderers Sport and Education Trust (WWSET), participants can learn about diet and nutrition and enjoy taking part in gentle physical activities.

The key objectives of the programme are to;

- **Improve participant's knowledge of diet and nutrition**
- **Increase participant's engagement with physical activity**
- **Reduce participant's weight and waist measurements**
- **Help participants make healthy lifestyle choices**

Each programme runs one evening a week for twelve weeks, plus an initial session to meet the group and take measurements. Sessions are held at Adams Park and are split between education workshops and physical, football-related activities, with all sessions run by WWSET's professional coaches. FFIT is a fantastic opportunity to improve your fitness, lose weight and meet fellow Wycombe fans in a fun and friendly environment, but places are limited, so please act fast to book your place!

There are three courses being delivered over the next twelve months

16th May – 8th August 2018
5th September – 28th November 2018
9th January – 3rd April 2019

The courses take place on Wednesday evenings (6:30 pm – 8.00pm) at Adams Park.

The price for the full twelve weeks is £48 at the start of the course, however you will be automatically become part of our cashback scheme and will receive £1 back for every session you attend. As well as the twelve weeks of instruction and the opportunity to improve their health and fitness levels, participants will also receive a free WWFC training kit, a manual with all the course information and the chance get a behind-the-scenes look at Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

To sign up for the FFIT programme, you have to be Male aged between 35 – 65 and meet any of the following criteria;

- Trouser waist size of 38 inches+
- Belly measurement of 100cm+ (measure your waist and go around your belly)
- BMI of 27+ (Calculate at www.nhs.uk/Tools/Pages/Healthyweightcalculator.aspx)

To register, please email sam.parker@wwfc.com or phone **01494 455736** with the following details; Name, address, date of birth, contact telephone number and/or email address, your BMI/Belly measurement/Trouser size.

For more information, please visit www.wwset.co.uk/ffit.

The Pies & Lows of Following Wycombe Wanderers

Wycombe supporter and 'Pirateer' **Sam Lacey** on the football fan's snack of choice.

We started our pie review blog, www.pirate.co.uk, back in 2009. It took a while for Pirate to get going, but our persistence (or should that be pie-sistence?) eventually led to us being taken more seriously than we'd imagined and probably more seriously than we deserved. We were, after all, just four idiots from Bucks who happened to eat a lot of meals wrapped in pastry. By 2014 we were being sent pies to rate, invited to judge at the British Pie Awards and making various media appearances. Getting free pies, we knew we'd made the big time, although I was soon banned from having pies delivered to my workplace. Whilst we review pies from anywhere, the most media interest has been in pies at football. Fellow Pirateer Rob, also a Chairboy, has made several media appearances, including the BBC1 show *Rip Off Britain* and we both appeared in a video for the 2014 BBC Price of Football survey.



Pirateers Sam & Rob filming with the BBC at Morecambe

But why the fascination with football pies? It seems that pies and football have a long history together. They bring together two things that we love in this country; what could be more British than a hot pie to keep warm during a cold winter football match? This association captures the imagination - which is somewhat surprising given that the pies at football matches are often pretty terrible. We have reviewed pies at football matches up and down the country, where they compete against each other in our Pirate Football Pie League, which we have dubbed the 'Pieremiership'. Sadly, we have found the average score for football pies is well below the average of pies we have reviewed elsewhere. Fortunately, there are some great football pies out there, if you know where to look. In particular, the pies at Morecambe stand out as top of the league, handmade pie-fection.

It's no secret that we're Wycombe fans, with most of our reviews having been made at Wanderers matches. It's also no secret that we've not been too impressed with the pie provision at our home town club recently - seeing the Blues slip down the Pieremiership as a result of poor pie-formances off the pitch. In recent years, Adams Park has changed pie supplier more often than the team changes kit supplier and we haven't given an Adams Park pie a good review since 2014, when Wycombe sold the Peter's Curry Pie. Since then, they have tried Phat Pasty and Bisto, before settling on that ubiquitous football brand, Pukka.

For pie connoisseurs, Pukka are a depressingly unoriginal choice, but fairly reliable in their mediocrity. However, at the Wycombe vs Exeter game this season I had one of the worst Pukka pies I have ever had. As I got near to the front of the queue in the lower tier of the Family Stand, I could see just one pie remaining. I had no choice of flavour, it was either a Pukka Chicken & Mushroom, or the ignominy of a burger. On closer inspection, I realised that what I had been served very much looked like the kind of pie that *would* be left until last. A gravy explosion had punched a gaping hole in the side of the pie and what was remarkable was that, somehow, the gravy had dried and burnt like a grotesque gravy icicle, hanging off the edge of the crust. I had never seen anything like this before in many years of pie reviewing. This was a bad omen, indicating that the pie had been cooked for far too long. Indeed, the sides and base of the pie were very burnt and dried out. It was actually quite difficult to eat because the pastry was so hard, especially at the bottom. Needless to say, the pie scored badly and Wycombe are still languishing near the bottom of the Premieriership. This pie really shouldn't have been served and it seems there wasn't much in the way of quality control. Strangely, this is not the worst football pastry product I have had this season - that honour goes to Luton Town, where the disgusting Cheese & Onion slice I was handed was even more burnt.



Pirateer Rob with JJ and Woody - they didn't actually eat the pies, honest!

This is sadly an all too familiar problem at football matches. Obviously cooking so many pies in a short space of time is a challenge. They are often burnt, or the dreaded microwave option is taken, leading to soft and soggy pastry. If this wasn't bad enough, many clubs charge an extortionate amount for a mass produced pie, with most clubs in League Two charging £3 or more. This really begs the question that, if Morecambe FC - who have one of the smallest budgets in League Football - can produce such great quality handmade pies, then why can't Wycombe, or anyone else for that matter? A better quality pie means you not only sell more, but also improve fans' overall matchday experience, keeping supporters coming back for more. Hopefully Wycombe can translate their good performances on the pitch into good pie-formances in the catering department sometime soon.

Visit www.pirate.co.uk for all your pie ratings, reviews and rankings

LIGHT AND DARK

BLUE PLANET

There has been huge public outcry after an episode in the recent series of Light and Dark Blue Planet highlighted the horrifying amount of plastic in English football.

This is by no means a new problem - for decades there have been widespread reports of large amounts of plastics floating up from London and the South East towards places such as Manchester and Liverpool.

Since 2004 there has been a large, disturbing build-up of plastics in the Milton Keynes area, bringing widespread destruction to the local habitat. Having already caused the extinction of Wimbledon in South London, the plastics have now swamped and decimating the existing life in Milton Keynes, resulting in the demise of good, honest species such as Bletchley Town, Loughton Orient and Milton Keynes City, who have all ceased to exist in this period.



This has caused worrying mutations among the local wildlife, with a disturbing rise in reports of phenomena such as half-and-half scarves, local mammals growing large foam hands with pointy fingers and, in one case, the sighting of a horrible, Gollum-like creature that biologists have called a 'Winkleman'. It is not yet clear what affect this has all had on the atmosphere, due to the complete absence of one.

If we do not act, this problem will spread and we risk losing the beautiful habitat of English football to plastics forever. To end this destruction, we encourage people to change their consumer habits. Say no to plastic and support your local environment. The FA have also vowed to take action, aiming to gather up discarded straws by clutching at them at every opportunity.

BEAN MACHINE



When he finally stopped running after 'that' goal against Carlisle, we caught up with WWISC-sponsored player Marcus Bean following the 0-0 draw with Port Vale.

Marcus, a frustrating game, but perhaps it's a demonstration of how far we've come as a club when a team like Port Vale comes to Adams Park and plays for a draw. Do you think other clubs see us as one of the big teams in this division now.

Yeah for sure, I think when you've got that favourites tag and you're at home, you kind of expect teams to come and try to nullify you. I thought they did for quite long periods, but saying that they had maybe one shot on target and we still had chances ourselves. It's fine margins, I think we've definitely played worse and won, so it's another point towards our target.

Obviously promotion's the target, but where do you think this side should finish? Would you be happy with the playoffs or do you think we should be aiming for automatic promotion?

Right from the start of the season we sat down as a squad and said to ourselves 'none of this "little old Wycombe" kind of stuff'. We wanted to take the bull by the horns and get automatic promotion, we discussed that as a squad and nothing's changed. If anything it's strengthened our belief. We're third in the league, in a good position and we'll be very disappointed if we drop into the playoffs. Obviously we want to get up by any means necessary, but that's our goal.

You've been here for most of that resurgence that started in 2014 and were at Wembley in 2015. Do you feel you've got unfinished business personally from that season after coming so close and losing out?

Yeah I honestly think if I leave this club and we're in League Two I'll feel that I haven't done the job to be honest. When I first came here we were trying to build toward promotion and we've had three and a half seasons at it now, so from a personal point of view, anything less than a promotion and I'd be very disappointed.

Have you forgiven your parents for leaving early and missing your wondergoal against Carlisle?

Yeah, I can't stay angry at my parents for too long to be honest. It was a shame because as I've said before they've been there home and away for the whole of my career and that was definitely one of my most special moments and for them not to be there was a bit of a shame, but hopefully we can create one or two more before the end of the season.

Were they at Exeter to see your goal the following week?

No, they've not seen me score for over four and a half years!

What about Phil's commentary, have they listened to that?

Oh yeah, they've heard the commentary and seen the 'Titanic music' video. My mum made me send it to her so she could send it to all her friends.



Celebrating the winner against Carlisle (not pictured, Mr and Mrs Bean)

After everything this club's been through since 2014; escaping relegation, missing out in the playoffs and everything we've had to battle with limited finances, just what would it mean to this squad to finally get promotion?

I think especially for the likes of Blooms, the Gaffer and Dobbo, who have been here a little bit longer, they know how far we've come. I wasn't here the season they nearly dropped out the Football League, but that's still in the back of my mind because when I joined the club a lot of the boys were talking about it. I think the club's come a long way and that's credit to the Gaffer, who's been working on a shoestring budget with just two members of staff now Barry Richardson's left. It's a great club. I think the fans deserve a bit of success.

Who's the most annoying person in the squad?

Sido.

Everyone always says Sido. Have you every found a cartoon character attractive?

What the... I think when I was a kid... er, was it *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*? Yeah, the lady in that with the red hair. I don't know what her name is.

Jessica Rabbit.

Jessica Rabbit. Yeah, definitely.

Would you rather go bald or go deaf?

Mate, I'd go bald, one hundred percent. I love my dreads, but they can go over my hearing definitely.

Who do you think's going to end up on the Iron Throne?

Ooh that is a question... Jon Snow. Actually, no, I'll change it. I think Tyrion is, for some reason. I don't know how, but I think they're going to throw a little spanner in the works.

And who's going to be gruesomely torn apart by zombies next on *Walking Dead*?

The lady with the dreads, I don't know her name.

Michonne.

Michonne, yeah. Who do you think?

Gabriel. I'm just not bothered about him.

Oh kill him off! He does my nut in!

Were you glad when Carl died? Most irritating character ever.

He's a bit annoying as well. No-one cares about him, get him out.

What song did you sing for your initiation when you joined the club?

Bob Marley, *Buffalo Soldier*.

What's your spirit animal?

Spirit animal... Jesus... Do people have spirit animals? Let me think... probably a monkey. Yeah, a monkey. I like winding people up.

No one likes us – we don't care (well actually we do really)

A current and quite tiresome fashion among football supporters is to pretend that they no longer 'care' about their rivals, in an attempt to make their opposition counterparts look 'obsessed' by comparison. Oxford fans are particularly fond of this one, often going to great lengths to tell Wycombe fans, repeatedly, that they don't care about us. Similarly, last season, Colchester fans sang 'We only hate Southend' at Adams Park.

Now, there may well be some Oxford and Col U fans who really *don't* care about Wycombe, but I'd respectfully suggest that perhaps they should try to. After all, derbies and grudge matches are the most exciting games in the league calendar, the ones that fans always immediately look for when the season's fixtures are released. Colchester United fans might 'only hate Southend', but given they aren't in the same division as them, why not just enjoy playing Wycombe instead? (Well they probably do really, but just don't want to admit it). Who would Colchester have to get excited about if they didn't have us? Cambridge? Stevenage? Not exactly red-hot.

Similarly, if we do go up to League One, won't Oxford fans, for all their superior bravado, be relieved to have a local derby again, instead of playing make-believe against Bristol Rovers and Northampton. I'm sure their fans think they should be testing themselves against the likes of Tottenham and Chelsea, but until then, until Oxford take their rightful place among the Premiership elite, maybe just enjoy the derby games you've got, however unglamorous the opposition, because without a good old fashioned grudge match to look forward to, football just isn't quite as much fun.





PAUL MCCARTHY; THAT CUP RUN AND MY GRANDAD.

Having recently marked the one-year anniversary of the tragic death of Chairboys legend Paul McCarthy, blogger **Dominic Kent** has given us kind permission to reprint an article he wrote just after Macca's passing, paying tribute to the popular defender and recalling the famous FA Cup run of 2001 with his own, personal memories of that wonderful, unforgettable season.

'Macca'

Sad news broke yesterday that former Wycombe Wanderers defender Paul McCarthy passed away of a suspected heart attack, aged just 45. Born in Cork, McCarthy made 217 appearances for Brighton & Hove Albion before moving to Wycombe, where he will be remembered forever as a cult hero. He was a decent centre-back in his own right, but his real heroics were in 'that' cup run of 2000/2001.

The FA Cup

Macca passed away on the 20th February 2017, exactly 16 years since he scored the equaliser against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park to take the FA Cup 5th Round Replay to the most famous penalty shootout in Wycombe's history. For Wycombe Wanderers, just getting to the 5th Round of the FA Cup was extraordinary and Paul was instrumental in the Chairboys getting this far. A centre-back that was not to be messed with, Paul popped up with an overhead kick in the 2nd Round Replay win against Millwall to send Wycombe into the 3rd Round of the FA Cup. McCarthy scored in this game too, to take the tie to a replay in which he also scored to set up tasty Fourth Round home tie against Wolves. Andy Rammell celebrating in the snow in front of the home end will live long in the memory as Wycombe's enthusiasm and grit took them into the 5th Round to set up a tie against Wimbledon.

Dreaming

I was 10 years old and had started to dream of a cup run. It was all anybody was talking about at school; lunchtimes would be Wycombe vs Wimbledon, then Wycombe vs Manchester United, then Wycombe winning the FA Cup Final against Arsenal in the last minute, thanks to any number of lads on the playground. I remember taking my usual seat in between my Dad and Grandad before kick off in the 5th Round game. My Grandad passed me the traditional pre-match Wether's Original and told me we were going to make the Quarter-Finals here - he had a good feeling. I was just worried about how many goals we would ship and how embarrassing it would be in school on Monday. To my surprise (and everybody else's) we forced a replay at Selhurst Park...

Selhurst Park

...And what a bog that was. If ever there was a pitch not fit for a football match it was here. A scrappy affair, which resulted in not a lot of football being played, but, at 2-1 down in the last minute of extra time, as Sam Parkin threw a stepover to fool the Wimbledon right back and Dannie Bulman scuffed his shot out of the mud, who was there to keep the dream alive? The big man himself, Paul McCarthy, who forced a penalty shootout against Wimbledon of Division One. No child should ever be a bag of nerves at ten years old, but I couldn't keep it together. Paul McCarthy calmly scored his penalty and then, all of sudden, Martin Taylor, the goalkeeper, had scored as well. What on earth was going on here? I had never seen a goalkeeper take a penalty. We could be about to reach the FA Cup Quarter-Finals and it was way past my bed time. The final Wimbledon penalty was sent way over the bar and we'd done it. Thank you so much Paul McCarthy for stretching that little bit further to knock that last goal in.

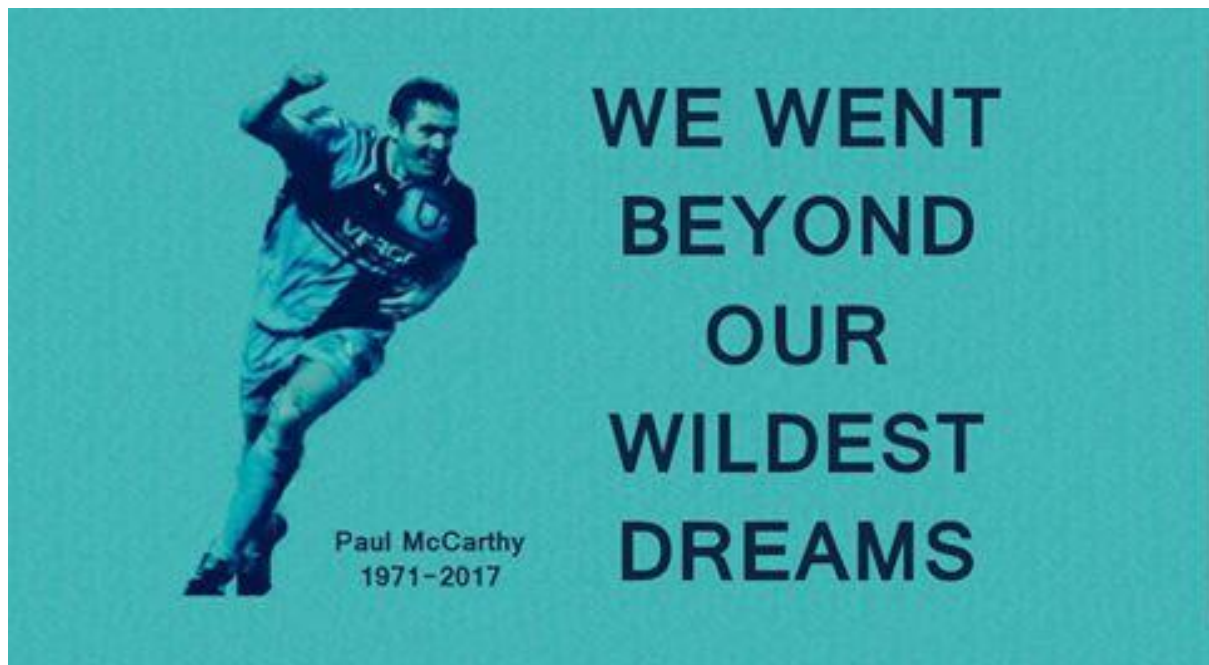
Filbert Street

It was Leicester City of the Premiership next and I was certain that the run was over. No way could my team beat a Premier League side – we were battling to stay in Division Two. But at ten years old, I couldn't help but dream. Every time I saw my Grandad in the run up to the game, we'd talk for hours; What if we did this and imagine if Paul McCarthy scores again? My imagination was running wild, but Grandad knew that this sort of thing would never happen again, so he dreamt with me. I don't think we finished one game of cards in the build up to the Quarter-Final, but it really didn't matter. You know the story by now - We'd sold out the away end at Filbert Street and the atmosphere was electric. There was a live stream back to the big screen at Adams Park and the entire town was there. This was a big deal for little Wycombe. Overlooked by most due to Roy Essandoh's fairytale header, it was Macca who headed us into the lead at Leicester. Was I seeing things? Was this a dream? But Leicester equalised and it looked like another replay was on the cards, until Bulman lobbed the ball into the box in injury time and Jamie Bates rose higher than ever to nod it across the box, where none other than the teletext kid, the website wonder, Roy Essandoh headed home the winner to spark absolute scenes at Filbert Street and Adams Park.

Villa Park

We lost the in the Semi-Finals to Liverpool, but we gave a good account of ourselves and Keith Ryan's goal in front of the Holte End at Villa Park will forever be my favourite goal. I couldn't contain myself. I don't think I did any school work or even took off my shin pads until I got on the coach to Villa Park. I vividly remember chattering away to my Grandad and reading the last few matchday programmes to him when I threw up out of sheer excitement. It's strange what football can do to you. We arrived in good time and had a wander around the biggest stadium I had ever seen. Bear in mind Adams Park held 10,000 and was rarely full - this was enormous. As we took our seats, my Grandad said I might need to stand up and he lifted me onto my seat. Completely baffled as to why, I stood on that seat for the entire game and lost my voice in the process. I needed a halftime Wether's as well as the pre-match Wether's that day. Looking back, we were all stood up, of course we were. This was the biggest game in the history of Wycombe Wanderers - you couldn't sit down! We lost 2-1 through Robbie Fowler and Emile Heskey, but we were not disgraced. The result was trivial. The cup run, the build-up, the coach trip, the endless chatter with my Grandad, the many outcomes of the playground football led up to the best day of my life.

I miss my Grandad dearly and I miss watching Wycombe with him and my Dad. Row H in the Family Stand, last three seats from the final walkway on the right. That will always be ours. Thank you Grandad, for letting me dream and thank you, Paul McCarthy, for fulfilling it.



Dominic Kent

'TAYLORMADE' - LOOKING BACK AT 2008-09

As my six-year old daughter becomes a bigger and bigger fan of Wycombe (she hardly misses a home game, wants the matchday programme in lieu of a bedtime story and keeps retrieving 'Goal Rush' on the Sky Box, no matter how many times my wife deletes it), I asked her recently if she wanted to watch a Wycombe DVD. She decided on *Taylormade*, which is billed as "The unforgettable story of Wycombe's first Football League automatic promotion".

Looking back, it provides an interesting retrospective. If you ask anyone now what Wycombe were like under Peter Taylor, the words 'dour', 'defensive' and 'boring' will not be too far from their lips. It's certainly true that Taylor employed a more defensive brand of football, with few goals scored and fewer conceded. But was it all that bad?



Before we get to that, there are a couple of things that stand out initially when watching the DVD. Firstly, the footage is pretty poor. In this day and age, we have HD, go-pros, Dan Cam, Goal Cam and the internet providing crisp coverage of all our matches (we don't even see many DVD's these days) but things were slightly different back then. Secondly, only Matt Bloomfield remains from that squad. Of the rest, most have fallen by the wayside, either through retirement or dropping into non-league, while a few still play at the same level (Craig Woodman and John Akinde for example). Some even went to prison – three of them in fact. Chris Zebroski joined Eastleigh this season having serving a term for robbery and assault, while Nathan Ashton (armed robbery) and Gavin Grant (murder) are still serving long sentences. An odd and sad coincidence indeed. Finally, it's interesting seeing who we came up against that season. The majority of teams are sides we've also faced this campaign, while Bournemouth, who stayed up that season despite a huge points deduction, represent the dream we all harbour in this league. Be warned though: Chester and Darlington have gone out of business. Both have re-risen as phoenix clubs, but it shows what can happen with bad financial decisions.

Yet what of the 'dour, defensive' football? The DVD serves as a reminder that there actually were some excellent games that season; The win over Dagenham when we had a man sent-off and they missed a last minute penalty, Akinde's stunning debut in the 3-3 thriller at Brentford, the 4-2 win over Port Vale and, crucially, some very professional 1-0 victories. Did we moan at the time? I highly doubt it - and therein lies the point. We went 18 games unbeaten at the start of that campaign and it was wonderful when it lasted. However, when things started to not go so well, the moaners began to moan. Obviously we all moan when we lose, but when you lose playing negative football, it really grates. Contrast that with this season, when even our defeats have still usually provided some excitement, and you can see the contrast.

What doesn't help the retrospective view of Taylor's reign was the way we stumbled over the finish line, losing 2-1 at home to Notts County in front of a packed-out Adams Park after playing for a point (which was all we needed) and almost throwing it away at the end. Had we held on for a draw, we'd have had a moment to celebrate, rather than waiting around for Bury's result to come through and maybe then we'd have applauded Taylor's effective approach to football. That season, we just wanted promotion, no matter how it came about, especially after the play-off heartaches of 2006 and 2008. It seems it was a bit later on, in 2009-10, when the idea of playing a more attacking brand of football was mooted. In fact, it seems the very reason that Taylor was sacked and Waddock was employed was for a bit more entertainment value. Waddock failed to keep us up that season, but the Wycombe fans were more forgiving. We scored a few goals, picked up a few memorable results and arguably made a more entertaining fight of it than we might have done under Taylor.

So how does history view Taylor? We went up in unremarkable fashion and came straight back down again. The promotion was ultimately rendered meaningless. When we went up in 1993 and 1994, periods of sustained, relative success for a club of our size followed. When we narrowly stayed up in 1999, what came about as a result were five more years in the third tier, plus an F.A. Cup Semi-Final. When we avoided the drop at Torquay, we then had Wembley, Villa Park, White Hart Lane and whatever this season may bring about. The achievement is only as good as the prize and Taylor's successes have consequently been somewhat forgotten. This is perhaps unfair; he did achieve some success at Adams Park and, as the DVD says, it's the story of our first automatic promotion in the Football League. What's interesting is to examine whether a manager is appreciated in their time. Paul Lambert wasn't, thanks in part to his own narrow, defensive-minded football, yet we reminisce fondly about the League Cup Semi-Final run of 2006-07. Taylor was appreciated at the time for his promotion and the fact that he stuck with the club when he could have walked away during the summer takeover in 2009, yet we look back at his reign with cynical eyes.

The fact is, this relic of a DVD reveals the truth of his achievements are somewhere in between criticising his negative style and admitting the fact that it did actually get us somewhere, albeit very briefly.

Now yours to own on compact disc, a must-have for fans of angry ranting and third-person references...

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'Who's Gonna Rock You – Not This *** Useless Ref, That's For Sure'**

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'Gotta Pull Kevin Nolan Together'

and the classic hit

'Kevin Nolan's In The Mood For Dancing – But The *** Ref Ruined It'**

You haven't 'zine the last of us

The Gooner was nearly a Goner, but The Wanderer isn't going anywhere

It's been another tough season for football fanzines, with more and more printed publications converting to a digital format, or going out of existence altogether, as sales fall with the websites, blogs and podcasts take over. Even *The Gooner*, Arsenal's famous fanzine and one of the oldest in the country, dating back to 1987, nearly ceased to be after thirty years, only being saved earlier this month, after a concerted campaign to attract new subscribers ensured its survival - for another season at least.

There is plenty to admire about the digital revolution, but football has always been a traditional game and printed fanzines, filled with the weird and wonderful musings of fans is, as far as I'm concerned, sacrosanct in a game that seems to be always striving to break ever further away from it's roots. Even famous names have suffered; Manchester United's *Red Issue* and Stoke's *A View To A Kiln* are no more, Newcastle's *The Mag* (after 26 years) and Sheffield Wednesday's *War Of The Monster Trucks* now only exist online and one of English football's most wonderfully titled publications, Gillingham's *Brian Moore's Head Looks Uncannily Like London Planetarium* has also ceased to exist in print - it's website remaining dormant since 2008. Fanzines are an endangered breed and every publication that disappears feels like another rare species vanishing into extinction.

The Wanderer doesn't benefit from the same large readership as *The Gooner* et al, but despite our modest sales figures, I have no fears over the fanzine's future. Apart from *The Wanderer*, which dates back to 1995, Wycombe have had several other fanzines over the years, including *Chairboys Gas* and *The Adams Family*, but these had all faded away by the early 2000's. Perhaps part of the reason for *The Wanderer's* sustainability is the fact that, unlike many fanzines, it is run by an organisation (WWISC) rather than by one, overworked individual. Although one person compiles each issue, there's a whole team of people sorting logistics, assisting with sales and posting out copies to subscribers. Furthermore, if a particular issue sells poorly for whatever reason, WWISC can offset any losses.

Sales are key however and whilst we have a limited target audience, our aim is to persuade as many Wycombe fans as possible to pick up a copy of *The Wanderer* four times a season. To that end, we will keep working hard to produce the best and biggest fanzine we possibly can, that Wycombe fans will look forward to picking up and enjoy reading. We are always looking at ways we can improve the fanzine, as well as exploring different ways that we can boost our profile.

I've loved this fanzine since I first started buying it as a teenage Wycombe fan, going on to become first a writer and now editor and *The Wanderer* is as much a part of my matchday experience now as it was then. I have neither the skills nor the inclination to turn this proud journal into an online publication and I will fight tooth and nail, as will my WWISC comrades, to make sure that *The Wanderer* does not disappear from your Saturday afternoons.

The not-so-thin blue line.

Like many Wycombe fans, I was quite taken aback at the sheer scale of the police operation for the Wycombe v Colchester game. A large number of officers were backed up by mounted units, dog handlers and riot police, in scenes not seen at Adams Park for several years. But why was there such a large police presence and who foots the bill for The Bill? We spoke to both Wycombe Wanderers General Manager Michael Davies and Inspector Matt Sully of Thames Valley Police.

Who made the decision to have such a large scale police operation in place for the match? They explained this was a police decision, based on a number of factors, including the history of the fixture (games between Wycombe and Col U are often classed as 'Category A' games). The size of the away support is also a factor, which is why, for example, there were more police than usual for the FA Cup game against Stourbridge. The police decide on the size of the operation, but only go in the 'footprint' of the club (the ground and its attached land eg. The car park) at the request of the club.

Did Thames Valley Police (TVP) have any specific reasons to justify such a large police presence? The decision was primarily based on police intelligence that was only received that Friday afternoon, which suggested an identified risk group of away fans, including some banned from attending Colchester home games, would be attending the game. They hadn't been around for the last four years, but had recently resurfaced. There were also other factors, such as the minor disturbances following the game at Colchester earlier in the season, which although not violent did create some tension. This disorder had been unexpected and the police decided they had been under-resourced to deal with that incident.

Where there police from other forces at the game? The entire police presence was made up from TVP officers. There would have been spotters from Essex Police, but they weren't, strictly speaking, part of the operation.

Was the increased police presence at all related to recent incidents involving Wycombe fans at games, including the recent increase in incidents involving Wycombe supporters setting off pyrotechnic devices? This was a factor that was considered.

Did WWFC foot the bill for policing the game and what was the total bill? The club only pay for the police that go into the footprint of the ground, which includes the car park (basically, anything past the Adams Park gates). The police presence in the town and going to and from the game was not paid for by the club. Police presence within the footprint is requested by the club and TVP normally aim to leave all security within the footprint down to the club, although they can step in if there is disorder that stewards are struggling to contain. The total policing bill payable by WWFC came to £6,000. This was unexpected and hadn't been budgeted for, as the increase in police presence hadn't been anticipated in the weeks leading up to the game.

Were there any arrests made, or any other incidents in or around the ground or in the town that required police intervention? No-one was aware of there being any arrests at the ground. Due to the scoreline (Wycombe were 3-0 up after 75 minutes) most of the Colchester risk group left early, which eased any tension inside the ground. It was unknown whether there were any 'breach of the peace arrests', where someone is detained but later released with no charge.

The *Bucks Free Press* reported that a man was seen receiving medical attention on the ground near the Chiltern Taps pub and that a Colchester fan was injured, leading to rumours that he had been attacked. Was this true? The risk group of away fans were escorted to and from Adams Park. At one point a Colchester fan in the escort group required attention from police medics for a suspected heart attack, not as a result of any violence. He was taken to hospital and released the same day.

Would TVP envisage deploying a similar scale policing operation at a future game between WWFC and Colchester United? Quite possibly, given the animosity between the two sets of supporters, but this would be carefully assessed and decided based in part upon a review of the last game.

How do TVP prepare to police a WWFC game? TVP compile intelligence for every game and review it in a pre-match meeting. They work closely with the club's safety officer and meet around three times a week to risk assess each match, usually about five weeks in advance of the game taking place. However, things can change at short notice due to a number of variables, such as if new intelligence suddenly comes to light, which was the case with the Colchester risk group.

How does the policing at 'normal' Wycombe games usually work? The police presence at Wycombe games is usually very low and the vast majority of Wycombe games are 'spotters only', with 1-3 officers from a dedicated team going to most home games and many away. Many WWFC games could in fact be categorized as 'police free', but the spotters tend to go along anyway to liaise and build trust with fans, at no cost to the club. When Wycombe are away, Thames Valley Police (TVP) go to act as spotters for the 'home' police force and vice versa when Wycombe are at home. In short, on a typical matchday, the police don't cost WWFC a penny.

Inspector Sully said that policing Wycombe games is generally a very positive experience, with the police outside the ground mainly there just make people feel safe. He said the club is well managed, including from a security perspective. He is keen for TVP to maintain its good relationship with WWFC and its supporters and officers are always keen to engage with and receive feedback from supporters.

Our thanks to Michael Davies and Inspector Matt Sully for their time

THE STORY OF THE BLUES

CARLISLE UNITED (H)

League Two, Saturday 3rd February

Att: 4,145

BLUES 4 (*Bloomfield 28, O’Nien 31, Cowan-Hall 90+3, Bean 90+6*)

CUMBRIANS 3 (*Grainger 49 pen, Devitt 68, Stockton 70*)

Verdict: Well... just when you think you’ve seen it all, along comes a game that has everything; Goals, drama, controversy, a red card, a missed penalty, a scored penalty, not one but two stirring comebacks and a last gasp equaliser followed by an even last gasp-ier winner. Ok, so it didn’t have *everything*. It didn’t have, for example, a flying hippopotamus playing the bongos – but it did have a Marcus Bean goal, which is arguably more unlikely.

You wouldn’t have guessed the drama that was to unfold based on the opening twenty minutes, which were very stop-start and felt more like the world’s coldest pre-season friendly, but we finally found some rhythm after surviving a couple of early United chances and before you knew it we were two goals to the good. A comfortable win seemed to be on the cards, but it all changed with the red card/penalty/goal incident and we were always going to struggle with a gaping hole in our midfield. Chances were at a premium, making the penalty miss all the more frustrating and our poor defending swung the game Carlisle’s way. Gareth remained positive with his changes, but you couldn’t see where an equaliser was going to come from. However, the decision to keep Bayo on paid dividends, as his hold-up play was pivotal late on, allowing the ten men to produce a most remarkable turnaround.

Ref Watch: Carl Boyeson – An eventful game and we can’t really complain about the big decisions. O’Nien was maybe unlucky, as while the ball did seem to hit his hand, there was little he could’ve done to move it out the way. A grey area in the rules? It would seem so.

Magic Moment: Have a guess... go on... take all the time you need...

EXETER CITY (A)

League Two, Saturday 10th February

Att: 3,956

GRECIANS 1 (*James 12*) **BLUES 1** (*Bean 53*)

Verdict: This almost seemed like a bit of a disappointment after the thrills and spills we’d enjoyed just seven days before, but perhaps that’s just us getting spoiled, as many Wycombe fans would probably have taken this result a few weeks back.

Exeter started brightly, pressuring Wycombe on the ball, leading to a few nervy moments at the back, as our attempts to play a passing game suffered on a surprisingly bad pitch. Whether this anxiety contributed to their goal is hard to say, but Lloyd James’ early freekick into the box was missed by everyone and bounced apologetically into the far corner of Scott Brown’s goal. We struggled to get going and never really looked like scoring for the rest of the half, but heads never drop in this side and we came out stronger after the break.

Whether through a deliberate tactical change or just from sheer tiredness, Exeter seemed to abandon the pressing game that had caused us so many problems in the first half, giving us much more time and space and allowing us back into the game. Just eight minutes in, the ball broke for who else but Marcus Bean to go from 0 in 103 to 2 in 2. The second half was much more entertaining as both sides pressed for a winner, but in the end a draw was fair.

Ref Watch: Steve Martin – No, not that one and fortunately very little comedy on show from one of the better refs we've seen this season, save for the bizarre moment when he gave up trying to get the Exeter wall to move back to his 10-yard mark at a freekick (he did seem to have over-paced it) with JJ eventually opting to move the ball back instead. What was disappointing was his linesman's repeated failure to spot any of the numerous pulls on Bayo's shirt in the box. We should be used to it by now, but if we could see it from the back of the Cowshed, how could the lino miss it time and time again?

Magic Moment: The people who missed Carlisle being able to get a Marcus Bean T-shirt.

SWINDON TOWN (H)
League Two, Tuesday 13th February
Att: 4,863

BLUES 3 (*O'Nien 3, Mackail-Smith 10, Akinfenwa 89*) **ROBINS 2** (*Richards 2, Taylor 61*)

Verdict: Another game, another thrilling, goal-filled drama at Adams Park. It's so predictably unpredictable. This was thanks to two attack-minded teams that really went for it from the off, which made for a cracking encounter. Our not-great defence leaked yet another soft goal after they were slow to react when Brown made an early save, but once again our formidable attack more than made up for these shortcomings. We have so much strength in depth up front that we can afford to rest an in-form striker like Tyson and simply replace him with the equally deadly Mackail-Smith, who duly chipped in with another goal. This dearth of attacking riches allows for rotation and makes you believe we will always score.

After Town's stunning equaliser (it really was brilliant) we were somewhat under the cosh for a spell, before the visitors started to sit back, seemingly happy to settle for a point.

The fools!

You always feel this Wycombe side will create chances and even when we missed a couple no-one was really worried, because you know the next opportunity will be coming along at any moment.

Ref Watch: Andy Madley – A game like this isn't hard to referee and he handled things well, although quite what was wrong with Bayo's first, disallowed 'winner' is anyone's guess.

Magic Moment: Adam El Abd planting a pre-Valentines smacker on a female steward in the celebrations for the winning goal. Love is all around.

CHELTENHAM TOWN (A)
League Two, Saturday 17th February
Att: 3,513

ROBINS 0 BLUES 2 (*Akinfenwa 40, Cowan-Hall 45+1*)

Verdict: A thoroughly professional performance, another three points and a first clean sheet since Boxing Day to send us back into second place. The first half wasn't exactly a vintage Wycombe performance and we didn't really look like scoring until Mackail-Smith showed his class to dispossess a Town defender and set up Bayo, with the big man turning provider five minutes later to tee up PCH. Halftime arrived with us 2-0 up despite not being that great. The second half wasn't exactly riveting either, but the Blues defended well to contain what little threat the hosts posed and could have had a third with O'Nien and Mackail-Smith both going close late on. Solid at the back and clinical up front – nothing special, but job done.

Ref Watch: Gavin Ward – Didn't really have anything to do.

Magic Moment: Getting revenge for their undeserved equaliser at AP earlier in the season.

MORECAMBE (H)
League Two, Saturday 24th February
Att: 4,672

BLUES 2 (*Freeman 65, O'Nien 84*) **SHRIMPS 4** (*McGurk 3, Ellison 26, 38 Wylde 52*)

Verdict: From the sublime to the ridiculous. Our run was always going to come to an end at some point, but nobody quite expected it to end this way or, with all due respect, against this team. That said, did we ignore the warning signs? We've recently conceded soft goals against Crewe, Carlisle, Exeter and Swindon and our defending has been poor pretty much throughout this entire season, although most of the time the power of our attack has meant this hasn't been too much of a problem. Today though, both Moore and McGinley were given a torrid time at the back, with the former caught out of position far too often and the latter not tight enough for at least two of the goals. Full credit to Morecambe, who exploited our weaknesses time after time in ways that others have not done in such a clinical, ruthless manner. Ellison may be a bit of a sod, but he was superb today.

We were complacent, of that there is no doubt and yet it's crazy to think that it wasn't until injury time that you truly felt that the game definitely lost. The quick goals against Crewe (twice), Carlisle, Swindon and Colchester, plus in earlier games against Barnet, Forest Green, Lincoln and Crawley have given us so much belief, which is obviously a good thing, but you just can't defend like this and expect to get away with it time and time again. It would be easy to put this down to a 'blip', but we must, must, must shore up at the back.

Ref Watch: Craig Hicks – Not too many fouls or bookings, expect for the multiple fouls on Bayo of course – but he missed them – and how Ellison avoided a second yellow for a ridiculous kick late on (you were 4-2 up in injury time you talented idiot!) is anyone's guess.

Magic Moment: Still genuinely believing we'd get something with five minutes to go.

COVENTRY CITY (H)
League Two, Saturday 10th March
Att: 4,087

BLUES 0 SKY BLUES 1 (*McNulty 82 pen*)

Verdict: The complete opposite of Saturday, this was a game in which the two defences were on top and both sides largely cancelled each other out. On a bitter, bitter night there was very little by way of incident and while it wouldn't be right to say it was low on quality from either team, it really wasn't entertaining whatsoever. It was always heading for a 0-0, but then, so irritatingly, we made one mistake and then another, leading to the penalty, which was pretty much the visitor's only shot on target all night. Saturday was a horror show – this was just one of those nights. On another night it would have been us celebrating a 1-0 win in an equally forgettable encounter.

Ref Watch: Brendan Malone – No complaints. We feel pretty ambivalent about this game.

Magic Moment: The cruel irony of my chocolate bar melting in the first half because I'd put it next to my flask. Eventful evening huh?

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (H)
League Two, Saturday 24th February
Att: 4,426

BLUES 1 (*Akinfenwa 45*) **UNITED 1** (*Lewis 90*)

Verdict: We needed to grind out a win after the recent home setbacks and we very nearly did. Like Tuesday we defended well, but also like Tuesday a late defensive lapse cost us dear. The first half was a complete non-event, with Brown's fine save and Bayo's goal on the stroke of halftime the only moments of note. The second half was far more exciting and the visitors had their keeper to thank for keeping them in the game, with the post also coming to their rescue at one point. At the other end, they had their chances, but once more we squeezed them out and restricted their efforts on goal. We looked to be seeing the game out well, but allowing the ball to bounce so many times in our half prior to their equaliser was frustrating. Some people were moaning about us not going for a second goal late on, but the same people might well have moaned about us not keeping possession had an attack broken down and Cambridge scored as a result. It was a frustrating result, but a point earned and not a performance to get too hung up on.

Ref Watch: Nick Kinseley – Was McGinley fouled in the build-up to their goal? Not for our money, he just needed to be stronger. The ref constantly had the away fans on his back, accusing us of cheating whenever one of our players was fouled. The usual comments about anti-football afterwards were laughable too. They committed more fouls and had more bookings but yes, the ref was just biased towards us, we're sure.

Magic Moment: The genuine delight in the Cambridge fan's eyes as they sang their way down Hillbottom Road, having limped to a barely deserved point to strengthen their stranglehold on, erm, fourteenth place. Oh to have such dreams!

BARNET (A)
League Two, Saturday 17th March
Att: 2,103

BEES 0 BLUES 2 (*Jacobson 52 pen, Santos OG 72*)

Verdict: Another solid away performance in which we regularly threatened at one end and nullified the hosts at the other. The thin layer of snow on the pitch didn't help in a first half that never really got going, save for former Chairboys loan-legend John Akinde rattling the bar when he probably should have scored. But we came out a different side after the break and after taking the lead we always looked in control. There was an element of fortune to our second goal (Luke will perhaps feel aggrieved to see it go down as an own goal when it looked to be on target anyway) but it was deserved on the balance of play and we could have had a third were it not for a fine double save from Barnet keeper Craig Ross. Tellingly, whilst both sides had eight shots at goal, seven of ours were on target, but the Bees failed to muster a single goal-bound effort.

Ref Watch: Lee Collins – The penalty looked soft, but a correct decision nonetheless. It was a stupid, clumsy challenge by Ryan Watson and was only ever likely to end in a spot kick.

Magic Moment: O'Nien's snow angel celebration.

CRAWLEY TOWN (A)
League Two, Wednesday 21st March
Att: 2,133

RED DEVILS 2 (*Ahearne-Grant 33, Camara 83*) **BLUES 3** (*Tyson 25, Akinfenwa 39, Jombati 62*)

Verdict: We went back into the top three with what is becoming a rather typical 'Gazmania' Wycombe performance, e.g. shipping soft goals, but outscoring the opposition. After a quiet opening the game sparked into life and a well-worked corner routine saw Tyson backheel home. A combination of slack defending and less-than-convincing goalkeeping saw Crawley level soon after, but we just went straight back up the pitch and retook the lead, with Bayo nodding home. An open first half came to a close with Crawley's Josh Payne somehow getting just a yellow after launching himself into a shocking studs-up challenge on O'Nien.

Town started the second half well, but after Sido grabbed the third we looked comfortable and were unlucky not to add a fourth. Out of nothing, the hosts pulled one back when Sido Sido'd himself to lose possession in a bad area, but as the game entered stoppage time, Mark Connolly, who had only just been booked for a cynical trip on Gape, earned a second yellow for an appalling challenge on O'Nien that arguably should have been a straight red. Crawley lost all discipline, with some of their players having to be restrained by stewards as they angrily accused Luke of playacting (he went off injured and missed the next game). This and the bitter post-match squealing from Harry Kewell just made our win all the sweeter.

Ref Watch: Graham Horwood – Weak and pretty poor for both sides, but Crawley can have no complaints about the sending off (although apparently they did).

Magic Moment: Bayo equalling his best-ever season tally with eight games still to go.

PORT VALE (H)
League Two, Saturday 24th March
Att: 4,620

BLUES 0 VALIANTS 0

Verdict: Vale came into this game in dire form and to that end we probably expected to turn up and win comfortably. However, they clearly looked at this game and decided a point would be a good result and set themselves up accordingly. They got men behind the ball, defended in numbers, cut out our passing, ran the clock down and worked hard for the result. It was rather similar to ourselves four years ago when we went to Scunthorpe and came away with a vital 0-0 draw on the way to eventually staying up. Tyson and Freeman got little change out of the full-backs and, for the second home game running, when we did get beyond the defence we came up against a decent goalkeeper. A frustrating afternoon and an unexpected setback, but at this stage of the season with everyone playing for something, easy wins are going to be few and far between.

Ref Watch: Lee Swabey – This never felt like a dirty game, but there were lots of fouls and plenty of gamesmanship on show. The ref never really got to grips with this and there were some real head-scratching decisions. Multiple fouls on Bayo went ignored as per and the failure to award us a clear corner right at the end of the game rather summed things up.

Magic Moment: Passing last season's points total with seven games left to play.

NOTTS COUNTY (A)
League Two, Friday 30th March
Att: 8,038

MAGPIES 0 BLUES 0

Verdict: Like Port Vale six days before, we'll be pretty happy with this result, which keeps us four points ahead of our fourth-placed hosts. County weren't exactly all over us, generally the game was pretty even, but the hosts had the better of the chances and twice hit the woodwork, while Mark Nolan was sent to the stands after Shola Ameobi got nothing but grass stains for his tumble in the box as the game became increasingly bad-tempered. Wycombe improved after the break, with Jombati and Akinfenwa going close and Tyson having a goal ruled out, but in reality neither side really did enough to deserve a win.

Ref Watch: Ben Toner – Poor and card happy; awarding 5 yellows to Notts and 4 to us as he struggled to control a niggly game. The bookings for Tyson and JJ looked harsh. Conversely, El-Abd was lucky to get away with a high boot on Ameobi. It was an honest attempt to play the ball, but 'you see 'em given'. That said, his refusal to award a penalty that so enraged Nolan looked correct. If there was contact it was minimal and Ameobi went down far too easily. Similarly, replays suggest the decision to disallow Tyson's goal was the right one. Things inevitably boiled over, with Ameobi escaping with just a booking after appearing to elbow El-Abd and the Wycombe captain also cautioned for the melee that followed.

Magic Moment: Michael Harriman making his first appearance since September.

GRIMSBY TOWN (H)
League Two, Monday 2nd April
Att: 5,215

BLUES 2 (*El-Abd 60, Kashket 68*) **MARINERS 1** (*Woodfall 15*)

Verdict: The easiest game of our run-in on paper, there were nonetheless concerns going into this one, with the recent home setbacks against Morecambe and Port Vale serving as warnings. We started with high intensity against a side that was always likely to defend in numbers and try to catch us on the break. Lo and behold, they did just that, but was this a blessing or a curse for them? The simple idea was that they had something to defend, but it meant they sat back even more than they might otherwise have done. The goalmouth scrambles and bodies-on-the-line defending was admirable, but it was always doubtful that they could sustain it for the whole game. We didn't panic and knew that the door would eventually open if we kept hammering away on it and the equaliser swung momentum our way. In truth it could have been four or five as we peppered their goal, but at the same time we were thankful for some wayward finishing from the struggling visitors. A decent game between two sides desperate for points and a win that sets us up very nicely for the run-in.

Ref Watch: Chris Sarginson – A REFEREE WHO AWARDS A FREE-KICK TO BAYO WHEN HE'S HAVING HIS SHIRT PULLED! GOD BLESS YOU SIR! Admittedly it took two or three times before he noticed, but we're very grateful nonetheless. He also let the game flow and generally handled proceedings very well.

Magic Moment: Scotty Kashket scoring another goal – for the first time since the final day of last season. Welcome back little genius!

YEOVIL TOWN (A)
League Two, Saturday 14th April
Att: 3,307

GLOVERS 0 BLUES 1 (*Williams 79*)

Verdict: If Yeovil have been something of a bogey side for us over the years, then Huish Park is one big snotty nostril; just two wins and four draws in fifteen visits. This record didn't look like improving in a spectacularly dull first half, in which the only incidents of note were Luke going off injured and Town hitting the woodwork. Often this season we've been poor in the first half but improved after the break. Not this time. The only highlights in the next thirty minutes were Town hitting the woodwork again and a pigeon flying over the away end. The game was crying out for Tyson and he was duly sent on with 13 minutes left to play. He immediately skinned his man and won a freekick. The freekick led to a corner and the corner led to a goalmouth scramble that ended with Williams scoring a crucial first Chairboys goal.

Ref Watch: Gavin Ward – A tad fussy in the first half and upset the locals once or twice, but generally pretty good. One of the linesmen looked about twelve, but he too did well.

Magic Moment: Williams' acrobatic celebration and finally getting a league double over a side that have been a thorn in our side since the 1980s.

Elsie's Big Stride



Meet Elsie...



Elsie is 3 years old; she has a wonderful sense of humour, an infectious laugh and a determination which is truly inspiring. Just like her Daddy she is a massive fan of the Chairboys! Elsie was born 10 weeks prematurely and at 11 months we discovered that she had Cerebral Palsy.

We have been told that Elsie needs an operation called SDR. Without this operation the prediction is that Elsie will become a full time wheelchair user, losing her ability to walk and her independence. This operation is not currently funded by the NHS and we need to raise the £50,000 needed to give Elsie the treatment she needs. Our little Wycombe fan needs your help! Please text 'ELSI98 £5' to 70070 or visit our Just Giving page.



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Elsie's Big Stride #elsiesbigstride

**Elsie's
Big Stride**

Back despite popular demand...

AWAY DAY TRAVELS ON THE ROAD WITH YOUR MUM OR SOMETHING

BARNET – Despite the recent good form and the short trip, we were a little thin on the ground as we set off for North London. Maybe some were put off by the £23 ticket price or the Siberian weather. With Handy Cross receiving a glamorous, state of the art style makeover (translation: a lightbulb needs changing in a traffic light - our money's on a green one) the hardy souls who did set off from Wintery Wycombe were treated to a scenic tour of some of the Home Counties' more attractive housing estates, but none the less we arrived at our watering hole, **The Crooked Billet**, in good time.

This is a regular haunt for our us, a pub adorned with Arsenal memorabilia and, as one of our number commented, when we first visited the landlord still had a Gunners season ticket. It's deceptive in its size, somewhat compartmentalized if you will, meaning would be able to take a full coach should we have had one. The fact that we didn't meant queueing time was limited, as, sadly, was the range of ales. 'Side Pocket' (Tring Brewery) was the most popular, followed up by the tasty 'Young's Special' and the reliable 'London Pride' in third. Yet the somewhat limited ale choices were appeased by the food – big portions for under a tenner, with chips so big they were basically full-sized potatoes in cuboid-form. Some of our number opted for the 'F Hot Chilli'. The F, we assume, stood for 'Flipping'. (Hey, we're a family friendly organisation.)



We departed shortly after 2, with the assurance that we'd be welcome back next season. Barnet's current form may put a dent in those plans, not to mention our promotion aspirations. The congestion made it a little tight before kick-off, but in truth this was masterful timing from Colin, as we had time to park, get through the turnstiles, have a comfort stop and find our seats all just in time for kick-off. Maximum pub time, minimum sitting in cold weather time. Good job all round, see you next seas...oh...

YEOVIL – A coach of about 20-odd WWISC-ites left the Chair Metropolis shortly after nine and despite a brief spell of traffic on the A303 giving us plenty of time to take in the views of Stonehenge, we arrived in Yeovil in pretty good time. Yeovil have been something of a bogey team for us over the years and the same sadly goes for our away trips down there. Despite some shopping around, we've never been able to find a really decent pub down that neck of the woods and to that end, this was another new establishment, as we gave **The Great Lyde** the chance to impress.

Spoiler alert: It didn't.

We arrived at the pub bang on time, only to be greeted by a red-face barman who told us that the landlord, despite expecting us, had decided to drive off somewhere, taking the keys to the till, but not his phone, leaving us with a long, thirsty wait for his return. Still, we were probably having a better time of it than our editor, who showed up nearly an hour and a half late, having 'enjoyed' a tour of Somerset on a rail replacement bus.

When the landlord finally did show, there wasn't a huge array to choose from anyway; just three Palmers ales, plus the usual lagers for the unrefined philistines in our number. Of these slim pickings, 'Copper' was very nice, a tasty pale ale with a lovely colour. Unfortunately, the 'Dorset Gold' was not so great and the 'IPA' tasted (and smelled) decidedly off. The offending pints were sent back and the barman changed the barrel, but the new cask wasn't much better – either a faulty batch or a dreadful beer full stop.

The landlord came out to tell us that our food was going to be 10-15 minutes late due to a problem in the kitchen. 10-15 minutes turned out to be more like 30-35, but eventually the first dishes started to come through in drips and drabs, Teresa turning waitress to help speed proceedings up. Unfortunately, some of the meals came out cold and had to be sent back the same way as the foul-tasting beers. The kitchen appeared to be in chaos and by the time the last few meals came out, the rest of us had long cleared our plates. The food that was served on time and at the correct temperature was ok, but nothing special and probably not worth the £9-10 average. Brian was particularly disappointed that the advertised "homemade tartar sauce" for his fish and chips was served in Heinz sachets! On the plus side, the place had ok décor, friendly and chatty locals, plenty of space to accommodate us and a bulldog that was either very placid or simply too fat and lazy to be aggressive. The locals were also good enough to tell us we were far more pleasant guests than the Luton fans they'd hosted the previous week!

The setbacks meant we left a little later than we'd intended, but the short distance to the ground meant we still arrived in plenty of time to get in and settle ourselves on the terrace. A dreadful game was livened up ten minutes from the end by Randell Williams' winner, but our joy at the result was short-lived when the coach got stuck in fourth gear, meaning we couldn't go any faster than 40 miles an hour for the entire journey home.

A rubbish pub, a rubbish game and a rubbish journey home, but at least the three points make it less likely that we're going to have to do this away trip next season.

FAKE NEWS

Wycombe are 'one-dimensional' says opposition manager after heavy defeat

An opposition manager has described Wycombe Wanderers as one-dimensional, after his side cruised to a 4-0 defeat at Adams Park. "They play very direct: straight towards our goal, all the time, as if that is somehow what football is all about" he graciously told reporters. "I'm very disappointed with the goals. Very soft. One was a thumping header from a good corner, one was the result of a slick passing move, another was after Nathan Tyson streaked past my entire defence from the halfway line and the last was a superb long range strike, so yes, very, very one-dimensional, basically just a hoofball team and on another day, if Wycombe hadn't been there defending their goal and attacking ours, I think we would have won that comfortably. You always know what you're going to get with Wycombe - we just couldn't think of anything to do to counter it."

FA shock as shady chancer turns out to be terrible football club owner

The FA are once again stunned as some dodgy character they allowed to take full control of a football club has turned out to be an utter crook.

"We're not quite sure how he slipped through the net," explained a grey-haired man in a suit, "he passed our 'fit and proper persons test' after ticking YES to 'Do you have all the money you say you do' and 'Do you promise to be good'. However, it turns out he's actually bankrupt and wanted in seven countries, including Britain."

"Now he's absolutely destroying a community club that's been around for over one hundred years, but sadly there's not much we can do about it as we're busy trying to get the Accrington chairman sent to prison for forty years for giving his left-back a chicken nugget."

Wycombe fan banned for buying 'I was there when Beany scored' T-shirt

A Wycombe supporter has been banned from Adams Park after purchasing an 'I was there when Beany scored' T-shirt, despite not actually being at the 4-3 win over Carlisle. The fan, who has opted for anonymity, was quick to part with his £10 when the T-Shirts were released in the days after the game, but the club were forced to hand him a lifetime banning order after several witnesses came forward to confirm the fan had been elsewhere that day.

The fan was incensed and claims the T-shirts were mis-sold. In a statement through his lawyers he said *"I purchased the T-Shirt with the legend 'I was there when Beany scored' emblazoned upon it, based on the fact I was at Wembley in May 2015 when Marcus Bean scored a penalty in the shoot-out against Southend. As I understood it, the T-shirts made no reference to the game or situation to which the phrase referred."*

The club have however pointed out that the date of the dreadlocked midfielder's goal against Carlisle also features on the shirt and anyone who wasn't at that specific game is forbidden from buying, wearing or even being near one.

"I didn't realise this when I made the purchase" the fan said, *"I'm calling trading standards"*.

In other news

- Randell Williams found under pile of coats.
- Adebayo Akinfenwa called 'fat' by obese opposition fan in skinnyfit shirt.
- Wycombe players devastated to discover that loss has ruined random Arsenal-supporting punter's accumulator.
- Sol Campbell still unemployed.

TALES OF QUARTERED BLUE (Ode to a Wycombe Season)

When scions of posterity
Are dandled upon aged knees
And chance to ask me seriously
To recount Wycombe memories
I'll reach into my ancient mind
And smile at scenes long left behind
I'll tell them tales of quartered blue
Of Gareth's boys, and hope renewed

Of Adams Park bathed in the sun
With early August just begun
The season stretched out up ahead
Through our fair land, the length and breadth
The peaks and troughs as yet unseen
Those Chiltern hills, so bright and green
As fresh with hope, the thousands saw
Us battle Lincoln to a draw

From there, imagination soars
As I recall the Chairboy roars
With goals galore to entertain
Through Autumn, Winter, cold and rain
And as I ponder games anew
The players all come into view
I'll think of every Wycombe man
Who donned the shirt, and made his stand

Of Bayo, the very heart and soul
Full of assists, and vital goals
Who, most of all, set tones of joy
Which permeated all our boys
Of Tyson, Paris, and CMS
Who terrorised when at their best
And better sights were rarely seen
Than Freeman flying down the wing

Of Bloomfield, such a vital part
Of Wycombe's history and heart
With Sam, Gape, Bean and Luke O'Nien
Our midfield went from thin to fine
Though injuries took their greedy toll
And we were robbed of Kashket's goals
Our 4-3-3 could score at will
With scoreboards rarely showing 'nil'

And still we come to those behind
Who stemmed the hordes and held their line
Of Adam, Stewart, Sido, Scarr
Who persevered when times were hard
Scottie's saves and Harri's runs
Through battles lost and battles won
And still a place is in my book
For JJ and his sweet left foot

And all the loanees, young and bright
Who sometimes set the game alight
Of Eze, Josh, Tafari Moore
Who with McGinley held the fort
And Ainsworth shall receive his place
Within the memory's fond embrace
A man of poise and dignity
Who helped a club from off it's knees

And all of those dramatic games!
Those last gasp goals of instant fame!
The cheering fans, the rippling nets
Crewe foiled twice right at the death
The Cambridge game, with Eze's brace
Goals so sublime, with style and grace
The Swindon tilt, late put to bed
By one quick nod of Bayo's head

And still I come to songs unsung
The Essex enemy twice undone
That trip into foul Luton's land
Returning with a win in hand
Crawley disposed by four to nil
Three goals for Craig, his boots to fill
And even losses played a part
In showing their resilient heart

But most of all, the majesty
Of beating Carlisle, four to three
When ten brave men, so long beset
By fickle fate and drowned in sweat
Came back so deep in added time
To win the contest at the line
The boot of Bean, so long denied
Confirmed the turning Wycombe tide

Yet though these tales are tightly knit
The final scenes are left unwrit
And as our boys yet gamely fight
The future lies just out of sight
But whether 'tis a glorious end
Or troubled times are henceforth penned
We shan't forget these cherished days
Enduring, as a golden haze

And so, I'll find myself aware
Of my dear offspring's honest stare
My aged self, again bestirred
Will bid them hang upon my words
They'll laugh, they'll cry, they'll scarce believe
The things they'll hear upon that eve
The scenes, the games, the players all
Will rise again upon my call

I'll tell them stories till the dark
Descends upon the quiet hearth
And all those ghosts of years gone by
Dance anew before their eyes
My tired voice shall crack at last
With painting pictures from the past
From telling tales of quartered blue
Of Gareth's boys, and hope renewed

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to, or helped sell The Wanderer this season and thank you to all our readers.

The next edition of The Wanderer will be released on the first home league game of next season. If you have any articles, pictures, jokes, cartoons, anecdotes or points of view that you would like contribute, please e-mail them to: **jonnyking1985@gmail.com**.

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 22nd July**.

The Wanderer – By the fans, for the fans

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