

THE WANDERER

Issue 106, Season 2016/2017

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Heartbreak at White Hart Lane



AKINFENWA INTERVIEW

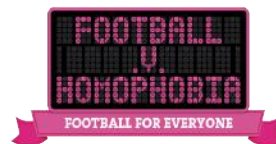
**"We get promoted –
me and Luke will sing a song from Lion King!"**



By the fans



For the fans





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

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Editorial

WOW!

What a difference a few months make! The last time I sat down to write these notes, we were 21st in the league and in danger of being sucked into an early-season relegation scrap. The football was dire, we were struggling to score goals, a third of our squad was out injured, we had just lost 2-0 at home to Barnet and were not exactly relishing an FA Cup first round trip to Fratton Park.

Of course, we won that game and three months later we go into today's match, also against Pompey, on the back of superb unbeaten run and well in the League Two playoff mix. Not only that, but we are playing some good football, Bayo and Kashket are banging the goals in, the injured players are mostly back, we've paid off our debts to the previous owner, we've signed Dominic Gape and Sam Saunders, we're through to the semi-finals of the Football League Trophy and we've just enjoyed a fantastic FA Cup fourth round game at White Hart Lane.

I said at the end of my last editorial that one day the success will come. Now of course, it's only February and we all know they don't give out the smiley face stickers until May, but what we can say is we are clearly heading in the right direction and just like I said three months ago, this is in no small part thanks to **us**, the fans, who play such an active role in taking our fan-owned, fan-funded club forward.

Whether you're investing your money in the Share Scheme or 500 Club, whether you're a volunteer who sells programmes or does maintenance work, whether you sit on the Fans' Council, or write for the matchday programme, or scream your lungs out for the lads on a Saturday afternoon, keep doing what you're doing. The players are doing us proud on the pitch, but the busy last three months of the season are going to be a physical and mental challenge for our small squad. We know they'll continue to give it their all, so let's carry on matching that effort in everything we do and help drive them on to the end of the season and whatever glory that might bring.

Jonny

Chairman's Notes

What a difference a few weeks make! Players have returned from injury and we have a potential strike force of Scott Kasket and Adebayo Akinfenwa; Kit Kat and the Beast! For several games on the trot we've heard 'Scotty Kasket Scores Another Goal' being bellowed out and its a great feeling! As I write these notes we are on a run of 15 games unbeaten – a quite incredible transformation. All good runs have to come to an end at some time though and with two away cup games this week who knows what might happen.

The Checktrade Trophy game will not have quite as many of us attending as the FA Cup fourth round tie away to Spurs. I am sure all Wycombe fans will have a great day out at White Hart Lane. Hopefully a report of that game will make the deadline for this latest mag. Thanks to Jonny in anticipation for squeezing the Spurs game in.

Hats off to all 51 Wycombe fans that made the trip to Blackpool for the previous round in the Checktrade Trophy. A long way for a midweek game and perhaps there may be a few more at Mansfield. It's also great that so many fans have put their hands in their pockets and supported the '500 Club'. The target has very nearly been reached, which is tremendous. I would encourage anyone that can run to it to join. It has certainly helped Gareth strengthen the squad with first the permanent signing of Dominic Gape and then the brilliant return of Sam Saunders.

Things are certainly looking bright at the moment and long may it continue.

In the league, it does look like Donny and Argyle should grab two of the three spots for promotion - let's hope our good form continues and you never know, we may not be too far behind!

We should have two full coaches going to Spurs. If some of you going have not been with us before, I hope you have an enjoyable time with us and perhaps come again.

Come on you Blues!

Ian

WWISC NEWS

MEMBERSHIP

Alright, so the season's getting on a bit now, but we're not fussy and will happily accept any applications to join WWISC for the remainder of the 2016/2017 season.

Membership fees are £10 for adults, £8 for seniors and £5 for students and under 16's. Membership entitles you to free (yes, free!) copies of The Wanderer, a discount on matchday parking, discount on WWISC coaches, the chance to vote in our end of season awards and other offers throughout the season. Forms are available on our website www.wwisc.co.uk or our stall on Hillbottom Road on home matchdays. Alternatively, email Teresa Slevin at wwisc@wwisc.co.uk or contact us on Twitter; [@wwisc1994](https://twitter.com/wwisc1994).

AWAY COACH TRAVEL

We will continue to run coaches to as many away games as there is demand for, so if you are planning on travelling to a match, please do join us. We're nice and the more fans travelling on the coach, the lower the price is for everyone. You can find details on how to book towards the back of the magazine.

PARKING

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

MONTY SEYMOUR 1914-2017

We were all deeply saddened by the news of Monty's passing in January. As well as serving as club President for fifty years, Monty also made many key contributions to the town of High Wycombe - a true local legend who will never be forgotten. Our thoughts are with his friends and family.

MARCUS BEAN – WWISC SPONSORED PLAYER FOR 2016/2017

(He's the one in the middle)



FANS COUNCIL

Many Wycombe fans will be aware that a Fans Council was set up towards the end of last season with the aim of bridging the gap between the supporters and the Football Club. So far the Council has been a huge success, assisting with the 500 Club that has, to date, raised over £70,000 for Gareth Ainsworth to use in the January transfer window.

The council holds regular meetings with members of the board and Supporters Trust. Head of the Council Mark Bowring recently met with Club Chairman Andrew Howard and Trust Director Trevor Stroud and it was agreed that the council should include an official panel, consisting of five members; a head plus one fan from each home section of the ground; The Family Stand, The Frank Adams Stand, The Beechdean Stand and the Valley End Terrace.

The panel will host open monthly meetings which supporters are encouraged to attend. This will give fans a platform to meet on a regular basis, to share ideas and discuss any aspect of the club that they wish and give their perspective as supporters. The panel will then relay all ideas, questions and views to the Club and Trust before reporting back to the fans. As with the Supporters Trust, the five panel members will be voted in or out in an annual AGM.

The Fans Council are now seeking four new members to join Mark Bowring on the panel. Applicants will need to be in a position to give up some time, particularly on match days. This will involve spending time in the control tower, bars and kiosks etc. in order to get a good understanding of how the club works behind the scenes so that they are better placed to answer questions during the meetings.

The Council are seeking one person each from the Family Stand, Terrace, Frank Adams, & Beechdean Stands. If you are interested in joining this exciting supporter led initiative please email

fanscouncil@wycombewandererstrust.com with your full name, contact number, where you usually sit/stand, and how you feel you can bring a positive contribution to the meetings.

In addition to this, the Council are also seeking a volunteer to take notes and keep the minutes from each meeting. These meetings will take place on the last Thursday of each month and will be held in Monty's from 7.30pm, the first one being scheduled for [Thursday 23rd February](#).



ARE YOU GETTING YOUR SHARE?

Invest in the Wycombe Wanderers Trust Community Share Offer to help **YOUR** club achieve survival, stability and success for generations to come.

HELP YOUR CLUB

Visit wycombewandererstrust.com
for more details.

COMMUNITY SHARE SCHEME UPDATE

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

Do, please, consider investing in the scheme, either by setting up a 5-year payment plan (monthly or annually) or by donating a one-off payment of whatever you can afford. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum is £100,000. Anyone can invest at any level and can spread their payments over the next 5 years. All contributions, small or large, are greatly appreciated and will all go towards helping **your** club.

If you would like to invest, or find out more about the scheme, you can find a brochure with all the necessary information at www.wycombewandererstrust.com. Alternatively, Trust Directors will be at the Trust Table before each home game to receive your application or to answer any questions. Questions can be also emailed to the Trust at shares@wycombewandererstrust.com.

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO COVERAGE

Phil Catchpole (Founder of the Wycombe Wanderers Mexican Supporters Club) is continuing his great work, reporting on Wycombe Wanderers games for BBC Three Counties and their Sports Show. After years of us feeling overlooked by BBC3C, Phil has done a fantastic job increasing the amount of coverage the club gets and the more Wycombe fans that interact with the station, the more coverage we should get.

Fans can tune in to Three Counties Sport every Saturday from 2 - 5pm. This is followed by Three Counties 5-0-5, which is your opportunity to call, text or tweet your opinions from the afternoon's game. Midweek games are also covered from 7pm.

The best frequency for listening to Three Counties in High Wycombe is 98.0FM. You can also tune in on 95.5FM, 103.8FM and 104.5FM from other areas in Beds, Bucks and Herts, as well as accessing the show on iPlayer.

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

CALL: 08459 455555

TWEET: @BBC3CR or @bluntphil

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

Phil also writes an excellent blog; 'Phil Catchpole – Football from the Frontline', which you can visit at www.philcatchpole.com.

Football v Homophobia

Our thanks to Lou Englefield and Scott Lawley at Football v Homophobia for sending us this article on the work they do.

Football v Homophobia (FvH) takes place year round and the campaign has its Month of Action in February. It is an international campaign to tackle homophobia and prejudice against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) people in football. The aim of FvH is to make football safe and welcoming for everyone.

Since starting our campaign in 2010, we have found that attitudes in football are changing for the better. Nevertheless, in the past few months, polls have shown that whilst football fans would be more accepting than ever of a gay player in their team, as many as 72% of football fans have heard homophobic abuse at football matches.

We firmly believe that fans and the involvement of fans groups are a key part of our campaign to bring about culture change in football and so we welcome the invitation to contribute to this edition of The Wanderer. We also recognise the fantastic contribution that Wycombe Wanderers have made to our campaign in the past. Wycombe were one of the first clubs to support the campaign by warming up pre-match in FvH t-shirts. Matt Bloomfield has also shown amazing support for us and was the first professional footballer to sign the UK Government's charter against homophobia in sport back in 2011.

There will be many Football v Homophobia events across the UK and beyond during the month of February, and our campaign continues throughout the year. As fans, there are many ways that you can get involved, some examples are:

- Always take action on homophobia and transphobia. If you feel confident to challenge comments or behaviour yourself, then standing up to homophobia and transphobia can help make football welcoming to everyone. If you don't feel confident or safe at a game or in any football environment, you can take action by making a report to Kick It Out. All the information you need can be found here <http://www.kickitout.org/get-involved/report-it/>
- If your club is taking action and has designated a game, you can support them on match day at the ground or on social media.
- Hold a supporters' meeting to discuss LGBT inclusion and tackling homophobia and transphobia in football (Football v Homophobia can often provide a speaker)
- If you want to get your hands on FvH branded merchandise, to support any action, check out our shop: footballvhomophobia.com/shop or go to our resources page and download any of our posters and fliers footballvhomophobia.com/resources
- If you would like to join our supporter scheme, go to www.footballvhomophobia.com/supporter-scheme

You can find information about Football v Homophobia at the following:

- Website: <http://www.footballvhomophobia.com>
- Email: info@footballvhomophobia.com
- Twitter: @fvhtweets
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fvhbt/>
- Instagram: [football_v_homophobia](https://www.instagram.com/football_v_homophobia)

Monty Seymour

1914-2017

The word 'legend' is vastly overused nowadays. It is often bounded around lightly, or in jest and in most cases it's lost all meaning. However in Monty Seymour's case it doesn't even do him justice. Monty has quite rightly earned a place in Wanderers folklore thanks to his sterling work during his tenure. In truth, no words seem adequate to pay tribute to a man who has been part of this club in one form or another for over 60 years.

Supporters were deeply saddened to hear the news that Club President Monty Seymour had passed away on the 12th of January at the age of 102 years old. Club officials, players, former heroes and fans paid tribute to the man whose association with the club goes back to the 1950s, when Wycombe Wanderers were a leading light in the amateur game.

Monty was born in 1914 in Monkton Farm of Little Marlow. When he reached secondary school age he won a place at Borlase School and upon ending his studies he began a career as a pharmacist, first in Hughes Chemist, in High Wycombe, then starting his own pharmacy a few years later. Monty served in the RAF during WWII, seeing action in both India and Burma at the end of the war.

His first official role at Wycombe began when, after years of being a fan, he became the Chairboys' 10th Club President in 1966. Last year he celebrated his 50th anniversary in that role. His tenure saw many changes at the club, as well as highlights such as being Isthmian league champions four times in the 1970s and 1980s, winning the FA Trophy twice, promotion to the Football League as Conference champions and promotion into Division 2, amongst many others. He had seen 21 different managers spearhead the club, with some making their mark with the Blues more than others.

Monty was involved in many organisations; not only the Blues, but also the Wycombe Royal British Legion club, which he helped set up and where he was President for over 50 years. He also had roles in the Charter Trustees, the Rotary Club and the Wycombe Guarantors. He was also heavily involved with the football club's annual Poppy Appeal.

A party was held at Adams Park to mark his 100th birthday in 2014. It was standing room only as hundreds of family, friends and well-wishers attended to raise a glass to him. The club marked the 50th year of his reign as President by renaming the Adams Park club bar which had held his birthday function to "Monty's" in his honour. One of the club's most successful former managers, Brian Lee, who led the club from 1968-76, said of Monty; "Monty is a gentleman, and a very generous gentleman" he then went on to recount a tale from the 1975 FA Cup tie at Middlesbrough, when Monty commandeered a police car to catch up with the team bus after it left him at the ground following the game.

His excuse? "I hadn't finished my drink."

A statement on the Wycombe Wanderers Trust website said his funeral details will be announced once they are confirmed.

Rest in Peace Monty.

Special offer for Wanderer readers

Derek Adams' Bitter Whine



Made in the heart of Devon, Derek Adams' Bitter Whine uses only the sourest grapes to give it it's famously bitter flavour, guaranteed to leave a nasty taste in the mouth. We are convinced you will enjoy the saltiness of Derek Adams' Bitter Whine, but if for any reason our whine is not a winner then Derek Adams accepts no responsibility whatsoever and will probably just blame it on the ref.

Buy while stocks last as we tend to fade away after Christmas.

Order now and we guarantee to bottle it by May.

Don't drink and drive – it doesn't take much to leave Home Park with three points

GO CHOIRBOYS!

A USA SOCCER EXPERT ON WYCOMBE'S SEASON SO FAR

Having failed to make post-season, coach Ainsworth had to do some serious work to improve his roster in the close season draft. Choirboys franchise owner Randy Howard managed to make some spending dollars available from his Frozen Yoghurt business and coach Ainsworth's first draft was goal striker Dave Southall from the Boston Red Sox little league soccer franchise. He also managed to draft back French right side attacker, Parisian Cowan Hall alongside Miles Westtown and central defensive blockers Bill D Havilland and Max 'Mickey' Miller.

At the club's new jersey launch, he unveiled the transfer of Andy 'The Bear' Akinwa from Wimbledon Wombles crazy soccer club. The Bear is famous for being one of the top scoring pros on John Madden's NFL video game and for his 'Bear-all on' clothing range. Also brought in to the clubhouse was Scotty Brown, a goalshot denyer who would be hoping to beam the choirboys up.

The season opener at Cruelly Town didn't go too well, as Coach Ainsworth's men went down by a score of one to zero with many of the players ending up on the disabled list. The home season opener saw the side pick up their first victory points when Sidney Jombati's field goal and Andy Stewards overtime goal-strike sealed a win against the Grimsby Fishermen.

The Choirboys then went zero for four, despite victory in the Check-it-out-now Shield against Northtown Cobblers. They managed 5 sensational homers in a victory over the Crew, but it was in November that they really started hitting them out of the ballpark. A victory against Pompeii Sailormen in the Franchise Association Cup set them on a roll and they picked up a bonus-time goal victory at the Cambridge Educators, which sealed the Choirboys first legal victory on the road. They would then go twelve for zero in Big League fixtures and the Franchise Association cup saw new draft from the Three Orient Kings Scott Cash-get score a grand-slam triple of goal shots at Chesterfield Spires to send them through to Phase Three. They faced Little Leaguers Sourbridge Glassmen and edged them by two to one after the Glassmen had rattled the pipes. This set up a Phase Four showdown against Major Leaguers, the Tottenham Whitespurs. They also enjoyed success in the Check-it-out-now Shield with victories over the Millwallkee Lions and a deathstrike shoot out win at Blackpool on the West Coast.

Coach Ainsworth also added Colonel Sandy Saunders to the roster in the mid-season draft, meaning the Choirboys have a lot of centralised middle attack field options for the upcoming roadtrips. The Bear has also been awesome with many headstrike goals. Feed the bear and he will touchdown. Coach Ainsworth will be real pleased so far and Randy Howard must be major stoked that he didn't listen to the ballpark fans telling him to shout 'You're Fired!' at the coach when they were one of the losingest sides in the EFL.

Throwing Good Money After Bad - The EFL Trophy Fines Farce

As you're no doubt aware, towards the end of last year, the EFL fined several Football League sides for fielding weakened teams in the Football League Trophy, which this season has been renamed the Checkatrade Trophy.

Luton and Portsmouth were fined £15,000 each for three separate offences, with Bradford, Blackpool, Bristol Rovers, MK Dons, Millwall, Charlton, Peterborough, Sheffield United, Southend and Fleetwood all receiving fines of £3,000 each. The fines totalled £60,000 from twelve clubs who contravened team strength rules.

The competition, which was relaunched this season to include Under-23 academy sides from the top league clubs, has provoked an angry reaction from supporters and calls for a boycott of the games. One round of games in November 2016 saw two-thirds of fixtures recording an average attendance of less than 1,000 people, with Portsmouth's game against Bristol Rovers setting the worst post-war attendance record for a competitive game at Fratton Park, with just 1,200 fans attending.

Extracts from the FA statement on the fines include:

“All of the offences punished were due to a failure to meet competition rule 7.3 of fielding a full-strength team in and during all matches” and thrillingly also “The full-strength policy for the season 2016-17 competition was five of the starting line-up must have started the previous or following game (a reduction from six in season 2015-16) or five of the starting 11 who have made the most starting appearances in League and domestic cup competitions fixtures during the current season.”

The fines have been met with dismay and annoyance by the clubs and the footballing community in general. It also leads to two questions. Firstly, who should be picking the teams, an anonymous official in the FA or the manager? Secondly, does this rule go against a time-honoured tradition of 'blooding' youth, reserve and academy players in cup competitions.

Whilst I am sure that the FA brought in the full-strength policy with the best of intentions, it simply is counterproductive, it removes the choice that the clubs should have when picking the team. Players get tired, they get injured or have loss of form and therefore I would suggest that their inclusion has a greater chance of impeding their team's performance and hindering the development of the young players who were left out.

So do these rules go against tradition? In short; yes, they do. As fans, we all love the seeing the next exciting youngster burst onto the scene and becoming an instant fan favourite. However, not all players get that lucky break, no matter how talented they are. Often, reserve players need gradual game-time and experience before making those tender steps into regular first team action. Of course they can get that to an extent in friendlies and reserve/youth games, but it has often been said that players get far more out of playing in a first team game, in front of a bigger crowd and in a game with some meaning. Therefore, it would in my opinion make perfect sense for them to play in cup competitions, helping them develop and potentially going on to cement a first team position.

Gary Sweet, Chief Executive of Luton, one of the clubs fined, said;

“We acknowledge our breach of the competition rules, but does our ‘offence’ make a mockery of the competition any more than a club substituting their first-choice goalkeeper after just a couple of minutes of the game to ensure they met the five-player starting rule.

“Which is more in keeping with the spirit of the game? Which supports the competition’s ethos of promoting young talent more?

“That is clearly disingenuous and by fining us this amount the EFL is effectively saying that promoting young talent is only acceptable if they’re with an EPP1 club and they are depriving their own member clubs’ young players access to first-team football.”

The EFL have a contentious issue to resolve, with dropping attendances and a feeling of annoyance from many fans’ groups, leading to far less interest in the competition. If things are allowed to continue, the trophy is in real danger of damaging the importance of cup competitions in English football.

Facepalm

Current events are discussed on the Wycombe Wanderers Facebook Fanclub

This week; The inauguration of President Trump.

“All these people getting salty about Trump. Probably the older generation.”

“Deffo. The ones who sit down and don’t sing at away games.”

“No-one even turned up!”

“Lol! Trump said there was 1.5 million people there!”

“Yeah, but how many of them will be at Exeter away?”

“Bet they turned up for Spurs though.”

“I heard he’s going to ban drones.”

“But we go every week!”

“Trump sworn in. Scenes! Melania giving it limbs!”

“If she doesn’t pitch then she’s tinpot.”

“No pyro, no president!”

“Ainsworth out.”

Q. How many Plymouth Argyle fans does it take to change a lightbulb?

A. 8,000. One to change the bulb and 7,999 to complain how it’s Wycombe’s fault the old one broke.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Wycombe Wanderers 2 Wolves 1

FA Cup Fourth Round, 27th January 2001

Last Saturday's extraordinary game at White Hart Lane was just our second appearance in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Seventeen years ago, almost to the day and in front of a then-record home crowd of 9,617, goals from Andy Rammell and Sam Parkin saw us defeat First Division Wolverhampton Wanderers to advance to the fifth round, in an incredible run that saw us eventually reach the semi-finals.

But what happened to the team that lined up against Wolves that day?

1. Martin Taylor

Legendary goalkeeper who was a key player in our run to the semis, particularly in the fifth round replay against Wimbledon, when he saved Neal Ardley's stoppage time penalty to send the game into extra time, before saving Peter Hawkins' spotkick and scoring his own in the dramatic penalty shootout. Ever present in 2000/01, Taylor was voted club player of the season, becoming the only Wycombe player to win the award three seasons running.

After six seasons and nearly 300 games, Taylor retired from the professional game after an injury hit 2002/03 season and after a single season at Telford United, joined Burton Albion in 2004 as player/goalkeeping coach. In 2009 he joined former club Derby County as goalkeeping coach, before moving on to Sheffield United in 2014. He left in 2015 and is now back with Burton.

17. Mark Rogers

Popular Canadian defender, who became Wycombe's first full international when he made his Canada debut in 2002. After scoring in the third round replay win away at Grimsby, 'Ted' was sadly injured in the fifth round against Wimbledon - although he heroically played on rather than leave Wycombe with ten men – and subsequently missed the rest of the season.

In his fifth season at the club, having made over 150 appearances for the Blues, Ted joined Stevenage Borough initially on loan and then permanently in 2004. Sadly, injuries forced him to retire in 2006, aged just 30 and he returned to Canada, where he was appointed Head Coach of the British Columbia Women's team, before becoming interim Assistant Coach for the Canadian National side. He now works for The Sports Network as a Vancouver Whitecaps pundit and hosts a weekly radio program called 'Footy Soldiers'.

Ted continues to follow Wycombe and is still a good friend to WWISC. He flew over from Canada for the Spurs game and travelled down to London on the WWISC coach.

3. Chris Vinnicombe

The reliable left back and former England U21 international spent six years at Adams Park, making over 250 appearances and winning the 2002 player of the season award before being released in 2004. He returned to his native Devon, spending a season with Tiverton Town before a brief spell in the Conference back at first club Exeter City. He rejoined Tiverton in 2006 and had two more seasons with the club, winning several player of the season awards and managing the Under-18 squad.

In 2008 he joined South-West Peninsula League Premier Division side Witheridge as player-manager, guiding them from the foot of the table to 11th place in his first season. In June 2010 he left to rejoin Tiverton as manager, but stepped down after less than six months. He took over at Tiverton-based Elmore, leaving after just over a year in February 2012 and rejoining Witheridge as a player until the end of the season. The following season saw him appointed first assistant manager and then manager of the club, guiding them to 7th and 6th place finishes over the next two seasons and taking them into the FA Cup for the first time in their history. He left in the summer of 2016.

4. Jason Cousins

Fearsome defender and another Wycombe legend who spent eleven years with the Blues having been a key part of the great Martin O'Neill side of the early nineties. In the semi-final, he famously 'had a quiet word' with Michael Owen after the Liverpool striker took a theatric tumble in the box. That season was 'Psycho's' tenth at the club and the following season he enjoyed a testimonial game against O'Neill's treble-winning Celtic.

Released at the end of the 2001/02 season after playing over 450 games for the Blues, Cousins joined Aldershot, winning the Isthmian League in his one season. After spells at local sides Windsor & Eton and Maidenhead United, he retired from football and now runs his own chauffeuring business.

5. Paul McCarthy

Another uncompromising defender, former Ireland U21 international McCarthy was Wycombe's surprise goal-scoring hero in the cup run, finding the back of the net five times on the way to the semi-finals, including a stunning overhead kick winner in the second round replay against Millwall, a last minute extra-time equaliser in the second round replay at Wimbledon and the opening goal in the famous win at Filbert Street.

However, a series of injuries began to affect his form and he was released in 2003 after seven seasons and over 250 appearances. He joined local rivals Oxford United, leaving after a season and after a brief spell at Hornchurch joined Conference side Gravesend and Northfleet (now Ebbsfleet United) in November 2004. Appointed captain, he made some 150 appearances for the Kent side, winning the FA Trophy in 2008. A year later he was appointed player-assistant manager before leaving in 2013. After a brief spell at Crowborough AFC, he became a coach at Northfleet College.

33. Matt Brady

Young winger who was signed from non-league Boreham Wood in 1999. Despite showing some early promise, scoring on his full debut away at Preston North End, he never realised his full potential and was released at the end of the 2000/01 season, having made just eighteen first team appearances.

He now runs a Personal Assistant service, Limelight Access Lifestyle in Clerkenwell, London which boasts a number of Premiership and International footballers among its clients.

28. Michael Simpson

Tough-tackling central midfielder 'Simmo' was something of a cult figure with Wycombe fans, an engine in the middle of the park with a tendency to get himself into trouble with the man in black. He scored twice in the FA Cup run, including in the third round replay at Grimsby, but was harshly sent off in the fifth round replay at Wimbledon.

Simmo spent seven seasons at Wycombe, playing over 300 games and winning the 2003 player of the season award. However, he was of a number of senior players released by Tony Adams after relegation to League Two in 2004. He joined Leyton Orient, making over 100 appearances as he helped the O's win promotion to League One. After a lengthy spell out with injury, he joined Conference side Burton Albion, making over 100 appearances as he helped the Brewers to the Conference title and promotion to the Football League. After a season at Eastwood Town and a brief spell at the delightfully-named Graham Street Prims, he hung up his boots and returned to his hometown of Nottingham, where he works as a postman and coaches at Notts County's academy.

22. Dannie Bulman

Plucked from non-league Ashford Town, Dannie made an immediate impact at Wycombe, scoring an injury-time equaliser on his debut when he charged down a clearance from Bristol Rovers 'keeper Lee Jones and deflected the ball in off his backside. After taking a couple of seasons to find his feet, he became a regular in the 2000/01 season, but after six seasons and nearly 250 appearances for the Chairboys, he was a surprise victim of Adams' 2004 post-relegation clearout and dropped into the Conference with Stevenage Borough.

He went on to win the Conference Playoffs with Oxford United in 2010 and have four separate spells with Crawley Town, with whom he won the Conference in 2011. After well over 250 games for the Reds, he joined League Two side AFC Wimbledon in June 2014. He has since made over 100 appearances for the Dons, including in the League Two Playoff final win over Plymouth last season. Aged 38, he is still a first team regular in League One.

25. Martyn Lee

A product of the Wycombe youth system, Lee had been limited to the odd appearance here and there before finally getting a run in the side in the 2000/01 season. After starring in the third round replay at Grimsby, where he had a hand in all three Wycombe goals, Lee kept his place for the fourth round and it was his corner that lead to Andy Rammell's opener.

An unused sub in the semi-final against Liverpool, a run of three goals in eight games suggested he had a bright future at Wycombe, but the following season was a disappointing one, as he made just four starts and was loaned out to Cheltenham Town. Released at the end of the following season after just over 50 appearances, he joined local non-league side Maidenhead United before dropping out of the game. Now living in Woking, he became a tiler, specialising in marble and stone floors, before becoming a self-employed chauffeur.

9. Andy Baird

Another youth team graduate, Scottish striker Baird battled through five, injury-hit seasons at Adams Park. His robust, fearless approach saw him pick up regular knocks, but he was also a fine player who scored some cracking goals, including a memorable strike to help us to victory against Manchester City at Maine Road in the survival season of 1998/99.

Injured in the fifth round replay at Wimbledon, he missed the rest of the season and after managing just one start the following season, he was released, having made played just over 100 games for the Chairboys. After doing the rounds in the Oxford non-league, playing for Brackley Town, Banbury United and Oxford City, he retired to Hook Norton in Banbury and runs a sales agents called W Baird.

16. Andy Rammell

Old fashioned centre forward and something of a surprise signing when Wycombe paid Walsall £75,000 for the 33 year-old in September 2000. However, 'Rambo' soon proved to be an inspired bit of business, finishing as Wycombe's top scorer in the two seasons that followed. He gave us the lead in the 36th minute of the fourth round game, firing home a loose ball before memorably diving into the snow piled up around the edge of the pitch. That was his thirteenth goal of the season, but also proved to be his last of the campaign, as he limped off injured in the fifth round replay at Wimbledon, although he did recover in time to start the semi-final against Liverpool.

The years finally caught up with the big man in the 2002/03 season and he was released in the summer, just shy of 100 Wycombe appearances. He joined Third Division Bristol Rovers, where his goals helped them avoid relegation to the Conference, but his injury problems brought an end to his professional career and after an attempt to carry on at Forest Green Rovers he was forced to retire. He later became a postman.

SUBSTITUTES

35. Mark Westhead

Signed from Kidderminster Harriers in 1998, Westhead played eight games for Wycombe in the two seasons that followed, but didn't make a single appearance in 2000/01 and by the quarter-final game against Leicester had lost his place on the bench to youth team 'keeper Mark Osborn.

Released in the summer, he dropped into the Conference, spending one season at Leigh RMI before making 51 appearances for Stevenage Borough, losing out to Carlisle in the Playoff Final. He then had brief spells at Hyde United and Droylsden before a knee injury brought a premature end to his career, although in 2011 he briefly came out of retirement to play for Warrington Town. He became youth goalkeeping coach at hometown club Blackpool and is now a lecturer in Sport and Public Services at Blackpool & Fylde College.

6. Jamie Bates

Tough centre-half who joined Wycombe from Brentford in 1999, thirteen years after making a solitary Isthmian League appearance for the Chairboys on loan from the West London club. A rock in the Wanderers defence, he scored a brace in the first round game against Harrow Borough.

Named on the bench for the fourth round, Bates came on a halftime substitute for the injured Paul McCarthy and by the fifth round replay had forced his way back into the side, starting the remaining three games of the cup run. He retired at the end of the season after playing exactly 100 games in two and a half seasons and is now a courier driver.

30. Steve Brown

Another Wycombe legend and another uncompromising player, 'Brownie' was a force to be reckoned with for any opposition player or referee unlucky enough to get in his way.

Coming on for Martyn Lee on 61 minutes, it was Brownie's cross that set up Sam Parkin's winner. In the fifth round against Wimbledon, he scored Wycombe's late equaliser as the Blues came back from 2-0 down to earn a replay at Selhurst Park. In the quarter-final at Leicester, Brown was sent off after receiving a second yellow card for removing his shirt in the celebrations following Roy Essandoh's late winner. However, he was back in the side for the semi-final, walking out onto the pitch at Villa Park, carrying his young son Maxwell, who at the time was battling a severe heart condition.

After ten years at the club and over 400 appearances, Brown retired in 2004, but a few months later was back at the club after being appointed assistant manager alongside fellow Blues legend Keith Ryan. The pair left in 2007 and Brown was appointed youth team manager at QPR, a post he held until 2009.

Brown has since been involved in developing football in Southeast Asia, managing the Indonesian U16 side and hosting a Vietnamese reality TV show called 'Soccer Prince' where young footballers tried to win a place in the Liverpool Academy. He has also worked as a scout, an auditor of academies and in talent identification for Adidas. Since October 2014, he has been Head of Regional Talent Identification for the FA.

24. Sam Parkin

On-loan Chelsea striker who came on for Andy Baird and in the 85th minute wrote his name into Wycombe folklore when his thumping header from Brown's cross sent Wycombe into the fifth round. Parkin arguably only played because he'd kept a back injury secret, worried it might see him dropped. Parkin would also play a crucial role in the replay at Wimbledon, his mazy run and cross from the left leading to Paul McCarthy's 120th minute extra time equaliser.

His four-month loan up, Parkin returned to Chelsea after two goals in eleven Wycombe appearances and finished the season with a further loan spell at Oldham. After spending the following season on loan at Northampton, he left Chelsea without making a first team appearance and joined Second Division Swindon, scoring a hatrick against Barnsley on his debut and going on to enjoy a prolific spell at the County Ground, gaining a Scotland B cap before being signed by Championship side Ipswich for £550,000. After injury hampered his progress at Portman Road, Luton signed him for £340,000. However, his time at Kenilworth Road was beset by injuries and the Hatters' financial problems saw him made available for transfer. After a year at Walsall, Parkin headed north to Scotland, with spells at St Johnstone, Queen of the South and St Mirren, where he won the Scottish League Cup. Moving back down south, he has spent one season with Exeter City before retiring in 2014. He is now a sports presenter for BBC Wiltshire and a pundit/commentator on Chelsea TV.

MANAGER

Lawrie Sanchez

After the success of the 2000/01 season, great things were expected from the young Wycombe manager, but the following season saw Wycombe finish in a disappointing 11th place. With crowds falling and key players departing to cut costs, Wanderers slumped to an 18th place finish in 2002/03 and after a dreadful start to 2003/04, Sanchez was fired and replaced by John Gorman.

Sanchez was appointed Northern Ireland manager and led his country to a famous victory over England before taking over at Fulham in April 2007, keeping them in the Premier League before being sacked in December of that year. He managed Barnet for the 2011/12 season, reaching the Football League Trophy Area Final and took over at Greek side Apollon Smyrnis in November 2013, but left after they were relegated at the end of the season.

LEAGUE TWO HACKING SHOCK

In amongst all the recent hacking stories, one shocking document largely ignored by the media was the discovery of secret and some might say controversial advice handed out to League Two referees due to officiate at Adams Park this season.

'Wycombe is a small club with no money so take a flask and some sandwiches as all you're likely to be offered is some ice cream with damaged packaging or the chance to buy something powdery called 'I'm Not Sure What It Is, But It's not Tea Mate' (£1.60) from the kiosk.

The Wycombe bench consists of a long-haired shouty man in black, a short haired shouty man in leggings and a small quiet man taking notes. The first two will harangue the fourth official relentlessly, but it is suspected the small quiet man is actually trawling the internet for outdated and therefore FA friendly insults for his colleagues to deliver.

'How can he be offside for a throw-in, you eel-skin?'

'That was a clear pen, you greasy tallow-catch!'

'Does that bombard even know the rules?'

As a Community Club, Wycombe have erected the Akinfenwa Climbing Frame to be used by opposition players during the match. There will always be three or four of them hanging off it at any one time, but it's just a bit of fun so even if they start kicking it there is no need to blow up for a foul.

Watch out for a player called Luke O'Nien. He will enthusiastically run about passing the ball and trying to tackle opposition players. It is vital you book him as soon as possible to stop that sort of thing breaking out all over the pitch.

Joe Jacobson appears to be a personable young fellow and will laugh and joke with the officials throughout. Beware. We're not exactly sure what...but he's up to something.

Don't be surprised to see a number of old men on the field of play. They have not wandered on from the Director's Box. They are the strike force. They may need to lean on you at certain points during the game.

Keep an eye on the numbers after substitutions. Despite usually being taken off after 65 minutes, Paul Hayes can often still be found on the pitch looking for someone to hand the armband to when Gareth Ainsworth is doing his post-match interviews.'

A Christmas Carol

Ebenezer Sharky is a mean, tight-fisted old(ish) man, who has made his fortune as a money lender and is now using his financial clout to inflict misery on the poor people of Wycombe, who he has plunged into deep debt that he is insisting they repay. Life is a daily struggle for them as they try desperately to live within their means and scrape a few pennies together selling 50-50 draw tickets.

Sharky is infamous for never giving any presents, occasionally donating money to people and saying it's a gift, but changing his mind a bit later and demanding it back. Anyone who tries to ask him about money is dismissed with his infamous catchphrase; 'Don't worry about the money'.

Struggling to work within these difficult conditions is faithful servant Gaz, who works tirelessly to balance the books and has to keep explaining to everyone that he hasn't got any money to get better staff in, only able to hire book-keepers that no-one else wants, but put loads of effort in and are prepared to work for a pittance. Everyone hates Sharky for the poverty and devastation he has inflicted on them, but he doesn't care and they are powerless against his financial hold over them.

On AGM Eve, two kindly gentlemen called Trevor and Nigel visit Sharky and ask if he might like to make a donation to a Trust that they help run, providing care and aid for the less fortunate local football club, that brings so much joy to the people around this time of year (between August and May to be precise).

"Are there no shared Community Stadiums?" sneers Sharky.

"But Sir, some people would rather the club went non league than go there?"

"Then they'd better do it and free up more people to come and watch Wasps."

Sharky sends the men on their way.

That night, Sharky is haunted by the apparition of his long-forgotten former colleague, Simon Monkman, who warns Sharky that he must change his ways or be eternally damned when people talk about him down the pub. Monkman tells Sharky that he will be visited by three spirits; The Ghost of Wycombe Past, The Ghost of Wycombe Present and The Ghost of Wycombe Yet to Come.

Deeply perturbed, Sharky goes to bed and finally manages to fall asleep, only be woken on the stroke of one by the arrival of the Ghost of Wycombe Past, who takes the form of a mere child, a fifteen-year-old boy called Jordon, who lights up the whole room with his bright, dazzling potential. Jordon tells Sharky they will revisit his past, to see where things first started going down the tubes.

Jordon takes Sharky back to when he was an ambitious, young managing director and when he last gave a gift – a picture of himself in a silver photo frame – to a woman called Lesley, who he was trying to woo. Sharky tells the spirit how he had once had high hopes for the future with Lesley and how he had dreamt of them moving into a great big community stadium together and filling it with lots of rugby fans of their own, feeding them their bottles of weak lager and changing their wee-stained chinos. But Sharky was too driven by making money and ultimately his heart was broken and his stadium dreams left in tatters. The spirit vanishes, flying north west, leaving Sharky unhappily ruing his past ignorance.

The clock strikes two and Sharky is confronted by the Ghost of Wycombe Present, a cheerful, jolly-faced man called Alan, who keeps trying to get him to join the Community Share Scheme or buy a matchday badge off Terry. Alan takes Sharky to a gathering of Wycombe fans on the Gasroom. Sharky enjoys the warm banter and jokes about how much Eddie Monsoon likes trains, but when talk turns to Sharky, he is horrified to hear people making jokes about him and calling him rude names.

Alan then takes Sharky to Gaz's humble home, where he is toiling away to try and make ends meet as well as caring for Tiny Scott Kashkett, who is too small to play football and suffers horribly from Becchettis. Sharky quickly takes to the good-hearted young boy struggling bravely through adversity and is devastated when Alan tells him that, without significant investment in the 500 Club, Tiny Scott will likely not last long and his time will come to an end shortly after Christmas; "I see an empty scoreboard and a man of the match award without an owner."

Sharky is inspired by the strength and love in the Wycombe family and is appalled to see the damage he has done to this small but close community. Sharky is beginning to see the error of his ways, but as the clock strikes three, there is still one last spirit to appear – the terrifying Ghost of Wycombe Yet to Come, a stern, grumpy northerner called Andrew, who tells it like it is and doesn't let Sharky have any ice cream.

First, Andrew shows a group of teenage football fans talking on Twitter about a club that has died. Sharky is appalled – not only by their terrible spelling, but also by how callously they talk about the deceased side. Next Andrew takes him to a group of asset strippers, gleefully pouring over the once-proud possessions of the defunct team; coldly selling off the ground that was once the scene of so many happy memories for thousands of people, the gates that were such a familiar sight for generations, the trophies and medals that were hard-won by the blood, sweat and toil of a small band of local heroes.

They return to Gaz's home, but where they once found warmth and optimism, they now find only sadness and tragedy. Proud, loyal Gaz is a broken man. As the Ghost of Wycombe Present predicted, Tiny Scott's time has come to an end and he has passed over to the darkness, where he is scoring bucketloads for MK Dons, who are preparing to sell him to Tottenham for £5m.

Sharky weeps at this terrible vision of the future and begs to know the name of the deceased. Andrew points a bony finger at a poorly-spelt article on the Bucks Free Press website. Fearfully, Sharky clicks away the irritating pop-up ads that are obscuring the name in the article... **Wycombe Wanderers**.

"My investment!" Wails Sharky, falling to his knees. "I'll never get my money now!" Distraught, he falls at the spirit's feet, begging him to stop these things from coming to pass, as Operation Tuleta detectives close in around him...

Sobbing, Sharky wakes up in his own bedroom. He is back in the present day - Trust AGM day. He isn't being charged. Wycombe are still alive. Sharky vows to mend his ways. He goes to the Trust and agrees to knock a bit off the repayments in exchange for getting the rest of his money back, ending his hold over the people of Wycombe. Tiny Scott's time doesn't expire and signs a new contract to keep him going for many years. The people of Wycombe rejoice at this news and say things like 'fair play to him' and 'credit where it's due' and 'he can attend matches as a fan again now', but ultimately most of them still remember what a git he was in the first place.

God Bless Us, Everyone!

Charles Dickens

Frank Adams – 100% Soul Owner

Frank Adams is a name synonymous with Wycombe Wanderers. Player, captain and benefactor, he is remembered fondly in the hearts of Blues everywhere. The club would go on to name their new ground in honour of his generosity when Adams Park was opened in August 1990. However, as a consequence of the passing of time, younger supporters often know the name, but little else about the man who became a club legend.

Born in the village of Downley, near High Wycombe on the 5th of September 1891, Adams started playing for the Blues in 1911 after passing his photography apprenticeship. His talent would take him to Shepherds Bush, who were then playing at Loftus Road, now home of QPR, before a successful season saw him touring around Europe, with Cologne, Essen, Duisburg and Bilbao Athletic where he scored the only goal of the match before the King of Spain.

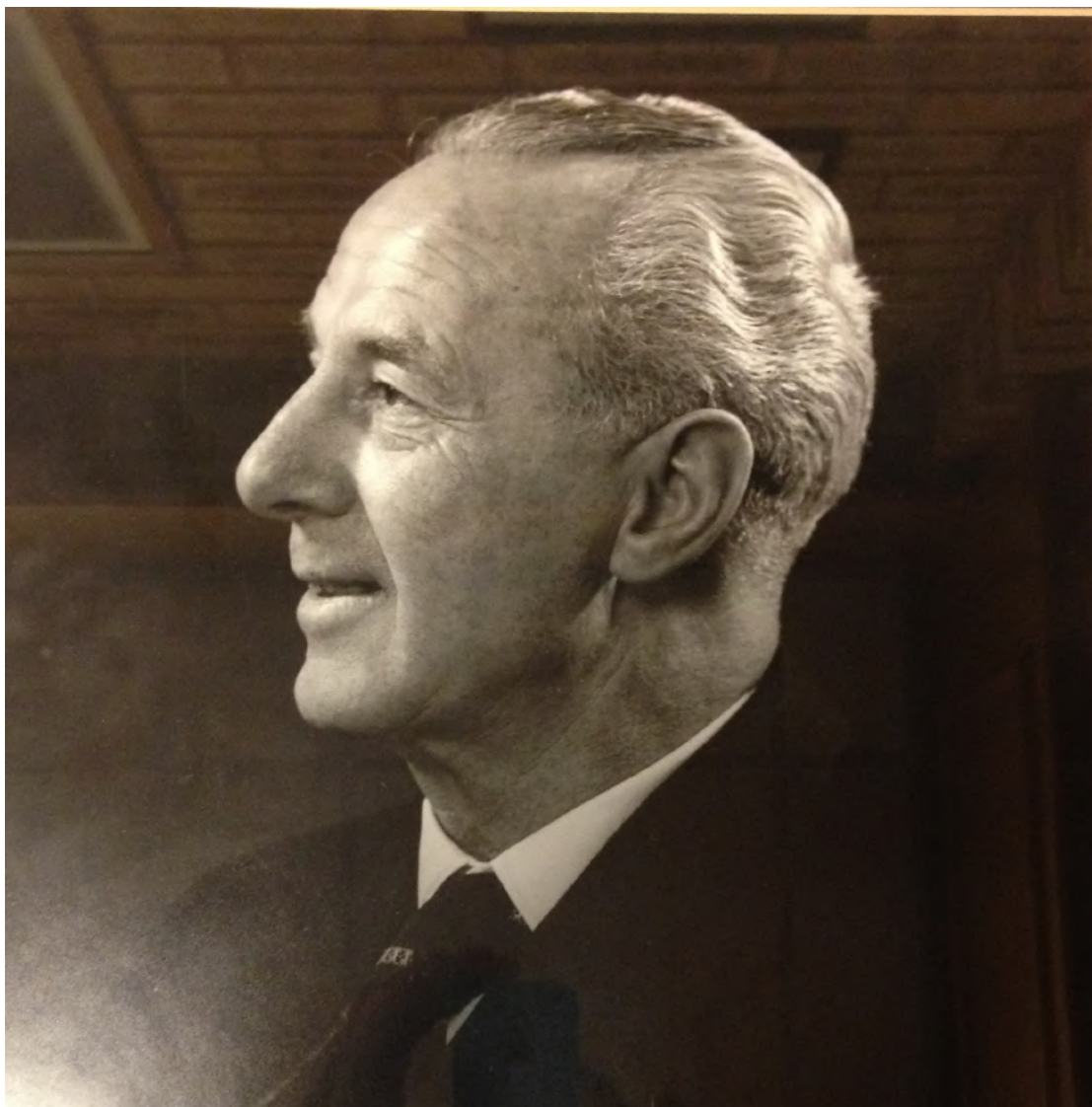
His time with Shepherds Bush came to an end and he returned to Wycombe in the 1914/15 season and was duly elected club captain, but with mounting tension in Europe, war was becoming ever more inevitable. As a TA soldier, he was sent to France to fight in World War I, moving on to the Royal Flying Corps and appearing in matches for the RAF team. At the end of hostilities, Adams returned to playing for the Chairboys, starring in the team which won the Spartan League Championship and gained acceptance into the Isthmian League. Upon his retirement from a successful playing career in 1929, Adams was appointed to the Club Committee and watched from the stands as the club won the FA Amateur Cup in 1931.

Adams put his apprenticeship to good use, building a successful photography shop on Oxford Road, High Wycombe and with his ever growing financial acumen, he went on to negotiate the sale of Loakes Park from Lord Carrington and presented the freehold deeds to the club on the 19th April 1947, prior to a game against Corinthian Casuals. The deeds were held 'in trust' for the purposes of playing amateur football so long as the club was in existence. During a speech to mark the occasion Adams declared; "If future generations obtain the same enjoyment out of Loakes Park as it has given me in the past, then this gift will have been worthwhile". The club would go on to honour Adams by making him the Patron of the club. He continued to work behind the scenes, vehemently defending the club against the Health Authority's planned hospital expansion, a move which was strongly opposed by Frank and the other Trustees.

Frank died shortly after his 90th birthday in 1981. At the time of his death he had, in many guises, been involved with the club for over 70 years. Shortly after his death, his son Jack continued the family connection with the club, himself becoming Patron and he was heavily involved in the ground relocation negotiations. The sale of Loakes Park helped fund the move to the new site and the ground was named after Frank. Supporters can still see a piece of Loakes Park, as the gates were moved to the new ground as a monument for future generations.

The move coincided with an upturn in fortunes for Wycombe. Under the guidance of Martin O'Neill they would win the FA Trophy at Wembley that season, beginning a golden era, with the crowning glory coming in the 1992/93 season, when the club won the Conference and Trophy double and were promoted to the Football League.

Wycombe owe a great deal to Frank Adams. Without him, it is fair to say the club would not be what it is today. His generosity is a shining beacon of altruism, which many club owners could do well to follow.



SIMPLY THE BEAST

We caught up with Adebayo Akinfenwa after his late goal had just earned us a 1-1 draw with Luton Town. Luke O’Nien and Sido Jombati were also there...

A good result today and that’s now fifteen games unbeaten. Do the players think about this run much, or do you just take each game as it comes?

AA: We take each game as it comes and that’s down to our gaffer. He implements that, ‘look, it’s the next game, it’s the next game.’ He puts no pressure on us. But of course we know that we’re on an unbeaten run and it does give us confidence and you don’t want to break that, you don’t want to give it to Luton, you don’t want ‘Oh Luton broke their fourteen game unbeaten run.’ In the back of our minds of course we all know about it, but honestly we go into every game as ‘it’s just the next game’ and let’s just try and get as many points as we can.

We’re through to the quarter-final of the Football League Trophy, is the chance of another Wembley appearance at the back of your mind?

AA: Of course we know that it’s getting to the business end and it adds games onto the season, but it is honestly just another game. We travelled to Blackpool – just another game. Mansfield now – just another game. Of course the carrot at the end of it is Wembley, but until you get to Wembley it’s just becomes another game and I think having that mentality has got us to where we are. We just take it as another game and we just keep ticking off these games. Hopefully come Tuesday it’ll be a game that we’ve ticked off in a positive way.

We’ve signed Dominic Gape permanently and we’ve now got Sam Saunders on a permanent deal. How is Ainsworth able to attract players of that calibre to this club?

AA: It’s the gaffer. It’s the gaffer himself. He’s humble, he’s passionate and you can feel that on the pitch. If he could, he’d be out there playing. That’s what he’s like and that’s what I think we try and emulate on the pitch. Out of all the interest I had, when I sat down with him I felt ‘this is the guy I want to play for’. That’s the aura you get from him and you just want to play for him.

We heard for your initiation song you sang ‘A Whole New World’ from Aladdin, which I doubt many of the lads guessed you would do. What made you choose that?

AA: I’m a Disney man you know! That’s one of my favourite tunes, I’m not going to lie. I would have sung a track from Mulan but I didn’t think they were ready for it. I’d have sung a track from Lion King...Toy Story...I’m telling you I’m a cartoon man – I was watching all these before I had kids and now I’ve got kids it’s just an excuse for me to watch all of them. I’m a real Disney guy, especially on Tuesday nights when I can’t sleep - I’m at home, up till four o’clock in the morning watching Disney movies. I’m not ashamed of it!

If we get promoted are we going to get a celebratory performance?

AA: You know what? We get promoted, word on it I'll get on the mic and I'll sing...

Luke: Lion King!

AA: Lion King.

That would be amazing.

AA: I'll sing Lion King because I know Luke would be up there with me. Luke's my rider. Put that out there – we get promoted, me and Luke will sing a song from Lion King.

Right. Aaron Pierre versus the Beast in an arm wrestle. I've got five pounds. Who do I put it on?

AA: Oh come on!

That's a silly question isn't it?

AA: Yeah AP's a strong boy, but I've got ten years on him, ten years of chicken eating so AP's coming out second best, even though he's a strong boy.

Our pink and lime green goalkeepers top. On a scale of one to ten, one being 'I quite like it actually' and ten being 'it burns my eyes', how do you rate it?

AA: To be fair I think Jamal pulls it off. I'm not going to lie, I think Jamal pulls it off. He's six foot four, he pulls it off. I don't think I could pull it off personally, but Jamal's a different kettle of fish, he's got that model swagger about him. He pulls it off, so because of him I'll give it a tick.

Who's the most annoying player on-

AA: LUKE! Hands down Luke!

Luke: What?

AA: No sorry, I didn't even hear the question. What was the question? I just wanted to say Luke anyway.

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

AA: You know what, it's not even Luke because he doesn't trouble me. Who's annoying...erm....you know what, I don't know who's annoying because there's no-one really tough enough to be annoying. I'm going to just have to give it to Luke, just because it's Luke. I'm sorry, it's not even Luke, but I'm giving it because he's here. Sido doesn't say a damn word, so it can't be Sido. So I'll give it to Luke.

Luke: Thanks man.

AA: Anytime player.

What's the weirdest dream you can ever remember having?

Luke: It's got to be about me hasn't it?

AA: I don't know man, it was some time ago. It was Luke, I don't know what it was though. I told Luke to leave me alone and he was like 'we're family'. It was something weird like that. I don't know, it was just weird. Luke was in it.

Luke: It was Wycombe v Wimbledon last year.

AA: That's what it was! I first met Luke when Wycombe played Wimbledon, the first time I met him. I was like 'Yo Luke. What are you doing?' He was just stepping on my toes. I was like, 'Luke, if you don't get away from me, I'm going to put you to sleep.' And he just came back, stepping on my toes. It was a dream. That was the dream, it was a bad dream. It was Luke. I swear down, I told Lyle Taylor to put him in a suplex.

Do you have a plan for what you would do in a zombie apocalypse?

AA: Oh I aint gonna lie, I'd be whupping their arse! I'm telling you, there'll be like a good twenty of us and I'll be at the front and somehow I'd get my hands on a gun and I'd be like 'Stay behind me' and I'm telling you, I'm taking a lot of people out. Unfortunately, Luke's going to be a hero and they're going to take him out and it's going to go slow motion and I'll be like "Noooooooo!" but then I'm like "It's cool Luke, take one for the team" and in the end we find the machine in the house and I press the button and I save the world. Or something like that. Not that I've ever thought about it, but that's what's going to happen.

What's the most embarrassing dvd on your shelf?

AA: You know what, it's not even embarrassing...er....'no-one puts Baby in the corner'...

Dirty Dancing.

AA: Yes! It's not even embarrassing, but that's my favourite. Ain't Nobody gonna put Baby in the corner. I'm learning the routines.

Have you ever found a cartoon character attractive?

AA: Hey, Roger Rabbit lady!

Jessica Rabbit.

AA: Her body banging yo! But let's just keep that on the low-low. And Pocahontas is kinda cute, like, y'know, with her hair, but Jessica's like-

Luke: Mermaid! Mermaid!

AA: Oh mermaid, she's cute as well! Hey, no! Let me tell you the realest one. The Lion King girl.

Nala?

AA: Yo her eyes got me all over the place! I ain't gonna lie to you. No, this is – don't put this out there, they're gonna think I'm bare weird. Lion King girl, Jessica Rabbit and Pocahontas...and little mermaid, she's kinda cute and that, say no more.

Have you ever been fake numbered?

AA: What's fake numbered mean?

When you ask someone for their number but they give you a fake one.

AA: What? 'Course man! Bare times when I was younger and it always used to get me mad; I was like, you could have just said no! What you giving me a fake number for? Just tell me no. A few times, but I'm married now so I don't have to go through that rubbish anymore.

What is your spirit animal?

AA: Well I'm a Taurus, so I would say a bull, but then I'd go like a cross between a bull and a beast. We'll call it...Luke help me.

Sido: A Lion-beast

AA: Lion-beast! That's what it is – a cross between that. Bull-beast would have gone a bit better because I said a cross between a bull and a beast. I didn't really say lion – just because you look like a lion Sido. Let's go with a bull-beast.

Thanks to Bayo, Luke and Sido for their time and Matt Cecil for setting the interview up.



A View From Afar

A game of two halves or two games of contrasts.

For the last edition of this fanzine I was minded to write about possible life in the National League. Fortunately, I have found more interesting topics. Since then, cash has arrived via sell on clauses and the squad has been performing as a team. All credit to the manager and I look forward to the day when he is the longest serving manager in the top four divisions.

A playoff position in the league, not far from the magic 50 points required for safety, a long unbeaten run, one game from Wembley and heroics at the Lane. Everything looks wonderful. Normally, I'm a glass half full fella, but a quick glance at the current squad compared to the team that played Aston Villa last year and with only a few changes, this current team would have beaten the Villains at Adams Park. Further back in history and some names even pop up in the team that beat Torquay on the last day of the 2013/14 season to survive by the very narrowest of margins.

League Two is a topsy-turvy league and the Blues form can be erratic, so enjoy the trophy and cup games. Enjoy the ride and like most rollercoasters that go up - they usually go down. Before Christmas I was watching FA Cup highlights featuring expert pundit Steve 'you muppet' Claridge. He made the interesting point that some National League clubs have bigger budgets than most League One and Two teams. It is suggested that the Blues have the third smallest budget of all 92 league clubs, whereas Eastleigh have just bought a £40,000 big screen. Spurs are the 6th richest club in the UK and 12th in the world. The same six rich clubs are slugging it out to be Premier League champions. Money works in football and the National League is littered with former Football League teams, including York, who are bottom.

As a child growing up around Loakes Park, I enjoyed supporting two teams; the Blues and the Gunners with never a thought the two would meet. Always a tantalizing question; who to support if such a thing should happen and now just a few miles along at their North London rivals, who to support is easy, as it would be if playing Arsenal - C'mon you Chairboys! I was offered a ticket to Tottenham but turned it down, not wanting to add to the wealth of Spurs...the threat of breaking a long-standing family commitment and the risk of a trip to the divorce courts may also have influenced my decision...

Keep the Faith.

Row H

“Na na-na na-na na-na na, na na-na na-na na-na na...Scotty Kashkett scores another goal!”

THE STORY OF THE BLUES

PORTSMOUTH (A)

FA Cup First Round, Saturday 5th November

Att: 8,130

BLUES 2 (*Cowan-Hall 27, Akinfenwa 84*) **POMPEY 1** (*Evans 47*)

Verdict: Something of a surprise victory and a very welcome one after our recent run of bad form. Pompey made five changes for this game and seemed to lack the attacking spark that had seen them rout us at Fratton Park earlier in the season. Akinfenwa was superb, causing havoc in the opposition box to help create Cowan-Hall's opener, but arguably should have had a goal himself before the break, as Wycombe laid siege to the Portsmouth goal.

Pompey pulled one back, arguably against the run of play and this sparked the game into life, with both teams playing some good attacking football as they both went in search of a winner. It was a thrilling end to end affair and late in the game it was Southampton loanee Gape who sent in an inch-perfect cross for Akinfenwa to head home the decisive goal. A good footballing display and much better from Wycombe. More of this please!

Ref Watch: Gavin Ward – No complaints.

Magic Moment: Akinfenwa leaving the pitch to a standing ovation from both sets of supporters. Class from the Pompey fans and a fair indicator of just how well he played.

COVENTRY CITY

The E4+1 Bowl, in association with Hollyoaks Group Stage, Wednesday 9th November

Att: 912

BLUES 2 (*McGinn 32, Kashkett 33*) **SKY BLUES 4** (*Haynes 57, 60, Thomas 63, Bigirimana 86*)

MORECAMBE (H)

League Two, Saturday 12th November

Att: 3,019

BLUES 2 (*Pierre 47, O'Nien 80*) **SHRIMPS 0**

Verdict: We were wondering which Wycombe team would turn up today – the side that was so poor against Barnet or the one that recorded decent results on the road at Doncaster and Portsmouth. We showed some consistency from those latter two games and produced a solid performance in what was a comfortable and deserved win.

The visiting defence held firm in the first half and while we created some opportunities, the keeper wasn't really tested despite the threat of Akinfenwa. Blackman made a smart stop with what turned out to be the visitors only effort on target but we didn't let frustration creep into our game.

The opener had an element of luck about it and when they had a penalty appeal turned down and hit the post with the free kick that was awarded, you felt there was only going to be one winner. The second goal was beautifully crafted and after that we were home and dry.

Ref Watch: Darren Handley - The big talking point was the handball from Matty B which may have been in the area and the fact that the linesman wasn't up with play perhaps helped us. If it was the wrong call, it's about time we had a wrong decision go our way.

Magic Moment: The hold-up play of Cowan-Hall that led to our second.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (A)
League Two, Saturday 19th November
Att: 4,139

BLUES 2 (*Hayes 6 pen, Pierre 90+5*) **U's 1** (*Maris 87*)

Verdict: Finally, a win on the road! Aaron Pierre's stoppage time winner saw us pick up three away points for the first time since February in a scrappy, bad-tempered match that was refereed with typical inconsistent fussiness by Mr Kettle. After taking an early lead through Hayes' spot kick, the match descended into a niggly game of hoofball, certainly not a great advert for League Two.

Cambridge's equaliser was well-taken and on the balance of play probably deserved. However, not for the first time this season, Wycombe kept fighting right to the death and when Jacobson's corner was somehow missed by the first defender, Pierre fired home the loose ball with such force it nearly ripped the net off the goal frame. A very welcome victory, if not the most easy on the eye.

Ref Watch: Trevor Kettle – Enough said! Managed to upset both sets of supporters with his fussy, inconsistent decisions, although the home fans were certainly the more angry of the two. The big talking point was the decision not to punish Cowan-Hall for the challenge that saw Josh Coulson injured. It seemed to be a genuine attempt to play the ball, but it wouldn't have been a huge surprise had the official produced a red card.

Magic Moment: Pierre's thunderous strike to win it at the death.

NEWPORT COUNTY (A)
League Two, Tuesday 22nd November
Att: 2,010

BLUES 1 (*Jombati 88*) **EXILES 0**

Verdict: Another scrappy game, with Newport's ridiculously shoddy pitch making all attempts at playing decent football futile. How on earth are they allowed to get away with having such a sub-standard playing surface? With the ball either bouncing off bobbles or burying itself in bog, it became another long ball game.

A dull game of few chances had 0-0 written all over it until the 88th minute, when Jombati, who was only playing due to an injury to first choice right back Michael Harriman, curled in yet another of his trademark, one step run-up free kicks.

Ref Watch: John Busby – Correctly booked Marcus Bean for a poor tackle in the first half and probably should have sent him off for another poor foul shortly before half time. Bean was substituted at the break. Westley wasn't impressed, but it's Westley – so we don't care.

Magic Moment: Another late winner and another cracking freekick from Sido.

HARTLEPOOL UNITED (H)
League Two, Saturday 26th November
Att: 3,288

BLUES 2 (*Kashket 26, 90*) STELLING'S MONKEY-HANGERS 0

Verdict: Another day, another home win, another three points and once again it was nice and comfortable. E-I-E-I-E-I-E-I-O.

Many had been calling for Scott Kashket to start in the league and it was so refreshing to see that we have some real depth to our squad, meaning that even losing Cowan-Hall turned out to be something of a positive. We passed the ball well and the midfield absolutely bossed the show. The tenacity, the tracking back, the keeping of the ball on the deck, O'Nien's almost infectious enthusiasm – it was enough to warm the cockles in the deep midwinter.

Pools did play some nice football on the deck but were largely limited to pop-shots from long range – our defence continues to be as solid as necessary. A sign of how desperate they were getting came about when their keeper tried a speculative effort that didn't even trouble Blackman.

Ref Watch: A replacement man in the middle had a very good game, although this wasn't particularly hard to officiate. The linesman also deserves credit for getting a tight offside call spot on. The Hartlepool defence doing the mannequin challenge would have made it easy for him to flag but their failure to play to the whistle was their own undoing – and the replay prove it was a correct decision.

Magic Moment: Moving into sixth place just weeks after languishing above the relegation zone. Doctor to Adams Park please...there's an epidemic of nosebleeds...

CHESTERFIELD (A)
FA Cup Second Round, Saturday 3rd December
Att: 3,685

BLUES 5 (*Hayes 21, Kashket 24, 70, 77, Stewart 74*) SPIREITES 0

Verdict: Right, be honest, did anyone see that coming? No, of course not. Chesterfield may be struggling in League One, but even so, the sheer one-sidedness of this game was astonishing. Chesterfield were poor and the red card certainly helped us turn the screw, but don't let this take away from just how good we were. The front three in particular were utterly superb and Kashket's hatrick was richly deserved by a player who not only had a great game on the day, but has also shown great attitude and professionalism by waiting for his chance to come and then grabbing it with both hands.

A truly wonderful Chairboys performance. Onto the third round!

Ref Watch: Michael Salisbury – Has a reputation for being a bit card happy, but even so the decision to send Nolan off for his rash, two-footed tackle was an absolute no-brainer. Other than that it was a relatively incident-free game – save for all the goals.

Magic Moment: Kashket's composure for his third to seal his first professional hatrick. Also, a special mention to the well oiled gentleman who kept the away following entertained with his extraordinary dancing prowess!

MILLWALL (A)

The Compare the Meerkat.com Trophyable Second Round, Wednesday 7th December

Att: 1,619

BLUES 3 (*Akinfenwa 51 pen, Thompson 85, 90+1*) **LIONS 1** (*Worrall 53*)

NOTTS COUNTY (A)

League Two, Saturday 10th December

Att: 3,680

BLUES 2 (*Akinfenwa 37, Kashket 55*) **MAGPIES 0**

Verdict: Another convincing win, only overshadowed slightly by Akinfenwa's harsh sending off, which rather begs the question why Ainsworth didn't substitute him, when he was already booked and walking a fine line. A rare mistake from the gaffer.

After a few bright moments in the first half, particularly where the impressive John Stead was involved, County fell away in the second period and looked like a team low on ideas, low on motivation, low on discipline and of course, low in the league. Remember when that used to be us? This was by no means a vintage performance by Wycombe, but the poor showing from their hosts meant Wycombe never really had to get out of first gear anyway. The front three were again superb and Kashket and Bayo seem to be forming a really quite deadly partnership. This is exciting!

Ref Watch: Eddie Ilderton – Incensed the home fans by sending off Michael O'Conner after he and Paris Cowan-Hall both flew in for a 50/50, leaving the County man injured on the deck before he was unsympathetically dismissed. It really did look at first like he was going to send off Paris instead. County boss John Sheridan was later sent to the stands after protesting about Wycombe's second goal, before the ref evened things up by giving the softest of second yellows to Bayo for what appeared to be just an accidental clash of heads.

Magic Moment: Jacobson's inch-perfect cross for Bayo's opener.

LEYTON ORIENT (H)

League Two, Saturday 17th December

Att: 4,517

BLUES 1 (*Kashket 49*) **O'S 0**

Verdict: Playing well is one thing, but this was ridiculous – the club ran an incentive to get fans through the door and we actually got a result! What the hell is going on at our club? Howard must provide answers. In all seriousness, this was an easy win against a poor visiting side who had a couple of brief moments early on (including the disallowed goal) but the stats don't lie – Blackman wasn't troubled while we managed 16 shots, 5 of which were on target. In truth, we should have killed the game off but there wasn't much fear of conceding an equaliser. Eight wins in a row – wonderful stuff!

Ref Watch: Rob Lewis - He wasn't up to much and had to be replaced. The replacement wasn't up to much either.

Magic Moment: Goalscorer Kashket's triumphant wave to the Orient owners who refused to let him play. To them we'd like to say a big, big, BIG thank you!

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (A)
League Two, Monday 26th December
Att: 12,210

BLUES 3 (*Kashket 8, Akinfenwa 59, Weston 89*) **ARGYLE 3** (*Slew 18, Jervis 40, Threkfeld 56*)

Verdict: A terrible bit of fixture scheduling by the lunatics running the asylum and absolute chaos at the ground thanks to Argyle's shambolic approach to ticket sales, but those hardy souls who made the long trip south west were rewarded with a late (in every sense of the word) Christmas present when Myles Weston chose the best possible moment to score his first goal for the club. This was always going to be a stern test away at the league leaders and most of us surely would have taken a point at the start of the day, so to come back from 3-1 down was superb and once again highlights the fighting spirit Ainsworth has instilled in these players. All three of our goals were well taken, particularly Weston's, whereas the three Argyle goals were all scrappy, one with a strong suspicion of handball to it, yet once again we were the ones labelled anti-football spoilers by those paragons of footballing virtue.

The one downside was seeing Michael Harriman go off with what looked suspiciously like a groin injury, becoming the second Wycombe player in successive games at Home Park to be booed whilst being carried away on a stretcher by those pleasant chaps in the Green Army. And they call us unsporting?! That, along with Adams' tasteless and bitter comments after the game, made this result all the more satisfying. What odds on Plymouth bottling promotion yet again this season? If they do, you can be sure they will find some way to blame it all on us...

Ref Watch: Graham Salisbury – Allowed Songo'o's goal to stand despite the appeals of the Wycombe players for handball. Having watched the goal several times, it's impossible to tell for sure so we'll give him the benefit of the doubt. Likewise, he could easily have blown up for a foul by Akinfenwa in the buildup to Bayo's goal, so perhaps we're even on that score and it was nice to see a referee who didn't just give a freekick against The Beast everytime he challenged for the ball. Overall he did ok in what must have been a difficult match to referee.

Magic Moment: Seeing Whinger Adams stomp off down the tunnel at full time with a face like a smacked arse. Again!

CHELTENHAM TOWN (A)
League Two, Friday 30th December
Att: 3,761

BLUES 1 (*Kashket 9*) **ROBINS 0**

Verdict: Another game, another goal for Scott Kashket, who scored in his fourth successive match, taking his tally to thirteen goals in just fourteen appearances (eight starts) – truly incredible form. Our form isn't bad either; this is our tenth game unbeaten and a tenth win in our last twelve outings.

After going ahead early, we looked fairly comfortable for most of the match, although Cheltenham gradually grew into the game in the second half and the last twenty minutes was a real backs to the wall job, with former Robins keeper Scott Brown making a number of superb saves to keep his former employers at bay with a man of the match performance. Not a classic by any means, but being able to win when not at our best is surely a very encouraging sign.

Ref Watch: Kevin Johnson - Upset the visiting supporters when he chose merely to warn the already-booked Kyle Storer for dissent and then upped the ante by denying Wycombe two penalties, first booking Kashkett for simulation, before really dropping a clanger when he missed an obvious handball in the box a few moments later.

Magic Moment: The warm and sporting reception given by the Cheltenham fans to former Town players Scott Brown and Sido Jombati. Why can't all fans do this?

NEWPORT COUNTY (H)
League Two, Monday 2nd January
Att: 4,288

BLUES 2 (*Wood 70, Cowan-Hall 80*) **EXILES 1** (*Randall 60*)

Verdict: The visitors came to shut up shop today and their defensive display resulted in a very one sided first half. The frustration was that we failed to break them down and were duly punished when Pierre was caught out and Randall finished with ease.

Despite having failed to come from behind to win a game for over two years, we didn't buckle under pressure, but rallied - no doubt boosted by the comeback at Plymouth on Boxing Day - and the two superb goals were fully deserved. Did Ainsworth's decision to rest the front three back-fire? No - he may have had to bring them on to change the game but the win was sealed with Bayo, PCH and Kashket only having to play 20 minutes. A special mention must also go to Sam Wood who was brilliant, even if the advertising hoarding behind the goal may not agree.

Ref Watch: Lee Collins - He handled proceedings well and the way he played on when players were on the floor meant they only stayed down if *actually* hurt.

Magic Moment: Cowan-Hall's effort dropping into the net - either a brilliant shot or a terrible cross.

STOURBRIDGE (H)
FA Cup Third Round, Saturday 7th January
Att: 6,612

BLUES 2 (*Wood 47, Akinfenwa 83*) **Glassboys 1** (*Scarr 70*)

This was always going to be a tough game and you could have predicted the 'we look like the non-league team!' comments the moment we weren't 3-0 up after ten minutes. In truth, Stourbridge were what we expected - well organised and intent on attacking from the off. In terms of chances they shaded the first half with us failing to register an effort on target.

We came out all guns blazing after half-time and after Woody's goal, the visitors never really looked like equalising. But equalise they did and credit to the for being able to grind out an important win late on. It was never going to be pretty and this was a very tight game - it could easily have ended 2-1 to the visitors, but the cross-shot that hit the bar didn't quite dip enough. Frustration for the valiant visitors and relief for us.

Ref Watch: Darren England - Handled proceedings well in what was a physical but not dirty cup tie.

Magic Moment: The reception given to the Stourbridge fans and players at the end. A cup tie played in the right spirit in every sense of the word.

YEOVIL TOWN (H)
League Two, Saturday 14th January
Att: 3,493

BLUES 1 (*Jacobson 26pen*) **GLOVERS 1** (*Dawson 20pen*)

Verdict: After some exciting matches, this one was a more subdued affair. The players looked somewhat leggy and we rather lacked conviction up front. Yeovil didn't really threaten much, despite some decent wing play that saw the ball whizz into our box during the first half. Gape and O'Nien both went very close before the break but afterwards the game petered out (not that it really fizzled to start with) with both teams seemingly content with a point.

Ref Watch: Robert Jones - The two penalties were both correct and proceedings were handled admirably.

Magic Moment: Dominic Gape's thunderous drive that so deserved to hit the back of the net.

BLACKPOOL (A)
The 'Zippy from Rainbow' Appreciation Society Bursary Fund Third Round, Tuesday 10th January
Att: 766

BLUES 1 (*Stewart 77*) **SEASIDERS 1** (*Mellor 9*)
Wycombe win 5-4 on penalties

LUTON TOWN (H)
League Two, Saturday 21st January
Att: 5,387

BLUES 1 (*Akinfenwa 82*) **HATTERS 1** (*Cuthbert 56*)

Verdict: This game turned on 70 minutes with the introduction of Saunders and Kashket and the red card to Mullins. Up until then, Luton looked very comfortable. The first half was quite even but we never really threatened their goal although likewise, Blackman's involvement was little more than routine. After the opening goal, you couldn't see where an equaliser was coming from, but the introduction of Saunderson and Kashkett instantly sparked us into life and Mullins' sending off for his awful challenge on Kashkett tipped the balance in our favour. This gave us something to directly aim at when entering the final third and at last get the ball into feet, rather than lumping it aimlessly up to Hayes and Bayo. In the end, Town were hanging on and we so nearly snatched an unlikely win.

Ref Watch: Mark Heywood - Luton's discipline is really, really bad; seven red cards before today and you can see why. There were numerous fouls, not to mention the fact that they were strangely unsteady on their feet. Fortunately, this ref had none of it, although Hylton's theatrics were comical and he was lucky to stay on the pitch after the altercation with JJ. The Luton fans' chants of 'We always get s**t refs!' tells you something – perhaps, if you feel hard done by EVERY week, it's not the refs? Perhaps, it's you?!

Magic Moment: The minute's silence at the start. Impeccably observed and a fitting tribute to a special person. Sleep well Monty.

MANSFIELD TOWN (A)
The Warwick Services Costa Employee Of The Month Award Quarter Final, Tuesday 24th January
Att: 2,047

BLUES 2 (*Kashkett 73, Akinfenwa 81*) **STAGS 1** (*Green 34 pen*)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (A)
FA Cup Fourth Round, Saturday 28th January

Att: 31,440

BLUES 3 (*Hayes 23, 36pen, Thompson 83*) **SPURS 4** (*Son Heung-Min 60, 90, Janssen 64pen, Alli 89*)

Verdict: Well, this was just about one of the most exciting games you could ever wish to see. Every spectrum of human emotion was felt throughout – nerves, excitement, shock, joy, hope, more nerves, disappointment, joy again, more disappointment, despair and ultimately, pride.

We played without fear and after Spurs strutted the ball around, our first few touches resulted in Hayes missing a sitter. Our intention was clear and the many changes rung by the home side was something we exploited. Organisation is key, regardless of your level or your ability and sloppy defending put us in dreamland.

We were always likely to come under the cosh as the second half progressed and there was a touch of fortune about the first goal as the minor deflection took it past Blackman. At that point, on came Dembele and Alli and you kind of felt an equaliser was inevitable. After that we were seeking a draw but lo and behold it was *our* subs that changed the game, as we dared to dream once more.

The equaliser was perhaps a bigger disappointment in some ways given how it came about. A rare mistake from Blackman is the sort of thing you can get away with at our level, but not against teams like Spurs. Blackman's superb save looked to have sealed a draw but it was utter despair come the end. Spurs scored four goals and when you consider Blackman got fingertips to the penalty, three of them touched a Wycombe player last before going in. But once again we played our part in an amazing cup-tie and showed the BBC up for chasing viewing figures with Man United again.

Ref Watch: Roger East - He handled proceedings well and there can be no complaints about the penalties and late as the equaliser was, it was *just* within the allotted time. The booking of O'Nien was a disgrace though – he simply got involved in a tussle and conceded a free kick. Spurs got angry and he was pushed in the back of the head yet *he* was carded.

Magic Moment: Any of our three goals were simply sensational, emotional moments that had some fans welling up. The reception of the Spurs fans at the end also added to it, especially the agreed applause of our claim that 'it should have been on the telly!'. We'll never get the result back, but we will also never lose the memories of the 49 minutes we lead at White Hart Lane.

EXETER CITY (A)
League Two, Tuesday 31st January

Att: 3,656

BLUES 2 (*Thompson 38, Jakubiak 89*) **GRECIANS 4** (*Wheeler 19, Brown 65, Grant 67, Watkins 90+5*)

Verdict: We probably could have guessed this would happen. Ainsworth opted for resting the majority of his first eleven and the gamble well and truly did not pay off. Exeter went into this match on a superb run of form and pretty much controlled the game from start to finish. 4-2 is actually quite flattering, as with better finishing from the Exeter frontline the scoreline could have been much worse. After a solid(ish) start, the centre-back pairing of Muller and De Havilland were being torn apart at will by the end of the game. It was like watching two men being tortured. To make matters worse, Kashkett went off with what looked like a groin injury. The only positives were a fine performance from Gape and a debut goal for loan signing Alex Jakubiak.

Ref Watch: John Brooks – Did a very good job, as did the linesman on the far side

Magic Moment: Not being stuck on that open terrace in the pouring rain!

NEWS ROUNDUP

DEREK ADAMS ACCUSES WYCOMBE OF MURDER

Plymouth Argyle boss Derek Adams Has sensationally accused Wycombe Wanderers of murdering his players. Following Boxing Day's 3-3 draw, Adams told a packed press conference 'There I was on the sideline, watching us play the sort of football that would have the Brazil 1970 team purring, when I saw Akinfenwa pull out an axe and decapitate one of my players. Unfortunately, the referee missed it'.

Adams continued 'Just moments later, I saw Matt Bloomfield pull out a gun and shoot another of my players in the head. Unfortunately, the referee missed it'.

Not impressed with Wycombe's audacity in taking points off such a huge club as Plymouth, Adams commented 'We would have won that game were it not for all the murders, like when Scott Kashket pulled out a knife and stabbed my two central defenders before scoring the opener. Unfortunately, the referee missed it'.

Adams claimed that Ainsworth's tactics were basically to score in the opening five minutes, kill all the opposition players and then play-act for an hour and a half. 'The referees keep buying it' he added.

When asked about Plymouth's third goal, which was scored with the use of a hand, Adams said 'The only reason his hand was up in the first place was to stop Jamal Blackman from strangling him to death and anyway, I didn't see the use of a hand. Fortunately, I missed it'.

Having claimed Wycombe once used GPS trackers to assassinate opposition players in a previous game, Adams then went on to accuse the Wanderers of hostage-taking, espionage, kidnapping, extortion, false advertising, counterfeiting, drug-smuggling, burglary, copyright theft, shop-lifting, insurance fraud and putting their Christmas decorations up too early.

'Unfortunately, the referee missed it' he said.

GAPE AND SAUNDER 'REMEMBER NOTHING' PRIOR TO SIGNING FOR WYCOMBE

New Wycombe signings Dominic Gape and Sam Saunders have revealed that they remember absolutely nothing of the events leading up to them signing permanent deals at the League Two side.

'I just went in to have a meeting with the gaffer,' explained Gape, who at the time was on loan from Premier League side Southampton. 'I told him I wanted to go back to Southampton and be a superstar Premiership player. He just kept staring into my eyes and asking me if I was feeling sleepy and I told him I wasn't, only I must have been, because I think I must have dozed off and when I woke up they told me I had signed a two and a half year deal.

Likewise, fellow new boy Saunders' mind is a blank when asked to recall signing his eighteen month contract.

'I only popped in to say hi and tell Gaz how much I was looking forward to finding myself a new club in the Championship, or maybe League One. He got out this shiny pocket watch and asked me if I liked it. I said yes just to be polite and then he starts swinging it two and fro. I must have been out in the sun too long or something, because I blacked out a bit and when I woke up Gaz was laughing and holding a piece of paper with my signature on it.'

Keen to get to the bottom of this mystery, The Wanderer sent a reporter along to the training ground to speak to the Wycombe manager, only to learn that he had somehow ended up signing a fifty year contract to work for the club's media team.

Grand Days Out

PORTSMOUTH

A near-full coach visited the Golden Lion in Southwick for the second time this season. Great choice of beers and even some different lagers for Mother T! The food was very good, but not cheap. A good day was rounded off by an away win in the cup.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

We ventured to the Red Lion in Histon, a pub that is on our favourites list; just the eight beers to choose from for those of the real ale persuasion! Several different lagers for the others including Mother T. The food was good too and all at a reasonable price. Mark, the landlord, is a Grimsby fan and although he was not there today his staff made us more than welcome. He wants to meet up when we play Grimsby away next year, and we look forward to his choice of venue. A great day was had by all, especially as a last minute goal sealed the win for us. Newport here we come!

NEWPORT COUNTY

Fifteen of us managed to squeeze into a minibus and made the evening trip to Newport. The St. Julians on the outskirts of Newport was a venue we have visited a couple of times before. Those on the trip would not have had the nice view from the pub of the river Usk in the dark and were fortunate the game was on due to lots of rain in the previous couple of days. The beers were on song although as I was sadly informed there weren't many local ales on offer. However, I was assured that Mother T was happy for a change! A great effort by the team to grab a late winner to make the trip home a happy one.

CHESTERFIELD

A nice, full coach made the trip north for our FA Cup second round game. We took the opportunity to revisit The Old Poets Corner, a pub in Ashover in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside. A bit tough for Kevin, our driver, but he did well. The pub has its own beers as well as at least eight other ones, which kept all the real ale drinkers more than happy, with some trying the pub offer of three third pints to sample more variety! There was plenty of alternative options for those that can't cope with beer! There was an excellent choice of food, even if they couldn't do a proper Irish coffee. All in all, we had a great time there, and the 5-0 thumping we gave Chesterfield made it a splendid day. There is a slight suspicion of a fiddle going on, as the two winners of the draw for correct score on the coach were won by two committee members! One of them has won it four times so far this season! No names...

NOTTS COUNTY

We returned to the Nelson and Railway at Kimberly for the trip to Notts County. As always, we were welcomed with open arms - It's a great favourite for many. The usual high standard of both food and beer (plus lager for those with no taste) was readily available and in the game a poor Notts County were duly dealt with in the appropriate manner. A great day.

CHELTENHAM TOWN

This game was on the Friday night just after Christmas and we returned to the Royal at Charlton Kings. Although a touch expensive it certainly did deliver, with great beer and food once again. Another win after the pub made for a good evening out.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

For our trip to Spurs, we stopped at The Woodbine in Waltham Abbey. What a great start to our day; arriving at the pub just after 11.30 we were greeted with seven different beers and Lord know how many ciders. The food was very good too and they coped very well catering for all sixty-nine of us. Everyone was well satisfied and looking forward to the game. Two coaches were needed to get us all there, including ex-Wycombe player Mark Rogers and his son all the way from Canada and Bob Dell and his gang. Great to have so many of us on the coaches.

HOW FAR HAVE YOU GONE FOR THE BLUES?

We want to hear your stories about how far you have gone in your efforts to either attend a Wycombe game, listen to the commentary or find out (or perhaps avoid finding out) a result.

Whether you have undertaken epic journeys, pulled off military-style operations, risked the wrath of friends and family or simply committed gross unprofessionalism in the name of Wycombe Wanderers, we want to hear from you, with a view to compiling our favourite stories in a future edition of The Wanderer.

Please send your stories (anonymously if you wish – some of you may well need to) to **wanderer@wwisc.co.uk**.

AWAY TRAVEL

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

Passenger insurance

Stop at a pub serving hot & cold food

Food pre-ordered on the coach to minimise waiting time

Sweepstake with a guaranteed cash prize for at least one traveller

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

We Pick Up From:

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

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

Subject to demand, we are running coaches to:

<u>OPPONENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STADIUM</u>	<u>LAST TIME</u>
Colchester United	Tues 7th Feb	Weston Homes Stadium	D 1-1 (3,902)
Stevenage	Sat 11th Feb	Broadhall Way	L 1-2 (3,292)
Crewe Alexandra	Tues 14th Feb	Gresty Road	W 2-0 (1,695)
Accrington Stanley	Tues 28th Feb	The Wham Stadium	D 1-1 (1,403)
Grimsby Town	Sat 4th Mar	Blundell Park	D 1-1 (4,562)
Hartlepool United	Sat 18th Mar	Victoria Park	L 0-1 (3,721)
Leyton Orient	Sat 1st Apr	Brisbane Road	D 1-1 (5,946)
Barnet	Mon 17th Apr	The Hive	W 2-0 (2,563)
Morecambe	Sat 29th Apr	The Globe Arena	W 1-0 (1,395)

To Book

Please either visit the WWISC stall on Hillbottom Road before home matches, or call Colin on **01494 536 270** (If you leave a message please remember to leave a name and number). Please do not call Colin's mobile to book. Please let us know if you need to cancel a seat. This frees up seats to allow others to travel to support the team and means we will not be waiting for you on the day. Failure to cancel may result in us not taking future bookings from you. Please be aware that we can no longer offer match cancellation insurance.

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

Next Time...

The next edition of The Wanderer will be released on

Saturday 6th May 2017 (Wycombe Wanderers vs Cambridge United)

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

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

wanderer@wwisc.co.uk

The deadline for submissions is **6pm - Sunday 23rd April.**

The Wanderer – By the fans, for the fans



Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club

Members of the Football Supporters' Federation

Contact Us

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