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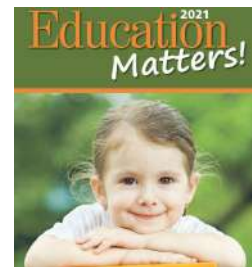
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## MANCHESTER CITY 6-1 WYCOMBE WANDERERS

# When Wycombe nearly scared Man City and Pep at the Etihad Stadium

By Robert Folker

WYCOMBE Wanderers made the trip up to Manchester on Tuesday to face the Premier League champions.

The Chairboys gave City a scare in the 22nd minute as Brandon Hanlan gave the Chairboys the lead.

The celebrations only lasted seven minutes as Kevin De Bruyne equalised, which opened the floodgates for City as Pep Guardiola's men came out 6-1 winners.

However, Gareth Ainsworth was in good spirits after the game and thanked the travelling away support who continued to make noise throughout the match.

For a full match report and reaction turn over to the back page.

Here is a selection of photos from Wycombe's trip to the Etihad Stadium.



The late Jimmy Greaves was remembered before the match kicked-off at the Etihad





# MANCHESTER CITY 6-1 WYCOMBE WANDERERS



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# The boss on Brandon

**WYCOMBE** Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has shared his views on his side's Carabao Cup 6-1 loss against Manchester City.

Despite taking the lead through Brandon Hanlan's 20th minute tap-in, City stormed back as goals from Riyad Mahrez (2), Phil Foden, Ferran Torres, Kevin de Bruyne and Cole Palmer put the homeside into the next round.

Ainsworth said: "We held our own for about half-an-hour and the 60 minutes away from that belonged to Manchester City.

"You give the ball away and sometimes you just don't see it again for three to four minutes, and usually it is a

shot on your own goal when you next see it.

"It is a tough place to come, but, Brandon Hanlan scores his first goal which was just unbelievable.

"We signed him from Bristol Rovers and we paid money for him and I can't thank the Couhigs enough for that, as they have given me backing to bring players in like Brandon, and hopefully, we will repay them with performances like we did against Charlton."

It was the first meeting between the two teams since April 1999.

Up next for Wycombe is an away trip to MK Dons on Saturday in the Bucks derby.



Brandon Hanlan (hidden) celebrates scoring Wycombe's goal against Man City. It was his first goal for the club and put the Chairboys ahead (PA)

## Charlton win pleases Gareth Ainsworth



Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has admitted that it would have been 'injustice' if Charlton left Adams Park with a point.

The Chairboys defeated the Addicks 2-1 thanks to a Garath McCleary double, which was the club's first victory against the South Londoners in a league fixture.

Sam Lavelle did pull a goal back for the visitors in the dying embers of the game, but it was Wanderers that got the three points.

He said: "Garath will take the headlines but there were some fantastic play from everyone, and I am really pleased with the boys.

"We should have had a few more as Curtis Thompson hit the post and 2-2 would have been injustice but I am glad we have got the win.

"We train really hard to focus on what is going on around the edge of the box. It was tough at the end as they threw the kitchen sink at us, and let's face it, teams are going to do that, but I am proud that we hung on as it was important, but I want everyone to remember the 93 minutes before that as Wycombe could have had three, four or five goals."

## Ainsworth supports struggling Adkins

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has sung the praises of Charlton boss Nigel Adkins after the Chairboys defeated the Addicks 2-1 at Adams Park.

Several of the travelling fans were calling on the former Southampton and Reading boss to leave the club following a sixth loss in nine matches, with the full-time whistle being met with a chorus of boos from the away end.

He said: "Nigel Adkins is a super manager:

"He has managed at the top level and has been promoted to the top level, and to boot, he's a great guy who has got great values and manages his team well. So don't be surprised when Charlton start to climb the table because he'll get that group together, which is a young and new group."

# Garath with the goals as Wycombe win 2-1



Garath McCleary celebrates scoring his first against Charlton in the 2-1 victory. It was Chairboys' first win against Charlton in the league (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have beaten Charlton Athletic for the first time in a league fixture, as a Garath McCleary brace gave the Chairboys a 2-1 win at Adams Park.

Pre-match saw the club enjoy its final home fixture before their birthday on September 24, and even though an afternoon firework display did its bit to get the fans pumped, the first-half was a relatively quiet affair.

Jonathan Leko's tame effort was easily saved by David Stockdale on 17 minutes, and whilst the visitors enjoyed a lot of the ball through the former West Brom man, and George Dobson, they rarely threatened the Wycombe goal.

Gareth Ainsworth's men slowly grew into the game and nearly took the lead through an unlikely source, as Curtis Thompson, who has only scored one goal for the club since joining in January 2018, forced Craig MacGillivray into a stop from 10-yards, before he hit the post with another effort moments later.

The pendulum had now swung in Wanderers' favour as McCleary was running his former Reading teammate, Chris Gunter, ragged in the right-back position, whilst Daryl Horgan, who was playing his 50th match for the club, also caused the Addicks' backline to back peddle.

As the first-half went on, McCleary had a couple of efforts go just wide from inside the box, and while he was off target on his previous two attempts, his persistence paid off as he broke the deadlock three minutes before half-time.

After receiving the ball on the right-hand side, the 34-year-old bent in his shot low and hard past MacGillivray to give Wycombe the lead.

It was his third goal of the season and

By James Richings

it was scored right in front of the travelling South Londoners, who made their thoughts known to the Jamaican international, as they went into the break 1-0 down.

It was also only the second time that Wycombe had ever taken the lead against Charlton in a league fixture.

McCleary continued his fine first-half showing into the second period, as he forced MacGillivray into a save with a fierce effort from 10-yards after 55 minutes.

Seconds later, his quick feet saw Gunter foul him just outside the penalty area, but Jacobson could only hit his set-piece into the side netting.

Wanderers continued to dominate as McCleary, Horgan, Jordan Obita and Josh Scowen bossed the midfield and wings with the Addicks not being able to close them down.

This was clear as Charlton rarely attacked with Stockdale being a spectator for much throughout the second half, and the game was wrapped up when Wycombe got their second with 20 minutes remaining.

McCleary, who was without a doubt the man of the match, got his second of the contest after he headed in from close range on 70 minutes.

This means he has now equalled his tally for the whole of last season with four goals.

Charlton finally attacked in the final few seconds as Stockdale produced a brilliant stop to deny Corey Blackett-Taylor, before Sam Lavelle scored a header deep into injury-time, but it was Wycombe's day at Adams Park.



## SPORT

0963-2336



# Pep's men destroy a spirited Wycombe



Pep Guardiola's Manchester City tore Wycombe Wanderers apart the Etihad Stadium, as the cup holders defeated the Chairboys 6-1 (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers were knocked out of the Carabao Cup after they lost 6-1 away at Manchester City.

The first-half saw the current Premier League champions and cup holders dominate possession as they had the first chance of the contest, but Raheem Sterling couldn't get onto the end of Riyad Mahrez's cross.

This was a regular theme throughout the first-half as Sterling, Mahrez, Ferran Torres, Phil Foden and Kevin de Bruyne pulled the strings, but despite their orchestrated play, Anthony Stewart, Ryan Tafazolli, Jordan Obita, Jason McCarthy and Joe Jacobson did well to hold onto their own as it was a sea of City attacks -

but nothing that really tested David Stockdale in the Wanderers goal.

And yet incredibly, it was the away side that took the lead.

A Jacobson corner was punched away by City's second choice keeper, Zack Steffen.

He cleared it at a relatively good distance but it fell to Sullay Kaikai who took a shot from 20-yards, which then deflected to Tafazolli in the six-yard box.

The centre-back calmly played it across the danger zone first time and there was Brandon Hanlan who tapped in from close range.

It was his first goal for the club and it was scored in front of an ecstatic away end.

Just over 20 minutes in and Wycombe Wanderers were 1-0 up away at the home of the Premier League

champions.

The goal seemed to kick some life into City as they just piled on the pressure which eventually broke through.

Moments after going 1-0 down, Stockdale produced two great saves from Sterling and Torres but after 28 minutes - seven minutes after Wycombe scored - Pep's men got their equaliser through de Bruyne, who easily slotted it past the former Fulham man from seven-yards.

Wanderers didn't offer much which allowed the Carabao Cup holders to go on the front foot and after Sterling and Mahrez both hit the post in quick succession, they went into the half-time break 3-1 up.

First, Mahrez slotted home after being assisted by one of many City's youngsters in Josh Wilson-Esbrand from 10-yards on 42 minutes before

Phil Foden unleashed a thunderbolt from long-range that flew past Stockdale into the Wycombe goal.

The second-half was a mirror of the first - Wycombe had a couple of half-chances to get themselves back into the contest as Hanlan fired wide from 20-yards before Stewart unleashed a long-range rocket that just flew past Steffen's goal.

But the night belonged to City, especially Foden who was named the Man of the Match, as the home side ran riot in the second-half.

In the final 20 minutes of the match they went into overdrive and scored three times with Torres, Mahrez and Cole Palmer all getting onto the scoresheet.

Wycombe can now focus on their promotion-pushing season, as they face MK Dons at Stadium: MK on Saturday.



Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

## Ainsworth on Man City hammering

GARETH Ainsworth has praised Manchester City following their 6-1 League Cup defeat on Tuesday night at the Etihad Stadium.

The manager said: "I spoke to Sam Vokes [at full-time] and he said he has come here with Burnley many times and said it happens to Premier League sides too.

"Man City just ran the show. "It was a brilliant performance by them.

"I try and do things the right way at Wycombe Wanderers, and if a manager of Pep Guardiola's stature compliments me and my team, then it makes this all worthwhile.

"I have got so much respect for Pep.

"I think he is a fantastic person, football aside, and I cannot wait to have a glass of wine with him."

## City boss labels Bayo a 'legend'

WYCOMBE forward Adebayo Akinfenwa said he was 'humbled', after Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola called him 'legendary', following the Carabao Cup fixture.

The Wanderers striker also received a standing ovation from the home supporters, when he was substituted for Sam Vokes in the second half.

He was also seen signing autographs for the home crowd.

On Twitter, he said: "What Pep Guardiola said about me, I'm honestly humbled. As for the ovation the Man City fans gave, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. Really classy and another special moment/memory for me to look back on that I'll add to my final chapter."