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Couhig: 'We are developing a Championship infrastructure'

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers owner Rob Couhig has publicly spoken out on the potential plans to move the club's training ground facility.

Last week, we reported and showed the early developments for the project which could be constructed in Little Marlow.

This comes just months after the Wanderers' training base in Marlow was renovated.

In documents shared with the *Bucks Free Press*, it states the Chairboys intend to submit a hybrid planning application with Bede Group Sports & Leisure, for the development of a sports hub and Country Park on Westhorpe Farm Lane off Marlow Road.

The plans say how Wanderers will own a community football facility with a 'state-of-the-art' sports hall and five new pitches.

There are also unconfirmed rumours that if the plan gets the go-ahead, the base could be used as a home ground for one of the Marlow-based football teams.

Mr Couhig exclusively told the *BFP*. "I think [the training ground], gets into our philosophy that we are developing a Championship infrastructure.

"If you get a chance and you go by the training grounds that we presently use, you'll see that we have poured a tonne of money into it, to upgrade it to Championship level quality.

"In fact, we're going to have an open day in probably early spring, so that the fans can come and see what's being done.

"We're doing it because it's the player's and coach's office.

"They need a good environment to practise in but we were unable to buy the property.

"So, we entered into a great lease for the next 10 years if we wanted to go that long, but we wanted a place that would really make our mark.

"Some folks came to us and said 'maybe you could do a deal that's bigger'.

"We took some options and we're trying to get some planning approval over the next several months to build better facilities for ourselves, more fields with some additional fields in case other teams would like to come along and occasionally practise there."

The news of the potential training ground move is one of the many positive changes that have been implemented since the Couhigs took over the club at the start of 2020.

Some of these changes include having one of the fastest Wi-Fi systems in the country installed at Adams Park, on top of a huge scoreboard, and LED advertising hoardings.

New items have been introduced to the Adams Park gift shop, the club have shown their support to the LGBT community by creating a special edition rainbow shirt, whilst also putting on firework shows either before or after certain matches.

But change also comes with criticism, and after our original story was published last week, some speculated the prospective move could coincide with the Marlow Film Studio Project, which has been heavily slammed by several residents.

The American said: "I've recently read the criticism of the film studio. "Ours is night and day different



Wycombe owner Rob Couhig

and I take no position into whether that's good or bad, but we will have no traffic impact to speak of.

"On a good day, we bring 50 people to the training ground and they don't come during rush hour. Maybe 100 people on a really big day, so that won't hurt.

"Environmentally, the footprint of the buildings will be less than five per cent of everything that we're building.

"Everything will be ecologically sound, they will be no noise, and we are opening up, if it all goes through, an area that is sort of a woodlands walk for people so that we're actually giving the neighbours something new and different for them to enjoy.

"And the reason why we haven't come out with a full-blown announcement yet is that we're trying to look through and make sure that we're as sensitive to everybody as we possibly can. "Until we have it worked out, I'm not going to exercise my option and we'll go from there."

Finally, when asked about Wycombe's recent matches, he said: "I've had 10 great days over here, and watched two very exciting matches.

"With the Lincoln game, you go 'wow, it feels like a win'.

"Then you watch the game on Saturday [against Cheltenham] and it feels like a loss, yet they have the exact same point equivalence, but I think the team will be fine."

Bucks business is on the up



John Korchak.

LATEST figures show that the number of businesses in Buckinghamshire reached a record high during 2021 – despite the continuing economic challenges resulting from the pandemic.

The total number of registered companies in Buckinghamshire rose to 74,634, with 8,910 new businesses registered in the county in 2021.

The statistics come from the Inform Direct Review of Company Formations using data from Companies House and the Office for National Statistics.

Milton Keynes formed the highest number of new businesses (3,407), followed by Wycombe (1,818) and Aylesbury Vale (1,550).

There were 1,216 formed in South Bucks and 896 in Chiltern.

Bucks was 16th in the 2021 league table for most new businesses, with London at number one with 269,246.

John Korchak, operations director at Inform Direct, said: "It is excellent news to see so many new businesses being started in Buckinghamshire, a trend which has propelled the county to a new record number of resident companies."

School's pyjama day raises cash for military families



Children at Wendover C of E Junior School dressed in their pyjamas

MILITARY children from Wendover C of E Junior School have raised £530 for the national charity, Little Troopers, by coming to school in their pyjamas.

Located just up the road from RAF Halton, nine per cent of students at the school are from a military family and the school

regularly uses resources from the Little Troopers at School programme to support its service students.

Last year, 34 children took part in the Little Troopers virtual school roadshow, exploring some of the unique challenges that military children sometimes face such

as having a parent deployed overseas and regularly having to move home and school.

All 360 children at the school took part in the multi-day to raise money in support of their military peers as part of Little Troopers annual 'Fundraise February' campaign.

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500 and not out for the



Two very popular faces at Adams Park holding the League One playoff trophy (Matt Cecil)



Posing for a photo at the start of his decade in charge of the club (Rob Praish)

THIS Saturday will be a momentous day for Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth, as the 48 year old will take charge of his 500th game for the club.

His side travel up to Crewe Alexandra on March 5 in the hope of a second consecutive win, following their 3-0 triumph over Cambridge United on Tuesday night, which was their first victory in seven games.

And even though three points against the League One basement will be the best present for the ever-popular gaffer, it's easy to forget that Ainsworth has done more for Wycombe than we will ever know.

Since walking through the Adams Park doors as a player for the first time in November 2009, 'Wild Thing', has transformed the club from a relegation-threatened League Two outfit, that were on the verge of falling into the Non League, to a Championship side that went toe-to-toe with former Premier League teams.

It's fair to say that since taking over from Gary Waddock in September 2012, who ironically signed Ainsworth when he took over as manager in October 2009, his tenure at the club has been a real rollercoaster.

He officially started his managerial reign on September 24 that year after Wanderers only picked up four points from their first 21 available, with his first match being a 3-0 defeat away at Dagenham & Redbridge on September 29.

In the squad that day were Josh Scowen, who played the whole 90 minutes and Anthony Stewart, who was an unused substitute.

Despite the defeat, he was insistent in becoming the full-time boss at the club, as he said after his first match in charge: "The board know I want to be a manager one day and if it comes quicker than expected then it does."

"If it doesn't then I still want to be a manager one day."

"They know where I stand."

"But whether I'm caretaker manager or kit man, it doesn't matter."



Autographs for fans no matter how old they are (Barbara Illingworth)

"I still want to give 100 per cent for Wycombe to get the points and get this club back where it should be."

His wish was eventually granted as he was appointed as the club's permanent manager at the end of the 2012/13 season, in which he announced his retirement from professional football.

In his three seasons as a Chairboys player, he suffered two relegations (2010 and 2012) and one promotion (2011) with the club.

And if he thought his three years as a player were action packed, being in the Wanderers hot seat saw him reach levels of drama that hadn't been with Wanderers for a long time.

But the transformation that followed proved that Gareth Ainsworth had the ability to be a top manager when giving time, which, in this day and age, is a rarity for some managers.

During the 2013/14 season, which was Ainsworth's first full season in charge, Wanderers avoided relegation

by the skin of their teeth with that impressive 3-0 win away at Torquay United despite only recording six wins in 34 matches from October.

The victory not only kept them up on goal difference, but it sent Bristol Rovers down to the Non League, for the first time in 94 years.

This became the catalyst for the success the 48-year-old has enjoyed at the club as 12 months later, Wycombe reached the League Two play-off final against Southend United, but ultimately lost in the fourth tier showpiece.

Promotion followed three years later to League One, before that magical day at a wet Wembley Stadium in July 2020 saw the Chairboys enter the Championship for the first time ever.

Speaking on his milestone, he said: "I have had letters and phone calls this week from fans getting behind me saying, 'we are with you Gaz'."

"I have done nothing compared to

Supporters send in their love to the Wanderers boss

MANY Wycombe fans have sent in their well wishes to Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth, as he celebrates his 500th game in charge of the club on Saturday away at Crewe Alexandra.

The 48-year-old has been in the Adams Park hot seat since September 2012 and is currently the second longest serving manager in the Football League, behind Harrogate Town's Simon Weaver.

To mark the impressive milestone, supporters far and wide wanted to show their appreciation to the much-loved gaffer, as he prepares for his side's trip to Crewe Alexandra on March 5.

Aaran White said: "A Wycombe legend."

"Thank you for so many memories, here's to making more this season."

Amy Messenger added: "Such a legend!"

"Always speaks so lovely to the children when they wait around to greet him and the players after the



games."

Ashley Randall described the boss as a 'top manager and a top, top bloke' whilst Bailey Hayler said that 'no other manager in football comes close' to Ainsworth's personality.

Steven Mccafferty echoed the latter's thoughts by calling Ainsworth a top manager and top bloke', with Simon WWFC Baker adding that the boss is 'a pure gentle man, down to earth guy, always has time for the fans. Has

taken this club to heights beyond our wildest dreams.'

Miriam Payne said: "Total legend."

"Supported me doing a 100k trek across the Sahara back in the day."

"Thank you, Gaz, for everything you've done for Wycombe on and off the pitch."

Lisa Bowker commented: "This man has done so much for the club, the players and everyone connected with the club."

"So proud to know him and sponsor him."

"Long may his reign continue."

Rosemarie Booth added:

"Congratulations Gareth!"

"Total legendary gaffer!"

"Thank you for your dedication to Wycombe Wanderers! You're the best."

Robert Priest added: "Gaz, you have given me some of my most favourite WWFC moments including Torquay and the Championship."

"Rich got to see the best of them. Thank you."

Rob Parish said: "I believe this was one of his first games in charge if not the first."

"A lovely guy, was so great with my nephew too."

Barrie Washington Childs said: "Congrats in making your 500th game in charge of Wycombe."

"Thank you for everything you have done for us. Up the Wyc."

Ian Bartholomew revealed: "I bumped into Gareth at work before Christmas. I was absolutely star-struck but he was so friendly and down-to-earth. So happy to stop for a chat. You wouldn't get that from many football managers."

Liam Foster said: "Congratulations on your 500th game in charge of Wycombe!"

Kathy Locke added: "End of season dinner a few seasons ago. Thanks for all your continuing hard work."

Leanne Soper commented: "What an amazing person and manager thank you for everything you have done for the club top man."

much-loved Wycombe boss



During the shorter-haired days (Dylan Ing)



Holding the League One play off trophy (Alan Cecil)



During the early days (Steven McCafferty)

what some of these fans who have been here through thick and thin for 20, 30, 40, 50 years but I am really, really proud guy to have managed this club 500 times on Saturday.

"It'll be a real big milestone for me and I don't really do a lot of milestones.

"But I do remember my 500th game and I will certainly remember my 500th managerial game [in charge of Wycombe].

"It'll be something special and people go on about managers getting 100 games, never mind 500, so I am really, really proud and I want to say thank you to every single fan that has got behind me.

"Some would have given me stick and that's football.

"That has helped build resilience in me but I have had a lot of support and I couldn't be any prouder to be the manager of Wycombe Wanderers.

"I have had opportunities to move but I would like to say I love this place.

"This club means a hell of a lot to me.

"I bet most managers don't support their club, but I certainly support Wy-

combe Wanderers now.

"It's in me and in my family and I think it'll be there for a long time."

Thank you for everything Gaz, and here's to the next 500.

GARETH Ainsworth's biggest wins as Wycombe manager in every season**

Fixtures from the same season Season is still active***

2012/13 season: Adams Park: February 9, 2013: Wycombe Wanderers 4-0 York City

*2013/14 season: Home Park: September 14, 2013: Plymouth Argyle 0-3 Wycombe Wanderers

2013/14 season: Sixfields: December 21, 2013: Northampton Town 1-4 Wycombe Wanderers

2013/14 season: Plainmoor: May 3, 2014: Torquay United 0-3 Wycombe Wanderers

*2014/15 season: Whaddon Road: November 22, 2014: Cheltenham Town 1-4 Wycombe Wanderers

2014/15 season: Adams Park: December 13, 2014: Wycombe Wanderers 4-1 Southend United

2015/16 season: The Shay: November

8, 2015: Halifax Town 0-4 Wycombe Wanderers

2016/17 season: Adams Park: September 27, 2016: Wycombe Wanderers 5-1 Crewe Alexandra

2017/18 season: Adams Park: November 18, 2017: Wycombe Wanderers 4-0 Crawley Town

2018/19 season: Adams Park: October 23, 2018: Wycombe Wanderers 3-0 Rochdale

*2019/20 season: Spotland Stadium: September 28, 2019: Rochdale 0-3 Wycombe Wanderers

2019/20 season: Highbury Stadium: July 3, 2020: Fleetwood Town 1-4 Wycombe Wanderers

*2020/21 season: New York Stadium: April 5, 2021: Rotherham United 0-3 Wycombe Wanderers

2020/21 season: Riverside Stadium: May 8, 2021: Middlesbrough 0-3 Wycombe Wanderers

*2021/22 season: Home Park: November 27, 2021: Plymouth Argyle 0-3 Wycombe Wanderers

2021/22 season: Adams Park: March 1, 2022: Wycombe Wanderers 3-0 Cambridge United.



Legend (Miriam Payne)



Lots of smiles (Liam Foster)



Much loved at AP (Emily Issac)



Wanderers through and through (Simon WWFC Baker)

SPORT

More woes for the boys in blue



It was another defeat (PA)

ACCRINGTON came from behind twice to beat promotion-chasing Wycombe 3-2 in Sky Bet League One.

Wanderers opened the scoring on 13 minutes when Jason McCarthy's cross from the right was met by Sam Vokes at the far post and he side-footed home.

Stanley equalised on 20 minutes when Sean McConville's free-kick found Korede Adedoyin in the six-yard box and he clipped the ball home for his first EFL goal.

However two minutes later the Chairboys were back in front when Dominic Gape's cross was headed home by Sullay Kaikai – his second in two games. Stanley drew level again on 48 minutes when Matt Butcher's ball forward was flicked on by half-time substitute Harry Pell and it fell to Ross Sykes who rifled the ball home.

The Reds celebrated the winner on 64 minutes when Butcher's looping ball into the box found Pell who headed home. Gape hit the post for Wycombe in the dying minutes and Mitch Clark saw red for Stanley in the 96th minute for a late challenge on the returning midfielder.

Ex PSG player goes out on loan

WYCOMBE have confirmed that Jean-Baptiste Fischer has joined Non League Braintree Town on loan until the end of the season.

The Ex PSG youth captain, who signed for the Chairboys in September following a successful trial, penned a deal with the National League South side on Friday [February 26].

A day later, he was on the sub's bench for their 1-0 defeat against Dulwich Hamlet.

He scored on his Wanderers debut in the 4-0 win over Long Crendon in the Berks and Bucks Cup on February 15.

Meanwhile, other loan players in Max Ram and Andre Burley featured for Hungerford Town, as they notched up a fifth successive home victory against Concord Rangers, whilst Malachi Linton did not feature in King's Lynn's 4-1 home defeat against Maidenhead in the National League.

Smiles all round as the Chairboys win

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has praised the attacking arsenal he possesses following his side's impressive 3-0 win over Cambridge at Adams Park.

The boss made four changes to the team that lost to Accrington Stanley on Saturday which saw Daryl Horgan and Anis Mehmeti come into the starting line up, with Sullay Kaikai dropping to the bench and Dom Gape missing out altogether.

The change in formation and shape worked wonders as Wycombe went 2-0 up inside 15 minutes thanks to strikes from Mehmeti and Garath McCleary respectively.

Mehmeti then wrapped up the win in the final few moments of the contest, which also saw Kaikai and Brandon Hanlan be unused substitutes, despite the duo having positive performances in several of Wanderers' most recent matches.

On the performances, Ainsworth said: "Anis has come up with the goods, but Garath McCleary was outstanding and back to his best.

"We had a meeting on Monday and Gaz stood up and said to the boys that 'it's just a bad run that we've been on but the performances have been there'.

"I agree with him.

"If you really look into it with depth [the seven match winless run], two, maybe we didn't deserve to win, but the rest of them we were fighting.

"We are a good side and we won't be resting on this."

On his attacking options, he explained: "With Sullay, I know he has got his goals recently, but I made the decision to go for the three that started the season so



The 3-0 win was Wanderers' first since the 2-0 victory over Oxford United on January 15 ending a run of seven league games without a win. It was also Ainsworth's 499th game in charge of the Chairboys (PA)

well for me.

"There are three internationals (Vokes, McCleary and Horgan) there and maybe four as Anis Mehmeti could be playing for Albania one day.

"You can't miss the attacking flare that these boys have got.

"We score goals, we know we can score goals as we have done

it all season.

"It was keeping them out that was important.

"I went to a four [at the back] tonight and we went top of the league with three at the back in January.

"I'm pleased as we've got different ways at playing and I said, being unpredictable is a

real big strength."

Since the start of the season, Wanderers have fielded out 23 different players for their league matches, with the Chairboys scoring 58 goals in that time.

They have also kept 11 clean sheets this league campaign, which included three consecutive block outs in October.



John Coleman heaped the praise onto Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

Coleman's lovely words for Ainsworth

ACCRINGTON Stanley manager John Coleman has described Gareth Ainsworth as the 'Ken Barlow of Wycombe' before the Lancashire side defeated the Chairboys 3-2 on February 26.

The 59-year-old, who is 16 games short of managing his 1000th match for the club, believes that the successes Ainsworth has achieved since being in the hot seat means he is 'only going to get better' as a manager.

Coleman said: "I'm full of

admiration for the way Gareth has gone about his business.

"Getting Wycombe promoted was an incredible achievement, he could feel hard done by in the way they went down last season as I don't think that was justified, and he's continuing to do a good job there.

"The only thing people are interested in when it comes to football is winning games and he does it on a regular basis.

"It's going to be a good game

and I like him as a guy.

"He's a great feller and it'd be great to see him again.

"He's linked with the Championship jobs and Gareth has already had a great career both as a player, and already as a manager and it's only going to get better. "He's very down to earth, very level headed, he is one of the proper football people and he deserves all the plaudits he gets.

"He might become the Ken Barlow of Wycombe."



Garath McCleary (centre) was named man of the match against Cambridge United on March 1, as he assisted two and scored one in the home victory (PA)

McCleary is honest

WYCOMBE attacker Garath McCleary has stated that he is 'not looking for personal achievements' following the Chairboys' 3-0 win over Cambridge United.

The Jamaican international scored and assisted two in Wanderers' important win over the Us which was their first in seven games.

The win was also the first time McCleary had scored in 13 games, dating back to the 2-1 triumph over Burton Albion on December 7.

And even though his goal has put him on seven for the season, just four behind top-scorer Sam Vokes, there is only one goal for the winger to try and get this season.

He told the BFP: "It was a little goal draught and I am glad to be

back on the scoresheet but it was great to get the win as we needed it.

"For me, I'm not looking for personal achievements.

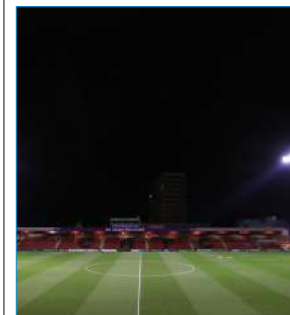
"There is one goal for me and that is to be in the play-offs and get promoted.

"I've not made any suggestion that is not what I have wanted.

"Our main goal is to get promoted and if we don't, it'll be disappointing."

On the match itself in which he was named the man of the match, he continued: "All the boys put in a very good shift as we gave everything for the gaffer and for ourselves, we knew that the form wasn't the best, but it's not from a lack of effort."

First visit to Crewe for four seasons



Gresty Road (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has revealed that three points against Crewe Alexandra on Saturday 'will be fantastic', as he gets ready for his 500th game in charge of the club.

The Chairboys travel up to the Gresty Road looking for their first win on the road since January 11, when they defeated Bolton 2-0.

Going into the contest, Wanderers are unbeaten in their last three matches against Crewe, recording three wins, but despite being bottom of the table, Alexandra registered their first win in 13 matches last Saturday.

Ahead of the battle against the League One basement team, Ainsworth said: "Three points will be fantastic, with a clean sheet and going forward, if we play like we did today [March 1 against Cambridge], I think we will have a great chance.

"It's going to go down to the wire with these play offs and I hope we can be around it and I know I've got a squad that is good enough to win the play offs if we can finish in them."

Fleetwood fixture is moved to earlier date

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that their home match versus Fleetwood Town has been moved.

The original fixture was due to take place on Saturday, March 26, but it will now be played on Tuesday, March 15 instead.

The reason for the move is because the match would have taken place on the international weekend, and it is probable that the North West side are to have three to four call ups.

This would have required the match to be rescheduled, so to avoid a backlog of fixture across April, which is when regular league season ends, the fixture will now be played in the middle of March.

When the two sides last met on October 30, 2021 at Highbury Stadium, the match finished 3-3.

Wing stands out in Wanderers' 3-0 win



Lewis Wing (pictured here for Sheffield Wednesday) played brilliantly against Cambridge for Wycombe on March 1 (PA)

GARETH Ainsworth believes the performance Lewis Wing put in during Wycombe's victory over Cambridge was his 'best for the club so far'.

The 26-year-old joined the Chairboys on Transfer Deadline Day this January from Middlesbrough, but he has spent the last 12 months away from the Teesside outfit at two separate teams.

At the back end of the 2020/21 campaign, he was playing for Rotherham United and in fact played against Wanderers in their 3-0 win over the Yorkshire team in April 2021, before joining Sheffield Wednesday last summer on loan from Boro.

He played 25 times for the Owls, scoring once.

Coincidentally, both teams in Rotherham and Sheffield Wednesday went down with Wycombe from the Championship in 2021.

However, since being a Chairboy, he has played five times and put in a brilliant display in their 3-0 win over Cambridge United on March 1. Ainsworth said: "With Lewis Wing, I thought had his best performance for us so far and I think we're growing us a team.

"He didn't play a lot at Sheffield Wednesday and I think he suffered from match fitness, so we need to get him up to speed fitness wise, definitely sharpness wise.

"But going forward, I think he finds a pass, he's super on the ball, has a great touch, a great range of passing and I think he finds that forward pass that often, your bog standard midfielders in League One don't see.

By James Richings

"I don't think his first goal is far away and I think that was his position in dictating the ball.

"He has got vision and a pass that most midfielders in this league do not have but, he's getting fitter and we can get Lewis Wing even better than what he is.

"I'm really impressed with the way went forward but the clean sheet pleases me more than everything."

Finally, the boss added: "We've got Crewe on Saturday and we have got to be good for that.

"Judge us after 46 games as we're right in it and a 3-0 win at home was just what we needed.

"I had faith, my owners have had faith in me and they have been nothing but supportive throughout this little run."

Prior to signing for Middlesbrough in the summer of 2017 (which was a month after they were relegated from the Premier League), Wing had played Non League football in the North East of England.

He played 92 games and has scored 15 goals for the Boro, whilst also having loan moves away from the Riverside club.

In the 2017/18 season, he made 22 appearances for Yeovil Town where he scored three goals, and last year, he played 20 times for Rotherham in the Championship, scoring twice.

One of those appearances was against Wycombe on Easter Monday 2021, which the Chairboys won 3-0 at the New York Stadium.

SPORT

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Boss reveals plan after Cambridge win



Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

Looking ahead to Crewe

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth believes that 'anyone can beat anyone' as Wanderers get ready for their battle away at Crewe Alexandra on Saturday.

The Chairboys defeated Cambridge United 3-0 on March 1 which ended a poor run of no wins in seven matches.

Crewe themselves ended a terrible spell of form by beating Cheltenham Town on February 26, which was their first win in eight games, which included seven straight defeats.

They remain bottom of the table yet despite this, Ainsworth has reiterated that he will not underestimate the talents that Alexandra have got.

He said: "Anyone and can beat anyone. They won on Saturday, and I know David Artell was here tonight [March 1] watching us.

"We are away from home and they gave us a scare earlier this season, as we needed a last minute winner from Ryan Tafazolli.

"We are not taking anything for granted.

Words of praise for the manager

GARATH McCleary believes Gareth Ainsworth is one of the best managers he has ever played under, as the boss gets ready for his 500th game in charge of the club.

The 48-year-old will celebrate the half a century of games in the Wanderers hot seat against Crewe Alexandra on Saturday, March 5, as the Chairboys continue to push for promotion back to the Championship.

In his 499 games, Ainsworth has won 194, drawn 126 and has lost 179.

Speaking after Wycombe's 3-0 win over Cambridge United on March 1, which was their first in seven league games, McCleary said: "The gaffer is brilliant.

"He is definitely up there as one of the best I've had, and I don't say that likely either.

"His man management, for me, is definitely up there.

"He speaks to the boys, he is empathetic in certain situations that we're going through behind the scenes, and he gave me a chance when many other teams didn't. I'm thankful and I hope that is showed in my performances."

McCleary has scored seven goals so far this season.



Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth was pleased with the way his side played following their 3-0 win over Cambridge (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has revealed that his players were in training working on set pieces the day they defeated Cambridge United 3-0 at Adams Park.

A double from Anis Mehmeti and a Garath McCleary strike gave the Chairboys a much-needed victory over the Us which was their first in seven league games.

It was their first since the 2-0 win over Oxford United on January 15 that sent them top of League One, but after only picking up three points from the next 21 available, Wycombe's

pursuit for the automatic promotion places has very much dropped off.

But a triumph over a side that have only ever defeated Wanderers once at Adams Park in their Football League history was a huge relief for Ainsworth, who also revealed that the clean sheet pleased him 'more than anything.'

Speaking after the win on March 1, he said: "I thought the boys were superb.

"We had one scare when Sam Vokes blocked a shot off the line in the second half, but apart from that, we looked dangerous.

"We've worked on one or two things which people may have seen tonight [March 1], and I'm proud of the bravery the boys

have shown at times on the ball.

"They're good players when they put it together like that, and with Ryan who has struggled with his groin, being back I thought he was impressive in the defence with Anthony alongside him."

On bringing the players into training hours before kick off, he explained: "We have been sloppy at [defending] set pieces.

"I think with our last six goals, five have been set plays so we have to get better at that.

"I brought the boys in this afternoon for training to work on set pieces and I don't usually do that for a game day, but, sometimes as a manager you've got to make your players feel the hard yards.

"We hadn't been good enough at

this, so we worked on it, and I'm really pleased.

"We got one [clean sheet] against Shrewsbury and since then we've leaked a few [goals].

"Lincoln wasn't too bad, Cheltenham was horrible and it goes to show the variation of defenders we've got.

"Joe Jacobson, my club captain, didn't get into the squad [against Cambridge] but he was in the dressing room and was talking about how they can defend as a unit.

"I've got the player's backs 100 per cent, and it's good to know that when I need them, they have got mine."

Up next is Crewe Alexandra on Saturday, March 5, which will be the boss' 500th in charge.