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Full story on page 7

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NOW IN STOCK

Wycombe LGBT TV personality speaks on Adams Park incident

By James Richings

A REALITY TV star from High Wycombe, who identifies as an intersex trans person, believes 'education is key' following the alleged homophobic comments that were heard at Adams Park.

During Wycombe Wanderers' 2-0 win over Oxford United on January 15, an announcement was made through the PA system reminding fans to not use any anti-gay slurs, after the Chairboys goalkeeper David Stockdale reported the incident to matchday referee Anthony Backhouse.

Following the incident, both managers, Gareth Ainsworth and Karl Robinson, condemned the language used, which came from the Oxford United end, with both clubs releasing a statement revealing an investigation will begin.

However, Tia Latham, who is from the area and is best known for appearing on the reality TV show *Survival of the Fittest* in 2018, believes that understanding the potential damage caused by anti-gay language could help society defeat homophobia.

Speaking exclusively to the *Bucks Free Press*, Ms Latham, who was the victim of a homophobic assault in January 2019, said: "Let's just say if one of the footballers is gay, or refers to a part of the LGBT community, hearing something like that could make them hide in the shadows, and we don't want them to hide in the shadows."

"The more people who are visible will allow more acceptance and there'll be less situations that will arise."

"We have come a long way and things are a lot better than what they were a few decades ago, but there is still a long way to go."

Wycombe Wanderers as a club are known for supporting the LGBT community, and in December, the club released a special edition rain-



Tia Latham spoke about the alleged homophobic comments made during Wycombe vs Oxford on Jan 15 (PA)

bow kit which was available to purchase.

However, the incident that took place in the stands on January 15 has started debate on whether enough is being done to tackle this form of discrimination in the sport.

Ms Latham also questioned whether the anti-gay slur that was allegedly made at the match was also a mask to hide someone's insecurities.

Ms Latham, who also works as a model, as well as having her own YouTube channel, continued: "I think it's sad that this is still happening, especially at the turn of the new year as well."

"We have come so far; not just in the LGBT community, but as society as a

whole, because there is much information that is available for us.

"People will then be able to achieve whatever they want to achieve without limitations.

"And sometimes, those who are throwing the derogatory comments around, they within themselves, might need to work on themselves personally, as they could be feeling what they are saying to someone else.

"They may be saying derogatory comments, but they could be part of the LGBT community.

"If you don't understand something, Google is only a click away where you can find useful resources where you can educate yourself no matter what age you are."

Life ban handed to 18-year-old pitch invader during Oxford clash

WYCOMBE Wanderers have handed a life ban to an 18 year old for invading the pitch at Adams Park during their 2-0 win against Oxford United.

The man from Thame was arrested for the incident of pitch encroachment and received a conditional caution from Thames Valley Police.

A statement from Wycombe Wanderers read: "An 18 year old has been banned for life from Adams Park after entering the field of play from the terrace and endangering player safety during Saturday's League 1 encounter against Oxford United. The individual had no previous ticket history at the stadium and his behaviour does not reflect the excellent conduct of the club's genuine supporters."



The man ran on the Adams Park pitch (Photo: PA Media)

The club is currently reviewing and updating its crowd management policies to help prevent future instances of pitch incursions. Police are also still appealing for

witnesses following alleged homophobic chants from the Oxford United fans during the second half.

Man arrested in Wycombe for drug crimes



Police arrested a man

A MAN has been arrested after a "substantial" amount of class A drugs were found in High Wycombe.

The man was arrested for possession with intent to supply class A drugs and has been remanded into custody.

He now awaits his next hearing.

A TVP social media post reads: "The Wycombe Problem Solving Team executed a Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act warrant yesterday at an address in High Wycombe.

"One male was arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A drugs after a substantial amount was located within the address.

"He was charged and remanded into police custody and has now been further remanded by the courts, awaiting his next hearing."

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Thumping start to 2022

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women Reserves won their first game of 2022 as they smashed Launton Ladies 6-0 on January 16.

Showing their attacking intent in the first five minutes with consecutive corners, the first fell to captain Emilie Bamford who saw her shot saved, before she had an attempt that flew over the crossbar, after it was saved by the visiting keeper.

Attacking midfielder, Amy Norfolk, was next to have an effort on goal, followed by another from Bamford, both saved well by the Launton goalie.

Camped in the Launton half, defender Eve Savage saw her shot go just wide of the post on 18 minutes and, after a great through ball from Norfolk, Naimh Creighton got on the end of a trademark Sally Grimm cross that went just wide two minutes later.

Determined to get on the scoresheet, Savage shot wide from 20 yards on 23 minutes and had another effort well saved in the 36th minute.

Bamford hit the crossbar from 25 yards on 40 minutes, and just before the break, Grimm latched onto a through-ball from Amelia Gilbert only to see her effort saved.

Goalless at the break.

However, having done everything right but score in the first half, Wycombe made amends almost immediately in the second as they went 1-0 up thanks to a brilliant goal by Creighton.



It was a thumping win for the Wycombe Wanderers Women Reserve Team, as they smashed Launton Ladies

on. Norfolk doubled the lead straight from the restart, hitting the top corner from the edge of the area, before Gilbert made sure of the win just two minutes later, meeting Grimm's corner with her head to make it 3-0 before the 50 minute mark.

Not happy to settle for three, Wycombe continued on the attack, only a fantastic save low to the left denying Gilbert her second

of the game on 55 minutes. Creighton did however get her second on 58 minutes before Gilbert made it 5-0 on the hour mark.

No goals followed until eight minutes from the end when Norfolk got onto the scoresheet for a second time to make it 6-0 to the Chairgirls.

A great win for Wycombe who now go into their next fixture away to Aylesbury United this weekend.

Away day struggles for the first team



They lost 5-1 (Pixabay)

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women's first team suffered another defeat as they were thrashed 5-1 away at Eastleigh.

The home side were quick out the traps as they went 2-0 up inside the opening 12 minutes, before Naomi Tilley pulled a goal back for Wanderers midway through the first-half.

The Chairgirls seem to have a foot in the game as they create several chances, but, they came to nothing despite the positive play, and just before the break, they missed attempts came back to haunt them as they conceded a third.

The second half saw Eastleigh come out the more determined of the two teams and they increased their lead on 50 minutes.

However, Wycombe again upped their game with good ball play, possession and positive forward runs.

But again, this was in vain as Eastleigh wrapped up the win on 86 minutes, as they made it 5-1. The Chairgirls face Abingdon United and Flackwell Heath in the next two weeks.



Emily Norfolk (left) and Naimh Creighton (right)

Chairgirls are into the 2022 cup final

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women U18s are through to the Bucks & Berks Cup final after they thumped Winnersh Rangers 8-1 in the semi-final.

Naomi Tilley scored the first after five minutes before Jorja-Louise Bray hit a thunderous shot from 20 yards to make it 2-0. She then scored again on 15 minutes thanks to a lovely through ball from Amelia Sage and, after 20 minutes, she lobbed the keeper at close range completing an impressive 10 minute hat-trick to make it 4-0.

Winnersh did pull a goal back, but, Wycombe scored again through Jess Gomes, who wonderfully guided her shot past the keeper leaving her little chance, as they went in at the break 5-1 up.

Tilley's quick feet crafted her second goal of the match to make it six, before Nina Cook lobbed the keeper to score a spectacular seventh goal. On 85 minutes, Jess Fuller took advantage of some sloppy defending by Winnersh, reacted quickly and struck the ball from 25 yards to seal the victory.



Holloways Park - the home of Beaconsfield Town FC

Rams on the march

A GOAL in either half gave Beaconsfield Town a deserved three points, as they defeated Dorchester Town 2-0 in this Southern League Premier Division South fixture.

The Rams took the lead after 31 minutes through Ryan De-Havilland, who was making his second start since joining on loan from Barnet, as the

midfielder calmly placed his low shot beyond Jack Bycroft.

They then scored again in the 57th minute, as Nathan Minhas burst onto Jordan Ajanlekoko's flicked header to slam the ball home from 12 yards.

The win means Beaconsfield have now lost one of their last nine matches.

Risborough Rangers fall to first league loss since 2019

A Non League club missed the chance to equal Bayern Munich's unbeaten league record as they were defeated for the first time in nearly three seasons.

Risborough Rangers, who recently eclipsed Arsenal's 49 game unbeaten record, fell to a 1-0 loss away at Ardley United on January 15, meaning it was their first league failing since April 2019.

The run lasted for 52 matches - one short of Bayern Munich's record of 53 league outings (October 2012 - April 2014).

The longest known unbeaten league run in European football belongs to AC Milan, who failed to lose in 58 straight matches between May 1991 to March 1993.

Ardley United's chairman, Ian Fever, said: "It has been



Risborough Rangers play their games at the B.E.P

such a good run by Risborough Rangers, and all respect goes out to them for what they have achieved over the last three years.

"But we had an eye on that as we wanted to try and end the run, and I have to say, full credit to them.

"They have got such a

winning mentality and they took the defeat well."

The Reds are currently top of the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division table, and could be promoted in the summer if they continue their good run.

SPORT

OUFC
boss on
incidents

Oxford boss Karl Robinson (PA)

OXFORD United manager Karl Robinson has stated that the alleged homophobic slur that was said amongst the Yellow's fans in their 2-0 defeat at Wycombe is 'not 'ceptable'.

Just before the hour mark, David Stockdale alerted referee Anthony Backhouse to an incident that occurred in the away stand which the goalkeeper was defending.

After a quick consultation, the man in the middle called over both managers and stewards to explain the incident, which was later revealed to be an anti-gay comment that was made from the Oxford end.

Moments later, Brandon Hanlan doubled Wycombe's lead following Curtis Thompson's first-half strike.

Speaking to the Oxford Mail after the match, Robinson said: "Whoever's done it is in the wrong, it's not acceptable.

"Someone heard something that was said and if it was that obvious I'm sure they would have pinpointed the fan and they would've been removed. We have to stamp this out, it's not acceptable. Our fans are good people. Don't tarnish Oxford United with one person saying something stupid.

"Oxford United fans stand up for what they believe in is right and that's their team.

"There's a few other things that happened that will go amiss because people want to point on the negative thing.

"We know saying certain things towards any human being is unacceptable.

"You know the work that goes on at this club behind the scenes and in the community to make sure everybody lives their life in an open and honest way.

"If one person says something silly it has to be dealt with, but don't tarnish Oxford United Football Club with one silly bit of behaviour."

The alleged comment was made a few minutes before a spectator ran onto the pitch where he was confronted by Oxford's Steve Seddon. The left-back tried to stop the intruder but was unable to do so, before they were eventually escorted off by the stewards. Robinson continued: "A fan coming on the pitch incited a problem. When my player goes off the pitch a fan pushes him and nothing seems to get spoken about."

Pitch invaders, slurs and disturbances

By James Richings

OXFORD United have confirmed that they will work with Wycombe Wanderers following the alleged homophobic slurs that were shouted during the Yellow's 2-0 defeat at Adams Park on January 15.

Just before the hour mark with the score at 1-0, Chairboys goalkeeper David Stockdale indicated to referee Anthony Backhouse that a comment had been made in the stand behind him, which was where the Oxford supporters were situated.

Once telling the referee, Backhouse spoke to both managers in Gareth Ainsworth and Karl Robinson on what was allegedly said, before a Tannoy announcement was made reminding fans to not use homophobic language or comments in the vicinity.

Moments later, Brandon Hanlan scored to wrap the victory for Wycombe, their first over Oxford in the league for six years.

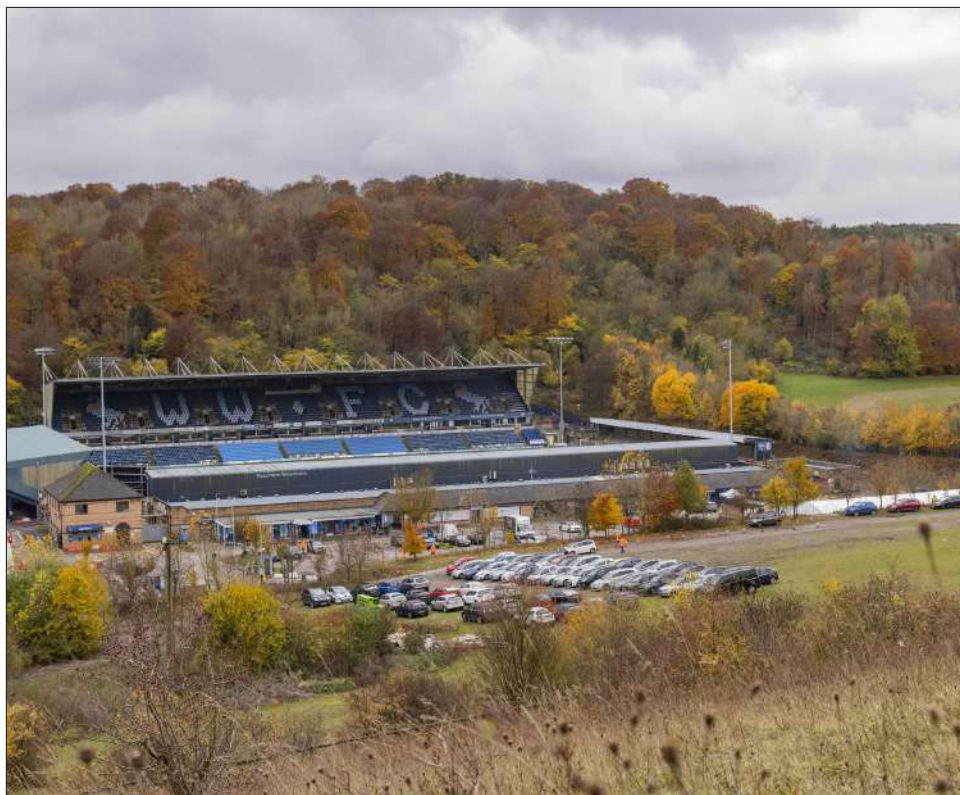
However, more unsavoury scenes followed as a spectator ran onto the pitch and clashed with a couple of United players.

In a statement that was published on January 16, OUFC said: "Oxford United will wait for reports to be completed but will work with the safety team at Wycombe Wanderers and all of the relevant authorities to investigate allegations of homophobic comments during today's game at Adams Park.

"The club will examine all of the available evidence but would like to state as clearly as possible that discrimination of any kind is not acceptable at matches, home or away, or on social media.

"Oxford United remain committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for all supporters and will not tolerate any form of discrimination."

Both managers have condemned the comments that were allegedly said, whilst others have praised David Stockdale for reporting the incident to the referee.



Despite Wycombe winning 2-0 at Adams Park, the match was overshadowed by several distasteful moments (PA)

Wycombe also released a statement on the same day, saying: "Wycombe Wanderers were delighted to welcome its biggest crowd of the season to Adams Park on Saturday, and thank both Chairboys and Oxford supporters for coming along to play their part in another absorbing afternoon of League One football.

"The club are, however, investigating

a small number of incidents which occurred throughout the day in relation to discriminatory abuse, pitch incursions and crowd disturbances.

"The safety and wellbeing of everyone in the stadium - players included - is paramount at all times.

"The club also has a zero-tolerance approach to any form of discrimination, and applauds those who have re-

ported incidents involving homophobic and racist language.

"Each incident is being investigated and appropriate action will be taken.

"Wanderers would also like to publicly thank both sets of supporters for a poignant mark of respect in the 29th minute for Alana Hurford, a young Wycombe supporter who passed away recently."



Gareth Ainsworth poses for a picture with Alana Hurford (@wwfcofficial)

Ainsworth's tribute to the much-loved Alana

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has dedicated his side's 2-0 win over Oxford United in memory of popular fan, Alana Hurford.

Alana, who was Wanderers through and through, and was seen at matches both home and away, sadly passed away on December 31, 2021, following a short illness aged just 29.

In the fixture against Karl Robinson's men on January 15 which was dubbed 'Lana's game', fans from both clubs, as well as the players, the backroom staff, the coaches and the referee all

applauded the late fan in the 29th minute.

A Just Giving page was also launched to raise funds for the charity, Mind, which a cause close to Alana's heart.

So far, £1,998 has been raised.

Speaking after defeating the Yellow's 2-0, Ainsworth said: "Alana has been a stalwart fan of this football club through thick and thin.

"I remember when we got beat against Bristol Rovers [April 2014] and we were looking at the old drums of

Non League football, she was as passionate as he would have been today [January 15], in singing, shouting and cheering.

"There is a group of people that have really driven this club forward through the noise that they make, and some of the goals that we have scored in the terrace end is because of Lana, her friends and family who get behind this team and who are proud of to be Wycombe Wanderers fans.

"I was proud to hold her shirt up today and that was for her."

Non League needs you

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth is encouraging people in the area to attend a Non League fixture in Buckinghamshire.

The 48-year-old is urging those who live in and around the county to be present at Flackwell Heath FC's latest fixture on January 22.

This is because Flackwell are celebrating the news that their popular chairman, Terry Glynn, has defeated prostate cancer for a second time. The Heathens had planned to allow fans and spectators to visit Wilks Park for free when they played Broadfields United on December 28, 2021, on the basis that a donation to the Prostate Cancer UK charity is made.

But, due to Covid-19 cases and waterlogged pitches, many Non

Leagues during the festive period were called off.

Thankfully, a new date has been penned in, and people all cross the county and beyond are now able to visit Flackwell's home, for when they face Arlesey Town this weekend.

Speaking after his side defeated Oxford United on January 15, Ainsworth said: "Get down to Flackwell Heath! I proudly wear my prostate cancer badge and it's brilliant news that he has successfully beaten that terrible disease. If you fancy a day at Flackwell Heath, they've played a big part in Wycombe's history, get yourself down there, but if you can get up to Morecambe, we need you too."

Statement is released regarding Derby C



Pride Park (PA)

THE EFL has addressed Wycombe Wanderers and Middlesbrough's legal action against Derby County.

Both Wycombe and Middlesbrough are pursuing claims as the clubs believe they have lost earnings due to Derby's Financial Fair Play breaches.

There are three parties interested in buying Derby following their administration, but all three want the claims resolved before proceeding with a takeover.

Derby feel that the claims are "spurious" but it is understood that the current bidders are unwilling to buy the club at the risk of having to defend them.

However, the EFL says Wycombe and Middlesbrough believe their claims have "merit" and shouldn't be "compromised" using the insolvency process.

The EFL also revealed that they had "not yet received full details" of Wycombe's claims.

The statement from the EFL read: "Middlesbrough FC commenced its claims against the Club over 12 months ago in arbitration proceedings, the framework for which is set out in EFL Regulations."

"The EFL is not a party to those proceedings and nor does it have a role in determining the outcome of them. As the arbitration proceedings are private and confidential, we are unable to provide any further detail."

"The EFL is aware that the Administrators have also received notice of claims from Wycombe Wanderers FC of a similar nature to those of Middlesbrough FC, but the EFL has not received full details of them."

"The current situation remains challenging as Middlesbrough and Wycombe Wanderers consider their claims should be protected under the terms of the Insolvency Policy. The Administrators disagree."

"Further, as those claims are not yet determined the Administrators and bidders have no clarity on the size of any (if any) liability."

"That has implications for exiting administration, and ultimately the Club being able to retain its membership status."

"We are aware that Derby County consider the claims to be spurious, but despite this, the current bidders appear unwilling to assume the risk of defending them."



Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth is urging fans in attending Flackwell Heath's fixture against Arlesey Town on Saturday, January 22 (PA)

Ainsworth's analysis on Oxford victory



Gareth Ainsworth was impressed with his side's win over Oxford (PA)

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth believes his side 'deserved' all three points following their 2-0 win over Oxford United.

A brilliant strike from Curtis Thompson just before the break and a cool finish by Brandon Hanlan in the second half, sealed the Chairboys' third win in four games since the turn of 2022, which has sent them top of the League One table.

The match at Adams Park, which was coined as a derby, also saw Wycombe achieve their highest attendance of the season so far with 8,005 - 1,808 being for the away end.

Speaking after the win, Ainsworth said: "It was a big result in the derby that is not a derby."

"It was a tough win which I think shows how far this club has come in regard to the standards of League One."

"We've gone top tonight, which is brilliant, there is a long way to go, but, to be amongst the names that we are amongst, is phenomenal."

Going into the contest, Ainsworth made one change to the team that defeated Bolton on Tuesday night, as Sam Vokes was dropped with Thompson coming in.

It was revealed that the Welshman had suspected positive Covid-19 test, meaning it was only the second league game this season he had not featured in.

However, despite the change of system and change in formation, Wanderers cruised to victory which has seen them go top of England's third tier.

Ainsworth continued: "We had a big man on the bench, and we didn't even need to put him on."

By James Richings

"I thought some of the football we played was outstanding with Anis Mehmeti, Garath McCleary and Brandon Hanlan, what a front three that is."

"They were carving chances out and I thought we deserved the win."

"Curtis Thompson and Josh Scowen secure the play, whilst securing the shape we employed which was very attacking as we went 3-2-4-1."

"It was kind of in Oxford's faces as we wanted to try and get them to play the ball long, whilst also having the chance to get the balls to Mehmeti and McCleary, whilst Hanlan at times played like the big man up top, but also, he had his running moments."

"They boys did really well and I am proud of them."

On missing Vokes, Ainsworth said: "It wasn't a difficult adjustment, it was a worrying adjustment because it's something going away from us that we have done for a long time."

"I do have my big strikers, but, we don't always have to play the way that people think we play, which we don't play."

"I thought the boys adapted well as the wingbacks got high in Jordan Obita, who of course was against his former club, and Jack Grimmer who had another cracking performance, and the back four, which includes David Stockdale, did so well in soaking up the crosses, and I thought we were great value for the result."

Up next for Wycombe is an away trip to Morecambe on January 22, before they end the month with a home clash against MK Dons on January 29.

SPORT



Wanderers move to the top of the league



Long range specialists? (PA)

Leading the way for long range goals

AS WELL as being top of the League One table, Wycombe Wanderers are also first for the number of goals scored this league season from outside the penalty box across England's top four leagues.

The Chairboys have bagged 44 league goals so far this campaign, with 13 of them coming from outside the box, according to Playmaker Stats on Twitter.

The team in second place behind the Wanderers is Stoke City of the Championship with 10, whilst League One rivals in MK Dons (nine), Rotherham United (nine) and Burton Albion (eight) also make the list.

The only Premier League team to have scored close to Wycombe's 13 league goals from outside the area are the reigning Premier League champions Manchester City, who have also scored eight goals.

The two coincidentally met in this season's League Cup campaign, with the current cup holders defeating the Chairboys 6-1 at the Etihad Stadium.

Standing up to fight homophobia

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has condemned the actions of those who allegedly used homophobic slurs in Wanderers' 2-0 win over Oxford United on January 15.

Just before the hour mark in the match at Adams Park, the game was briefly halted by referee Anthony Blackhouse.

Blackhouse had been seen listening to David Stockdale, who in the second half was defending the goal where the away fans were situated.

Stockdale indicated that something had happened in the stand behind him, which led Blackhouse to speak to both Ainsworth, United manager Karl Robinson and a couple of stewards. A stadium announcement was then heard moments later reminding fans to not use homophobic language within the ground - and those who did will be reprimanded.

Speaking after the win over their Thames Valley rivals, Ainsworth said: "There was some homophobic abuse reported and that's all I know. I am proud to be in an era where people are comfortable to be reporting on that idiotic and ignorant behaviour; and I think the referee was outstanding with the way he dealt with things."



Curtis Thompson scored only his second goal of the season with a brilliant volley in the 2-0 home win against Oxford at Adams Park (PA)

By Taylor Toney-Green

WYCOMBE Wanderers are top of the League One table after they defeated Oxford United 2-0 at Adams Park.

Goals from Curtis Thompson and Brandon Hanlan secured the three points for the Chairboys over their Thames Valley rivals as they remain unbeaten in 2022.

Gareth Ainsworth was forced into one change following a suspected positive result for top scorer Sam Vokes, meaning he would miss just his second game of the season. Thompson was his replacement.

Karl Robinson made three switches from their midweek defeat at Lincoln in the hope of earning their first win of the new year - Jordan Thorniley, Marcus McGuane and Nathan Holland

came into the starting 11.

With the absence of Vokes, Wycombe's line would be led by Brandon Hanlan and his duties began from the off.

After good work from Jack Grimmer down the right-hand side to bypass two Oxford players, he fed through Oxford-born Garath McCleary. His cross was met, but fired over from Hanlan's stretched volley.

The visitors' first chance fell at the feet of Holland. Mark Sykes broke away from the Chairboys midfield and laid in Ryan Williams who set up Holland. With the goal gaping, Anthony Stewart hurled himself at the ball, clearing it off the line.

Breakthrough along the M40 came with Thompson's stellar strike. Seconds after winding up the travelling supporters, McCleary's corner deflect-

ed through to Thompson on the edge of the area. Chest and bang. His volley rifled through the crowd and past Simon Eastwood.

Wycombe's rock and roll intensity continued into half-time. McCleary glided beyond Sam Long and delivered a low-driven cross into Mehmeti's path. He failed to connect cleanly and Oxford survived.

Despite a short spell of United dominance via a trio of Holland chances, Wycombe maintained pressure from their opener and deserved to lead 1-0 at the interval.

Ten minutes into the second half and the hosts had two golden chances to double their lead.

First, Mehmeti played in McCleary who saw his tame effort saved by Eastwood and moments later he had a chance of his own. He drove at Elliott Moore and

wriggled his way past, only to find the on-rushing Eastwood.

Soon, Wycombe would have their second.

McCleary led the wave of the counter and in perfect orchestrator fashion, teed up Hanlan with the freedom of Adams Park. He would duly provide the finish, slotting through Eastwood's legs for his fifth of the season.

The introductions of James Henry, Gavin Whyte and Sam Winnall added greater poise to the attacking department. Cameron Brannagan's powerful strike forced a good save from David Stockdale.

After intricate play, Henry blazed one over and into the already-agitated, now seething Oxford fans.

Wycombe held on with minimal drama and secured their first league win over Oxford since December 2015.