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- Exposed in court as double murderer on the run for 16 years

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Mum's speed plea after hit-and-run



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NEWS

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THE REGISTER

Brodelle becomes Bodger

By James Richings

THE former Liberal Democrat parliament candidate, Toni Brodelle, had a very interesting day when she visited Adams Park last week.

The educator and diehard Wycombe fan visited the home of the Chairboys to meet members of the Wycombe Wanderers Supporters and Education Trust (WWSET) to learn more about how they support the wellbeing of children in the area, through football.

The day, which saw students from Carrington Junior School visit the stadium, was a resounding success, as the club and Toni are hoping to put plans in place to aid youngsters in and around the town, but there was one thing that Toni needed to do.

As there was no-one to don the popular costume to bring the club's mascot, Bodger, to life, the Wanderers fan decided to wear the outfit herself as the primary school students turned up.

Speaking on her visit to Adams Park, she said: "Thank you so much to the Wycombe Wanderers Supporters and Education Trust for such a warm welcome to Adams Park today.

"Brilliant to hear about all the amazing work being done to support our community and I very much look forward to work-



Toni Brodelle as Bodger the Chairboy at Adams Park last week

ing together.

"Also, it was fantastic to meet this great group of young people from Carrington Junior School at Adams Park. Hope you all had a brilliant time.

And on being Bodger, she added: "[I was] delighted to help!

"There was no way we could let the kids down. Fab students and so happy to see them all smiling."

Toni has been an avid fan of Wycombe Wanderers since her youth, and regularly



'Yeah, I'm a Wanderer'

attended matches at Loakes Park.

She also took part in the 2019 Big Sleep Out to raise awareness of homelessness in the town, in aid of the Wycombe Homeless Connection.

That year's event took place at Adams Park.

The SET team are based at the Hillbottom Road Stadium and are known for working with those in the area to help their with their futures.

This range from aiding youngsters

in their education, whilst also helping members of the LGBT community who are also football supporters.

One of the events they have lined up this year is to try and complete the Three Peaks challenge in just 24 hours.

For more of the events the team have to offer, as well as reading about what they do to help those in High Wycombe and beyond, you can visit their website in www.wwset.co.uk, or you can follow them on Twitter (@WWSET).

Tackling obesity through six-a-side football

MEN from Buckinghamshire have lost a collective 400 pounds in weight, thanks to playing six-a-side football via a healthy lifestyle programme.

The programme has helped 76 men from the county tackle obesity and lose the unwanted weight in a Man v Fat Football scheme, which is specifically aimed at overweight and obese men with a BMI of higher than 27.5. The club, run by MAN v FAT Football, takes place on Monday evenings at Aylesbury RFC in Brook End, Aylesbury.

And following on from the success of the Aylesbury group, a new club is set to launch in Wycombe on March 25, and the programme's organisers are looking for local men to sign-up.

It will take place at the Wycombe Leisure Centre.

Karl White, Man v Fat's Regional Manager for Buckinghamshire comments: "We are extremely proud of the progress made by our players, coaches and the wider team involved at our Aylesbury club."



The scheme has been a big success in Aylesbury



The scheme is to launch in Wycombe

Teenage chef, 18, has the taste for success

A CHEF from Aylesbury has won an international award for his vegetarian dish.

Joe Slater, 18, who works as a part-time chef at The Chequers Inn in Weston Turville at weekends, found the recipe for success to win Best Vegetarian Dish in this year's International Young Chef Olympiad.

The cook came fourth overall in the global competition against students and apprentices from across six

continents and 24 time zones.

The competition, in its eighth year, saw participants take a skills test, before a cooking challenge with the top 10 going through to a final cook-off to decide the winner.

Joe, who is in the third year of a Professional Chef diploma, said: "It was an honour to be picked to represent England in the Young Chef Olympiad 2022.

"I did my best and was happy with how my dishes turned out.

I couldn't have done much more."

"I felt well-prepared, particularly for the first round, because I'd practised that a lot.

"I was a bit nervous at first, but I began to settle down once I got going. It was a great experience and made me a better chef."

"It was a good opportunity to push myself further and test myself against other young chefs and see what I could achieve.

"It looks good on my CV and will really help my career."



Joe Slater came fourth in the global competition

From birthdays, marriages, deaths and other important milestones and events, we want to know about your family occasions. Call 01494 755096 or email stephanie.wareham@london.newsquest.co.uk

NEWS

Non League games on Sat

AS we head into the final two months of the Non League season, and with the worst of the weather hopefully behind us, there's plenty to look forward to, including this weekend if you're not following the Chairboys.

All eyes are on the Southern League Premier Division South after Chesham United's 4-1 win over Tiverton Town in midweek took them into the play-off places.

Although the Generals are away to Hartley Wintney on Saturday, their day will be impacted significantly by events in Buckinghamshire as Beaconsfield Town host Gosport Borough, who sit just below Chesham.

The Rams have been in good form of late, winning four of their last seven, and a win over the side from the south coast could allow Chesham to establish a buffer in the all-important top five.

However, Yate Town and Weston-super-Mare, in 7th and 8th respectively, are both within striking distance and have games in hand, so there's still plenty of work to do for United.

Also in the Southern League, albeit a division lower, Aylesbury United host high-flying AFC Dunstable at The Meadow in Chesham.

There's a game just outside Buckinghamshire in the same league as Thame United welcome Hertford Town to the ASM Stadium.

Thame are only four points off the play-offs, and with Hertford third from bottom, they'll see this one as a great chance to make up some ground.

Elsewhere in the eighth tier, over in the Isthmian League, Marlow, another play-off chasing outfit, host second-placed Chertsey Town at the Alfred Davis Memorial Ground.

Chalfont St Peter are really struggling at the bottom of the division and entertain fifth-placed Hanwell Town at Mill Meadow.

There's also action at The Gore in the ninth-tier Combined Counties League Premier Division, where Burnham take on Ascot United.

At the same level, there's plenty of Buckinghamshire representation in the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division, but Risborough Rangers, Holmer Green, Aylesbury Vale Dynamos and Flackwell Heath all play away this weekend.

Risborough's inactivity of late has seen New Salamis leapfrog them at the summit, but Rangers have a chance to get back on the horse with a trip to Arlesey Town.

The other notable tie involving those four clubs sees Holmer Green travel to Crawley Green in a battle of the bottom two.

Stormy weather causes sporting cancellations



The Meadow, Chesham United FC's ground, was not deemed to be safe to visit as Storms Dudley and Eunice caused havoc in Buckinghamshire

By Bobby Dwayne Folker

NON-LEAGUE football matches across Bucks have been postponed following the effects of Storm Eunice.

Chesham United FC were forced to cancel their fixture today against Weston-super-Mare AFC due to "structural and electrical damage" to the grounds caused during the storm.

The club took to social media last night to alert fans but Weston-super-Mare AFC quickly responded by saying the game had not been postponed with the Southern

League set to make the decision today.

The decision was finally made after consultation with the league around "health and safety issues" at the Meadow, Chesham United's stadium.

A new date for the game is to be organised for as soon as possible.

On social media, Chesham United said: "The decision to postpone today's game due to structural and electrical damage caused by Storm Eunice has been re-confirmed this morning with Weston and the league.

"The fixture will be rearranged as soon as possible, keep an eye out for

an update."

Elsewhere, a second pitch inspection from the referee led to Risborough Ranger's game against Harefield United being called off.

The club said they were "very sorry" as heavy and prolonged downpour meant the pitch was unplayable.

Also in the area, Beaconsfield Town FC had their home game postponed with the reserves set to take on Westfield FC at Holloways Park following damage being done to some fences, whilst large trees had fallen in the club's car park.

This comes just a few

months after they spent around £1m on revamping their stadium.

Marlow FC did not make the trip to Ashford Town after their game was called off following a pitch inspection.

However, a lot of clubs have still been able to get their games off despite the weather conditions in the past few days.

At grassroots level, Bucks Council has advised clubs with pitches on council land to consider cancelling their games.

A council spokesman said: "Due to the high winds and bad weather expected in the county today and over the weekend, the

decision has been taken to advise all organisations looking to run events on Buckinghamshire Council land that they should complete an additional risk assessment and consider whether they should be holding the event or activity.

"Where risk assessments indicate that the event will have to be cancelled, organisers should inform their attendees as soon as possible so they don't travel unnecessarily."

Chesham United currently groundshare the Meadow with Aylesbury United as the latter do not have a stadium of their own.



Gareth Ainsworth hailed Beaconsfield Town for their good deed (PA)

Beaconsfield are praised by boss

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has hailed a Non League team in Buckinghamshire for raising funds to help a mental health charity.

Beaconsfield Town, who play their games in the Southern League Premier Division South, have confirmed that their home match against Farnborough on March 5 will be free of charge for fans and spectators to attend.

This is on the basis that a donation to the mental health charity, Mind, is back by those who attend. The reason for why the Rams have chosen the ever-

popular mental health charity is due to the heartfelt work volunteers at the non-profit organisation have done, for those who are currently at the South Bucks club.

Speaking on what Beaconsfield are doing to help those with mental health issues, Ainsworth said: "It's really important.

"There are bigger things in the world than football and people often forget that and great credit to Beaconsfield in getting that game on."

The game will take place on the same day that Wanderers face an away trip to Crewe Alexandra.

NOSTALGIA with Mike Dewey

Early glory days for the Wanderers

THROUGHOUT January and February 72 years ago excitement and anticipation in the town had been building to fever pitch.

Wycombe Wanderers had been playing in front of crowds of spectators in excess of 10,000 as they progressed through the early rounds in the FA Amateur Cup. On February 25 1950 they were about to play for a place in the semi-finals.

At that time the Wanderers were a mid-table team in the Isthmian League and began the competition in the final qualifying round, something of an ignominy for a side who had won the cup in 1931.

And they were lucky to survive that first match, which was against local rivals Maidenhead Utd. Maidenhead were leading 5-4 when the match had to be abandoned due to fog. The score in the replayed match was 0-0, and the Wanderers finally secured their passage through to the first round proper by winning the replay at Loakes Park 2-1.

After a comfortable 4-0 victory in the first round away to Bungay Town the Wanderers then had the luxury of two games at home at Loakes Park

in rounds two and three.

They beat the tough northern team Crook Town 1-0 in front of 10,087 spectators and then Dulwich Hamlet 3-1, when the attendance was 13,607.

Then came the quarter-final match against St Albans City on February 25. City brought around 2,000 fans who travelled in some 80 coaches (where did they all park!). These fans swelled the attendance to an incredible 15,850. That remains the record attendance for a home match to this day.

It should be remembered that the majority of those fans would have been standing, a large proportion on the two uncovered concrete terraces behind the goals at either end of the pitch.

Fortunately it remained dry throughout the match but there was a "keen wind blowing from the east". That is true support!

A few minutes before kick-off a young City fan rushed onto the pitch and planted the team's colours on the centre spot. This was quickly removed by a young Wanderers' supporter, leading to a general melee between youngsters from both sides.

This was all played out in good spirits, but required the Arm of

the Law to intervene and remove the fans from the pitch.

The Wanderers were 2-0 up after 30 minutes, before City pulled one back. Two goals in the second half and Wycombe were comfortable 4-1 winners. The goal-scorers were Henrik Mikrut, Ken Butler and two by Jock McCallum

In the semi-final they had been drawn against the mighty Bishop Auckland, who were the scourge of the Wanderers in those days.

The match was played at Brentford. Wycombe were somewhat unluckily 2-0 down before dominating the game, pulling a goal back but not able to get the equaliser.

Were you at that the quarter-final match and would like to share your memories?

As a 12 year old I would have been there with my Dad but only have a vague recollection of sitting on the grass behind the goal-line at the Hospital end. Would that have been allowed even in those days?

● *For this account I am much indebted to the book on the history of Wycombe Wanderers up to 1996 by Dave Finch and Steve Peart.*



Young supporters from both clubs had a good-hearted clash in the centre circle just before the match began



Henrik Mikrut leaps highest to power the ball towards the St Albans City goal, this effort hitting the bar



The Loakes Park ground looking north from Tom Burts Hill, c1950



The Loakes Park gates, now installed at the entrance to Adams Park

The Wycombe war timeline - arguments over a British Restaurant

IN THE Timeline we are continuing to detail the main local events which were reported in the *Bucks Free Press* every week and related to World War II. This week we deal with the weeks to February 24, 1942:

Two local firms had written to Beaconsfield Council requesting that they consider establishing a British Restaurant but after discussion at a council meeting they decided to take no action.

Somewhat surprisingly at least two local councillors had complained about the removal of railings etc in the campaign to collect scrap iron for recycling as munitions. This had also resulted in many letters to the editor. The phrase "Hot air about cold iron in High Wycombe", which one reader used, seemed an apt description of this. It was pointed out that the Prime Minister had reminded the nation that 90,000 troops had had to surrender in Singapore because of their lack of ammunition.

Beaconsfield's Warship Week was formally launched on February 21, the sum of £20,000 having already been raised towards the target of £120,000 needed for a corvette. The Admiralty had already allocated the name *HMS Clematis* for the Beaconsfield corvette.

Roll of Honour

Able Seaman Walter Shannon, aged 19, who had lived with his parents in Malthouse Sq, Beaconsfield, had been "lost at sea" on January 31. The day before they received this news he had been reported as missing, presumed killed. Previous to enlisting he had worked as a gardener for Mrs Woolrych at Oak Gables in Beaconsfield.

Walter had been serving on HMS Culver, an American vessel, built originally for the US Coast Guard, which had been transferred to the Royal Navy under the Lend-Lease Act. While escorting a supply

convoy she was hit by two torpedoes from a German submarine, broke in two and sunk within one minute. Only 13 survived from the crew of 130.

Corporal Alfred (Tom) Tapping, aged 28, and also from Beaconsfield was killed by enemy action on February 9 while serving with the RAF in Malta. Before joining the RAF in August 1940 Tom had been employed at Grey's Garage in Beaconsfield.

Able Seaman Kenneth S Jarvis, aged 22, from Bledlow Ridge, who was serving on Royal Navy submarine H31, had been reported as missing, but it was later confirmed that he had died around December 24, 1941. He had served in the Merchant Navy before enlisting in the Merchant Navy.

In late December 1941 the submarine was on patrol in the Bay of Biscay. She was last heard of on December 19, and on December 24 failed to show up at a rendezvous

position for passage under escort to her base at Falmouth. She had sunk with all hands, but the cause is unknown, possibly a German minefield, drifting British mines or accidental.

RAF Sergeant Air-Gunner Gordon F G Rackstraw, aged 19, from Totteridge Rd, High Wycombe, had been reported as missing over enemy territory on February 16. Later it was confirmed that his body had been recovered from the sea off the Dutch coast on July 13, 1942 and buried in enemy-occupied territory. This was in fact the Terschelling (West) General Cemetery, Terschelling being one of the Wadden Islands, which form an archipelago off the north coast of the Netherlands, it is some 11 kilometres from the mainland.

The parents of **Senior Fourth Engineer Douglas B Beardsall** from Beaconsfield, who had been informed back in August 1941 that their son was missing, had now

been told that he had died at sea from enemy action. The information came from a postcard which had been received by the shipping company from the Chief Officer (CO) of the vessel of which Douglas was a member of the crew, who was himself a prisoner of war.

Douglas was aged 26 and serving in the Merchant Navy. He was a member of the crew of *MV Australind* which was sailing from Australia to Britain with a cargo of zinc, fruit, jam, honey and "piece goods". Near the Galapagos Islands she had been attacked and disabled by a German raider disguised as another merchant ship. Douglas, another engineer and the captain were killed during the attack. The remainder of the crew of 123 were taken aboard the German ship and were well treated, even to the extent of being "put below" so as not to be able to see the *Australind* being blown up with their three dead colleagues still on board.

Remembering Loakes Park football stadium



THE main Nostalgia article features what is still the record attendance for a Wycombe Wanderers' home match, whether it be for their former ground Loakes Park or the current stadium Adams Park.
Loakes Park was the home of the Wanderers for nearly 100 years, and during that time the stadium hosted many matches between other local teams, both junior and senior sides. Charity matches were regularly staged, the annual match for the

Wycombe Hospital Cup being an annual attraction for many years. The stadium was also the venue for the occasional international match.
Above: Part of the crowd at the international match between England and South Africa which was held at Loakes Park on October 25, 1958.
Above right: This match played at Loakes Park on April 29, 1960 was between a Television All Stars team and Wycombe Wanderers Veterans.
Above left These are the members

and officials of Marlow Boys' Club team, who played in the Wycombe Minor League Subsidiary Cup Final held at Loakes Park on April 15, 1955.
Top: The Bucks & Berks Intermediate Cup final was played at Loakes Park on April 4, 1953 and was won by Chalfont St Peter Football Club. Here we see their players and officials.
Left: Loakes Park was not just used for football matches. We see here boys running in the 800 yards race at the Boy Scouts Sports day in June 1951.

Send your pictures to deweymiked@aol.com

SPORT

'Gutted' after 5-5 draw at Adams Park



Sam Vokes bagged a 17 second brace in the draw (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth revealed his frustration following his side's incredible 5-5 draw at home to Cheltenham Town at Adams Park.

He said: "It's crazy that we were two goals up twice and we've drawn."

"It was hugely disappointing in that second half with that defensive display, and that's not the defenders, it's everybody, the whole team."

"We were not good at all, second half."

"We scored five goals and that is brilliant."

"The lads have done really well going forward and I have asked for that, we have worked on that, but we've been so solid lately and that, I didn't see coming."

"We were open at times, we were rushing at things, we weren't talking, there were two players going up for the same header, people were missing headers and it was just unrecognisable."

"For such a solid outfit we have been, we looked pretty open and that'll be looked at in a big way for me because I am disappointed."

"When you score five goals at home, you're expecting to win the game."

Obita opens up on draw

WYCOMBE wingback Jordan Obita has reflected on his side's 5-5 draw against Cheltenham Town at Adams Park.

The former Reading man scored a brace and claimed an assist in the thriller, with his strikes being his first at Adams Park following his move from Oxford last February.

He went 24 games without scoring at home, before popping up with a four minute double.

Obita said: "I've played in games where there has been a big scoreline but not a 5-5, which is good for us in scoring five, but not good in us conceding five."

"We were just disappoint to concede that many goals at home."

"You don't see it often but we it was unfortunate to see that happen to us and hopefully we can put that right on Tuesday."

Ten goals shared in incredible draw

By Taylor Toney-Green

WYCOMBE Wanderers and Cheltenham Town played out an incredible contest as it finished 5-5 at Adams Park.

They away side took the lead after just three minutes when Joe Jacobson skewed a clearance towards his own goal, which Chris Forino tamely headed back to goalkeeper David Stockdale.

Alfie May used his predatory instincts to nip in behind and poke over the stranded keeper and Alfie May was on to score his fifth goal in four games.

However, midway through the opening half, Daryl Horgan and Jordan Obita combined to bring the game level.

The Irish international showed and tee'd up Obita from his throw, and after he switched onto his weaker right foot, his delivery sailed through the Cheltenham defence and into the far corner.

London buses were halted on Friday, but they were in full flow on Saturday as Obita fired in his second moments later, but smashing in from close range from a Sullay Kaikai pull back.

He had gone 24 games without scoring at Adams Park before February 19.

Kaikai was also on hand to assist Brandon Hanlan just before the break, as the ex Bristol Rovers striker poked home from 15-yards to make it Wycombe 3-1 Cheltenham at half-time.

Michael Duff settled his troops at half-time and they grabbed a goal back seven minutes into the restart.

Ben Williams galloped down the left side and floated his cross towards the back post.

Kion Etete was there to prod back into area where May, unmarked, nodded in.

And after enduring Wycombe's first-half onslaught, they managed to salvage all they had lost.

Horgan's miss-timed jump gave Etete the time to hammer in a half-volley from distance clipping the post on the way in.

However, no sooner had the visitors



Jordan Obita (right) scored twice against Cheltenham which were his first for Wycombe at Adams Park. He has now scored three goals this season for the Chairboys (PA)

levelled the affair; Sam Vokes scored two in 17 seconds of play to give Wycombe a two-goal cushion at 5-3.

Obita's low-whipped cross found Vokes for his first and his second was a cool finish after Hanlan's disruptive running allowed the ball to fall to the Welshman for this tenth of the season.

Did it last? Of course not. A punted clearance found its way into May's

path and he repeated his opener by lobbing Stockdale and earning his hat-trick.

Two goals apiece in a whirlwind five minutes.

The absurdity of this encounter continued as May had his fourth. The man with the Midas touch thrashed in Cheltenham's fifth. He became the first Cheltenham player to score four goals

in an EFL game.

Wycombe would also need to update their record books.

A highest scoring draw in football league history and the highest-scoring EFL fixture at Adams Park.

Ainsworth's side hadn't netted five since September 2016 and it was only the tenth time they had from over 1,300 football league games.



Ryan Tafazolli has now missed Wycombe's last four matches (PA)

Why were Tafazolli and Stewart missing?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has stated that the decision for Anthony Stewart's and Ryan Tafazolli's absence from the starting 11 is based on his 'team selection'.

The duo have collectively played 52 times for the Chairboys so far this season, but have not featured since the 1-0 defeat at home to MK at the end of January.

Since then, Stewart has been an unused substitute for the last three games which were draws versus

Shrewsbury Town, Lincoln City and Cheltenham Town respectively, whilst Tafazolli has not been included in those matchday squads.

When asked on why they were absent from the team following the 5-5 draw against Cheltenham on February 19, Ainsworth explained that it was his 'decision on team selection.'

Since then, Tafazolli, who joined the club at the beginning of last season and is a favourite amongst the supporters, has denied online

rumours that his absence from the team is due to 'disciplinary reasons'.

This comes after a statement, which has since been confirmed as untrue, was published on social media a few hours after the enthralling draw against the Robins on February 19.

The Bucks Free Press understands that the centre back's absence 'is simply down to team selection/tactical decisions', and that any the gossip being spread online 'is nonsense and totally unfair towards Tafazolli'.



Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth was frustrated but remained positive despite Wanderers' third defeat in six games (PA)

Positivity is continuing

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has insisted that he's got 'absolutely no concerns at all' despite Wanderers' recent dip in form.

Following the Chairboys' 3-1 home defeat against promotion-pushing Wigan on February 22 at Adams Park, Wanderers have picked up just three points for the last 18 available.

Speaking after the defeat against the Latics on Tuesday night, Ainsworth said: "There was no hangover or nervousness today [from the Cheltenham draw].

"We put the changes in place and the boys are excellent as they get on with it.

"In the first-half, there were a few warning signs as Will Keane took on

about five of our players and hit the post, which shows the quality of players Wigan have got.

"It was a tough game, but I am more disappointed with the previous games."

And when asked if the lack of wins is concerning, he said: "Absolutely no concerns at all.

"I'm really proud to be leading these boys as I know what I have got in the dressing room.

"This is Wycombe Wanderers [going for] the play-offs in League One.

"It's not a bad place to be in after the disappointments of years gone by.

"We're still well in the race and I've got a bunch of boys who want to start winning again."

Not happy with at the defending in thriller



Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

GARETH Ainsworth has admitted that despite Wycombe twice taking a two goal lead against Cheltenham in their 5-5 draw at Adams Park, their advantage 'never felt comfortable'.

He said: "At one stage, things looked very rosy but we've ended not losing which is good, but when you score five goals you're expecting to win games.

"They are one of the big teams in the league and ones you fancy for promotion, especially with the run they are on and if we go forward against them like we did today I will be well happy.

"We just can't defend like we did. "Leading by two goals twice in the game, it never felt comfortable.

"I thought we could have gone on and got some more.

"I thought we were going to get six or seven but, obviously we were disappointed in the way we went forward after that.

"We weren't very clinical in our passing going forward today.

"We were in the first half definitely, we got settled down after the first 20 minutes and we were the better team.

"But in the second half, Cheltenham took the spoils."

Macca is remembered at Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers have paid tribute to their former player, Paul McCarthy, who died five years ago last week.

The popular defender, who spent seven seasons with the Chairboys between 1996 and 2003, suddenly passed away at the age of 45 on February 19, 2017, of a suspected heart attack.

In a tweet that was published a day before the fifth anniversary, Wycombe said: "Saturday [February 19] marks the fifth anniversary of the sad death of #Chairboys legend Paul McCarthy at the age of just 45.

"With Macca in the team, we went beyond our wildest dreams. His shirt from the FA Cup semi-final is on display in reception at Adams Park."

McCarthy played 259 games for the club, scoring 19 goals.

Update on injured duo at Wycombe



Gareth Ainsworth has revealed that Thompson was injured against Cheltenham and Tafazolli was injured in the Wigan warm up (PA)

GARETH Ainsworth has provided an injury update after Wycombe lost at home to Wigan Athletic 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Sullay Kaikai gave the Chairboys the lead in a very good first-half showing, but a brace from Callum Lang and a Tom Naylor header secured the three points for the North West side.

There were also issues for Wanderers moments before kick-off, as Ryan Tafazolli, who has missed the last three matches, was due to start the fixture versus the Latics.

However, he was injured in the latter stages of the warm up, which meant Chris Forino came into the side for his fourth consecutive league start.

The Chairboys were also without Curtis Thompson but the defeat did see the return of midfielder Dom Gape, who has been absent for the last three-and-a-half months.

His last match was in the 2-2 away draw at Hartlepool United in the FA Cup at the start of November.

Ainsworth said: "Curtis is injured.

"He hobbled off at the end of Saturday's game [against Cheltenham] and I think he'll be out for a couple of weeks so we will have to wait and see.

"But Dom Gape coming back is a real positive.

"He's a player that can get the ball down, can find it to your feet, can find a good pass and he's going to be a welcome edition for us.

"Lewis Wing did well, but we've got a plethora of subs, so we'll try and get the right combination soon

By James Richings

and we're working hard to do that.

"And we'll also work hard in trying to break down Accrington on Saturday."

On the injury Tafazolli picked up, the boss said: "He hurt his groin in the warm up but Chris Forino has come in and has done brilliantly, as he has done in all of his games.

"We have got one heck of an asset in Chris Forino and I think it's important to remember that he is on single figure games."

And on his squad as a whole, the boss concluded: "It's tough for Daryl Horgan [who wasn't in the squad] and JJ who nearly missed out at the start and that's the rotations I have got now.

"The club is in a much better shape than it ever has been, but it doesn't feel like it right now, but believe me, we will be back on track soon.

"I remember being away at Shrewsbury with four on the bench as we couldn't fit five on.

"Now, I'm leaving twos and threes out which is great.

"It's a real testament to where this club has come.

"I've got a bunch of boys in there who are devastated because we've just not defended well at a couple of set pieces which disappoints me."

Up next for Wanderers is an away trip to Accrington Stanley on Saturday.

It'll be their first visit to the Wham Stadium since November 2018.

SPORT



Six without a win for the Chairboys



Kaikai joined Wycombe last July

Sullay stars in his two starts

DESPITE Wycombe's third loss in six games against Wigan on February 22, manager Gareth Ainsworth was very pleased with the performance of winger, Sullay Kaikai.

The ex-Blackpool and Crystal Palace player has had to be patient since joining the Chairboys last summer, as he has only played in 20 of Wanderers' 43 games so far this season.

However, in his last two starts, he has registered two assists and a goal.

Ainsworth said: "Sullay has done really well.

"Two assists on Saturday and a goal tonight [February 22], he is proving to be the player he can be.

"It's just unfortunate that we couldn't hang onto the lead or onto the draw so I'm really pleased with Sullay at the moment."

What's the average AP attendance?

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been ranked 16th in terms of League One teams filling their stadium capacity for matches this season.

The study, which was conducted by Ultimate Champions, has revealed that out of the 10,000 seats which are available at Adams Park, the Chairboys have had an average of 5,565 spectators visit the stadium during the 2021/22 campaign so far.

This means on a conventional basis, around 55.7 per cent of Adams Park is usually full.

Despite having an average of around 5,500 spectators this season, Wanderers have had several gargantuan attendances this campaign.

Most notably, 6,943 people watched Wycombe's 4-1 home defeat against Ipswich Town on November 2, which was one of the club's highest midweek attendances since their promotion to the Football League in 1993.

Other high home attendances at Adams Park this season saw 7,229 people at the 3-3 draw against Sunderland on January 8, 7,345 spectators at the 1-0 defeat versus at MK, whilst 8,005 fans watched the 2-0 win over Oxford United on January 15.



Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has seen his side drop six places in the last five weeks since going top of the table (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has reflected on his side's 3-1 home defeat to Wigan Athletic.

Despite taking a first-half lead thanks to Sullay Kaikai's first goal for the club, three second half strikes from Callam Lang (2) and Tom Naylor saw the Latics continue their good record against Wanderers.

This means in the 18 matches the two sides have faced one another, Wigan have been victorious 11 times.

The defeat has also seen Wycombe drop out of the play-offs just five weeks after sitting

top of the League One table, following a run of no wins in six matches (three draws and three defeats).

Speaking after the loss against Wigan, he said: "We played worse teams than that in the Championship as they are a good side.

"The likes of James McClean and Will Keane are ex Premier League players and I'm not as disappointed as I was Saturday.

"We knew this was going to be a tough game.

"We played really well in the first half as I thought we held them at bay.

"But at two set pieces, we have to defend them better as its like we've gifted them a couple of goals.

"They have put the deliveries in well, but, we've got to defend them better as a team and the third goal, I'm disappointed with that.

"We'll pick the bones out of that but there is no individual blame as I do that privately as we win and lose together."

The boss also stated that despite the loss, he was more 'hurt' from the 5-5 draw against Cheltenham just three days earlier.

Despite going behind, Wanderers lead 3-1 and 5-3 to the Robins, but only managed to get a point from the fixture, which saw an amazing four goals get scored in a five-minute period.

He continued: "The 5-5 against Cheltenham, the 1-1 against Lincoln and the 0-0 against Shrews-

bury are the ones that hurt me.

"I said I wanted nine points from those games and the boys almost got me nine but almost isn't good enough.

"We need to be ruthless and get what we need.

"We've got a run of games now where I'll be demanding we get points out of.

"We're not playing our Wigan's or Rotherham's as we have got some decent teams that we can go up against that on our day we can beat.

"I'm ready to get going again on Saturday."

At the time of writing, Wanderers are in seventh place.

Up next for Wycombe is an away trip to Accrington Stanley on Saturday.