

# Bucks Free Press

Friday, June 13, 2025

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## Shock as series of violent incidents bring 999 action

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### MAN INJURED IN DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

### MANSLAUGHTER ARREST AFTER WOMAN DIES



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### HIGH STREET EVACUATED IN BOMB ALERT

# WEEK OF HORROR

## Hunt for knifeman who slashed neck of elderly woman

A KNIFEMAN who slashed the neck of an elderly woman remains at large, after armed police and a force helicopter were deployed across High Wycombe.

Emergency services were sent out to Woodside Road in Micklefield following re-

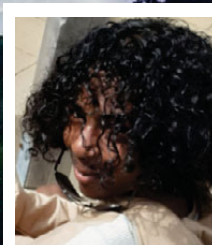
**By James Richings**

ports that a pensioner had been 'assaulted'.

The victim was treated on site before being taken to hospital. She was in a stable condition and has since been discharged.

A manhunt was launched to track down suspect Chaise Huggins, 16. A police helicopter was spotted flying over High Wycombe and towards Downley, Tottenham and Micklefield.

**Full story: Page 5**



Police say Chaise Huggins, 16, is wanted in connection with the attack investigation



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## CRICKET

## Wycombe slip further behind the leaders



HIGH Wycombe slipped 12 points behind leaders Finchampstead in Home Counties Cricket League Division One after their clash with Wargrave was abandoned after 18 overs on Saturday.

The hosts have lost one of their fixtures so far this season and sit second in the table while Finchampstead have won four of their five fixtures.

On Saturday, they won the toss and elected to field, with Wargrave managing 56 runs and losing four wickets in just 17.4 overs before rain ended play.

This coming weekend, High Wycombe travel to fourth-place Banbury while Finchampstead travel to sixth-place Harefield.

In Division Two, Chesham remain

winless after their clash with league leaders Wokingham was ended abruptly by poor weather.

The visitors won the toss and put Chesham in to bat first, managing 154 in 44.1 overs. Henry Moore managed 42 from 70 deliveries but Andy Rishton managed three wickets for the impressive table toppers.

Wokingham knocked 15 in four overs before the match was abandoned, both sides sharing the points as Chesham remain second from the bottom ahead of this weekend's meeting with Horspath.

Gerrard's Cross remain third after their match at Horspath was also abandoned. The hosts hit 81 in 21.1 overs before the umpire called it to an early finish.

They travel to Falkland this Saturday.

## FOOTBALL

## Amersham announce friendlies

AMERSHAM Town are hosting open trials for new players on Saturday ahead of the new season.

Kicking off at 1.30pm until 4pm, it is taking place at Chiltern Hills Academy and is in the hope of finding players capable of pushing the club forward in the new Combined Counties campaign.

However, applications are now closed and it is too late to register interest to attend.

The club have also confirmed their pre-season schedule, with seven friendlies to come in July. They are as follows:

*Saturday, July 5: Oxhey Jets (A)*

*Tuesday, July 8: Spelthorne Sports (H)*

*Saturday, July 12: SL Benfica (H)*

*Saturday, July 19: Abbey Rangers (A)*

*Tuesday, July 22: Staines Lammas (H)*

*Saturday, July 26: Wealdstone u23s (H)*

*Tuesday, July 29: Harrow Borough (H)*

Season tickets are now on sale, costing £80 for adults, £60 for concessions or £99 for a family ticket (two adults, two children) which includes two free training tops.

## FOOTBALL

## Ducks freeze season ticket prices for another year

AYLESBURY United have frozen their season tickets for the ninth season in a row.

Buy your ticket before the end of Monday 30 June, and you can take advantage of our Early Duck discount, cutting a further 20 per cent off the cost of an adult ticket. This means you can watch the Ducks for every home league game for just £6.42 per match.

Prices have also remained frozen for our 16-21-year-old and under 16 season tickets.

## Early Duck Season Tickets

• **Adult £135 (rises to £160 after 1 July)**

• **Concession (over 65) £90 (rises to £100 after 1 July)**

• **16 to 21-year-old £40**

• **Children (5-16-year-olds) £10**

## GOLF

## Kemp keeps his cool to win back-to-back titles

JOHN Kemp of Woburn Golf Club made it back-to-back English Senior Men's Amateur Stroke Play titles after an exhilarating three-way play-off on the Hothkin Course at The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa.

Kemp, Stephen Jensen (Trevose) and Scotland's Kenneth Gallacher all finished on -1 overall to go to a play-off, and despite Kemp missing a three-footer to win with birdie on the 1st, he rolled his 40-foot eagle putt up to mere inches to seal victory on the second play-off hole (18).

He said: "It was a bit of an ordeal with the play-off but I'm chuffed to bits. I've won the Champion of Champions and the Midland Amateur here, so I love this golf course."

"Without doubt though the Bracken Course was the toughest this week, and you could see that with the scores, it's very tricky!"

"I thought I'd blown it with the missed putt on the first play-off hole, it was a bad miss from just three feet."

"I went out of my process, which I didn't do on the 18th to get

into the play-off with that up-and-down out of the bunker (pictured below)!"

"I was lucky off the tee on the second play-off hole, as I pulled it and it came up short of the bunker, whereas the others went in, but I managed to knock it on the green and two-putt which was lovely!"

Addington Palace's Simon Crockett was the leader heading into the final day, and was going brilliantly until his first dropped shot on 13 after a wayward approach, before bogeys on 15 and 16. Former R&A Chief Executive Martin Slumbers (Worplesdon) was just a shot back heading into the last round but slipped out of contention on the front-nine, while last year's winner Kemp (Woburn) bounced back from two early bogeys with birdies on six, nine, 12 and 14 to propel himself back into contention.

Kemp found the bunkers twice on the 18th but made a great sand-save, while Crockett couldn't get up-and-down from the bunker for a birdie to make it a four-man play-off.



John Kemp pictured with his title. Image: Leaderboard Photography

## Chesham United confirm their released list

CHESHAM United have confirmed their retained and released list, with six players departing at the end of their current contracts.

Comfortably retaining their National League South status last time out, the process of shaping a squad for the new campaign is well underway.

16 players have committed their futures for the new season, while six are to depart.

These are:

**Ashley Lodge (Chertsey Town)**  
**Avan Jones**

**Brad Clayton (Hanwell Town)**  
**Eoin Casey (Chertsey Town)**

**Gary Abisogun (Chertsey Town)**  
**Joe Grant (Bracknell Town)**

Ben Upward will also remain at the Meadow while he recovers from his serious Achilles injury.

The National League have confirmed their new dates for the upcoming season, with the division

getting underway on Saturday, August 9.

Fixtures will be released on Wednesday, July 9.

All three divisions finish at the same time this season, with the regular season action ending on Saturday, April 25.

Promotion Finals are to come on Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10.

\*Chesham United Women will compete with the likes of Fulham, Norwich City and Luton Town in The

FAWNL Division 1 South East.

In a tough division, the club are looking for sponsors and supporters to ensure we remain competitive.

They've launched an initiative called "The Vanguard...for Chesham United FC Women". The Vanguard's members will help support the playing budget and will be a key part of ensuring they remain competitive on the pitch in Tier Four this season.

Do get in touch if you want to know more.



## Sport

## FOOTBALL

## Former Chairboy makes Stevenage move

STEVENAGE have confirmed the permanent signing of former Wycombe Wanderers loanee Chem Campbell.

The 22-year-old spent last season on loan from parent club Wolverhampton Wanderers at Reading, scoring seven goals in 42 appearances.

The Royals were reportedly keen on a return for the Wales youth international but Alex Revell's Boro have confirmed the acquisition hours before this evening's deadline.

Campbell had made scored three goals in 17 appearances as a Chairboy in 2022/23 before moving to Charlton Athletic.

Due to the FIFA Club World Cup, the summer window has been split into two and will reopen on June 16, remaining open from then until 7pm on September 1.

Clubs may announce signings between the two windows, but governing bodies will not fully ratify the deal in that time.

Stevenage finished 13th last season in League One.

"Chem has a huge amount of talent," Revell told the club channel. "He played over 40 games last season for a team that missed out on the play-offs on the last day.

"He probably didn't score enough goals for what he can do, and that is something we have said to him, and he is absolutely hungry to do which is great. He has a hunger to fulfil his potential. He has bags of talent, wants to get at people one-versus-one and gets out of situations he shouldn't. We are really excited with Chem."



Campbell featured twice against Wycombe last year. Picture: PA

## FOOTBALL

## Wycombe's rivals make managerial appointment

HUDDERSFIELD Town have appointed a new manager ahead of the new League One season.

The Terriers were among the favourites for promotion last season and spent big in January but fell off to finish 10th.

Releasing more than a dozen players, the West Yorkshire outfit require an overhaul and believe former Derby County and Manchester United goalkeeper Lee Grant is the man to do it.

A promising coach with Kieran McKenna at Ipswich Town, the 42-year-old has never managed before but signed a three-year deal at the John Smith's Stadium.

They had been linked with former Reading boss Ruben Selles, but little came from the approach.

"First and foremost, it's an incredible honour to be manager of Huddersfield Town," Grant told the club.

"This is an exciting time to be joining the club and there is so much potential and opportunity for us going forward, and I couldn't be more motivated to play my part in that journey.

"I'd like to thank chairman Kevin Nagle and CEO Jake Edwards for giving me their trust, and I hope to repay that with time as we head into the summer and season ahead.

"I have a clear idea of what I want my Town team to look like and how I want us to play. My priority is to not only win, but give our amazing supporters a side that they're proud to represent them and excited to watch.

"Our goals and ambitions are clear, and there is much hard work that needs to take place in order to put us in a position to succeed. That process begins to-

By James Earnshaw

day."

Already busy in the transfer window, most prominently signing former Chairboy Joe Low this week, Grant has confirmed his coaching staff.

This includes former Premier League and Republic of Ireland regular Paul McShane, who takes up this role alongside his work with Ireland Under-21s.

He is joined in Yorkshire by Jonathan Robinson, Steven Gerrard's assistant at Al-Ettifaq in Saudi Arabia and Marc Bridge-Wilkinson, former Liverpool Under-18s coach.

"I am thrilled to welcome Marc, Paul, and Jonathan to Huddersfield Town – three exceptional professionals who join us as Assistant Coaches," Grant told the club website.

"Their diverse backgrounds, dedication, and commitment to excellence will be invaluable to us as we continue to grow and build something special at this club. Each brings a unique outlook and energy that aligns with our values and future aspirations.

"Their leadership and character will play a major role in amplifying the work that we do on and off the pitch, as we work towards success together.

"I look forward to working alongside them and I am confident that they will make a significant and positive contribution to Huddersfield Town."

Wycombe Wanderers do not have to wait long to discover their fixtures, with the EFL releasing them at 12pm on June 26.



Huddersfield have appointed former goalkeeper Lee Grant as their new manager. Picture: Nick Potts/PA Wire.

## FOOTBALL

## Woodham is back in local football

LANGLEY have appointed experienced manager Mick Woodham ahead of the new season.

Michael East stepped down after winning the Esoteric Recordings Division One Cup and the club have turned to former Windsor FC chief Woodham.

"Langley FC is delighted to announce the appointment of Mick Woodham as the new First Team Manager, ushering in an exciting new chapter for the club," a statement said. "Mick brings with him a wealth of experience and a proven track record in non-league football, making him an outstanding addition to the Langley FC family.

"Mick Woodham's name is synonymous with success and stability in the non-league game. His impressive managerial career includes a highly respected stint at Windsor FC, where he gained a reputation for building strong, competitive squads. Under his guidance, Windsor FC consistently punched above their weight, earning plaudits for their style of play and resilience on the pitch. Mick's teams have always been recognised for their discipline, tactical awareness, and team spirit—qualities that align perfectly with Langley FC's ethos and ambitions.

"The decision to appoint Mick was driven by his deep understanding of the local football landscape and his reputation for maximising the potential of his players. His tactical acumen and commitment to player development make him the ideal candidate to steer Langley FC into the next phase of our journey. The club's leadership is confident that Mick's vision and experience will help to foster a winning mentality and create a platform for sustained success."

Woodham had been out of the game since departing Windsor for the second time in 2023.

He has also taken charge of Bracknell Town and Staines Town in a long career in local management.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was taking the Jacks to the quarter-final of the FA Vase in 2018.

Preparations are underway for the club's new campaign in the Combined Counties Division One.

On Saturday, July 5, Langley will travel to British Airways for the first pre-season fixture of the summer, kicking off at 3pm.

This will be Woodham's first chance to see his squad in action ahead of competitive fixtures in August.



# Inquiry is launched into football regulator chairman

THE man set to lead the new football regulator faces an inquiry into his appointment following accusations of "cronyism" from the Conservatives.

David Kogan, a media rights expert, was named as the Government's preferred candidate to chair the Independent Football Regulator in April, and his appointment was endorsed by a cross-party committee of MPs last month.

But the revelation that he had donated money to both Sir Keir Starmer and Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy – as well as other Labour figures – drew complaints from the Conservatives and calls for the commissioner for public appointments to investigate.

In a letter to the permanent secretary at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, commissioner Sir William Shawcross said he had carried out a series of "spot checks" and now believed a full inquiry into Kogan's appointment was "necessary".

Shawcross' inquiry will look into whether the rules on public appointments were followed, and is likely to involve interviews with both Kogan and Nandy.

Kogan was originally approached about the football regulator job by the Conservatives while they were still in office, and has advised the Premier League, EFL and other leagues on broadcast rights.

He has also donated thousands of pounds to Labour MPs and candidates in recent years, and sat on the



David Kogan was named as the Government's candidate to chair the Independent Football Regulator in April

board of Labour news website LabourList.

During his pre-appointment hearing with the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee – which later backed his appointment – he revealed he had also donated "very small sums" to Starmer and Nandy's leadership campaigns in 2020.

Those donations had not

previously been revealed as they were below the threshold for public declaration.

A week later, Nandy wrote to the committee to inform MPs that she had stepped back from making the final decision on whether to appoint Kogan, delegating the choice to sport minister Stephanie Peacock.

Stuart Andrew, the Con-

servative shadow culture secretary, said Kogan's appointment "bears all the hallmarks of yet more Labour cronyism", adding Nandy's decision to step back "highlights just how compromised this selection has become".

He said: "Number 10 must now come clean about the involvement of the Downing

Street appointments unit and special advisers in promoting David Kogan as the preferred candidate.

"The public has a right to know whether this was a fair and impartial process, or yet another case of political patronage disguised as due diligence."

Kogan did not comment on the launch of the inquiry.

## CHAIRBOYS

### Wanderers' pre-season friendly matches

HERE is a full list of friendlies that Wycombe Wanderers will play in pre-season this summer.

The upcoming 2025/26 campaign will begin on Saturday, August 2, with the new league fixtures expected to be released by the end of this month.

Before that, the Chairboys have confirmed that they will take part in a trio of non-competitive games ahead of the new season.

They will kick-off their pre-season schedule on Tuesday, July 15, against Sutton United at Gander Green Lane.

The last meeting between the two sides occurred in August 2023 when the South London side travelled to Adams Park to face Wycombe in the second round of the League Cup.

The Chairboys lost 1-0 to the then League Two side, with Aiden O'Brien scoring the only goal of the contest.

The second friendly will take place four days later on Saturday, July 19 when Wanderers will play Cheltenham Town.

The previous encounter between Wycombe and the West Country outfit occurred in February 2024, with the Chairboys winning 2-0 at Adams Park.

Joe Low and Beryly Lubala scored the Chairboys' goals that day, with both strikes coming in the last five minutes.

That year, Cheltenham were relegated from League One whilst Wycombe finished just outside the play-offs.

Finally, Wycombe's final friendly of the summer (to date) will be against Barnet on Tuesday, July 22.

The Bees are back in the Football League after they won the National League title last season, ending a seven year spell in the National League.

The most recent match between the two clubs occurred in July 2019, which was also in pre-season.

The match finished 1-1 with a trialist scoring Wanderers' goal in the 90th minute.

Competitively, you would have to go back to March 2018 when Wycombe played Barnet.

That year, Adams Park side were promoted to League One, whilst the Bees were relegated to the National League.

More friendlies could be announced during the course of the summer, but none will be played in South Buckinghamshire.

This is because a new pitch is being laid ahead of the new season.

## PLAYERS BEING LOOKED AT

### Who could Wycombe sign this summer?

WYCOMBE Wanderers are one of several clubs interested in Bristol Rovers midfielder and Sierra Leone international, Kamil Conteh.

The 22-year-old is expected to leave the Pirates this summer following the Gas' relegation from League One after three years in the division.

According to the Daily Mirror, the Chairboys are keeping close tabs on the ex-Watford, Middlesbrough and Grimsby Town man, but have stiff competition with Derby County and Cardiff City to land Conteh's signature.

Another player that Wycombe are hoping to land is Lincoln City defender Paudie O'Connor.

The Irish centre back is out of contract at Sincil Bank this summer, but has been offered a new deal by the Imps, who are keen for him to stay.

However, it is believed that the ex-Leeds United, Blackpool and Bradford City are looking at other options, with Derby County

and Stoke City also reportedly interested.

Wycombe are on the hunt for a new centre back following the departure of Joe Low, who has moved to Huddersfield Town.

The Welshman spent two years at Adams Park and played 83 times.

On his exit, he said: "To everyone at Wycombe Wanderers, thank you for an incredible two years."

"This club has given me so much - on and off the pitch."

"I've had the privilege of meeting some amazing people, and I'll always be grateful for the friendships, memories and support I've experienced here."

"Wycombe has helped me grow, not just as a player, but as a person."

"Your belief in me and the sense of togetherness within the club have meant the world."

"It's been an hour to wear the shirt. Thank you for everything."



Paudie O'Connor (left) is on Wycombe's wish list this summer



# SPORT

ISSN 0963-2336 £1.70



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## Wanderers target signs for club competing in Europe



Aberdeen have signed former Portsmouth striker Kusini Yengi

**FORMER Portsmouth striker and Wycombe Wanderers target Kusini Yengi has signed for a new club.**

The 26-year-old, who had been loosely linked with a move to the Chairboys following his release from Pompey this summer, has penned a pre-contract deal with Scottish Premier League outfit, Aberdeen.

Yengi had several admirers after it was announced he would leave the Championship side after two years on the South Coast, with Wanderers being interested in his

services.

However, the forward has opted to make the move north of the border, with European football being a key factor in his decision.

Aberdeen will compete in the 2025/26 Europa League after they defeated Celtic in the Scottish Cup final last month.

Speaking on Yengi's move to Scotland, Dons manager Jimmy Thelin said: "We were quite specific about the type of profile we had identified to play as a striker for Aberdeen, and Kusini

has a lot of the qualities we were after.

"It is important for us to have different profiles of players who can bring specific strengths to our shape and how we want to play.

"With European group stage football and a busy domestic schedule, he will play a vital role for us in what we hope will be a competitive squad."

Yengi added: "I loved the project that was pitched to me.

"What the manager and coaches want to achieve and what they

stand for.

"Where they think they can utilise me as a player to help the club, so I was very excited.

"Every kid dreams of playing European football and playing for big clubs like Aberdeen, so I am very excited to play in those competitions and represent Aberdeen."

He is the fourth signing for the Scottish outfit this summer, and the third from Australia, following the arrivals of Nicolas Milanovic and Nicolas Suman respectively.

## Chairboys are 'leading the race' to sign Tilley

WYCOMBE Wanderers are leading the race to sign James Tilley from AFC Wimbledon, the Free Press understands.

The 26-year-old, who turns 27 this week, is highly sought after by several EFL clubs following his brilliant season with the Dons.

He featured 53 times in all competitions for the South West London-based side, which included playing the full 90 minutes in Wimbledon's 1-0 victory against Walsall in the League Two play-off final at Wembley Stadium last month.

This ended their three-year stint in the fourth tier of English football.

The Chairboys have been long-time admirers of the midfielder, with links going back as far as the summer of 2019, when he was on the books at Brighton & Hove Albion.

Now, six years later, Wycombe are hoping to secure his services.

He began his career with the Seagulls, spending nine years with the Sussex side.

In total, he played three competitive first-team games, scoring once, whilst also enjoying two loan spells away at Cork City and Yeovil Town, respectively.

He eventually left Brighton in January

**James Richings**

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2020 for Grimsby Town, spending 12 months in Lincolnshire before signing for Crawley Town.

A move to Wimbledon followed in the summer of 2023, where he has since played 101 games, scoring 17 times.

At the time of writing, Wycombe have yet to sign any players ahead of the 2025/26 season, but have announced the departures of 11 contracted players.

Some of these names include Franco Ravizoli, Sam Vokes, Kieran Sadlier, Brandon Hanlan, Adam Reach and Beryly Lubala, who will all be free agents come July 1, whilst centre back Joe Low has joined Huddersfield Town.

The upcoming campaign will begin on August 2 and 3, with the club's league fixtures expected to be announced at the end of June.

Before that, Wanderers will take on Sutton United, Barnet and Cheltenham Town in three away pre-season friendly matches.

There will be no home games ahead of the start of the competitive season, as a new pitch is being laid at Adams Park.



AFC Wimbledon's James Tilley with the trophy after the Sky Bet League Two play off final at Wembley

## Wycombe defender leaves for rival outfit

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the departure of Welsh centre back Joe Low to Huddersfield Town.

The 23-year-old, who joined the Chairboys from Bristol City two years ago, had been heavily linked with a move away from Adams Park since January, with the Championship-outfit Swansea City being one of the favourites to sign the defender.

However, the Yorkshire-based team have won the race to secure his services after he rejected an offer to extend his contract with Wanderers.

In the two years he spent in Buckinghamshire, Low played 83 times in all competitions, with 72 appearances coming in the league.

He also scored eight times, which includes a last-minute winner away at Bristol Rovers in September 2024 in a 2-1 victory, as well as bagging a brace against Leyton Orient in August 2023.

In the latter, the Chairboys won 3-2, with Low scoring a scissor kick.

Following his departure, chairman Dan Rice said: "We were keen to keep Joe at the club as part of our plans moving forward, and made several substantial offers to him over the past 12 months.

"Unfortunately, conversations continually broke down over that period, and now we respect his wishes to explore a new opportunity elsewhere and thank him for his contributions during his time with us.

"We are making great progress on our recruitment plans and look forward to sharing news with supporters in the near future."