

Bucks Free Press

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WYCOMBE MANAGER QUILTS



BLOOMFIELD ON SHOCK LUTON MOVE: P71

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REVEALED: STREETS WITH MOST PARKING TICKETS **SEE PAGE 4**

NHS blasts town centre flats project

FULL STORY: PAGE 5

We 'lack capacity' to treat more residents planned for retail hub

By Charlie Smith

HIGH Wycombe lacks enough health capacity for the hundreds of people expected to occupy new apartment blocks in the town, the NHS has warned.

GP services are already stretched, the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (ICB) said this week as it objected to plans to turn the Chilterns Shopping Centre into 303 flats.

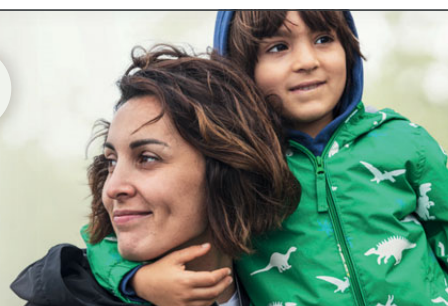


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Sport

FOOTBALL

Flackwell return to league with draw

A FORTNIGHT on from their last competitive match, Flackwell Heath battled increasingly challenging conditions to draw 1-1 against fellow Southern League Division One Central side Northwood on Tuesday night.

The game demonstrated the clear improvement Northwood have made under boss Gary Meakin, with The Woods threatening in spells throughout the game and arguably the better side in the first half.

Both goals in this encounter came in the first half - Sean McGuinness rose highest for the home side early on in the first half to

head Flackwell ahead, with Northwood midfielder Jack Smith firing home a volley from just outside the box to level the scores.

As the game progressed, a wintry fog descended over Wilks Park, making visibility and pitch conditions increasingly challenging, as both sides struggled to find a way to win the game as the game petered out to its conclusion.

The Heathens don't have long to wait for their next match, as they welcome Enfield to Wilks Park on Saturday with a 3pm kick-off.



Flackwell keeper Dennison in fog. Picture: Glenn Alcock

BEACONSFIELD 4-3 WYCOMBE WANDERERS

The Rams progressed into the SFs after Wycombe win

BEACONSFIELD Town beat a Wycombe Wanderers side full of future stars 4-3 at Holloways Park, to book a place in the Berks and Bucks cup semi-finals.

Beaconsfield came out of the blocks quickly and took a 1-0 lead in the 2nd minute of the game when Joe Lawal's excellent cross found Manu Oke-William, who fired home the opener.

Beaconsfield did not have to wait long for a second, stunning Wycombe by going further ahead inside the opening 10 minutes.

This time a ball over the top to Joe Lawal forced Wycombe development team keeper Laurie Shala to come off his line to try and claim the ball.

Shala clipped Lawal who went down in the box, giving the referee little choice but to point to the spot.

Up stepped Josh Marcon, who confidently tucked away the penalty to give the hosts an early 2-0 lead.

Eddie Brearey in the Beaconsfield goal was forced into his first save of the match when Wycombe took a shot from the edge of the box. It was comfortable save and the hosts remained well on top with half an hour on the clock.

Wycombe finally found a way through in the 32nd minute when new Wycombe signing Ryan Cole curled in a great effort from outside the box.

Wycombe started to grow into the game after the goal and were denied an equaliser a few minutes later when Brearey made a fantastic one on one save to keep his sides lead intact.

Beaconsfield restored their two goal advantage just before half time as Ollie Saunders saw an effort from 25 yards out crash back off the post before it fell to Joe Lawal to tap home to send the hosts into the break 3-1 up.

The second half took a little longer to get going. It was the 70th minute before the next goal, this time Wycombe's Brody Peart, recently on loan at Basingstoke Town, found the back of the net with a stunning freekick that curled around

By Arran White

the wall and gave Brearey no chance of stopping it. Wycombe then hit the post moments later as they looked to draw themselves level in the tie.

With only seven minutes of the game left Beaconsfield had a chance to wrap it up. Joe Lawal was played through but saw his effort go inches wide of the post.

Lawal did not need to wait long though, again being played through in the 86th minute, this time he chipped the onrushing Shala to give the hosts a deserved 4-2 lead, with only a couple of minutes left.

Straight from the restart Wycombe dragged themselves back into the contest, with Cole scoring his second of the game to make it 4-3 with time running out for Wycombe.

The referee added on a further 5 minutes, but Beaconsfield defended well to keep hold of the lead and see the game out, deservedly winning 4-3, and booking a spot in the semi-finals.

Wanderers boss, Sam Grace, said: "There were many positives such as we controlled large parts of possession and we stuck to our game plan.

"Ultimately, it came down to us not taking our chances and not dealing with our routine moments in the game, such as attacking the first ball, land on the second and smooth the game out.

"That was disappointing as I thought the players are better than that from what we showed, and these games always have it.

"The opposition, they're playing Wycombe and the first 15/20 minutes is blood and thunder and they give it everything, and maybe there was a bit of naivety for those whose first experience of that.

"Even though some of those boys have played in and around, if not, higher than this level and it was our fault for starting so slow."



Manu Oke-William runs at the Wycombe defence. Picture: Ben Cousin

FOOTBALL

Leaders Penn head for Stag Meadow

WINDSOR & Eton are expecting a bigger crowd than usual at Stag Meadow on Saturday when they host Penn & Tylers Green in Division One of the Combined Counties League.

They will be looking to extend their 100-per-cent home record to 11 games while the visitors boast a similar impressive record on their travels.

Green are top of the table with 62 points from 26 games, three points ahead of Matty Angell's third-placed side who have played three fewer games.

Currently between them are Westside with 60 points from 29 games.

W&E will be seeking a double, having won 3-0 at French School Meadow on the opening day of the season, in early August, their goals coming from Ben Catt, Jemel Johnson and Tom Hennah.

Jamie Griggs has left to join Berks County and scored in their 2-2 draw against British Airways on Saturday.

Windsor, whose fixture at Holmer Green last Saturday was called off because of a frozen pitch, are also home to Belstone next Tuesday.

Windsor FC host Oxhey Jets at Holloways Park tonight (Friday) and then travel to play-off chasing Yateley United next Tuesday.

They saw matches against Bedford and Hillingdon postponed due to poor weather in the past week.

Langley lost 4-3 at home to PFC Victoria last Saturday, one of few Combined Counties League games to survive the icy weather.

The game looked to be going their way when Samir Shaffi and Adeshola Onasanya both scored inside the opening 17 minutes.

But Oli Kaczmarek halved the deficit on 20 minutes and Maciej Tajs equalised two minutes after half-time.

Substitute Artem Karakaptan put Victoria ahead on 56 minutes and eight minutes later Kaczmarek scored.

Oli Evans came off the bench to score Langley's third goal in the 74th minute but they were unable to avoid defeat, leaving them 12th in the table.

They are away to Westside this Saturday and home to Spartans Youth on Wednesday.

*Aylesbury Vale Dynamos exited the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup at the hands of Binfield on Tuesday.

Blaaze Lawrence scored for the Dynamos but Connor Jeanes and Rahzir Smith-Jones netted for the hosts, who played over 45 minutes with 10 men after Ethan Gold's red card.

Losing 2-1 at the Iconic Stadium, Flackwell Heath await the Moles in the quarter-final.

INTO THE NEXT ROUND

Goal-scorers shine in third round victory



Brandon Hanlan scored his second goal of the season in the win against Portsmouth on January 10 (PA)

EX-WANDERERS manager Matt Bloomfield praised the attitude of new signing Sonny Bradley following his goal in the recent 2-0 victory against Portsmouth.

The 33-year-old centre back joined the Chairboys on loan from Derby County on January 6 and made his debut for the club one day later in the 1-0 home loss to Huddersfield Town in which he started.

He kept his place in the starting 11 three days later against his former side Pompey in the third round of the FA Cup, in which he scored Wycombe's second goal of the contest with a close-range header from a Luke Leahy free-kick.

The former Adams Park boss, who has now joined Luton Town, also heaped positivity on forward Brandon Hanlan, who bagged his second goal of the season in the victory against the 2008 winners of the

competition.

Speaking on Bradley, he said: "Sonny is a proper Wycombe player – his heart, fighting spirit and his defending were brilliant.

"As soon as I heard he was available, I knew I wanted to sign him so for him to get a goal was a great bonus.

"He's been brilliant since coming in."

On Hanlan, he added: "It has been tough for Brands as he has come back from a long and tough injury and when has played, he's been fantastic.

"But in recent weeks, we have had Richard Kone and Dan Udoh in good form so he's had minutes hard to come by recently.

"I promised him before Christmas that he would get a chance in the team, and he took it tonight."

CHAIRBOYS

Pompey seen off with ease

WYCOMBE Wanderers of League One caused a third round upset as they defeated Championship side Portsmouth 2-0 at Adams Park.

Despite being separated by a division, there are only five places between the two teams in the pyramid, as the Chairboys eliminated the 2008 winners with ease.

The first big chance of the half fell to the visitors as Paddy Lane's fierce shot was saved by Shamal George before a goal-mouth scramble soon followed as Matt Ritchie and Freddie Potts had their attempts blocked off the line.

This was inside the opening two minutes. Not even 60 seconds later, Wycombe nearly went ahead as Berylyl Lubala's toe-poked away by Jordan Archer.

However, it wasn't long until the Chairboys took the lead.

Brilliant play down the left-hand side by Gideon Kodua saw him beat two players and assist Brandon Hanlan for a first-time finish on 17 minutes to give the Chairboys the lead.

It's only his second goal of the season and his first against Portsmouth in his career.

Ten minutes later, Wanderers doubled their lead thanks to Sonny Bradley.

Luke Leahy's brilliant free-kick was lofted into the box, and there was the ex-Pompey man to head home his first goal for the club, just days after signing for the club on loan from Derby County.

Bradley spent the 2013/14 season with the Blues, playing 38 times and scoring once.

Wycombe could have increased their advantage just before the break as Garath McCleary's bending effort went just wide, whilst Leahy also went close.

One negative for the Chairboys was keeper George was taken off injured after just seven minutes.

He went down not long after making his earlier save and was replaced by Nathan Bishop.

The second period saw Pompey have a lot of the ball but rarely threaten the Wycombe goal.

Several crosses were comfortably caught for the Chairboys shot-stopper, whilst Christian Saydee went close.

But the evening belonged to Wycombe, as they progressed to the fifth round for the first time since 2021.

Their last run out at this stage of the competition was against Tottenham Hotspur at Adams Park, which the Premier League side won 4-1.

Attendance: 5,420 (with 1,569 being in the Portsmouth end).

They will now play away at Preston North End on the weekend of February 8/9.

FOOTBALL

Chesham and Aveley share the spoils in a tight draw

CHESHAM United fought out a hard-earned 1-1 draw against relegation-threatened Aveley, writes *Andy Westlake*.

Both sides had periods of dominance but ultimately neither did enough to force a victory.

Chesham made three changes to the team that beat Hemel Hempstead on New Years Day – Mitchell Weiss, Joe Grant and Ashley Lodge dropped to the bench to be replaced by Bradley Clayton, Samson Esan and Matt Lench who made his first start since rejoining the club. The home side went into the game nine points adrift of safety at the bottom, but dominated the opening stages as Chesham struggled. Dillon Addai, making his first appearance since extending his loan deal for a further month, was called into action to save a header from a corner on 20 minutes. Soon afterwards the home side took the lead, when Tyrese Owen curled a shot into the top corner of the net following a move down the left. The goal sparked

Chesham into life and within a minute Alex Lafleur shot just over after Nathan Minhas was denied on the edge of the area. Shortly afterwards Minhas got on the end of a through ball from T'Sharne Gallimore but his effort was cleared off the line. At the other end Joshua Anifowose shot just over the bar, but Chesham were now on top. In stoppage time a right-wing move set up T'Sharne Gallimore for a shot that crashed against the bar and bounced down before being cleared.

In the second minute after the restart Bradley Clayton challenged for a ball in the home area and was tripped by Nathan Carlyle right in front of the referee. Matt Lench took the penalty and sent home keeper James Holden the wrong way to equalise. Chesham continued to press and Alex Lafleur's shot was parried by Holden who grabbed the ball at the second attempt. As the half wore on the game became more even, ending with a point apiece.



Matt Lench scores from the spot for Chesham. Picture: Neale Blackburn.

Chairboys go through on chilly Friday night

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield admitted there were "many positives" to take from his side's 2-0 FA Cup third-round victory at home to Championship Portsmouth.

First-half goals from Brandon Hanlan and former Pompey defender Sonny Bradley secured the Chairboys' spot in the next stage of the world's oldest football competition for the first time

in four years, in a fixture where the League One side did not look in danger.

Both sides made wholesale changes but the visitors rarely threatened, which led to their supporters chanting 'attack' midway through the second period in a second-ever FA Cup fixture between the two sides – the first at Adams Park.

Speaking at full-time, Bloom-

field said: "There were so many positives as there were many great individual performances.

"Brandon (Hanlan) took his chance in the starting XI. Declan Skura was magnificent and he knows my thoughts on how he has played in certain games.

"He is willing to learn which is great.

"Dec was alongside Sonny

Bradley, who is a proper Wycombe player – a warrior and Matt Butcher was excellent.

"He hasn't played nearly enough football for the calibre of player he is and that's 100 per cent on me. It's not on his performances and he was brilliant today.

"Overall, I'm so happy as the players sought out the gameplan we had and now we're in the next round."

Sport

SPORT:Preston North End vs Wycombe Wanderers FA Cup fourth round opponents confirmed

PRESTON will host Wycombe in the next round after Milutin Osmajic's brace helped them see off Charlton 2-1.

Osmajic punished a Charlton mistake to open the scoring in the 32nd minute, with Alex Mitchell's back-pass coming up short and goalkeeper Will Mannion's attempted clearance ricocheting off the Montenegrin to go in.

Luke Berry's close-range finish levelled it eight minutes later, but

Osmajic restored Preston's advantage two minutes into the second half, beating Mannion at his near post with a volleyed finish.

Manager Paul Heckingbottom was happy with the striker's performance.

He said: "I always fancy him to get a goal. I want him to improve out of possession because I think it can help him help the team but also help him save energy in certain moments."

"There's still a lot to improve from him but

I'm delighted he's got the goal and I believe he's a big threat when he's on the pitch."

"We had to win the game in a different way. We stood strong but we made it tough for ourselves."

The upcoming tie will be the fourth time to two teams would have met in the FA Cup, but it will be the first at Deepdale.

The previous three encounters have all taken place at Adams Park, with North End winning two and Wanderers winning one.



Wycombe are in the FA Cup fourth round (PA)

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2-0 PORTSMOUTH

Pompey boss angry with flat display at Adams Park

PORTSMOUTH manager John Mousinho admitted that he 'didn't think there was much point' speaking to his players as they lost 2-0 away at Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup.

Pompey, who are now in the Championship after a 12-year absence, only had three notable chances in the contest at Adams Park.

The first two fell to Paddy Lane and Christian Saydee in the opening five minutes with the score at 0-0, before Tom McIntyre forced Nathan Bishop into a save in the dying embers of the match.

At that point, the Chairboys were 2-0 up and didn't look in danger of conceding.

Mousinho, who spent two years with Wycombe as a player between 2008 and 2010, admitted that the league was 'more important', but wanted his players to be 'a lot more competitive' than what they were.

Wanderers' goalscorers were Brandon Hanlan and Sonny Bradley.

The latter had one season with the South Coast team during the 2013/14 year, where he played 38 times and scored two.

Mousinho said: "We have had a very busy Christmas period and have Blackburn during the week, which will be our fifth away game in

By James Richings

six.

"This has meant we've had to be reliant on our core and I thought it was the right thing to do (make changes).

"We didn't want to risk any injuries to key players and now it's just about resting legs for the game on Wednesday.

"Even though we all know that the Championship is the most important thing for us, I still think we should have been a lot more competitive than we were tonight.

"I haven't said anything to players as I didn't think there was much point - we'll review the game tonight and there's not much you can say about the performance.

"We were way below the standard."

The cup tie was the first-ever fixture in the competition between the two clubs to be played at Adams Park.

It was also the second time the two teams met in the FA Cup, with the previous encounter being in the 2016/17 season, which Wycombe won 2-1 at Fratton Park.

Chairboys legend Adebayo Akinfenwa scored the winner with six minutes remaining.



John Mousinho was not happy with his Portsmouth side after the 2-0 loss at Adams Park on January 10 (PA)

CHAIRBOYS

Thanking the fans after shock departure

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has said his relationship with the Chairboys fans will 'never waiver' following his sudden and dramatic exit from the club.

The 40-year-old departed the Adams Park side on January 14 to join Championship outfit Luton Town on a three-year contract, just days after guiding the Buckinghamshire club to the fourth round of the FA Cup.

He leaves the side that he spent just a little over 21 years at across two spells with 52 wins from his 108 games in charge.

Prior to that, he played 558 times for Wycombe, scoring 40 goals.

Speaking to BBC Radio 3 Counties, Bloomfield said: "My message is of absolute gratitude for their support of me as I practically spent my whole adult life [at Wycombe], barring four months as the manager of Colchester.

"I joined the club as a teenager in 2003 and it will always hold a special place in my heart because of how long I spent there and my relationship with the fans will never waiver.

"But there are many things that go on in football and sometimes, circumstances present themselves where decisions need to be made.

"I hope the fans know my loyalty to the football club over the number of years I was there."

On his move to Luton, he added: "This was an incredible opportunity that was presented to me by a board who believed in me, and they absolutely made it clear that they believed in me, and I felt extremely welcome and wanted.

"It was very warming."

His first game in charge will be at home to Preston North End on Saturday, before he is back in the Thames Valley, as the Hatters will face Oxford United on January 21.

Speaking to the EFL 72 podcast, he added: "There are some parallels in terms of what the supporters expect, what this club stands for - hard work, integrity, loyalty," Bloomfield said.

"Every club is different, you need to learn every club. That individuality is what makes football in this country so special but can I see some parallels? Yes.

"That's one of the things that attracted me to Luton and Luton to me, reciprocally."

Wycombe's first match post Bloomfield was away at Beaconsfield Town in the Berks & Bucks Cup on January 14, which they lost 4-3.

The first league game will be at Mansfield on January 18.

MANSFIELD TOWN VS WYCOMBE

Looking ahead to this weekend's clash



Nigel Clough is hoping for better luck this weekend when Mansfield play Wycombe (PA)

MANSFIELD Town manager Nigel Clough has admitted that he believes his side are 'due a bit of luck' against Wycombe Wanderers.

The two sides will meet at Field Mill this weekend, just short of two months after the Chairboys scored an injury-time strike to secure a late 1-0 victory against the Stags.

Luke Leahy's cross/shot flew over the goalkeeper and nestled into the back of the net with seconds remaining.

However, Wanderers go into the fixture without a full-time manager after Matt Bloomfield sensationally departed the club on Tuesday for Luton Town.

He leaves with the Chairboys sitting second in the League One table. Clough told CHAD newspaper: "We

are certainly due a bit of luck against Wycombe.

"In that run of five games we lost I thought that was as heart-wrenching as any.

"They were absolutely flying at the time. So to get done by a fluke goal in the 93rd minute was really heartbreaking for everybody.

"We do owe them one from that point of view.

"But they have had a fantastic season so far and are a good shout for automatic promotion."

The two sides have met each other on 26 occasions since they first met in 1994.

Wycombe have won 10 times, Mansfield seven, and there have been nine draws.

CHAIRBOYS

Bloomfield on Luton exit and feeling of 'being wanted'

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has spoken for the first time since leaving the club for Luton Town.

The 40-year-old, who took charge of his final game of the Chairboys on January 10, was announced as the Hatters' new man in charge just four days later.

He replaces the outgoing Rob Edwards who left on January 9.

Speaking on his move to Kenilworth Road, Bloomfield said he was happy to join a club that has made him feel very comfortable and

very wanted'.

He also said that he wanted to 'work with people who want the best for their football club', indicating there might have been some tension between the departing manager and Wanderers' new board.

Bloomfield exits Buckinghamshire with the Chairboys in second place in the League One table, with only seven defeats from 35 games this season.

Speaking on his move from Wycombe to Luton, he told the club's website: "It's a genuine honour and a privilege

to be here, to be appointed as manager of this incredible club.

"I'm really, really proud.

"It's been a busy few days, a very busy weekend but I've met the recruitment team, met Gary and spent some time with the board.

"The fact that they're all Luton supporters and that they care so much about their football club shone through, and the fact that they had a real big desire for me to join our football club also shone through, so I'm incredibly proud and very, very happy to be here.

"That made me feel very comfortable and very wanted, which is huge for me.

"I want to work with people who care and fans who also care – and they certainly do here.

"I want to work with people who want the best for their football club, and that's more than evident with Gary, the chairman and the board of directors."



Matt Bloomfield joined the club in 2003 following his release from Ipswich Town as a 19-year-old (PA)

BLOOMFIELD ON EXIT

"THAT feeling that they gave me and the feeling of being wanted, how much research they've done into me and the football team that we've produced at Colchester and Wycombe, and the knowledge base of what I stand for, who I am and what we've tried to produce in our football team left me in no uncertain times that this was the right move at the right time."

Westergaard is Wycombe bound this January

WYCOMBE Wanderers have completed the signing of Danish midfielder Magnus Westergaard for a club-record fee.

The Chairboys look set to secure the services of the 26-year-old from Viborg for 7.5 million kroner (£541,000).

This will be the Adams Park side's most expensive signing in their history, eclipsing the sum they spent on fellow Danish national Anders Hagelskjær earlier this month.

Westergaard joins the club just two days after the departure of manager

Matt Bloomfield, who left for Luton Town in the Championship.

Westergaard is expected to replace the recently departed Aaron Morley, who has since returned to his parent club Bolton Wanderers after a brilliant five months in Buckinghamshire.

The 24-year-old played 23 times for the Chairboys between September and New Year's Day, scoring twice.

His second and last goal for the club came in his final appearance, which was a last-minute penalty against Ex-

eter City on January 1.

Wycombe had been in talks with Bolton to try and bring Morley back to Adams Park, but have since had two bids rejected by the former Premier League side.

This has forced Wanderers to look elsewhere for a box-to-box midfielder, leading to the signing of Westergaard who will wear the number 42 shirt at the club.

Chief football officer Dan Rice said: Magnus is a player with fantastic pedi-

gree in the Danish Superliga and complements the way we play, so we're really pleased to bring him to the club, especially given the strong level of competition we faced for his signature from clubs in the UK and across Europe.

"He was one of our top targets for this January transfer window and it's great that we've been able to attract a player of his calibre to Adams Park to help us achieve our short-term goals this season and be part of our plans going forward."

CHAIRBOYS

Grace on Alex Hartridge

WYCOMBE Wanderers interim manager Sam Grace has praised the attitude of defender Alex Hartridge following his display in the Berks & Bucks Cup.

The 27-year-old centre back started in the club's recent 4-3 away defeat to Beaconsfield Town at Holloways Park on January 14.

He was the only first-team regular in the matchday squad with the team being made up of development players and academy trialists.

His appearance in the cup match came after he was sent-off in the recent 1-1 home draw against Blackpool on January 4, which was his second red card of the campaign.

This meant he has missed the last two games (against Huddersfield Town and Portsmouth respectively), meaning his run out in in Beaconsfield was to help with keeping up his match fitness.

Speaking on Hartridge's attitude, Grace, said: "Alex is an ultimate professional and what a guy he is. He said that he 'wanted to get the minutes in and show them how its done'.

"He went in to win headers, settle with the ball, step in and take responsibility, whether that's playing through the line, hitting the diagonals, the calmness for the team and I'm really pleased for him."

CHAIRBOYS

Bees coach bookies favourite for Wycombe gig

Brentford's assistant manager Claus Norgaard has become the favourite to take over at Wycombe Wanderers.

The Chairboys are currently managerless after Matt Bloomfield's sudden and shock departure to Luton Town was confirmed on January 14 - just four days after guiding the Adams Park side into the FA Cup fourth round for the first time in four years.

He replaces Rob Edwards, who left the Hatters after a poor run of form which has left the Bedfordshire-based team in 20th in the Championship.

Bloomfield leaves with Wycombe second in League One, with assistant manager Richard Thomas, goalkeeper coach Lee Harrison and analyst Ben Cirne all joining him at Kenilworth Road.

According to the bookies, 45-year-old Dane Norgaard, who has been second in command to Thomas Frank at Brentford since December 2022, is the front-runner.

Whilst this has not been confirmed, the bookies show that Norgaard is currently 1/2 odds on favourite to become manager.

SPORT



Wanderers keeper George to be out for 'some time'



George came off injured in the victory against Portsmouth (PA)

AN injury update has been provided on goalkeeper Shamal George.

The shot-stopper, who joined the club from Livingston on Deadline Day back in the summer, started the 2-0 FA Cup third round win over Portsmouth but was substituted after only seven minutes.

Prior to his exit, he had made a brilliant save to deny Paddy Lane in the opening two minutes of the contest.

He was replaced by on-loan Sunderland man, Nathan Bishop.

Speaking on George's departure so early in the cup tie, ex-Wycombe

manager Matt Bloomfield said: "It was his groin I think.

"I haven't really had a chance to discuss it with him as I think he said it was from his first kick as it was so early as well.

"It's very disappointing for Sham because he had twins earlier this week so congratulations to him.

"Maybe he's fatigued from that, I don't know, but on the flip side, I'm pleased for Bish as he had that injury earlier in the season and Franco has been excellent so he's had to be patient. "He did well when he came on."

Bishop was practically a bystander during the contest at Adams Park and only had to make one notable save.

This was to deny Tom McIntyre with a low drive in the final few moments of the contest, with the game already won.

It was only his fifth appearance of the season since joining on loan from Sunderland, and Bloomfield admitted he 'doesn't know' if the ex-Manchester United keeper will remain at the club past January.

Prior to Bloomfield's sudden move to Luton, he explained: "Every loan as we have seen has a recall.

"We have been stung by that twice with Aaron [Morley] and Caleb [Taylor], so there will be rumours and you need to negotiate through that.

"I don't know what's going on with that but we're pleased to have him here."

Wycombe will be away to Preston in the FA Cup fourth round on Saturday, February 8.

Talking to X [formerly Twitter], George said: "Sadly going to be out for a bit of time.

"I'll be working as hard as I can to get back to supporting and helping the team."

'It's a privilege' says the interim Chairboys boss

WYCOMBE Wanderers caretaker manager Sam Grace said it is a 'privilege' to lead the club for the interim period and that his players are 'an internally motivated group'.

The development coach will be looking after first-team duties at Adams Park following Matt Bloomfield's sudden departure for Championship side Luton Town earlier this week.

He leaves the Adams Park outfit second in the League One table, two points behind league leaders Birmingham City.

Assistant manager Richard Thomas, goalkeeper coach Lee Harrison and analyst Ben Crine have also made their way to Kenilworth Road. The search for a new manager to take over at HP12 has begun, with Grace, Harry Hudson and Matty Dye looking after things on an interim basis.

At the time of writing, Grace and his backroom staff are expected to take charge of the Chairboys' fixture away at Mansfield Town this weekend.

Speaking exclusively to the Bucks Free Press after the Chairboys' defeat to Beaconsfield Town in the Berks & Bucks Cup on January 14, Grace said: "I was told yesterday afternoon [January 13] about it, so I was straight on to watching footage for Mansfield.

"We had a training session today [January 14], putting in the principles and areas we're looking to target and focus on - that will be the focus for the rest of the week.

"The players are an internally motivated group - you can see this with their training and application levels. "It was really high and I'm pleased with that.

"We played Mansfield recently, they know what's coming so it's about us shining light on certain areas and highlighting where we want to play.

"We should be fully prepared for

By James Richings

that."

When asked about his new role, albeit on an interim basis, he added: "It is a privilege to help the club that I first started watching when I was four/five years old.

"This is why we do the coaching badges.

"This is where you want to get to and have more experiences and challenges.

"I'm really looking forward to it."

Prior to his inaugural game in charge of the first team on January 18, Grace led out a Chairboys XI that faced Beaconsfield Town in the quarter-final of the Berks & Bucks Cup on Tuesday evening.

The Chairboys narrowly lost 4-3 against the Rams, and despite the squad being made up of numerous trialists, new development signings Ryan Cole and Brody Peart found themselves on the scoresheet.

Cole, who signed for Wycombe earlier this month from Newmarket Town, got himself a brace, whilst Peart, who joined from Brighton and Hove Albion in July, scored a stunning free-kick.

Grace added: "Brody has worked on his directness and his one-on-ones so I am very pleased with that.

"His press and his set pieces [were also good], as he has been doing the same thing for Basingstoke in his last few games, as he has got a for goals from set pieces and free-kicks.

"With Ryan, I liked the quality of his strike and the timing of his header

"He's learning from a different position in midfield and he's still very much getting up to speed as he's getting used to training full-time.

"There were lots of positives [to take] from his goals."



Sam Grace will take charge of Wycombe's game away at Mansfield this weekend (PA)

New boy Anderes on arriving at Adams Park

NEW signing Anders Hagelskjær has revealed he 'had to go' to Wycombe Wanderers after he realised the club were interested in his services.

The 27-year-old centre back has joined the Chairboys for a fee that is understood to be around £500,000 from the Norwegian top division, Molde.

His arrival in South Buckinghamshire was confirmed one day before the Adams Park side played Portsmouth in the third round of the FA Cup, in which he was an unused substitute.

He will wear the number 45 shirt for the club.

Speaking on his move to England, the Danish defender said: "I'm very happy and excited to be here and the first couple of days have been good meeting all the lads, the gaffer and the staff.

"I have always dreamed of coming to England because everyone watches English football in Scandinavia.

"When I heard there was an opportunity, I had to go.

"I felt I was a good time in my career and I'm happy to be here."

Despite not featuring in the 2-0 win over Portsmouth on January 10, Hagelskjær took note of some of the main differences if playing Norway.

It is hoped he will feature in Wycombe's next game, which is away at Mansfield Town on January 18.

He continued: "I would say there were more duels and I liked the work too.

"Everyone seemed to try and help the team in the best way.

"I loved seeing the energy, how the guys left everything out on the pitch and the fans were amazing."

He could make his debut in this weekend's match against Mansfield Town on January 18.