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PAGE 5

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PAGE 6

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14



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Football

Beaconsfield earn dramatic late draw

BEACONSFIELD secured a dramatic late equaliser to earn a hard-fought 2-2 draw against high-flying Biggleswade.

Biggleswade opened the scoring in the seventh minute as a ball into the box forced Josh Welland to come out to try and claim it, but he was beaten to it by Sammy Fisher – Diaz who lobbed him.

The home side responded well, creating several chances throughout the first half.

Their persistence paid off just before the break when James Dobson's powerful free kick found the bottom

corner, levelling the score at one apiece.

The second half saw an end-to-end contest, with both sides pushing for the lead.

With less than ten minutes remaining, a defensive lapse allowed Biggleswade to be awarded a penalty.

Alex Marsh stepped up and confidently converted, putting the visitors ahead once again.

As the match appeared to be slipping away from Beaconsfield, Ade Gbolohan emerged as the hero in the dying moments.

He found space in the box and fired home to secure a vital point for the home side.



Beaconsfield in a huddle before facing Biggleswade Image: Arran White

FOOTBALL

Commanding performance by five-star Holmer Green

HOLMER Green delivered a commanding performance, overwhelming Chalfont St Peter with a resounding five-one victory at home on Saturday.

The match, part of the Combined Counties Football League – Division One, took place at Holmer Green's ground on the 25th of October, 2025.

The home side showcased their depth, with Liam Butters on the bench as he continues his recovery, while Luca Perrin made his first appearance in six years, partnering Theo Ransby in defence.

The match began with Holmer's attacking duo, Joshua Peck and Jeffrey Fordjour, making an immediate impact.

Peck opened the scoring in the thirteenth minute after Fordjour was played through by Ollie Saunders and squared the ball for an easy finish.

Just three minutes later, Fordjour doubled the lead after Peck intercepted a pass out of the away defence and sent him through, netting his seventh goal of the season.

Despite Holmer's dominance, Chalfont managed to pull one back in the thirty-eighth minute through a well-placed header from Edwards, following a free kick that caused confusion in the home defence.

Gemma Parry

Gemma.Parry@Newsquest.co.uk

However, just before half-time, a slip from the Chalfont goalkeeper allowed Peck and Fordjour to watch as a long ball from Lloyd Majaya sailed into the far corner, restoring Holmer's two-goal cushion.

The second half began with Holmer needing to maintain their lead, having not kept a second-half clean sheet in their last fourteen matches.

Their resolve was rewarded when Oskar Esplund-Evans scored in the fiftieth minute, after Peck's effort was deflected to Alistair Grass, whose shot was blocked before Oskar arrived to finish.

The home side continued to apply pressure, and Peck added a fifth goal in the sixty-first minute, reacting quickly to a loose ball after a half-save from the Chalfont keeper.

This goal effectively sealed the match, leaving the visitors with little chance of a comeback.

Despite a late scare when Chalfont nearly found the net, Holmer's defence held firm, with Majaya getting back to clear after the ball found its way past Bell.



Holmer Green secure comprehensive 5-1 home victory

FOOTBALL

Chesham just fall short after a valiant effort

CHESHAM United fought valiantly but fell short against Worthing, who secured a 2-1 away victory in a tightly contested match.

The clash took place in the National League South on Tuesday, 21 October, at The Meadow.

Josh Spong was the standout performer for the visitors, scoring twice, including a penalty, while Jayden Bennetts netted for Chesham to spark a late rally.

The home side started brightly, with Alex Babos nearly finding the net early on, shooting just over after a well-placed throw from Josh Addae.

However, it was Worthing who struck first, taking the lead in the twenty-second minute when Spong unleashed a powerful shot from twenty-five yards that found the bottom corner, catching the Chesham defence off guard.

As the first half progressed, Worthing grew in confidence, creating several chances.

Nathan Odokonyero came close to doubling the lead, but his effort was saved by Ben Goode.

The visitors continued to press, with a corner leading to a frantic scramble in the Chesham six-yard box, but Goode managed to hold on, keeping his side in the game until half-time.

The second half began with a dramatic turn of events.

Just four minutes in, Odokonyero's shot took a deflection and landed on the crossbar.

In the ensuing chaos, a foul on Brad Dolaghan led to a penalty for Worthing.

Spong's initial attempt was parried by Goode, but he capitalised on the rebound to make it 2-0.

Chesham needed a response, and a double substitution just before the hour mark proved pivotal.

Addae's incisive run into the box set up Bennetts, who slid the ball home to reduce the deficit.

With renewed momentum, the home side pressed for an equaliser, coming close on several occasions.

Dan Bayliss's effort narrowly missed the target, while Zak Joseph's attempts were thwarted by Worthing's keeper, Josh Jeffries, who made several crucial saves.

Despite Chesham's late surge, Worthing managed to hold on for the win, employing time-wasting tactics to see out the match.

Sport



Michael Duff was pleased with the win against his old side (PA)

Three points for the Chairboys

WYCOMBE boss Michael Duff believes his team 'will only get better' after Wanderers defeated his former club Huddersfield Town 3-0 at Adams Park.

Goals from Cauley Woodrow, Fred Onyedinnma and an own goal from Daniel Vost gave the Chairboys all three points, in a game where Terriers forward Alfie May was shown a straight red card.

The striker, who had scored eight goals in 11 matches versus the Buckinghamshire-based outfit ahead of the clash, was sent off for an awful lunge on Onyedinnma after 25 minutes.

This completely changed the complexion of the game as Huddersfield looked in control before the dismissal.

The result means Wycombe move up to 17th, and since Duff took over from Mike Dodds on September 18, he has now won five of his eight games in charge.

Speaking at full-time, he said: "At 0-0, it was a nip and tuck game as there wasn't a lot in it, as they're a good team with good players.

"But when the red card happened, and it was a red card, we stepped on them and didn't wander.

"The last five/six minutes were pleasing as anything as we got them on the counter press and moved the ball – this is something we wanted at 0-0 in the first minute.

"Lee Nicholls made some really good saves, but we hurt them from every angle possible, which is great.

"That's 11 points from 18 is a good start, and we will only get better.

"Without being arrogant, we're settling with this formation now (4-3-2-1), and the players are giving me everything.

"They're running, fighting – can we be better? Yes, but from my point of view, all you can ask is that (effort).

"It was a complete performance."

Huddersfield boss Lee Grant said: "It's difficult as we're once again talking about a game that was set out with one intention, but it ended up being a completely different game.

"I think it was unacceptable the way the game ended up, and I think it's unacceptable the way the game was taken away from us.

"We can't react the way we did, we can't lose control the way we did, and we can't lose our discipline the way we did, as it cost us."

Wycombe impress but

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers' League Cup run has ended for another season as they lost to Fulham 5-4 on penalties, following a 1-1 draw at Adams Park.

With nearly 8,000 people packed inside the Hillbottom Road venue in what was the club's highest attended game of the season so far, the hosts had the perfect start on four minutes.

Jamie Mullins gave the ball to Cauley Woodrow, and the ex-Fulham striker fired home from range to put the Chairboys ahead.

It was the on-loan Luton Town man's second goal in consecutive matches, and his third since arriving in South Buckinghamshire at the start of September.

This was as good as it got for Wanderers as they let Fulham have the ball.

They ended the half with less than 30 per cent possession, with the goal being their only shot of the contest.

For the Cottages, they enjoyed the ball but struggled to find a way through a dogged Wycombe back-line.

On 14 minutes, Adama Traore's cross was headed towards goal by Raul Jimenez, but the latter's attempt was pushed away by Will Norris.

Moments later, it was take two as another header by the Mexican forward was parried away by Wanderers' number 50, whilst Brazilian winger Kevin, put his shot wide.

Michael Duff's team were more than happy to sit back and defend the one-goal lead, as Fulham looked vulnerable on the counter-attack.

Sam Bell tied Issa Diop in knots on the left, whilst the battle between the two Nigerians in Calvin Bassey and Fred Onyedinnma on the right was an interesting watch.

Boos were heard by the Fulham fans at half-time as they lacked that cutting edge up top, but they didn't need to wait long for their equaliser, as it duly came two minutes after the restart.

A quick corner kick from Kevin found Josh King unmarked in the box, and the teenager poked home from close range.

It was then an onslaught of Cot-



Issa Diop scored the winning penalty past Will Norris as Fulham eliminated Wycombe (PA)

tage attacks, as Norris was on hand to deny Tom Cairney, Harrison Reed and Traore.

The introduction of Caolan Boyd-Munce and Donnell McNeilly gave

the Chairboys that much-needed balance in the middle of the park and up top, as Wanderers looked open when Fulham attacked.

The Premier League outfit continued to boss the ball, as in the last five minutes Norris made a huge save to thwart Kevin.

Moments later, King fired wide.

It went to penalties, and despite Ewan Henderson missing Wycombe's opening kick, it went to sudden death after Ryan Sessegnon had the decisive kick to settle the tie, saved by Will Norris.

However, Wanderers couldn't capitalise as Donnell McNeilly and Fred Onyedinnma had their pens saved by Lecomte.

Issa Diop then converted home as Fulham won the tie 5-4 on penalties.

It means Wycombe still haven't won a home League Cup tie inside 90 minutes since August 2003, when they defeated Wimbledon 2-0 at Adams Park.

Head coach Michael Duff said:

Duff said: "The attitude and mentality of the players has been brilliant since I walked in, and we have to keep on working.

"We defended with our backs to the wall, showed moments of quality with and without the ball, as we knew we weren't going to outdo football Fulham.

"I'm proud of the performance as the players did everything I asked them to."

On the fans, he added: "The fans turned up in their numbers and we said before the game that we needed to give them something to shout about.

"It's always a two-way street, as the players gave them something to shout about and they [the fans] got them through the last 10 minutes.

"The supporters want to see the players sweating and putting bodies on the line, which is something that we want to do all the time.

"Hopefully, a few fans will come back as they watched a good game of football and we saw lots of



Fulham's Raul Jimenez (left) and Wycombe Wanderers' Anders Hagelskjaer battle for the ball (PA)

fall short in Fulham tie



Two ex-Fulham players in Jack Grimmer (left) and Cauley Woodrow (right) celebrate the latter's opener after four minutes (PA)



Issa Diop tries to fight off Fred Onyedinma at Adams Park (PA)



It wasn't meant to be as Wanderers fell short in the shootout (PA)

O'Neill makes Bhoys return

James Richings

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers manager Martin O'Neill has sensationally been named the interim head coach at Celtic, following Brendan Rodgers' dramatic departure.

The 73-year-old, who was the Chairboys boss between 1990 and 1995 in what is regarded as one of the greatest eras in the club's history, was announced as the Bhoys' new man in charge in the late hours of October 27.

O'Neill spent five years with the Scottish outfit between 2000 and 2005, where he won seven trophies, three of which were league titles.

Ex-Wigan Athletic winger and manager Shaun Maloney has joined as assistant.

The re-arrival of the duo at Celtic Park came one day after the club lost 3-1 away at top-of-the-table Hearts, leaving them eight points behind the Jam Tarts in the Scottish Premiership.

Tensions have been brewing amongst the board and fans, with principal shareholder Dermot Desmond claiming that Rodgers had created a 'toxic atmosphere' at the club.

Rodgers initially joined Celtic in 2016, before departing three years later for Leicester City.

He would return to Scotland in the summer of 2023, months after leaving the Foxes.

Desmond said: "When we brought Brendan back to Celtic two years ago, it was done with complete trust and belief in his ability to lead the club into a new era of sustained success. Unfortunately, his conduct and communication in recent months have not reflected that trust."

"Yet in subsequent press conferences, Brendan implied that the club had made no commitment to offer him a contract.

"That was simply untrue.

"He was given final say over all football matters and was consistently backed in the recruitment process — including record investment in players he personally identified and approved.

"When his comments were made publicly, I sought to address them directly. Brendan and I met for over three hours at his home in Scotland to discuss the issue.

"Despite ample opportunity, he was unable to identify a single instance where the club had obstructed or failed to support him.

"The facts did not match his public narrative.

"Regrettably, his words and actions since then have been divisive, misleading, and self-serving.

"They have contributed to a toxic atmosphere around the club and fuelled hostility towards members of the executive team and the board."

"What has failed recently was not due to our structure or model, but to one individual's desire for self-preservation at the expense of others."

Rodgers won 11 trophies with Celtic, either side of a spell at Leicester and returned to Glasgow.

things you want to see.

"I enjoyed watching the game against a really good team.

"Supporters and players were magnificent even though we went out."

Fulham boss Marco Silva admitted that there were some 'difficult

circumstances' as they battled the Chairboys, but believes his team will be 'much stronger' as the competition progresses.

He said: "These types of moments can happen in this competition.

"To be honest, I think we did enough. We knew we were strong-

er than them.

"In these types of moments, we have to keep positivity around ourselves, because these types of things happen.

"First shot on target, goal for Wycombe. That's football.

"The results haven't been at all

good enough for us.

"Some difficult circumstances, some difficult opposition.

"But I think the team is being very competitive in all the games.

"I'm sure that with all the squad available, we are going to be much stronger."

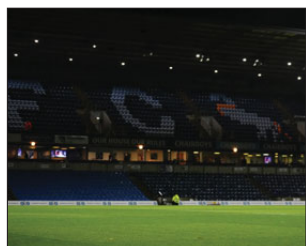
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ISSN 0963-2336 £1.80



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Three points for Wanderers versus the 10-man Terriers



It was Wanderers' first win against H'field since 1994 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers secured their first home victory against Huddersfield Town in 31 years as they defeated the ex-Premier League outfit 3-0 at Adams Park.

The Terriers' visit to Buckinghamshire came off the back of three consecutive defeats in all competitions, but started the better as Leo Castledine forced Will Norris into a good stop on five minutes, before Marcus Harness' free-kick just went over four minutes later.

Wycombe struggled to get into the contest, but this changed on 24 minutes when striker Alfie May, who

had scored eight in his last 11 against the Chairboys, was sent off for an awful two-footed lunge on Fred Onyedima.

It happened near the halfway line in a nothing area of the pitch, and despite his protests of innocence, referee Lee Swabey showed him a straight red card.

The complexion of the game turned as Wanderers were now in control.

Sam Bell's header was tipped over by Lee Nicholls, Alex Lowry bent his effort wide, whilst Luke Leahy also went close.

The deadlock was eventually broken

seven minutes before the break, when Cauley Woodrow's second of the season put Wanderers ahead.

It was his first since scoring on his debut against Mansfield on September 6, ending a run of six games without a goal.

Wycombe continued to boss the contest as Nicholls denied Lowry and Jack Grimmer, as the ex-Premier League outfit were chasing shadows due to the red card.

Then, with 15 minutes remaining, the victory was sealed when Onyedima scored a well-taken goal from outside

the box.

It was his third of the campaign and his first since the 2-1 away loss at Peterborough United, which was Mike Dodds' last game in charge.

Five minutes later, it was three after Daniel Vost put the ball into his own net.

The victory was Wanderers' first at home against the ex-Premier League outfit since December 1994, and only their fifth in 15 games against the Terriers.

Additionally, the goals at home versus Huddersfield were the club's first since April 2010.

Chairboys to go strong against Plymouth Argyle

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has revealed that he will not make wholesale changes for this weekend's FA Cup home clash against Plymouth Argyle.

The Chairboys only made two alterations to the side that played Fulham in the Carabao Cup on Tuesday night, following on from their 3-0 victory against Huddersfield Town on Saturday.

Since arriving at Adams Park, Duff has only tasted defeat once in his nine games in charge.

This was in the 2-1 loss away at AFC Wimbledon on September 27.*

Speaking ahead of his team's clash against the Pilgrims, he said: "Any changes will be tactical, and we might give someone an opportunity.

"It won't be wholesale changes, as I believe players should be able to play three games a week as that's the job.

"They're professional footballers – the clue is in the title.

"They have got to be professional and look after themselves so they can play three games a week.

"It won't be like the first two games where we were seeing what is what, as we'll pick a team which will be strong and competitive as we're playing good opposition.

"We're in a good moment, and we don't want to throw that away and change too much.

"We'll be focusing on doing that."

Plymouth will make the 444-round trip to Buckinghamshire with no wins in their last five, in which they have lost three on the bounce.

It has been a tough start for head coach Tom Cleverley since he arrived at Home Park in the summer, as he has only tasted victory in seven of his 18 games in charge.

Despite this, Duff doesn't want his team to be 'arrogant' regardless of Plymouth's poor form.

He said: "They're in a bad moment, but Plymouth were in a higher league

By James Richings

than us last year.

"They've come down from the Championship, they have got Championship players and got a manager who has managed in the Championship, so we don't want to be the catalyst to start their good run.

"If you become entitled or arrogant enough to think you can just rock up and play, that just doesn't happen in football.

"The players need to perform.

"We're in a good little spot at the moment, and we'll be facing a team that are going through a difficult moment.

"I think it's inevitable they will get out of where they are."

Finally, this year marks the 25th anniversary of when Wycombe sensationally reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

The Chairboys incredibly got to the last four in which they reached the penultimate round of the competition alongside Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal and Liverpool.

They faced the latter, who defeated Wanderers 2-1 at Adams Park, before the Reds won the competition, beating Arsenal by the same scoreline at the Millennium Stadium in May 2001.

Duff added: "Lower down the pyramid, it still has the same magic that it has always had.

"It is an opportunity to test yourself against the best, and for us, we need to get past the next couple of rounds to do that.

"People at our level in the pyramid and Non League, it's an opportunity to get your moment in the headlines."

*Wycombe's League Cup tie against Fulham will go into the record books as a draw, despite the penalty shootout loss, as the game ended all square at Adams Park.



Michael Duff has only lost one of his nine games in charge of Wycombe since his arrival in September (PA)

Supporter wanted following Fulham tie

A CRIMINAL investigation has opened after the assistant referee was hit with a missile in Wycombe Wanderers' League Cup clash against Fulham.

The fourth round fixture, which took place at Adams Park on October 28, saw the Chairboys take the lead on four minutes thanks to a brilliant Cauley Woodrow strike, before Josh King equalised two minutes into the second half.

Following the 1-1 draw, the tie went to penalties, which the Premier League side won 5-4, after it went to sudden death.

However, at full-time, a supporter in the terrace threw an item which hit one of the assistant referees.

The club have since released a statement which reads: "Wycombe Wanderers are disappointed to report that a missile was thrown from the terrace, striking an assistant referee, following the conclusion of tonight's Carabao Cup tie.

"The club strongly condemns this behaviour and is working to identify the individual responsible."

Thames Valley Police added: "Officers are conducting a thorough investigation following this incident and ask anyone with information to please contact the force on 101 or by reporting online, quoting reference number 43250552095."

The clash against the Cottagers saw 7,872 attend the fixture with 1,837 fans making the relatively short trip from West London.

At the time of writing, it is the club's highest attended game of the season so far.

Their largest crowd of 2025 to date was when they face Wrexham on March 15, when 9,333 people crammed themselves inside Adams Park.