

# Bucks Free Press

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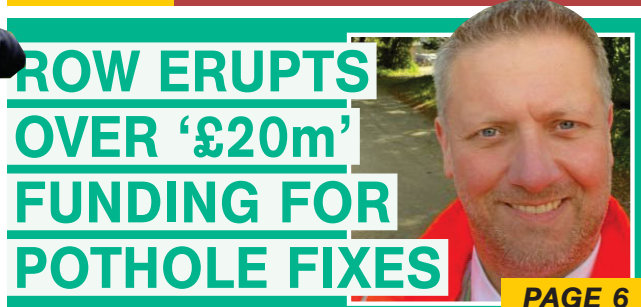
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PAGE 14



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PAGES 4-5



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PAGE 6

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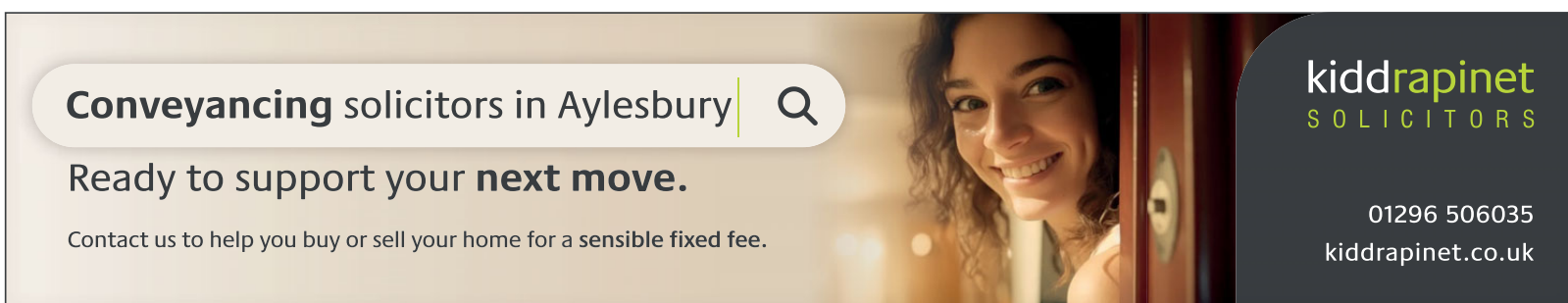
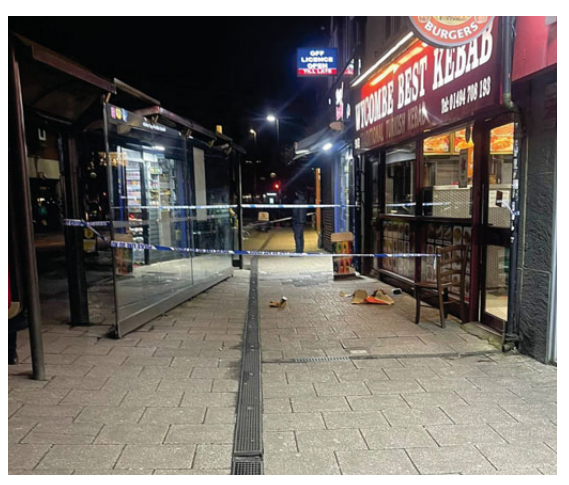
## Six arrested after huge brawl

Residents say they 'don't feel safe' as investigation starts

**By James Richings**

SIX people were arrested following a huge fight in High Wycombe. Police were called to Frogmoor at around 6pm on Wednesday evening where the individuals aged between 16 and 18 were arrested on suspicion of violent disorder. Following the brawl, residents have said they 'don't feel safe' in the town.

Full story: [Page 7](#)



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## Sport

## FOOTBALL

## Beaconsfield tie with promotion chasers

Beaconsfield Town earned a good point in an entertaining 2-2 draw with promotion chasers Hadley at Holloways Park, writes Arran White.

It was a bit of a slow start from Beaconsfield, with Hadley seeing a lot of the ball, and eventually taking the lead in the 18th minute through Jesse Effa, who did well to cut inside before smashing the ball home to give the visitors the lead. Beaconsfield grew into the game after going behind and will have felt unlucky to have

been behind at the break.

The second half started with Beaconsfield pushing for the equaliser. They found it in the 54th minute when captain Matty Harriott's perfect cross was headed in by Josh Marcon. With the game now balanced at 1-1 both teams looked up for a fight to gain maximum points. Hadley retook the lead in the 62nd minute when Bobby Webb found his way free inside the 6-yard box and headed past Ed Brearey in the home net. As the

game entered added time it was Beaconsfield on the attack. Several good attacks came to nothing as time appeared to be running out for the hosts. However, in the final minute of the five added Beaconsfield pulled themselves level with a header bundled over the line by Matty Harriott.

It was an excellent point for Beaconsfield against one of the promotion chasers which sees them make it three games unbeaten in all competitions.



Harriott celebrates the equaliser' credit: BEN COUSIN

## FOOTBALL

## Holmer Green earn three more points over Galicia

**H**OLMER closed out a very good three points against talented and gritty opposition, winning 3-1 against Deportivo Galicia in Combined Counties Division One.

Their opponents were never really out of the game until The Greens restored a two-goal lead with a third goal, late on.

Holmer started the match without Sam Bell, Sammy Hill, Theo Ransby, Tyler Sims, and Josh Peck, all recent regulars. Deportivo have been steadily improving recently, climbing away from the drop zone and getting to 28 points already. This hard-won three points takes the Watchet Lane boys onto 51 points, the first time they have exceeded the half century of points in a season since 2015-16 when they finished in a heady 7th position at Step five.

They got off to the best possible start. On three minutes a defensive throw-in by Callum Gray found James Saxby in tricky mode in front of the stand, he worked his way down the wing and produced a pinpoint cross for an unmarked Harry Loakes to score his second goal in two games with a close-range header.

Deportivo immediately showed their tenacity and ability by getting back at Holmer. Until almost full-time this correspondent was continually noting down neat moves and openings by the visitors, that were stretching the home defence.

On 16 minutes Aaron Bryan made a good tackle in his own penalty-area which enabled Jensen Ellis to fall on the ball. His subsequent clearance was not dealt with well, beyond the dug-outs on the left wing. A weak back-pass let the alert Deen Mirza in, and he guided the ball past the goalkeeper to dou-

By John Anderson

ble the lead.

He had tweaked a leg muscle earlier in the game and was substituted, with Dillon Haynes coming on. A couple of headed chances for Ewan Philpot were well outnumbered by opportunities for the visitors to get at the Holmer goal. But the home side determinately saw out the half.

Matt Wooster had to survive some difficult moments in a crowded midfield, and his run of two starts and finishes came to an end on 55 minutes. As the returning Harrison Holbrook had to be substituted in the Holmer midfield late in the first half, the strength of the home bench had ample time to show their ability as all five players were eventually used.

This is because Deportivo never let up. They did however have to wait until 80 minutes before halving the deficit. Poor closing down in midfield followed by loose marking in central defence, allowed Pishdar to run through and score.

The Greens realised that they would face another 15 minutes of pressure. The best type of defence is attack, and they did that. Bryan coming off the left wing the ball moved to Philpot centrally and onto Saxby coming from the right, all combining for the latter to cross the ball.

The clearing header under pressure fell nicely to Philpot. His instinctive half-volley from twelve yards out flashed past the 'keeper into the roof of the net. Only now did the points look safe and the game petered out fairly comfortably as the home side would have liked.



Holmer Green

## DARTS

PRDDL  
Results and  
Scorers  
W.C Jan 23

*Division 1 (Sponsored By  
Avocet Construction)*

**Bradmoor Farm A 5-6**

**Chinnor Pavilion A**

Josh Tack 180 & 14 Dart Leg  
Chris Stallwood 20 Dart Leg

**The Bull B 5-6 Bradmoor**

**Farm Warriors**

Allan Way 20 Dart Leg

**The Crown Royals 5-6**

**Rivets**

Jon Woodbridge 16 & 19 Dart  
Legs

Elliott Insley 13 Dart Leg

Jamie Whittaker 19 Dart Leg

**Chinnor Pavilion B 6-5**

**Chinnor Pavilion D**

Dayle Lofty 100 Checkout

Jamie Croxford 180

Matt Tapping 110 Checkout & 21  
Dart Leg

**Bledlow Village Cricket**

**Club A 2-9 The Bull A**

Vinnie Connelly 180

Sam Ridgway 180 x2

**Whiteleaf Cross B 6-5**

**The Crown Jacks**

Ross Hales 17 & 21 Dart Legs

**Thame Snooker Club 4-7**

**Weavers**

Josh Hamstead 100 Checkout

Anthony Hamstead 18 Dart Leg

Scott Philbey 180 x2 & 14 Dart Leg

Leroy Carter 180

*Division 2 (Sponsored By*

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**Aylesbury Vale FC 7-4**

**The Bell**

**The Three Horseshoes**

**5-6 The Black Horse**

Clayton Ford 180

Matt Ing 180 & 17 Dart Leg

**New Zealand 11-0 Bled-**

**low Village Cricket Club**

**B**

Shane Prowse 180

Gary Dukes 17 Dart Leg

**Bradmoor Farm D 2-9**

**Bradmoor Farm B**

Karl Higgins 180

Simon Middleton 17 Dart Leg

**Chinnor Pavilion E 5-6**

**Chinnor Pavilion C**

**Bay 19 7-4 Golden Cross**

**The Plough 7-4 Wendo-**

**wer RBL**

## HOCKEY

# North scores for Marlow in Oxford win



Sam North

HAVING beaten South Berkshire 3-0 in mid week, Marlow Hockey men 1sts were also away to Oxford University and came away with a 2-0 win. Marlow went ahead when Sam North slotted yet another penalty corner and in the second half young Theo Seymour added to his own impressive scoring record leaving Marlow to hold on comfortably to their lead until the end. On Saturday Marlow are at home at 1.15 pm to Trojans in what will undoubtedly be the crunch match of the season.

Marlow are five points ahead of Trojans at the top of the league but Trojans have two games in hand so Marlow cannot afford to slip up.

The second XI bounced back from a challenging away game at Fareham by beating Oxford University seconds by

two goals to nil at home.

Having ground out a 1-0 away win before Christmas, the reds were keen for a repeat result under coach Kapoor.

Marlow started the game well, with greater intensity and work rate evident from the off. However, the opening goal would not come, despite creating various chances, and Oxford rallied.

Ivor Crampsie in goal remained strong and the experience of Matt Ashton and calmness of youngster Noah Gilmour kept things all square.

Phil Cowell rolled forward to tuck a corner away for the lead. Joe Hoggan added a second and Marlow looked good for their lead thereafter.

An important three points that mean there are just two points separating sixth to 11th in the league table.

## HOCKEY

# Marlow Women win again

THE Marlow Women's 2nds extended their winning run to eight matches with a 4-1 win at home to Aylesbury 1st.

Marlow started brightly and established an early 2-0 lead after close range efforts from Olivia Xiao and Megan Fulton. Marlow continued to dominate which forced Aylesbury into a formation change that played dividends for the away side as they pulled one back shortly before the break. Marlow regrouped for the second half, using the width to stretch play and moving the ball on to avoid going into contact with defenders. They had to be patient as the opposition often had all 11 players in the final quarter but were rewarded for their perseverance with a penalty corner. The straight strike hit the post and Xiao reacted fastest to feed Tanya Lumley who slotted in. With the two goal cushion, Marlow played confidently and added a 4th after a flowing attack down the right channel, and early ball in that Lumley latched onto perfectly with a first time effort.

Other results:-

The 4th team beat Maidenhead 3 1-0, 5s lost 3-0 to Staines 2 away, 6s beat Amersham & Chalfont 5 3-1, 7s beat Harlow High Wycombe 1 3-2

## FOOTBALL

# Chesham pegged back late on in Bath City score draw

BOTH Chesham teams were in action over the weekend but with Tuesday night's fixture against Salisbury postponed there are two fixtures to report on this week.

First to Bath City where Chesham United FC were looking to build on their five-game unbeaten run since Boxing Day.

This was a game that Chesham could and should have won, after controlling the first three quarters of the game until Bath equalised against the run of play to finish 1-1.

Both sides struggled to come to terms with a bumpy pitch and the home side failed to carve out a decent chance in the half.

Chesham finally broke through ten minutes into the second half when Samson Esan pulled the ball back from wide on the left and Karl Oliyide, who had only just come on as a substitute, stroked the ball past keeper Harvey Wiles-Richards and inside the far post.

On 69 minutes, Jordan Tillson punted a hopeful ball down the middle, Chesham's defence hesitated, and Jordan Alves stole in to poke the ball past the advancing Dillon Addai and into the net from just outside the area.

To Sunday's FAWNL game then as Chesham United FC Women welcomed Cambridge United FC Women to The Meadow. The home team started fast and were 2-0 up inside the first 10 minutes. Steph Weston converted a lovely cross from Natalia Makowska and then Weston returned the compliment with a ball that Makowska converted. Cambridge got themselves back in it eight minutes later but Chesham held on for the lead at half-time.

In the second half Cambridge drew first blood with a goal three minutes into the half but Chesham's Gemma Fraser added one of her own to reclaim the lead on 53 minutes.

The last 35 minutes were dominated by Chesham. First up Makowska drew a penalty which Gemma Fraser converted for her brace and then Steph Weston, from a lovely lay off from Tash Smith, hit a first time ball from outside the area that flew into the top right corner to give Chesham a 5-2 advantage.

Next up Chesham United travel to Chelmsford City on Saturday while CUFC Women welcome QPR FC Women on Sunday at 2pm.



Karl Oliyide gives Chesham the lead. Photo Neale Blackburn.

# Flackwell Heath continue fine form with win

FLACKWELL Heath took their excellent recent form - 11 points from their last five games - into a tough encounter at home to Kings Langley on Saturday, winning 1-0.

With the reverse fixture producing a thrilling 3-3 draw, an expectant and superb crowd of 321 filled Wilks Park.

From the first whistle, the Heathens went onto the front foot, and produced an attacking and controlling performance.

With the defence patrolled expertly by man of the match Sean McGuinness, the match winning goal of the encounter came late into the second half.

A perfectly placed reverse ball by Jamie Ayres set away a galloping Phil Pryor, who delivered a ball into the near post.

In the confusion, this was turned home by a Kings Langley defender.

The Heathens will need to

maintain this impressive run - only conceding four goals since the end of November - into a crucial encounter on Saturday, as they head to the highly impressive, top of the table Real Bedford, where the support of the loyal fanbase will be needed once again.

## FOOTBALL

# Windsor and Langley are both beaten in Division One

LANGLEY were beaten 3-1 by Molesey at Honeycroft, leaving them 11th in the Combined Counties Division One. Harlem Bouchez put the visitors ahead on 20 minutes and four minutes later Dariush Heravi doubled the lead.

Montel Brown halved the deficit with a goal in the 81st minute and Langley pressed for the equaliser; only to be caught out by a third Molesey goal scored by substitute Ola Garuba in the final minute, shortly after he had come off the bench.

Langley whose fixture at Eversley & California on Tuesday was postponed, are away to bottom-of-the-table Rising Ballers Kensington this Saturday.

Windsor FC went down 1-0 at Eversley & California last weekend with Ollie Noyes netting the only goal in the second half.

The hosts finished with 10 men following a red card for Ciaran Carolan.

Windsor's Tuesday fixture against Spartans Youth at Bedford was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

## Sport

## FOOTBALL

## Grimmer on reaching 200 games

WYCOMBE Wanderers captain Jack Grimmer has praised the attitude of striker Richard Kone following the latter's brace in the 2-1 win over Barnsley.

The 21-year-old striker scored a second-half penalty and an injury-time header, as the Chairboys came back from behind to secure the victory at Adams Park on Tuesday night.

It was their first triumph over the Tykes since August 2022, and their first against the South Yorkshire team at home since December 2018. This also occurred in Grimmer's 200th match for the club.

He said: "There are probably no amount of words I can say that will give Richard Kone enough justice.

"He is one of the nicest guys I have met in football, and from the bottom of my heart, he deserves everything he gets in his career.

"His journey is incredible and tonight did no damage to his reputation. The longer we keep hold of him, the better."

On his personal milestone, the captain added: "I don't know where the last 200 games have gone – they went by in a flash.

"Times like these when you look back on, I'm very fortunate.

"I was at a point in my life where you wonder about everything, and even though this is a cliché, I believe I have found my home at Wycombe.

"Nights like that are why you play football in the first place.

"To do that on my 200th was just incredible."

Since Grimmer arrived at Wycombe from Coventry City in the summer of 2019, he has helped the club reach three Wembley finals (2020 League One play-offs, 2022 League One play-offs and 2024 EFL Trophy), as well as play in Wanderers' maiden season in the Championship in 2021.

He was appointed club captain following the retirement of Joe Jacobson in the summer, and has seen Wanderers go from potentially being in a relegation scrap in the middle of last season to fighting for promotion 12 months later.

Wycombe achieved 87 points during 2024 – the highest for any team in League One last year.

When asked about what changed at Wanderers', Grimmer explained: "The transition started in January 2024 as I felt we started to click with what he [Matt Bloomfield] wanted then.

"We finished the season really strongly and we have added a few players and the players have got have upped their game.

"I don't want to single anyone out as it has been a real solid team effort. This team are so together and long may that continue."

Up next for the Chairboys is Cambridge United away on February 1.

## FOOTBALL



Lee Johnson (right) and ex-Wycombe man Jordan Obita pictured in August 2023. Image: Steve Welsh/PA

# Johnson speaks on links to Wanderers vacancy

FORMER Sunderland and Barnsley manager Lee Johnson has publicly spoken about the Wycombe Wanderers rumours for the first time.

The 43-year-old, who has been out of a job since leaving Fleetwood Town at the back end of 2023, has been linked to the vacant role at Adams Park following Matt Bloomfield's exit for Luton Town on January 14.

At one point, the bookmakers slashed his odds from 20/1 to 2/1 in the space of a day, and at the time of writing, he is now at 4/6.

However, Johnson has exclusively told the Free Press that his next job 'must be the right one' and has admitted that he's had 'no real contact' from the Chairboys hierarchy.

He said: "I have options and Wycombe is a great club.

"I have visited [Adams Park] on several occasions, Gareth Ainsworth is a good friend of mine, and I think it'll be a very good job for whoever gets it, but I've had no

## James Richings

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real contact from Wycombe's end. "I've seen a lot of media speculation, especially with the betting which has been quite interesting, but, I think it's important that I get the next one right."

When asked about the slashing of the odds, Johnson, who has managed over 500 games since 2013, added: "There's no smoke without fire, but I think a part of that was because I went to the Mansfield vs Wycombe game [on January 18].

"I was there watching both teams and with Nigel Clough [Mansfield's manager], I played for him [when at Derby County].

"I was watching games [all weekend], as I was at Burnley on the Friday, Mansfield on the Saturday, and Leeds on the Sunday."

Since taking charge of his first game for Oldham Athletic 12 years ago, Johnson has won 206 of his 523 games for six different teams,

with his most notable spells being at Barnsley, Bristol City and Sunderland respectively.

During that seven-year period, he saved the Tykes from relegation in his first season, and pushed them for promotion 12 months later, before he left for Bristol City in February 2016.

Barnsley would win the 2016 League One play-offs and the EFL Trophy, just months after Johnson exited.

His departure from Oakwell came after City triggered his release clause, and in the four years he spent with the West Country side, he comfortably kept the Robins in the Championship with four mid-table finishes.

He also had a season where the club just finished outside the play-offs, as well as beating Manchester United in the League Cup quarter-finals, earning a semi-final clash with Manchester City in 2017/18.

A stint at Sunderland soon followed, in which he helped the Black Cats win the 2021 EFL Tro-

phy final.

He would then have spells at Hibernian and Fleetwood Town.

He continued: "There has been a lot of interest but the next job has to be the right one - that is very important.

"I won promotion out of League One as a player, so I know what it takes to be successful in that division.

"I like the set-up at Wycombe as they have good players in the midfield that can dog and get across the ground.

"The forwards are bright, pacey and powerful and they have made some good signings.

"Tyreeq Bakinson is someone that I had when I was at Bristol – I bought him from Luton and I have worked with Josh Scowen.

"I loved working with Scowey – what a great player he is.

"Whoever gets it, I think it's a very good job."

Up next for Wycombe is Barnsley, one of Johnson's former sides, on January 28 at Adams Park.

## WANDERERS 2 BARNLSLEY 1

# King Richard bags a brace as Wanderers beat Barnsley



Richard Kone has now scored 19 goals this season  
Image: Steven Paston

RICHARD Kone scored a brace which included a stunning injury-time header as Wycombe Wanderers came back from behind to beat 10-man Barnsley 2-1 at Adams Park.

The pre-match build-up was primarily focused on the Ivorian forward who was the subject of a third bid from Luton Town.

It's been reported that the Hatters had offered Wanderers £6m for his services one day before the match, which was swiftly rejected.

He started the fixture against the Tykes and caused the visitors numerous problems.

He was at the heart of every Wycombe attack, but after a

bright five minutes, Sam Grace's side looked very disjointed.

This led to the South Yorkshire team going a goal up on 10 minutes thanks to a well-taken Jonathan Russell strike.

His first-time volley was sweetly struck and after it took a slight deflection of Declan Skura, it found its past Ravizzoli and into the bottom right-hand corner.

It was his fifth goal of the season and every time he has scored this campaign, Barnsley won.

This seemed to wake Wycombe up as they bombarded the Barnsley goal after going a goal down.

Ben Killip was on hand to deny Kone on three occasions in quick

succession.

The ex-Hartlepool United man was also on hand to thwart Udoh, Cameron Humphreys and Jack Grimmer, on what was the latter's 200 Wycombe appearance.

The second period belonged to the Chairboys as they dominated the ball. Killip made a terrific stop to deny Humphreys, whilst Josh Scowen also went close.

But Wycombe were given a lifeline on 65 minutes, as they were awarded a penalty.

Kone's throwing found Fred Onyedimma who was clipped in the penalty area by Donovan Pines.

Darren Drysdale had no option but to point to the spot, and the

Ivorian tucked away his 18th goal this season.

Things got worse for the Tykes as Marc Roberts was given a straight red card for a late tackle on Luke Leahy with minutes remaining.

Then, with seconds remaining, Garath McCleary's pinpoint cross was headed in by Kone.

Adams Park erupted as Wycombe remain in the automatic promotion places.

It is also their first home win against the Tykes since 2018/19 and it's the third home game in a row between the two sides that there has been a red card.

Up next for Wycombe is Cambridge away on February 1.

## JORDON IBE PENS DEAL WITH HUNGERFORD

# One-time Wanderer finds new club in the Non League

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers man Jordan Ibe has found himself a new club.

The 29-year-old, who spent four years in the Chairboys academy before playing 11 first-team games, has penned a short-term deal with Non League outfit Hungerford Town.

He recently had a stint at Hayes & Yeading earlier this season, where he featured in 10 games, and scored one.

Speaking on his new move, Ibe said: "It is time to buckle down and show the ability that I still have.

"With hard work, it can take you anywhere."

Manager Danny Robinson added: "I am delighted to welcome Jordan to Bulpit Lane.

"Jordan comes to us with a massive pedigree and wealth of experience.

"By his own admission, he wants to get back going again and we will be doing everything we can to get him smiling and enjoy his football.

"A serious talent that we are all looking forward to seeing in a

Hungerford shirt."

Ibe initially began his career with Charlton Athletic but moved to Wycombe in the summer of 2007 at the age of just 12.

He shone in the club's youth academy and eventually made his debut in a League Cup tie against Colchester United in August 2011, at the age of 15 years and 244 days.

The then-teenager would score his first professional goal three months later in a 2-1 home league loss to Sheffield Wednesday, becoming the youngest Wycombe goal scorer in the Football League.

His celebration for his strike was memorable, as he was seen embracing with his family, only to receive a yellow card from the referee.

A move to Premier League giants Liverpool soon followed in January 2012 – playing 58 times before leaving on a permanent basis in the summer of 2016.

The winger was open about his mental health issues during this time and took a year out from the game.



Jordan Ibe played 11 times for Wycombe, scoring once during the 2011/12 season aged 15 (ARM)

## Wanderers held at home by Northampton Town

WYCOMBE Wanderers remain in the automatic promotion places after they played out a home 0-0 draw against relegation-threatened Northampton Town.

The opening half was a flat affair with both sides having limited chances at goal.

The visitors started the better of the two teams, as Franco Ravizzoli made a brilliant stop to deny a Tom Eaves header, while Sam Hoskins fired wide in the opening 25 minutes,

For the Chairboys, Cameron Humphreys was pulling the strings, as his through balls found Brandon Hanlan and Beryly Lubala, but to no avail.

Luke Leahy went close on two occasions as he was denied by Nik Tzanev in the Cobblers' goal, before his cross/shot went just wide moments later.

However, the best chance of the half fell to Wanderers' Joe Low.

The centre back, who returned to the starting 11 after missing the last two matches with tonsillitis, was bril-

liantly thwarted by Tzanev from point-blank range.

Seconds later, the Welshman's header was easily caught by the New Zealand keeper.

The second period was similar to the first in that there were only a handful of chances, but Wycombe looked more likely to score.

Tzanev made himself big to deny Josh Scowen in the final quarter, whilst Fred Onyedimma's header was again saved by the keeper.

Richard Kone's introduction with 20 minutes remaining added urgency which Wanderers were lacking, but interim boss Sam Grace will look at his as two points dropped.

For Kevin Nolan, he has now made it five games without defeat versus Wycombe.

The Chairboys stay second, whilst Northampton sit 20th.

Up next for Wycombe is Barnsley at home on Tuesday night - their sixth and final home game of the month.

## Defender Tafazolli departs Chairboys for Hong Kong-based team

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the departure of centre back Ryan Tafazolli.

The defender, who has only played five times for the Chairboys this season, has joined Hong Kong-based team Lee Man FC on loan for the rest of the campaign.

His new side are currently third in the Hong Kong Premier League.

The 33-year-old's last appearance for the club came in the 2-1 home loss to Swindon Town in the EFL Trophy, with his current contract with the Adams Park team expected to expire this June.

Tafazolli signed for Wycombe from Hull City in the summer of 2020, weeks after the club had gained promotion to the Championship.

He has since appeared 128 times for Wanderers in the last four-and-a-half years, in which he has scored 10 times.

This includes a double against Crewe Alexandra, with his second being a last-minute winner, and bagging a header versus Milton Keynes in the play-off semi-final first leg in May 2022.

His last strike for Wycombe came on New Year's Day 2024 when he scored a header against Bristol Rovers.

This was in a 3-2 win which ended the club's 12-game winless run in League One.

Additionally, Wanderers' home match against the Gas has now been moved to February 18.

The fixture was due to be played 10 days earlier, but the Chairboys will face Preston North End in the FA Cup fourth round on that same day.

# SPORT



## YouTuber celebrates with Wycombe Wanderers fans



Ellis Platten watched Wycombe's 2-1 win at Mansfield.

A POPULAR football YouTuber with nearly 500,000 subscribers recently watched a Wycombe Wanderers match.

Ellis Platten, who runs the Away Days channel, was present when the Chairboys defeated Mansfield Town 2-1 at Field Mill last weekend.

This came about after the online personality agreed to attend the next fixture of any club in the Football League based on the kit he received in a mystery box from a football shirt company.

Upon opening the parcel, which displayed Mansfield's white and green away kit for this season, he, along with his friend Ben Gibbs, hit the M1 and headed to Nottinghamshire to watch the Stags and the Chairboys in action.

They let their day be based on the decisions of a spinning wheel, which determined where the duo could go for breakfast and lunch.

It also dictated what food they could eat at the ground, and

where they would sit in the stadium.

They were hit with bad luck as the wheel forced the two friends to eat a service station breakfast, on top of having no lunch which was one of the options.

However, upon visiting the stadium, it was decided they would join the 450 travelling Wycombe fans.

Despite wearing Mansfield shirts (which were hidden by their jackets), Ellis and Ben cheered both of Wycombe's

goals which were scored by Richard Kone and Garath McCleary – the latter of which came in the final few moments of the game.

They recorded the jubilant scenes at full-time which was the first occasion the duo had seen a victory in England live in the flesh.

The match was also Sam Grace's first in charge of the club following Matt Bloomfield's departure to Luton Town four days earlier.

## Praise for goalscorer Kone's midweek efforts

WYCOMBE Wanderers caretaker manager Sam Grace praised Richard Kone's performance following his brace against Barnsley on Tuesday night.

The Ivorian striker scored a second-half penalty and a brilliant injury-time header as the Chairboys came back from 1-0 down to beat the Tykes 2-1 at Adams Park.

Jonathan Russell gave Barnsley the lead but the visitors struggled to find a second.

This, coupled with Marc Roberts' straight red card after Kone equalised in the second period, gave Darrell Clarke's team a mountain to climb, as they lost for the third league game in a row.

For Wycombe, they remain second on 58 points – seven points off their total from last season.

Speaking at full-time, Grace, who has now picked up seven points from his three games in charge, said: "Once we got used to their system in the first 10 minutes, I thought the boys deserved the win."

"We made it hard for them with the hard press but we also had that threat from behind."

"Whether that was Dan Udoh with the ball running in from behind or Richard Kone doing the same along with Fred Onyedinma."

"Even when we made changes, it didn't change anything."

"We were disappointed with our final balls on the weekend [against Northampton] but we were a lot better tonight and with Richard, we see him doing that every day in training."

"At the time of the penalty and the sending off, we had real momentum as we kept on going."

"But I think we were quietly confident we were going to get that second goal."

"We made it hard for them." On Kone, who has now scored 19

**James Richings**

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goals in all competitions this season, he added: "He was fresh."

"We know that the performance against Northampton wasn't what we wanted."

"But if Richard plays the full 90 on Saturday, he's not getting the winner tonight."

"I said it last week and I'll say it again, Richard wants to get promoted with Wycombe."

"I don't think anyone can have any doubts about his commitment as he is all in."

The Ivorian forward has been linked with a move to Luton Town, who are now managed by ex-Wanderers man, Matt Bloomfield.

Prior to the clash against Barnsley on January 28, he was the subject of a £6-million bid from the Hatters, which was rejected by the Chairboys board.

It is the third offer the former Premier League side have made for the forward this month.

Speaking on his goals, Kone, said: "I have missed a few [penalties] recently, so I try and not think about it."

"I take any pen as they come and that is what I did."

On his injury-time winner: "G did brilliantly in the middle of the park, ran down the channel and he found me."

"I was happy to be happy in the box and head it in."

Finally, he added: "I feel welcomed at this place and I have never seen that before."

"The people are lovely here, I love them and I can't thank them enough."

Up next for the Chairboys is Cambridge United away on February 1.



Richard Kone (right) has now scored 19 goals in all competitions for Wycombe this season. Image: Bradley Collyer/PA

## Defender back after brilliant first stint

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the re-signing of centre back Caleb Taylor on loan from West Bromwich Albion.

The defender played 20 times for the Chairboys between September and New Year's Day, before he was recalled by the Baggies earlier this month.

However, after only playing once for his parent club since returning to the Midlands, he has since returned to South Buckinghamshire for the remainder of the season.

Chief Football Officer Dan Rice commented: "Caleb was an important part of the team throughout the first half of the season and we're really pleased to be able to bring him back to strengthen our options in defence."

"He enjoyed his time with us and it's great for him to be able to rejoin the squad and be part of our efforts to build on the progress we've made this season by continuing to push for promotion."

"We remain fully committed to keeping this squad as it can be and Caleb's return is another positive step forward for us as we approach the end of the transfer window."

Taylor is now the club's eighth new face this month, following the arrivals of Anders Hagel-skjær, Magnus Westergaard, Alex Lowry, James Berry, Sonny Bradley, Jonny Pettitt and Ryan Cole.

He could be in line to make his second debut for the Chairboys this weekend, when Sam Grace's side face Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium.

Wycombe sit second on 58 points, six points clear of the third-place Wrexham.