

# Bucks Free Press

Friday, May 16, 2025

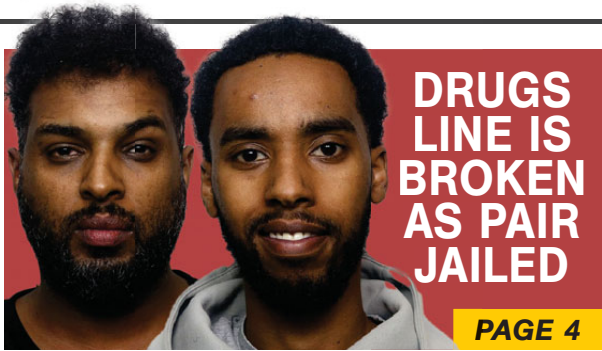
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## Families in call for asbestos records

**FULL  
STORY  
PAGE 5**

Sisters Sheona  
Ramsay-  
Edwards and  
Heather Abraham  
lost their mother  
to asbestos-linked  
cancer

**Plea over hospital staff deaths**

**By Charlie Smith**

FAMILIES of workers who died after being exposed to asbestos at Wycombe Hospital have called for the NHS to publish its records on the deadly material.

An investigation by the Bucks Free Press has found that asbestos is still present within the fabric of Wycombe Hospital, which was built before the material was banned. Documents confirm asbestos was used in different areas.



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## News

## Dangerous driver is handed ban

A dangerous driver who was caught without insurance has been banned from the roads.

Karanbir Singh was driving a Mercedes Benz 400 on Wendover Road, Burnham when he was caught driving dangerously.

The motorist was also found to not have an active insurance policy for the vehicle after the incident on October 13, last year.

He pleaded guilty to driving a motor vehicle dangerously and driving without insurance at High Wycombe Magistrates' Court on April 29.

A separate charge of driving without due care and attention was withdrawn at the request of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Singh, 22, of Pickford Drive, Slough was disqualified for 18 months.

He also received a one-year community order with 200 hours of unpaid work to be completed in the next 12 months.

Singh must pass an extended test.

He was also ordered to pay £85 court costs and a £114 surcharge.

# The Wanderers fan who travels from Devon

**James Richings**

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

MANY football fans will go to great lengths to do what they can to see their team live in the flesh.

And with Wycombe Wanderers partaking in their third play-off campaign in six seasons, many Chairboys fans are expected to pack out Adams Park for when they face Charlton Athletic on May 11.

One supporter who will be in attendance is 21-year-old Jayden Wilkins.

A fan of the South Buckinghamshire side since his infancy, Mr Wilkins, who is a journalist, travels up and down the land to watch his team in action, but there is a twist, as he treks from Feniton, Devon, making it a round trip of 352 miles.

And this is just for home games.

With League One being full, mainly consisting of teams up in the Midlands and the North of the country, the Wanderers fan can sometimes be on the move



**Jayden Wilkins travels from Devon to Buckinghamshire most weeks**

for up to eight hours a day.

However, he wouldn't change it.

When asked if it would be easier to watch one of his local sides in Exeter City or Plymouth Argyle, he jokingly said: "I ask

myself that question a lot, to be honest!

"It is something that has run in the family as I am originally from High Wycombe, but we all moved to the Exeter area in Au-

gust 2005, so nearly 20 years ago.

"I was born at the hospital right next to where Loakes Park used to be, so being connected to Wycombe will stick with me forever. "Being a sports reporter my-

self, there are times when I can't go to matches, but I love going to watch them play, and in recent years, I've been lucky enough to watch some memorable matches.

"This season, especially, has been one heck of a ride."

Despite being in the top two for most of the 2024/25 season, Wycombe ended the regular league campaign on a whimper with three consecutive defeats.

This saw them drop from second to fifth and lose the final automatic promotion place to Wrexham at the end of April.

A clash against Charlton Athletic now awaits the Chairboys, who are aiming to visit Wembley for the fourth time since 2020.

The Wanderers fan added: "I was a season ticket holder and it can be a very difficult journey, especially when you lose.

"You can be travelling back for three to four hours, and it could be the only thing you can think about.

"It is a long day, but sometimes, when you get good results, it is worth it."



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## MOTOR RACING

# Deaf teen driver raises £1.2k for hearing dogs



Caleb McDuff, 17, along with his Team BRIT teammates, threw his support behind Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

A DEAF teenage racing driver has helped raise nearly £1,200 for a hearing dogs charity.

Caleb McDuff, 17, from South Wales, joined his Team BRIT teammates to support Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a Princes Risborough charity.

The charity, which has a training centre in Princes Risborough, trains dogs to alert deaf people to important sounds.

The fundraising event took place on Sunday, May 4, at Silverstone, where the team was competing in the Britcar Endurance Championship.

They used the event to promote the charity, with the help of Zach Allen and his hearing dog Echo, and charity representatives Jo Wengler and Vicky Ryan.

Caleb, who was diagnosed as deaf at the

age of two and has worn cochlear implants since he was four, competed in a McLaren alongside his teammate Noah Cosby, finishing fourth in their class.

More than 120 guests attended the event, enjoying race hospitality and donating to the team's fundraising efforts.

The team raised almost £1,200 through donations and the sale of their old tyres, which can be upcycled into coffee tables and planters.

The fundraising will continue throughout May.

Caleb, who began karting at the age of six and raced in the Junior Saloon Car Championship before joining Team BRIT last year, has a special technical solution that allows him to wear his cochlear implants under his race helmet and communicate with the pit crew.

## FOOTBALL

# Heathens fall short in final

FLACKWELL Heath fell short at the last hurdle in their extraordinary bid to get back to back promotions against the odds after losing 5-0 to Berkhamsted in front of a massive 1,963 crowd.

It was the visitors who had the first big chance of the game when M.Ayres shot from inside the box cannoned off the post in the 34th minute.

It spurred Berkhamsted on the attack and in the 38th minute Lacey put the home side ahead just before half time.

Berkhamsted doubled their lead on the break in the 58th minute with a header from substitute Bateman.

Straight from kick off Flackwell marksman Makowski mis-controlled the ball and clumsily caught Watkins high up his leg and the forward was shown a red card.

With Flackwell down to 10 men Berkhamsted looked to kill the game off and made it 3-0 just five minutes later in the 63rd minute with a goal from Tomlinson.

A brace of goals late in the 82nd and 89th minute respectively leaving a rather distorted scoreline of 5-0. The emphatic win sees Berkhamsted deservedly gaining promotion back to Step 3 after being relegated to Step 4 last season.

## FOOTBALL

# Two names shine for Wanderers' head coach

WYCOMBE Wanderers captain Jack Grimmer and striker Dan Udoh were both praised by head coach Mike Dodds following their recent 0-0 draw against Charlton Athletic in the play-offs.

On Udoh, who has scored nine goals in 50 games this season since his move from Shrewsbury Town, Dodds said: "I love working with Dan - he has been brilliant for me in the time I have been at the club.

"He is improving every day as his tactical understanding is improving, as his physical attributes are there to see.

"He will be a huge asset for the football club.

On Grimmer, who was named the Man of the Match, Dodds added: "It was a captain's performance and I'm excited about working with Jack.

"He is supportive of the dressing room, and I have said to Jack on a few occasions, he shoulders too much, and that is something that I need to manage.

"It was a real captain's performance, and I need him to do it again on Thursday."

## CRICKET

# Lee Cricket Club mark 150 years with summer events

THE Lee Cricket Club, a picturesque village club in the heart of the Chilterns, celebrates 150th anniversary this year with a host of events.

At the time of writing, The Lee Cricket Club is in the throes of the first full week of this season's fixtures at Manor Park, the picturesque ground that has been home to cricket in the village since 1875.

Looking ahead to this landmark 150th season, The Lee is excited to have four 'commemorative fixtures' in the diary, kicking off with the Chairman's XI, captained by Patrick Walsh v the Sunday XI in May. On Sunday June 28 the club is hosting the inaugural 'Rick Brockett Cup', a local derby against Ballinger Waggoners. This trophy has been named to honour the late Rick Brockett, a local resident who was involved with both clubs over the years and will henceforth be awarded to the winning

team in the annual match between the longtime village team rivals. Tom Brockett, Rick's son, will present the Cup this season and we welcome spectators to come and support the event, with the first ball to be bowled at 1.30pm.

On Sunday July 27, at 1pm, a team of 'Lee Legends' will return to Manor Park for a fixture against current players. Please do come along and support the 'Old Boys' as they take on their contemporary counterparts at the club.

Finally, towards the end of the season, Sunday August 24 sees an MCC XI visiting The Lee CC to play a commemorative match to mark this historic year in the club's history, with play starting at 11.30am. Promising to be a special occasion, it is hoped there will be lots of local support for the home side as they take on a team from one of the most illustrious clubs in world cricket.



Lee Cricket Club

# Bucks beaten by Berks in the NCCA Trophy

RHYS Lewis hit a brilliant century as Berkshire defeated Buckinghamshire by seven wickets in the NCCA Trophy at the Falkland ground in Newbury.

It was their third successive Group 3 win by a comfortable margin, and they have qualified for the knock-out stages with a game still to play.

The Berks bowlers tied down the batsmen from the start on Sunday, restricting the visitors to 96-3 in

the opening 25 overs.

Skipper Alexei Kervezee improved his side's position by making 63, while wicketkeeper Ross Richardson hit a half-century off 44 balls, enabling Bucks to reach an all-out 247.

Andy Rishton was the pick of the bowlers, claiming four wickets for 49 off 10 overs.

Berks lost Johnny Connell for 14 with the total on 61 in the 10th over, but Lewis and Charlie Dunnnett lifted

the total to 150 in the 29th over before the latter was trapped leg before by Conner Haddow for 45.

Archie Carter brought up his half-century from 41 balls before Lewis reached his century from 106 deliveries.

Lewis was on 107 from 115 balls when he was dismissed by Cameron Parsons shortly before Carter (63) steered his side home at 248-3 in the 44th over.

Dan Lincoln's men complete their

group fixtures away to Devon, who sit second in the table following two wins and a defeat. The game will be played next Sunday, the 18th, at Blundells School in Tiverton.

On the same day, Bucks host Oxon at Tring Park in their final group match with both sides on two points, two fewer than Devon.

\* High Wycombe beat Stoke Green by 154 runs in Division One of Home Counties Premier League.



## Sport

## FOOTBALL

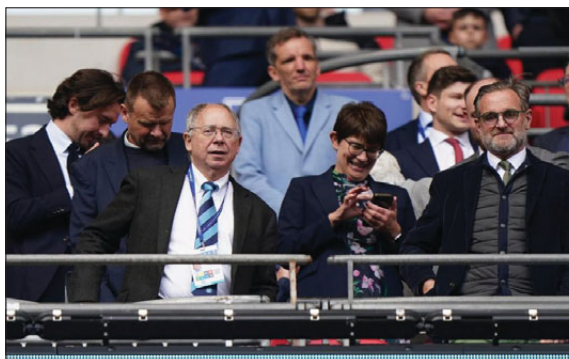
## Couhig completes Reading takeover deal

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers owner Rob Couhig has completed his takeover of League One rivals Reading.

"The Club are pleased to announce that Redwood Holdings Limited – a subsidiary company of Dogwood LLC, owned by Rob Couhig and Todd Trosclair of New Orleans, Louisiana – has completed the acquisition of the 100 per cent shareholding in Reading Football Club, formerly owned by Renhe Sports Management Co Limited," a statement confirmed. "The takeover,

which has received EFL clearance, completed on Wednesday morning and includes the Select Car Leasing Stadium and Bearwood Park Training Ground. "Both Couhig and Trosclair will join the club's board with immediate effect, with Rob Couhig being named as Chairman. "Rob is an investor, lawyer and entrepreneur who is the former owner of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and the New Orleans Zephyrs – his hometown baseball team. Todd is the owner of All Star Electric, one of the

largest and most respected electrical contractors on the USA's Gulf Coast, and a successful investor within the real estate and hospitality sector. He is also the founder of the All Star Foundation which contributes to various charitable initiatives. "Redwood is ambitious and dedicated towards the club returning to its rightful place within the English football pyramid, whilst adhering to clear principles of honesty, transparency, and financial sustainability. Further communication from Redwood will follow."



Rob Couhig at Wembley as Wycombe Wanderers owner.

## FOOTBALL

## Holmer Green wait for a trophy is extended again

By John Anderson

THE wait goes on for Holmer Green. Looking for their first Cup success since 2001, the Greens lost out by the narrowest possible margin as Langley prevailed in the Esoteric Recordings Division One Cup Final via penalties.

Team selection took care of itself; with Tyler Sims injured and Jeffry Fordjour and Callum Gray serving suspensions which unfortunately couldn't be served in league games. This may have been pivotal, as they missed Fordjour's energy on the right and general opportunism as well as Sims' crosses and one-tuos from the left.

The pitch was atrocious. Langley are to be congratulated as they play the majority of their matches on 3G. The bumpy pitch almost certainly contributed to the missing of the best chance of a very forgettable first half where few openings were made by either side. On 33 minutes Martin Lancaster set himself up with the help of others from a throw-in on the left. It was an ideal opportunity from his favoured distance, a little outside the penalty-area. But the ball bobbled just before he made contact, and went well past the far post.

The two sides both played better after the break, at last seeming to get the better of the awful surface. Holmer broke the deadlock on 61 minutes. The ball was worked into the Langley penalty-area, and the defence was not able to clear the ball which at this point was proving evasive to them and attackers alike. The ball squirted to the right of the goal, and Josh Peck was quickest to react. Getting to the ball first and shooting low on the turn past the Langley stand-in keeper into

the far corner. Even someone who had 49 Step Four appearances behind him this season was unable to keep this fine effort out. The aim was now to see out the remaining half-hour or so.

More than half of that period was safely negotiated, but on 79 minutes Holmer slipped up. A right-wing corner was not attacked sufficiently well enough at the far post. A big defender out-jumped The Greens defence and headed the ball firmly down. It evaded Sam Bell in goal, and bounced up onto the underside of the crossbar. The ball's velocity ensured that it now crossed the line when it came down again, even with Aaron Bryan guarding the adjacent upright. The next 15 minutes or so continued to offer up slim pickings at either end. There was a brief inspection of the clubhouse goalmouth by the Referee and League Chairman, before that end was chosen for the spot-kicks. The pitch probably had the last say on the destination of the Cup. Each side successfully converted three of their first four efforts. Langley scored from their fifth effort. As the ball was being placed for the tenth kick, it proved problematical to stop it rolling sideways when spotted up. When the kick was taken it was not on target.

A good Cup run for Holmer, not their year yet again. But the games this season have been much better from Holmer's angle. Keith, Jez, and the entire squad, are to be congratulated. Preparations have already begun to do even better next campaign.



Holmer Green FC

## BOWLING

## Bowls clubs to take part in huge annual event

BOWLS' Big Weekend is returning for its fifth year and is set to be the biggest yet, with a record-breaking 800+ clubs signed up to take part, including some in Buckinghamshire.

Taking place from May 23 – 26, the annual national event is designed to introduce more people to the sport of bowls, with clubs nationwide opening their doors for the bank holiday weekend, offering free taster sessions available to all ages and abilities.

Organised by Bowls England, in partnership with Aviva, the weekend is aiming to introduce 20,000 new people to the sport this year.

Bowls' Big Weekend has become a staple event in the bowls' calendar, with 129 of the clubs having signed up every year so far, with this year set to be bigger than ever.

Since the introduction of Bowls' Big Weekend, more than 60,000 people have registered with their local clubs to take part.

Bowls is an accessible sport that offers a place of community, particularly for those with low mobility to maintain a level of physical activity.

Cancer Research UK are collaborating with the event this year to help support the game that has been a lifeline for many going through cancer treatment.

Sian Honnor, 4x Commonwealth Medallist and Bowls England Board Member said: "Bowls has so much to offer as a sport, it is something that everyone can get involved in.

Bowls' Big Weekend is always a brilliant weekend to showcase what our sport has to offer.

"People should get down to their local clubs and give bowls a go, and who knows, we might uncover some future talent for the England squad."

Jon Cockcroft, Bowls England Chief Executive, said: "We're so proud to be delivering our fifth Bowls' Big Weekend over the Spring Bank Holiday.

The event has grown year on year thanks to the incredible work of bowls clubs across our country, and it is a key part of the recent growth of our sport.

"Bowls is a sport that can be played by all ages and abilities.

"It brings family and friends together and makes people healthier and happier.

"We encourage everybody to come down and give it a go. You will be assured of a warm welcome, you'll meet some great people, and you'll enjoy the simple challenge of getting that bowl close to the Jack."

Participation sign-ups are now open for Bowls' Big Weekend, with a list of all the clubs taking part available to help find your closest club.

To find your nearest club and sign up, visit: <https://www.bowls-bigweekend.com/find-a-club>.



# All square at Adams Park in the semi-final first leg

THE first leg of the League One play-off semi-final between ended in a very tense 0-0 draw at Adams Park.

In what was the ninth meeting between the two sides in four years, Wanderers were looking to secure their first after three defeats on the bounce, whilst the Addicks were hoping to inflict more pain on the Chairboys after their 4-0 win in South Buckinghamshire on Easter Monday.

However, despite Mike Dodds' side being the out-of-form side out of all of the teams in the play-offs, Wycombe were brilliant in the opening 45 minutes.

On the right-hand side, Jack Grimmer and Fred Onyedima worked brilliantly to cause the Addicks back line several problems, as they nearly took the lead inside the opening five minutes.

Grimmer's ball found Cameron Humphreys, who brilliantly picked out Nigerian forward Dan Udoh.

The ex-Shrewsbury Town man took a touch and fizzed his shot at goal from the edge of the box, but Will Mannion was on hand to parry it away, albeit awkwardly and unorthodoxly.

From the resulting corner, Sonny Bradley's header went wide.

These two chances were the most clear-cut in what was

The first leg in South Buckinghamshire was a tight and cagey affair as the Addicks struggled to break down a stubborn backline.

For Wanderers, they looked alert, dangerous and completely different from the side that got smashed by the South East London outfit 20 days ear-



Charlton Athletic's Greg Docherty (left, obscured) grabs the neck of Wycombe Wanderers' Xavier Simons

lier.

However, one bone of contention in the opening period was that Nathan Jones and his side believed Chairboys forward Richard Kone should have received a straight red card.

On 36 minutes, the Ivorian was chasing down Kayne Ramsay but slipped, catching the Addicks full-back on the calf.

Referee Farai Hallam opted to give the EFL Player and Young Player of the season a yellow card, but replays sug-

gested the tackle was dangerous, and that the 21-year-old was fortunate to stay on the pitch.

Moments later, Kone was involved in a pushing match with Macaulay Gillespie, which led to a small melee involving both sets of players.

Following the fight, Wycombe's Xavier Simons and Charlton's captain, Greg Docherty, were booked for their part.

The second period was similar to the first as both sides put

bodies on the line.

Onyedima and Adam Reach went close for Wycombe, whilst Tyreece Campbell saw his shot get blocked by Sonny Bradley.

Norris was called into action on 69 minutes when he blocked Matty Godden's sting effort, before he once again denied the ex-Coventry man in the dying embers.

A long ball over the top found Godden, who fired a volley after brilliantly controlling it on his chest.

Norris pushed it away, and from the resulting corner, he was there to claw away Docherty's close-range effort.

It was only the third time in 15 games that the two sides had drawn.

The second leg at the Valley took place in the evening of May 15, several hours after the Free Press had to go to print.

To read a full match report and reaction from the outcome of the second leg, please visit the Bucks Free Press website

## FOOTBALL Bosses happy with their teams

BOTH Wycombe Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds and Charlton Athletic manager Nathan Jones were complimentary of each other's sides following a 0-0 draw in their first leg of the League One play-off semi-final.

In a game of few chances at Adams Park, Dan Udoh went closest for the Chairboys after just five minutes, when his low fizzing shot was awkwardly saved by Will Mannion.

For the Addicks, Matty Godden forced Will Norris into two brilliant saves, before Wanderers' shot-stopper expertly clawed away Greg Docherty's close-range shot in the dying minutes of the contest.

For Wycombe, the goalless draw is a huge improvement on the 4-0 drubbing they experienced from Charlton just 20 days ago, whilst the South East London side look frustrated, as they couldn't break down a stubborn Chairboys backline.

Speaking at full-time, Dodds said: "They were so aggressive in the first phase that we didn't want to give them momentum.

"This is why we decided not to pass in front of them.

"Everyone contributed to what they needed to do today, and even though it was messy at times, I felt we landed on the second ball better.

"This was something we didn't do in the first game [on April 21], and we spoke about this at length.

"When we looked at Charlton, we looked at the nuts and bolts of what we needed to do, and we managed to nullify their threats.

"Both teams cancelled each other out, but when that happens, you need a moment.

"We had that huge chance with Dan Udoh early on, which was big, and they had a big chance, but Will [Norris] saved it at the end.

"So as I had imagined, the game went as I had planned, as Nathan Jones' teams are always well organised."

It was only the third time in 15 matches that the two sides had drawn, with it being Charlton's fifth 0-0 stalemate of the season.

Jones was very pleased with his team's display, but believes the Addicks could have done more to have won the tie and taken something back to the Valley.

He said: "We come away from the tie evenly poised.

"I'm not saying we would have taken it as we always want more, but to come away from here with another clean sheet is not a bad place to be in.

"It was always going to be a different game from last time [we played them three weeks ago] as there are pressures when you are involved in these sorts of games.

"I am proud of my team because we showed resilience against one of the highest goal scorers in the league."

## FOOTBALL

# Wanderers flag hung on council building

A Wycombe Wanderers flag was flying high on the town's official council building ahead of the Chairboys' second leg play-off tie against Charlton Athletic.

Mike Dodds' side headed to South East London to face the former Premier League outfit following a nervy and closely fought 0-0 draw at Adams Park on May 11.

The light and dark blue quarters flag being hung from the town's council offices is just one of the many showings of support the Chairboys have had in recent weeks.

The Wycombe Swan Theatre was lit up blue for the home leg whilst several pubs in the nearby villages were also seen donning Wycombe flags.

One of which was Rebellion Brewery in Marlow Bottom, and the second was the Hedsor Bar in Bourne End.

Additionally, the Hour Glass, which is the closest boozer to Adams Park, have decked out their main area with Wycombe

memorabilia and admitted the Chairboys' season has seen them gain more customers.

It comes after the town's MP, Emma Reynolds, publicly showed her support for the Chairboys by donning a Wycombe scarf.

She said: "Having attended recent matches with family, I have seen first-hand the hard work and tremendous spirit that has been developed between the players, staff and supporters to create a fabulous atmosphere at Adams Park, and look forward with excitement to the play-offs and the buzz that will be felt across the town."

The Free Press went to print several hours before the second leg against Charlton kicked-off

To read the outcome of the match report as well as reaction, please visit the Free Press website.



The flag was been put up ahead of the Charlton tie



# SPORT

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## 'Positive feeling' at club as season nears finale



Mike Dodds has won seven of his 18 games in charge

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has revealed that the mood around the training ground is 'positive' and that a 'line has been drawn' following the end of the regular league season.

The Chairboys, who drew 0-0 with Charlton Athletic in the first leg of their League One play-offs semi-final, had been in the second place with three games to go, and looked certain for an automatic promotion to the Championship after four years away.

But three defeats from the last

three games saw them drop from second to fifth, with the club now partaking in their seventh play-off campaign since joining the EFL in 1993.

Speaking ahead of the Addicks' visit to Adams Park on May 11, Dodds said: "The mood around camp is positive and good."

"We have some senior players who have been here before, so they know the magnitude and the emotions that come with the two games, which we are looking forward to."

"Everyone is positive and upbeat."

On the end of the league season, he added: "We have drawn a line under the last game against Stockport."

"For us, the disappointing thing was the last 25 minutes."

"If you had said one 65 minutes when being 1-0 up, we'll lose 3-1, I would have laughed at you as we looked comfortable."

"We have drawn a line on the last three games [against Charlton, Leyton Orient and Stockport], and when the dust eventually settles, people will reflect on what has been

an amazing season.

"We have now got to finish off the job and finish the opportunity that has been handed to us through all the hard work that has happened behind the scenes and on the training pitch."

In the build-up to the first leg last Sunday, local businesses and residents did their bit to drum up support.

The town's local theatre, the Wycombe Swan, was lit in blue lights, and several independent shops were flying Wanderers flags.

## Dodds: Fans' chant 'was a real pick-me-up'

MIKE Dodds has described the moment he heard the club's fans sing his name in the recent play-off draw against Charlton Athletic as a 'real pick me up', following a flat end to the league season.

The Chairboys dropped from second to fifth after losing their last three games of the campaign, surrendering the second and final automatic promotion spot to Wrexham.

Their season saw them suffer losses against the Addicks, Leyton Orient and Stockport County, but a respectable 0-0 stalemate against the South East London side on May 11 has seen both sides go into the second leg with everything to play for.

In the first leg, with Wycombe on top, a section of Wanderers supporters began singing Dodds' name, and the 38-year-old admitted he 'appreciated' the gesture.

The second leg took place on May 15, kicking off at 8pm.

He told the Free Press: "I'll be honest, I felt quite deflated after a 3-1 home defeat against Stockport because I'm desperate to do well for the football and the fans too."

On the fans who attended the Charlton match on May 11, he added: "I thought they were unbelievable."

"I think I heard them cheer my name near the end of the second half, and it was a real pick-me-up."

"I appreciated that."

"Also, I just wanted to say thank you to the 1887 group who have shown a huge amount of support to me, my team, and the backroom staff."

"I'm hoping to wear a hoody

**James Richings**

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

which is representative of them at the football club on Thursday [in the second leg away at Charlton].

"Hopefully, it will be an iconic piece that we hope we will take to Wembley."

In their previous eight visits, they have won twice, drawn once and lost five times.

Despite this record, Wanderers' last win against the ex-Premier League side in the capital was in a season they reached the play-off final.

This was on New Year's Day 2022, with Sam Vokes scoring the winner in a 1-0 victory for Gareth Ainsworth's men.

They would finish sixth that year, defeating Milton Keynes in the play-off semi-finals, but ultimately lost 2-0 against Sunderland in that year's final.

Their first victory at the Valley came in December 2006, when the two sides met in the quarter-finals of the League Cup.

It was the first-ever meeting between the two teams, with Wanderers being in League Two, whilst the Addicks were struggling in the top flight.

And Jermaine Easter's first-half strike succumbed Charlton to a humbling home loss, as Wycombe reached the last four of the competition for the first time, where they played eventual winners, Chelsea.

● The Bucks Free Press had gone to print before the second leg of the play-off semi-final. Follow our coverage online at [bucksfreepress.co.uk](http://bucksfreepress.co.uk)



Wycombe Wanderers manager Mike Dodds during the Sky Bet League One play-off semi-final first leg match at Adams Park

## Chairboys boss gets behind charity bid

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has donated £150 to a 13-year-old's charitable fundraiser.

Charlie, a Sunderland supporter, hopes to attend each of the 12 EFL play-off semi-finals across the Championship, League One and League Two, as well as each of the three finals at Wembley Stadium.

This is to raise funds for Cancer Research, with the teenager aiming to hit a £1,500 goal by Monday, May 26, when the last of the three finals takes place.

At the time of writing, he has already helped raise £1,210.

The schoolboy was recently seen at Adams Park as Wycombe drew 0-0 with Charlton Athletic in their first leg semi-final on May 11.

This will mean that Charlie would have attended 12 stadiums in different areas of the country in less than 10 days, before enjoying three consecutive days at Wembley across the Bank Holiday Weekend at the end of this month.

To support the cause, Dodds, who joined Wanderers from Sunderland following Matt Bloomfield's departure earlier this year, donated £150 to Charlie's cause and said that the teenager is 'amazing'.

An extract from the charity page, which has been organised by Charlie's grandfather, Peter Clarke, reads: "We could only get to watch the first half at the Chesterfield game [on May 11], which finished 2-0 to Walsall."

"Then a drive down south to Wycombe v Charlton, which ended goalless draw."

"The weather was fab all day, met some really lovely fans from all four clubs."

"On the way home, back up north to spend a few hours in my own bed, then the reverse fixtures start again with Sheffield United v Bristol City."

"Thanks to everyone who is helping me and Charlie and those who have donated and shared."

Please note that the Free Press had to go to print several hours before the second leg on May 15.

For reaction, please visit the Free Press website.