

Bucks Free Press

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PAGE 2

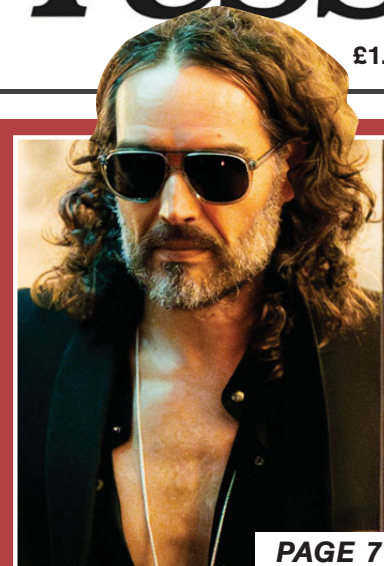


**CHERYL STALKER
BREACHES BAN
FROM BUCKS**

PAGES 9, 16 & 17



**COUNTY HIT BY
SNOW AND FLOODS**



PAGE 7

**NO-SHOW BRAND
SLAPPED WITH
£3.4K CAR FINE**

HOTEL PLAN FOR EX-SCHOOL APPROVED: PAGE 8

Bus lane CCTV on major roads



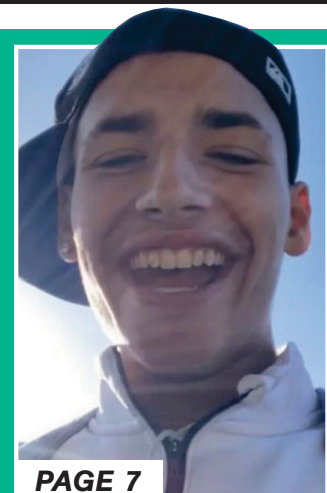
New cameras to tackle those flouting the rules

A MAJOR overhaul of Buckinghamshire's roads will see new traffic cameras installed to catch drivers flouting the rules. The widespread changes – including three across High Wycombe – will target motorists for ignoring bus lanes, no entry signs and

By James Richings

weight limit restrictions. The cameras will enable the council to issue penalty charge notices to motorists committing offences.

Full story: Page 11



PAGE 7

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Sky Sports legend to visit with special guest

High Wycombe is set to welcome Jeff Stelling and Paul Merson for an exclusive football event.

The Wycombe Swan will host an evening of nostalgia, fun, and entertainment on Saturday, January 11, with Sky Sports legend Jeff Stelling.

Known as the face of Sky Sports Gillette Soccer Saturday for over 30 years, Jeff will share insights and behind-the-scenes stories from his remarkable career.

He will be joined on stage by his Sky colleague Bianca Westwood, who will both host and roast the anchor man.

Jeff, who joined Sky Sports Soccer Saturday in 1994, has presented nearly every episode and worked with legendary football stars like George Best, David Beckham, and Roy Keane.

The night promises to get even more exciting as Paul Merson, a very special guest, joins Jeff on stage to talk all things football.

Fans will have the chance to engage in an audience Q&A session and purchase some fantastic sporting memorabilia.

VIP tickets are also available for those who want to make the night even more special.

These include early entry, premium seating within the auditorium, a VIP lanyard, a meet and greet before the show, and a professional photo to take away on the night.

Please note that there are a limited number of VIP tickets available, so it's advisable to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Tickets for this extraordinary night of football nostalgia range from £34.20 to £75.50 and



Jeff Stelling poses for the media at Adams Park, Wycombe in March 2023. Image: PA

are on sale from the Wycombe Swan's official website.

The main auditorium of the Wycombe Swan will be the venue for this exclusive event.

This event is brought to you by Artistes International Management and MHM

Presents, following the huge success of the 2024 tour.

It's an unbelievable opportunity for football enthusiasts to enjoy a night full of fun and entertainment with two of the most recognisable faces in the sport.

Whether you're a die-hard football fan or just enjoy a good story, this event is set to be a highlight in the 2025 calendar.

Don't miss out on what promises to be a fantastic night of entertainment for all football enthusiasts.

Enjoy magic and more at farm park

A MAGICIAN and a party entertainer will be entertaining people at a farm park this month.

Odds Farm Park, near Beaconsfield, is gearing up for its Jam-Packed January weekends, starting on January 11, with a day full of live entertainment.

Acts will include award-winning children's performer and magician Bam Bam, with his magic, bubbles, and games.

The lineup also includes Joe Banana with his magic, madness, and circus skills, juggler and stilt-walker Sam-Tastic, and dancer Sparkle.

Louise Winslow, assistant general manager at Odds Farm Park, said: "January can be such a difficult time of year to entertain young children after all the excitement of Christmas, which is why we wanted to make sure we had something extra to offer our guests as we head into the new year.

"We are lucky to have some big-name entertainers from the world of children's parties visiting us in January and we can't wait for our guests to join in the fun."

The farm encourages visitors to join in its new year arts and crafts activities and meet more than 30 rare breed farm animals.

Louise added: "Whatever the weather as we start 2025, there is non-stop entertainment here at Odds every weekend."

Jam-Packed January at Odds Farm Park will take place on the weekends of January 11-12, January 18-19, and January 25-26.

Prices start at £13.95 for pre-booked tickets online.



The Deadwood stage is rollin' into town



A NEW production of *Calamity Jane* is set to open at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre next week.

The Broadway and West End hit musical will run from January 14 to January 18, before touring the UK and Ireland.

Based on the much-loved Doris Day musical of the same name from 1953, (which won an Academy Award for Best Original Song), and solidified Day's status as a Hollywood icon, this exciting new production comes from The Watermill Theatre.

It is directed by Nikolai Foster, co-directed and choreographed by Nick Winston and features musical supervision by Olivier, Grammy and Tony Award winner Catherine Jayes.

The full cast has been announced, with multi-award-winning West End star Carrie Hope Fletcher taking on the lead role of Calamity Jane.

Joining Carrie Hope Fletcher on stage will be Vinny Coyle as Wild Bill

Hickock, Luke Wilson as Danny, Seren Sandham-Davies as Katie Brown, Peter Peverley as Henry Miller, Hollie Cassar as Susan, Isaac Savage as Francis Fryer, Molly-Grace Cutler as Adelaide Adams, Richard Lock as Rattlesnake, Ben Maberley as Hank and Stage Door Keeper, Fergus Murphy as Joe and Harry, Tomas Wolstenholme as Buck, and Claire Greenway as Doc.

The cast will be completed by Emma Jane Morton, Lara Lewis, Jacob Leeson, Theo Diedrick, and Stephen Scott Stark.

The production marks the 10th anniversary of the show and reunites the previous creative team.

Set and costume design is by Matthew Wright.

The production will also feature lighting design by Tim Mitchell, sound design by Ben Harrison, and casting by Debbie O'Brien.

Carrie Hope Fletcher is a three-time WhatsOnStage Best Actress in a

Musical winner.

She recently performed the title role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cinderella* in the West End.

Based on the evergreen movie, this new production of *Calamity Jane* will feature classic songs including *The Deadwood Stage (Whip-Crack-Away)*, *The Black Hills of Dakota*, *Just Blew in from the Windy City*, and the Oscar-winning *Secret Love*.

The show follows the fearless, gun-slinging Calamity Jane as she tries to win the heart of the dashing Lieutenant Gilmartin while shooting insults at the notorious Wild Bill Hickock.

The show runs for two hours, 30 minutes, (with an interval).

Tickets are available for six performances next Tuesday to Saturday, including a Saturday matinee, and start at £15.

For more information and to book your tickets now, visit atgtickets.com/Aylesbury

Fearnley draws Kyrgios for debut



Jacob Fearnley

GREAT Britain's Jacob Fearnley was handed a blockbuster Australian Open debut against Nick Kyrgios.

Scot Fearnley was still at college in the United States during last year's tournament but has rocketed up to 86 in the world after a stunning start to his professional tennis career, which included taking a set off Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon.

That earned the 23-year-old a main-draw spot at Melbourne Park, and it is set to be an occasion to remember against home star Kyrgios – providing the former Wimbledon finalist is fit enough to compete.

Kyrgios has not played in his home slam since 2022 after two years on the sidelines following knee and wrist surgeries.

Among the other British players, Emma Raducanu was the only one to draw a seed.

The former US Open champion pulled out of her scheduled warm-up tournament in Auckland with a back niggle but has been practising at Melbourne Park this week.

Raducanu will have to be sharp from the start after being paired with 26th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Katie Boulter, seeded for the first time here at 22, will take on Canada's Rebecca Marino, hoping to build on her encouraging start to the season at the United Cup while men's 15th seed Jack Draper faces Argentina's Mariano Navone.

Like Raducanu, Draper's preparations have been disrupted by injury, with a hip problem delaying his journey to Australia. Should Draper make the fourth round, he could face third seed Carlos Alcaraz, while Djokovic is also in that quarter of the draw.



Caroline Dubois

Fighter aiming for knockout win

CAROLINE Dubois is hoping to celebrate her birthday by knocking out Jessica Camara in her first WBC world-title defence in Sheffield on Saturday.

Dubois, who is unbeaten in her 10 professional bouts, turns 24 on fight night and will continue her bid to become undisputed at 135 pounds when she meets 36-year-old Canadian Camara.

A victory in the eyes of Dubois is a guarantee, but she intends to secure her first stoppage victory in almost two years, when she finished Feriche Mashauri in round three in February 2023.

"It's something more to be excited about, the cake is going to be even more sweeter," Dubois told PA news, about potentially winning on her birthday.

"The win is a guarantee, the bonus will be a nice little knockout, that will be sweet.

"The win has been guaranteed through months of training and all the work, sparring, sprints, strength and conditioning."

After former champion Katie Taylor decided to vacate her belt, Dubois was upgraded to WBC world lightweight champion.

Potter joins West Ham as head coach

By PA sport reporter

Press Association

GRAHAM Potter said his appointment as West Ham head coach made him feel like it was "Christmas for the adults" after he signed a two-and-a-half-year deal at the London Stadium.

The 49-year-old has not worked since being sacked by Chelsea in April 2023 and replaces Julen Lopetegui who was dismissed on Wednesday after six months.

The Hammers are 14th in the Premier League, seven points above the relegation zone having won only six times this season.

"Very excited, very proud day to be head coach of this amazing club," said Potter.

"It's a big tradition, big history, big expectation. A big challenge. It's a bit like Christmas for the adults. Excited, not the best of sleeps last night just from excitement. Looking forward to



Graham Potter

meeting the players, meeting our supporters and getting going."

Potter's appointment at Stamford Bridge lasted only seven months, his time in west London defined by inconsistent results and turmoil off the pitch after a whirlwind recruitment drive left him with a bloated, inexperienced squad.

He was linked with several posts during his time out of management, including the England job, and was reportedly

close to agreeing to take over at Ajax in the Eredivisie last season.

"It's been 20 months of a good rest, a good break," he said.

"In that time you speak to lots of people, lots of conversations with different owners and directors.

"It was important that I chose the right option for me at the right time. As soon as I spoke to this club, it felt right for me.

"When you've had lots of time to think, sometimes it's a feeling in you. The board's ambition, their trust and belief in me, looking at the playing squad and the academy.

"It's a massive club but it's a family club, I like that connection, that sense of fighting together."

The former winger faces a challenge to drag West Ham up the Premier League table after an indifferent first half of the campaign.

Lopetegui had been appointed with the aim of installing a fresh, more expansive style of football than former boss David Moyes.

Aldcroft takes over as captain



ZOE Aldcroft has replaced Marlie Packer as England Women's captain for 2025.

Gloucester-Hartpury forward Aldcroft, who has 58 international caps, will lead the Red Roses for the upcoming Guinness Women's Six Nations and the home Rugby World Cup, which starts in August.

The 28-year-old previously captained her country on a number of occasions, having first taken the role for a 89-0 victory over the United States in November 2021.

Head coach John Mitchell said: "Zoe is a phenomenal rugby player who consistently performs to a high standard in the PWR (Premiership Women's Rugby) and at international level.

"She leads by example through her world-class actions, on and off the field."

England all set for Ashes



HEAD coach Jon Lewis insisted England would be ready for the start of the Women's Ashes this weekend, despite their only warm-up game being abandoned.

After several rain delays, the match against an Australian Governor General's XI was reduced to 35 overs a side before the weather ended the home side's innings on 183 for eight from 28.2 overs.

England were set a revised target of 188 in 28 overs, but play did not resume.

"We obviously would have liked to play more cricket, but we can't control the weather," Lewis told cricket.com.au.

Chesham end winless run with New Year's Day win

WITH the snowy weather calling off all football over the weekend, both of Chesham's senior teams (men and women) had a weekend off to get themselves ready for battles to come. However, given the timing of the New Year's Day game, we catch up this week on the game against Hemel Hempstead Town played at home on New Year's Day.

A single goal on the stroke of half-time was enough to end Chesham's run of seven matches without a win, beating Hemel Hempstead Town 1-0. After a slow start Chesham took control of the game in the later stages of the first half, and ultimately were good value for their win against a Hemel side who offered little in attack.

There was just one change to the starting eleven from the Boxing Day draw at Slough - Karl Oliyiye was unwell so T'Sharme Gallimore returned to the side. Ryan Upward came back on the bench after missing the last ten matches through injury; new signing Gary Abisogun was also ill so Matt Lench returned to the club after 11 years away. The game took place in steady rain and there was standing water in places but both sides were determined to try and get the game played.

Hemel took control of the game early on but Chesham's defence looked comfortable and Dillon Addai had little to do. Chesham began to come into the game as the half wore on and created a few noteworthy efforts on goal. On 35 minutes, Joe Grant crossed to



Joe Grant celebrates the winner at The Meadow. Photo Neale Blackburn.

Nathan Minhas who could only glance a header wide, but Chesham finally broke through with a well-worked goal. Following a neat build-up on the right Avan Jones pulled the ball back from the by-line and Joe Grant swept it in at the near post.

Chesham continued to look the more likely to score in the opening stages

of the second half, but the game still failed to come to life. Just after the hour mark Alex Lafleur broke forward but shot straight at keeper Brad House, then Connor Roberts lifted a free kick into the Hemel box but Connor Stevens could only glance a header wide.

On 72 minutes, the visitors had their first shot to

ironic cheers from their fans, but Samuel Adenola's long-range effort failed to trouble Dillon Addai. In the next minute Chesham broke away and Alex Lafleur shot toward the far post, but House dived to turn the ball away. Late in the game Hemel began to show more urgency but Chesham's defence held out and the visi-

tors failed to muster another effort on goal, and in stoppage time George Williams was shown a yellow card for a dive in a desperate attempt to win a penalty.

Chesham United FC travel to Aveley this Saturday (Chesham won the home tie 3-2) and Chesham's women travel to AFC Sudbury in the FAWNL on Sunday.

WANDERERS Helping a brilliant cause

WYCOMBE Wanderers Ex-Players Association will hand over a cheque for £3,000 to Alzheimer's Society ahead of Friday's Emirates FA Cup third round fixture against Portsmouth at Adams Park.

The donation has been made possible thanks to the Association's wide-ranging fundraising activities throughout 2024, including a golf day, bowls event, quiz night and their prestigious annual dinner. It takes their total since forming in 2009 to over £65,000 distributed to a wide range of charities - most particularly relevant to former players.

Their chosen beneficiary this year is Alzheimer's Society, which has teamed up with the Football Association to deliver a Support The Supporters campaign during the Third Round of this season's Emirates FA Cup and Fourth Round of the Adobe Women's FA Cup.

The campaign aims to increase awareness of dementia symptoms and encourage fans to take the first steps in seeking an all-important diagnosis. Dementia is the biggest health and social care issue of our time and the UK's biggest killer; someone in the UK develops dementia every three minutes, but at least one in three people living with the condition don't have a diagnosis.

FOOTBALL The Ducks games off

AYLESBURY United saw two matches postponed due to the weather conditions.

On Saturday, Northwood were due to visit the Meadow Ground on Saturday while Kidlington were supposed to visit on Wednesday.

However, due to the frozen pitch, these matches were postponed.

This coming Saturday, the Ducks are due to host Stotfold in Southern League Division One Central.

Currently sat eighth in the league table, Aylesbury are 10 points outside the play-offs.

Berkhamsted top the table while North Leigh, Leverstock Green and Kidlington occupy the bottom three.

LET US KNOW Get in touch!

DO you have a sports story for the Bucks Free Press? If so, email James Richings (james.richings@newsquest.co.uk) and James Earnshaw (james.earnshaw@newsquest.co.uk).

FOOTBALL

Beaconsfield pegged back by strugglers

BEACONSFIELD Town were left frustrated against bottom four side Leverstock Green, drawing 2-2, in a close game at Holloways Park, writes Arran White.

Beaconsfield made it look easy in the opening half, going close on countless occasions, and playing excellent football. They went 1-0 up when captain Matty Harriott played an inch perfect pass to Manu Oke-William, who went round the Leverstock Green goalkeeper, before playing the ball across goal to the onrushing Usman Lalustani to fire home the opener.

The Rams looked in control approaching the interval and probably should have gone in further ahead. However, against the run of play Leverstock Green found a way back into the tie. An excellent pass over the

Beaconsfield defence was controlled well and then curled into the bottom corner by Rawn Seale on stroke of half time to send the game into the break all-square.

The second half looked to be a similar story, with Beaconsfield taking the lead once again, within moments of the restart. This time a great move ended with Lalustani crossing the ball in for Oke-William to head home.

However, Leverstock Green found a way to level against the run of play. On the hour, Beaconsfield failed to clear a corner and the ball was played back in for Greens new boy Zenon Stylianides to beautifully back heel home to draw the visitors level once more.

Beaconsfield are back at Holloways Park tomorrow at 3pm when they face Leighton Town.



Beaconsfield celebrate their second. Credit: Ben Cousin

Sport

SONNY BRADLEY ON HIS WANDERERS MOVE

Whirlwind weekend for new signing

WYCOMBE Wanderers defender Sonny Bradley has revealed that the club's pre-match dinner before their 1-0 home loss to Huddersfield Town was the first-time he met his new teammates.

The 33-year-old joined the Chairboys on Monday, January 6 on a six-month loan deal from Derby County.

He went straight into the starting 11 for the clash one day later on January 7, which saw the Adams Park team lose for only the second

time in the league this season.

Despite the defeat, Bradley had a solid game and donned the number 26 shirt, which was last worn by Jason McCarthy.

Speaking on the transfer, he said: "It's been a bit of a whirlwind 24 hours.

"I got the call on Sunday night, the paperwork was done by 12 yesterday [January 7] and I met the boys for the first time at pre-match a few hours ago. "I've not had a chance

to do anything on training pitch, but it's one of them where we're short in numbers and I had to come in straight away to make an impact.

"It's easy to say that I thought we were the better team and we deserved more, but it's all about fine margins and a set piece has cost us.

"But I felt today was a positive performance and I can see why this team is up there.

"I feel good and I feel positive."



Sonny Bradley pictured making his Wycombe (PA)

THE LIST GETS LONGER FOR THE CHAIRBOYS

Injury update provided as big names remain absent

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has provided an injury update for supporters on several first-team players who have missed the majority of the season.

Big names such as Sam Vokes, Ryan Tafazolli and Kieran Sadlier have all featured sporadically during the course of the campaign as they continue to recover from their respective injuries.

However, it is hoped that some names should hopefully return to the Chairboys frame 'soon', as the Adams Park side pushes for automatic promotion into the Championship.

Speaking after the 1-1 draw against Blackpool on January 4, he revealed that right-back Jasper Pattenden will be out for a 'while' after suffering a serious hamstring injury for the second season in a row.

The 22-year-old had started seven consecutive league games between November 5 and December 20.

In that time he helped the club keep four clean sheets during that period.

He was replaced in the latter stages of Wanderers' 0-0 draw at home to Bolton just before Christmas for Jack Grimmer, and no time frame has been given on when he will return to the team.

Bloomfield said: "Jasper won't be available for a while which is really gutting for him as he has picked up a bad hamstring injury.

"It's been really tough for Jasper.

"That is now two seasons in a row that he has picked up a hamstring injury after doing re-

ally well since coming into the side.

"I think it's something we need to look at as it's disappointing for him."

On centre back Ryan Tafazolli, who has only played five games this season, he said: "Taff has been ill over Christmas, so he missed about a week of training, but he's now back in the group.

"He trained yesterday [January 3] for the first time and it's good he's bad in and around the place."

Ahead of the match against Blackpool on January 4, striker Sam Vokes was seen having his own warm-up with utility player David Wheeler.

The Welsh forward has played four times this season, scoring twice.

All of his games came in August, and he hasn't featured since the 1-0 loss away to AFC Wimbledon in the EFL Trophy. Bloomfield added: "Vokesy is back out on the grass which is very good as he has been out for a while.

"He has just started training but as he's missed a lot of the season we need to give him time, and Sads [Kieran Sadlier] is back out on the grass which is great news for us [after his hernia operation].

Forward Beryly Lubala missed the draw on January 4 through illness, but returned to the matchday squad for when Wycombe played Huddersfield Town in the January 7 league fixture.



Jack Grimmer has picked up an injury to his thigh and is expected to miss a handful of matches this month (PA)

WANDERERS

Bradley joins the Chairboys from Derby

NEW Wycombe Wanderers signing Sonny Bradley has been given his new squad number following his arrival in South Buckinghamshire.

The 33-year-old has joined the Chairboys on a six-month loan deal from Championship side Derby County.

Bradley comes to Adams Park after Caleb Taylor was recalled by West Bromwich Albion on January 2, leaving the club without a fit recognised centre back to partner Joe Low. Ryan Tafazolli has missed most of the season through injury and illness, while Alex Hartridge is suspended.

He will now wear the number 26 shirt, which was last worn by Jason McCarthy.

Manager Matt Bloomfield said: "After losing Caleb Taylor back to West Brom, it was imperative for us to bring in a strong centre-half to replace him and we're delighted to bring Sonny into the group for the rest of the season.

"He's got fantastic experience of success at this level and will be able to hit the ground running after playing games for Derby over Christmas and the New Year.

"We've always been impressed with him when he's played against us down the years and he'll bring real leadership and quality to the backline.

"We're in a really strong position going into the second half of the season and everyone's working extremely hard to build on the progress that we've made as a club.

"It's an important transfer window for us and bringing in Sonny as our first new recruit for the first team is a hugely positive step forward."

Despite joining the Rams in the summer of 2023, he had only played nine times for the club this season.

He also had spells at Luton Town and Plymouth Argyle where he won three promotions respectively (2017, 2019 and 2023), as well as having stints at Crawley Town, Portsmouth, Aldershot and Hull City.

His arrival came on the same day the club announced the signings of left-winger Ryan Cole from Non League Newmarket Town and goalkeeper Jonny Pettitt.

The latter, who also developed through Newmarket's youth system, was spotted playing in a Pro Direct Academy showcase game, in similar circumstances to fellow Chairboy Christie Ward.

Development team manager Sam Grace said: "Ryan and Jonny have applied themselves really well over the past few weeks with us and we're pleased to bring them into the club and work with them closely to develop their game.

"Newmarket Town and the Pro Direct Academy have given them a great start to their careers and there's a terrific pathway for them here into professional football, as we've seen with a number of players here in recent years who have broken through into the first-team here and elsewhere."

SIGNING NUMBER FOUR

Chairboys sign Danish defender Hagelskjær



Anders Hagelskjær (pictured for Molde) has joined Wanderers for a fee to be around £500,000 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of Danish defender Anders Hagelskjær from Norwegian outfit Molde.

The 27-year-old arrives at Adams Park for a fee to be believed to be around £500,000, although this has not been confirmed.

He had gained interest from Cypriot club Pafos but declined to sign the centre back due to Molde's asking price.

Hagelskjær landed in England earlier this week to complete his medical, and he could make the matchday squad for Friday night's FA Cup third round home clash against Portsmouth.

Manager Matt Bloomfield said: "We're really excited to have Anders at the club and to have someone with recent experience of playing European football coming in to help us build on the progress

we've already made this season.

"The data model demonstrates that he will be a really shrewd signing and it's brilliant to recruit a player of his stature to strengthen our chances of achieving success for this football club."

Chief Football Officer Dan Rice added: "He is an excellent athlete who will be able to quickly recapture match sharpness and strengthen our defensive options going forward."

The Danish defender began his career at Midtjylland in his native country, before having spells with Skive, Silkeborg and AaB before enjoying a brief loan spell at Norwegian side Sarpsborg 08 three years ago.

He then permanently stayed in the country after Molde acquired his services in 2023, where he played 41 times.

FOOTBALL

Absent for FA Cup fixture

PORTSMOUTH manager John Mousinho has confirmed left-back Jacob Farrell has suffered 'a bit of a setback' in his recovery from a serious knee injury that has hampered his first season at Fratton Park, meaning he will miss Friday's match against Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup.

The Australia Under-23 international joined Pompey from A-League club Central Coast Mariners during the summer transfer window - but has been limited to just one appearance after suffering a medial collateral ligament (MCL) injury in training just days after making his debut in a goalless draw with promotion contenders Sheffield United in September.

"Jacob, unfortunately, has had a bit of a setback and he's opened up the same MCL again so we are looking at options in terms of what we are doing to make sure by the time he does come back from this one it doesn't happen again - so we are just exploring a couple of options on that."

CHAIRBOYS

Local derby to take place in the Berks & Bucks Cup

BEACONSFIELD Town will take on Wycombe Wanderers in the next round of the Berks and Burks Cup.

The fixture will take place on January 14 with a kick-off time of 7.45pm.

The Rams will relish the challenge against EFL opposition and this will be the first time since 2014 the two local sides have competed against each other.

The Chairboys are riding high at the moment in the EFL and whilst some senior players are expected to be rested during a busy period, this will still be a stern challenge which the RAMS will be looking forward to.

A printed program will be available at the match and the club's two fully licenced bars and the Ramshack food bar will be open from 6:30pm.

Please note that Wanderers' squad will be made up for development players.

SPORT: WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1-1

Points dropped at home as Chairboys held to draw

TEN-MAN Wycombe Wanderers conceded an injury-time equaliser as they drew 1-1 at home to Blackpool.

In a quiet first-half with very few chances, Richard Kone nearly gave the Chairboys the lead but he fired his close-range attempt high over the bar after minutes.

For the visitors, they enjoyed spells of possession and began to pepper the home side with a cluster of shots within a five-minute spell.

Wanderers were giving the ball away carelessly midway through the opening half, as this led to Lee Evans shooting over, Rob Apter and Matthew Pennington heading wide, whilst Franco Ravizzoli parried away a Sonney Carey fizzer from range.

But from nothing, Matt Bloomfield's side took the lead through a real smash-and-grab.

With seven minutes of the first-half remaining, Pennington's clumsy and rash tackle on Kone in the penalty area saw Simon Mather point to the stop.

Up-stepped the Ivorian who converted his 16th of the season, and his 13th in the league.

The second period saw Blackpool look for that equaliser as Wanderers saw themselves go down to 10 men.

Just 10 minutes into the half, Alex Hartridge's unnecessary tackle on Kyle Joseph whilst already on a yellow card saw the Chairboys defend heroically for the last 35 minutes.

And the Tangerines got their point when Joseph's shot lopped over Ravizzoli in the dying embers.

The result means Wycombe drop to second after Birmingham's win at Wigan.

Attendance: 4,936 (445 away)



Josh Scowen in action in the defeat against Huddersfield (PA)

Boss 'won't blame' Hartridge after red card

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed he will 'not heap any blame' on Alex Hartridge following his red card in the 1-1 draw against Blackpool.

The defender started the fixture against the Tangerines on January 5 and was given his marching orders after he picked up two yellow cards by the 55th minute.

Each caution came in each half, with the latter being a late tackle on Kyle Joseph right in front of the linesman.

It was his second sending off this season, bringing a premature end to only his fifth league start for the club since joining on a free transfer from Exeter City in the summer.

Straight after his red card, Bloomfield took off Cameron Humphreys for Declan Skura as Wycombe defended for the last 35 minutes, but Kyle Joseph's injury-time strike rescued Steve Bruce's side a point.

He said: "I'm very proud of the boys as they dug in, showed good work rate,

the togetherness and really fought for each other.

"We defended the ball well and limited Blackpool to mostly shooting from outside the box.

"But we didn't get over the line and that is quite frustrating."

On the red card, he added: "It was probably a booking [for the second challenge].

"It was a timing error [for the tackle], and I will not heap any blame on Al because he has been a diamond of a boy

since he has come in and he has given us everything he has got."

"It's obviously frustrating to play a long period with 10 men and to lose him as we have a long schedule of games.

"If I don't see anyone without a smile on their face on Monday morning I won't be happy as we're in an incredible position and we have another game on Tuesday night [against Huddersfield Town].

"We'll pick ourselves up and we need to make sure we're ready to go again."

SPORT



Bloomfield hits out at 'disrespectful' talk on Joe Low



Joe Low has played nearly 70 times for Wycombe since 2023

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has addressed the rumours that defender Joe Low could join Swansea City this January.

The 22-year-old joined the Chairboys from Bristol City in the summer of 2023 and has gone on to play 68 times for the Adams Park team, scoring on eight occasions.

This includes bagging three goals in three away games between November and December last year.

However, Swansea boss Luke Williams has told the press that Low is 'a player that we like', as the former Premier League side are 'keen' to secure his services.

Williams, who coached Low when the former was at Bristol City, said: "He is a player that I have worked with before.

"I don't know exactly where we are in terms of bids being rejected - I need to catch up with the chairman, but he is certainly a player that we like."

Bloomfield, who spoke to the

press after the 1-1 draw against Blackpool on January 4 said: "He is a very good player, he's our player and I'm pleased with him as he works very hard.

"We've had him for 18 months or so and we brought him in as a free transfer.

"At that point, it was decided that he wasn't good enough for the Championship.

"We took him and we believe in him and we've nurtured him.

"He's an incredible young man who is destined to go onto better

things, and we're proud of him.

Finally, when asked if Aaron Morley and Caleb Taylor could return to Wycombe after they were recalled by both Bolton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion, he concluded: "I don't think it's right to talk about Caleb or Aaron as they are not our players.

"I think that is disrespectful to be talking about other people's players."

Low played the full 90 minutes when Wycombe beat Swansea 1-0 in the League Cup back in August.

What both managers had to say as Wycombe lose

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield admitted his side started "a bit slow", leading to in their 1-0 home loss to Huddersfield Town on Tuesday evening, as the Chairboys failed the chance to increase the gap between themselves at the play-offs.

Herbie Kane's stunning strike inside the opening 15 minutes was all that separated the two sides as his team sat back and defended for large portions of the game.

Wanderers threw the kitchen sink at Huddersfield but could not find the breakthrough as they lost for only the fourth time in the league this season.

And despite the flat opening period, Bloomfield insisted that after going a goal down, "it was all" Wanderers for the duration of the match.

It is only the second time this league season the Chairboys have failed to score, the first being the 0-0 draw against Bolton Wanderers on December 20, and it means that they have only picked up four points from their last 12 available.

However, it was their third game in a week and Bloomfield praised his team's attitude.

He said: "The positives were the dominance as we had 13 shots in the second half and

Huddersfield had none, and we kept plugging away but we didn't create as many as we should have done.

"We started slow and after that, it was all us but we didn't get the goals to get the result."

"We also kept the principles that we have used all season.

"Herbie Kane is a fantastic footballer at this level for a number of years as he passes the ball really nicely and is technically gifted.

"He is a good player and he finished his chance very well - it was a terrific finish.

"We have lost three right backs in the last couple of weeks, so therefore it was forced upon us to go three at

the back, which I felt didn't really contribute to the result.

"We dominated the ball despite it being stodgy at times in the first half, we then changed it the second half, had a change of shape, put Gideon at right back who thought did well.

"It's frustrating as stats don't win you games as their keeper makes a few saves, we hit the bar and I don't think we created enough clear cut chances for being as dominant as we were."

His counterpart, Huddersfield manager Michael Duff, thought the result was a "statement win" as the Terriers close in on the League One automatic promotion places.

The Yorkshire-based team are now just four points off the Chairboys who sit second, whilst Town remain in fourth.

Speaking at full-time at Adams Park, Duff said: "It wasn't a brilliant performance, but this a brilliant result.

"A clean sheet against the top scorers in the league isn't something to sniff at, as we have constantly changed the back line [due to injuries].

"Of course we could have done a lot of things better but we found a way and at this time of year, it's all about getting results and that's what we did.

"Wycombe are the top scorers in the league and they have a lot of quality in their team.

"This is a statement win as the whole of League One would have seen that and we're in that weird middle ground of dropping in or going up as we're still in that fourth position.

"Today doesn't define what we do but we're becoming a tough nut to crack."



Matt Bloomfield's side lost for only the second time at home this season (PA)

Defeat was only season's second loss at home

WYCOMBE Wanderers lost for only the second time at home this league season as they were defeated 1-0 by Huddersfield Town.

The Chairboys gave a debut to new signing Sonny Bradley who played the full 90 minutes, but Michael Duff's side went into the encounter 14 games unbeaten in the league, and nearly took the lead on two occasions, both Callum Marshall.

His first attempt saw him blaze a one-on-one with Franco Ravizzoli over the bar.

Moments later, the Argentine goalkeeper was one hand to push out his close-range attempt.

This was in the opening 10 minutes.

Five minutes later, the Terriers went ahead thanks to a brilliant strike from Herbie Kane.

Ben Wiles' corner was punched away by Ravizzoli, and there was Kane to smash home a brilliant volley for his second goal of the season.

Wycombe looked flat but carved a couple of chances as Tyreeq Bakinson saw his chance just go over the crossbar.

In the second period, Wanderers threw the kitchen sink at the Terriers' goal, with Cam Humphreys' cross causing a goal-mouth scramble.

Richard Kone was denied on three occasions by Jacob Chapman, whilst Bakinson also had a shot saved.

Fred Onyedima's fizzer flew across the face of the Huddersfield goal, whilst Dan Udoh went close.

Garath McCleary, Brandon Hanlan, Gideon Kodua and Beryly Lubala all came in as Wanderers continued to search for that goal.

Hanlan went wide and Bakinson hit the crossbar.

But the day belonged to Huddersfield, as they made it six consecutive away matches at Adams Park with defeat - a run that stretches back to 1994.