

# Bucks Free Press

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Crossbow shooter Jason King in police custody and as he aimed his weapon



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## CHAIRBOYS

# Wycombe Wanderers could do with 'trim'



Despite the sign which is at Adams Park, several transfers could still take place for Wycombe this month (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has admitted that his current squad needs a 'trim'.

At the time of writing, the Chairboys have signed 12 new players, 11 of these being permanent transfers.

The only temporary signing is George Abbott, who has joined on loan from Tottenham Hotspur.

At the other end, 18 players have left Adams Park, which includes star striker Richard Kone, who has moved up a division to join Queens Park Rangers.

Despite this, Dodds believes a handful of names could leave by the time the current transfer window closes.

He said: "We have got a beefy squad at the moment, and it is something that we do need to trim."

"But, I did say the players that we do have cup competitions and 40 plus games in the week, and unless I tell them otherwise, they're in consideration."

"And if they do what we want them to do in terms of training properly and buying into the playing style, they're part of the group."

Players that are expected to leave Wycombe this summer include Ryan Tafazolli, Will Norris, Alex Hartridge and Matt Butcher.

Despite this, Wanderers are still in the market for a new striker, with Dan Udoh, Bradley Fink and youngster Cam Stones being the current options up top.

Transfer Deadline Day will take place on September 1.

## CRICKET

# Bucks teens win in the final

THE final day of the Chance to Shine National Street Cricket Finals took place at the University of Nottingham today, seeing Bucks beat Blackburn in the under-16s final to take home the gold medal.

20 teams in mixed-gender under-12s and under-16s categories took part in the day, with a total of 160 young people from Street cricket clubs across the UK.

England international Shoaib Bashir also attended to event, offering advice to the young cricketers and sharing his story through a Q+A over the lunch break.

Games were played indoors with a tapeball, with 20 balls per innings, and exemplified the essence of Chance to Shine's Street initiative, which aims to develop skills and introduce a competitive experience.

Talking about the Street cricket programme, Bashir noted: "It's important for these kids because it allows them to build skills outside of cricket, like social interaction, and getting to play with their friends and just enjoying the sport. It's great to see so many kids playing cricket."

## FOOTBALL

# Four points from six at home for Chesham United

AFTER a great opening win on the road at Maidenhead, Chesham United had two home games to cement a good start to their National League South campaign, writes Andy Westlake.

On Saturday, Chesham made it two wins out of two with a 3-2 victory in a seesaw game with Farnborough.

Chesham took an early lead when Alex Lafleur attempted to work an opening on the left, and the ball fell to Callum Adebiyi who fired into the far corner of the net (photo). However the visitors came back into the game and equalised on 20 minutes, when Toby Bower's corner was headed out as far as Rakish Bingham who fired into the net from just inside the area.

Early in the second half, Farnborough took a surprise lead, Connor Harris scoring with a low drive. Chesham made a triple substitution on the hour but could have gone further behind, when Mason Bloomfield tried to take

advantage of some defensive hesitation, but his effort was partly blocked at the expense of a corner. Chesham took control of the game and equalised on 70 minutes. Alex Lafleur crossed, and Matt McClure attempted to force the ball in but was denied at the expense of a corner, which Alex Babos took and Connor Stevens glanced the ball towards the far post where Matt McClure headed in. Three minutes later, Callum Adebiyi shot from inside the area and the ball hit Ollie Robinson on the hand and the referee gave a penalty. Nathan Minhas beat Turner from the spot to restore Chesham's lead.

On Tuesday against newly-promoted Horsham, both teams huffed and puffed and looked for breakthroughs. Horsham had the better of the first half while Chesham improved as the game went on. Ending 0-0, Chesham remain unbeaten and sit fourth in the table.

Chesham's next home game is on Bank Holiday Monday against Hampton & Richmond.



Callum Adebiyi with a rocket to put Chesham ahead against Farnborough. Photo - Neale Blackburn

## FOOTBALL

# Heathens progress in FA Cup

A penalty was all that separated the two sides in this FA Cup Preliminary Round tie in what was a pretty non-eventful match with Flackwell Heath comfortably progressing to the next round.

Tuffley who play their football in Step five came out the brighter of the two looking up for a battle. It took a while for Flackwell to take hold of the game but they did moving it around well in the middle of the park tiring the Tuffley players.

The breakthrough came after Jabir Laraba found himself one on one with the keeper who recklessly took out the frontman, after a quick chat with the linesman possibly to discuss a red card the referee pointed to the spot and gave Tuffley's number one a yellow card. Man of the Match Jack Shakespeare stepped up in the 35th minute and made no mistake placing the ball in the bottom right hand corner.

Flackwell were drawn at home to Step three side Lewes FC in the First Qualifying Round at home on Saturday, August 30.

# Bucks targeting top spot after Staffs victory

BUCKS beat Staffordshire by one wicket in a thrilling finish at Stafford to give themselves a great chance of topping the National Counties Championship Eastern Division 1 table this season.

In a low-scoring match, Bucks were set 225 for victory and seemed in danger of defeat when they slipped to 162-7. However, a partnership of 58 between Ed Bragg and Teddy Fleming took Bucks to the brink of victory. Then on 220, Fleming was out for an

enterprising 34 off 44 balls. To add to the drama Cameron Parsons became another Tom Brett victim when the scores were level.

In stroke No 11, Conner Haddow, whose second successive ten-wicket match haul, had done so much to set up the Bucks victory. He survived as Bragg, in his third successive valuable unbeaten innings, struck the match-winning boundary to finish on 29 not out, to the relief of Bucks supporters.

Winning the toss, Bucks elected to

field, and thanks to Haddow's niggardly spell of 13-8-21-4, reduced the hosts to 194 all out off 71 overs. This was good enough for a first-innings lead of 21 as Bucks could muster only 173 from 63 overs, Billy Dodds top-scoring with a maiden Championship half-century.

Haddow performed even better in Staffordshire's second innings, taking 6-38 from 20 overs for overall match figures of 33-15-59-10, a truly amazing achievement. Despite resistance from James Kettleborough (54) and Reeve

Evitts (42\*), they were bowled out for 203, setting up Bucks' victory target. Dodds (45) again batted well, but it was the lower order that saw them to victory - just!

Bucks are now second in the table, three points behind Suffolk, who have completed their four-match programme. Victory over Lincolnshire at High Wycombe on August 31st-September 2nd will qualify Bucks for the Championship final for the second time in three years.



Sport

CYCLING

Cycling route coming to the Chilterns

CYCLING UK has unveiled a new route for riders to explore.

Named the Royal Chilterns Way, the route covers 282km/175-miles of off-road track through the breathtaking Chilterns, blending scenic trails, historic landmarks and charming local gems. With a total 11,100ft / 3,383m in climbing, the route offers competent riders a challenge.

The charity has also created a series of guidebooks to purchase, with funds going towards future routes. They capture

the exciting feel for the route with detailed descriptions, Ordnance Survey mapping and essential facts unpacking what riders will see on the way.

Max Darkins, Ride Guide and Route Planner, said: "Growing up in the Chilterns sparked my passion for cycling and inspired a lifelong love of the area. This lesser-known part of the south-east has so much to offer and in working closely with Cycling UK we carefully crafted a route that would give people the chance to

escape and connect with nature.

"Out on the trail you get to experience everything that the Chilterns has to offer, ranging from verdant landscapes to historic market towns, medieval earthworks and majestic rivers. And to top it off, the area is just bursting with farm shops, cafés, vineyards, breweries and country pubs. We all know how much cycling can improve our physical and mental health, and with every new route launched, we introduce that to more and more people."



Cycling UK's new route around the Chilterns. Picture: Cycling UK

FOOTBALL

Emotional interview as striker Kone leaves 'home'

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers striker Richard Kone has called Adams Park his 'home' as he said his goodbyes to the club.

The 21-year-old, who scored 25 goals in 74 games across 18 months in South Buckinghamshire, left for Queens Park Rangers on August 13 after a summer of speculation.

He joins the Loftus Road team for a fee which could rise to £5 million.

In footage shared by Wanderers, the young Ivorian gave an emotional interview with the club, where he was seen giving his final goodbyes to his now former teammates.

Speaking on his departure, Kone, who was playing in the Homeless World Cup six years ago before joining Non League Athletic Newham, said: "Obviously, I am sad to leave because of what this club has done for me and my family.

"I didn't know I was going to get announced at half-time [against Bristol Rovers on January 1, 2024, the day he officially signed for Wycombe], as I thought it was going to be something quick, but it was a privilege and it was a proud day for my family.

"When the fans realised I was a Wycombe player, this was the place for me.

"It is my home, and hopefully I can come

James Richings

back from time to time."

After scoring on his debut against the West Ham United U21s in the EFL Trophy, Kone has not looked back.

This concluded in him securing both the EFL League One Player of the Season and Young Player of the Season in the spring of this year, as well as being included in the Team of the Year.

His 18 goals in the league helped Wanderers finish in the top six as they took part in their seven play-off campaign as an EFL side, but narrowly lost to Charlton Athletic in the semi-finals.

He added: "I always had a belief in my ability. I knew League One would be a big step up, and the club helped me to get on that path.

"I came in every day to train, I learnt with the boys, so I think that was one of the best ways to start my career."

"It was really sad [saying goodbye].

"I had nice people around, and it's sad to leave people that you have been working with every day for a year and a half, almost two years.

"I enjoyed my time here, and thank you to the fans for when I joined, it's been unreal."



Richard Kone pictured celebrating his nine-minute hat-trick against Peterborough United in October 2024 (Matt Cecil)

CRICKET

Home Counties League round-up

HIGH Wycombe continue to build on their lead at the top of the Home Counties Premier Cricket League Division One standings, beating Banbury by five wickets on Saturday.

Having lost just one of their 15 matches to date, their lead over chasers Oxford Downs and Finchampstead grows by the week, now standing at 33.

Hosting Banbury, who sit in fifth, High Wycombe won the toss and fielded first. Finishing on 245/7 from 50 overs, Charlie Hill ended on an impressive 85 while both Lloyd Sabin (62) and Kieran Coyne (56) had the opportunity to raise their bat aloft to celebrate a half-century.

Conner Haddow celebrated three wickets, while Archie Dodds contributed a pair himself.

It was more of a team effort for the league leaders at the crease, Ethan Barksfield top-scoring with 61 but H J a W Chapman (43), Dan Lincoln (39), Billy Dodds (39) and Josh Lincoln (34) all chipped in.

Matt Jones picked up three wickets and Kieran Coyne got another two, but High Wycombe surpassed their opponents with more than 10 overs to spare.

It is a trip to sixth place Henley on Saturday for the pace setters.

\*Stoke Green suffered a damaging defeat at the bottom end of Division One, losing to Great Brickhill by six wickets.

Just a single point now separates the two strugglers, while Wargrave are four points further back.

The hosts won the toss and set a target of 224, Aatish Anthathi (53), Aashir Zaib (47) and Chetan Sharma (44) impressing with bat in hand.

However, the visitors secured victory with four overs to spare as both Hashan Rathnayake and Taran Toor celebrated half-centuries.

Stoke Green travel to Harefield on Saturday, who are sat directly above them in the standings.

\*Gerrards Cross remain third in Division Two after their narrow two-wicket win over Falkland.

Slough and Wokingham lead the way, but Gerrards Cross and Horspath in third and fourth respectively are separated by just two points.

Winning the toss and putting their visitors into bat first, Falkland set a target of 221 from their overs.

Teddy Flemming picked up three wickets, while Patrick Smith, James Dalby and Harry Spear secured two apiece.

Flemming backed up his strong bowling figures with a knock of 55 from 56 balls, Hugo Hammond caught just four runs off his half-century.

The hosts wrapped up the victory with four overs to spare and travel to fifth-place Datchet on Saturday.

\*Chesham continue to put daylight between themselves and the bottom two, pulling off a shock victory over fourth-place Horspath.

Managing 241 from their time at the crease, Jason Rance (65) and Matthew Rance (61) both impressing on strike, Horspath were all out for 204 to seal a 27-run victory ahead of Saturday's visit from Thame.



# Side not 'fluid and free', but Dodds still remains hopeful

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has admitted his side were not 'fluid and free' in their 1-0 home loss to Exeter City, but has reiterated his 'hope and belief' in his team.

The Chairboys, who suffered their third loss in four league games this season, have now only won one of their last 10 games in all competitions, tasting defeat on seven occasions.

It looked like the Adams Park team were going to secure a point against the side from Devon, but with seven minutes left, Wanderers captain Jack Grimmer headed in Ethan Brierley's ball into the box, beyond a stranded Mikki van Sas.

After going a goal down, Wycombe threw the kitchen sink at Exeter with Dan Udoh, Armando Junior Quitirna, Caolan Boyd-Munce and Jamie Mullins all going close, but goalkeeper Joe Whithworth was on hand to make several important saves in the dying embers.

Speaking at full-time, Dodds said: "We will get through this period, and people will believe in what we are trying to do.

"I believe there is a percentage of people that do [believe in the project], and naturally, some will point the finger at me, and I hope they are, as the players are doing everything.

"We have had a couple of mistakes and a couple of missed penalties [in previous games], but when we eradicate those things, we'll be a special team."

Wycombe have only scored



Wycombe Wanderers' Luke Leahy (left) in action with Exeter City's Sonny Cox during the 1-0 loss for the Chairboys

three first-half goals under Dodds since he took over in February.

This means, out of the 25 games he has taken charge of, Wycombe have gone into the break without scoring on 22 occasions.

Additionally, only 19 goals have been scored in that time.

This was despite having 64

per cent of the ball and having 19 shots on goal, with eight being on target versus the Grecians on Tuesday night.

Dodds continued: "We have to put the ball in the back of the net, and I'm relaxed about that, as we did create loads of chances.

"We're getting the ball in the final third, and there is a

lot of control, so I am super relaxed about it.

"We created so many chances that we effectively broke their shape down, that, and I don't mean this disrespectfully, they put 10 players around the ball and defended the 18-yard box.

"When they do that, it is hard [to try and break down]. "The hope and belief I have

is that we created loads of chances.

"Was it fluid and free?

"No, it wasn't, but when they [Exeter] put so many bodies behind the ball and made it hard for us, and when you're chasing a goal, it makes it difficult."

Up next for Wycombe is Reading at home on August 23.

## CHAIRBOYS

### Dodds 'proud' despite defeat

MIKE Dodds said he was 'proud' of his team despite a 1-0 home loss to Exeter City.

The Grecians, who had only lost one of their last five league outings against the Chairboys, secured their second win at Adams Park in three seasons after Wanderers captain Jack Grimmer scored an own goal with seven minutes remaining.

After Ethan Brierley's ball into the box seemed to be going into the hands of goalkeeper Mikki van Sas, Grimmer headed it over Wycombe's 1-0 to give Exeter the win.

It is their second league victory of the season, whilst Wanderers remain winless.

The result means Wycombe have had their worst start to a league season since 2020/21, and have now scored just three first-half goals in 25 games under the 39-year-old.

Speaking at full-time, he said: "I feel the weight of the fans as they stuck with us.

The style we have will make us successful but at the moment, we have to go through this pain to get to the other side.

"Tonight is a freak result as we were so dominant from start to finish.

"I don't think there'll be many games where the opposition didn't register a shot on goal and we come away losing the game.

"I'm proud of the group, as I left on Saturday [away at Doncaster] very angry, as I didn't like what it [the performance] represented.

"But today, I thought we were excellent from start to finish and one moment has decided the game.

"We created loads of chances as we're getting the ball into the final third."

Since replacing Matt Bloomfield in February, Dodds has won eight of his 25 games in charge, drawing seven and losing 10 times.

In that time, Wycombe have only scored three first goals.

They have been scored by Dan Udoh [a 1-1 draw against Crawley Town in February and a 2-0 win against Burton Albion in March], and Garath McCleary [against Stockport County in a 3-1 home loss in May].

At the time of writing, Wanderers were 20th and had gained one point from their opening four games so far this season.

## FOOTBALL

### Ex-Wycombe player joins Partick Thistle

A FORMER Wycombe Wanderers fan favourite has managed to find himself a new club.

Alex Samuel, who spent three years with the Chairboys between 2018 and 2021, has penned a deal with Scottish Championship outfit, Partick Thistle.

He joins the Glasgow-based team following his release from Ross County this summer.

Speaking on his move, Samuel said: "Absolutely delighted to sign for Partick Thistle.

"I'm looking forward to giving my all for this club."

Thistle Head Coach Mark Wilson added: "He's had a superb footballing education, having played at a good level in England and in the Premiership up here.

"His work ethic is through the roof, so you know he'll give whatever he's got

whenever he's on the pitch.

"The last time he played in the Championship, with Inverness, he showed his scoring touch, and we want to help bring the best out of him in front of goal with the attacking players we have at the club."

Samuel initially joined Wycombe on a short-term deal at the start of the 2018/19 season, before signing a contract extension in 2019.

Overall, he played 88 times for the Chairboys and scored 11 times.

One of these strikes came in the club's 4-1 League One play-off semi-final first-leg victory against Fleetwood Town in July 2020.

Wanderers would progress into the final against Oxford United at Wembley Stadium, where the Welshman started the showpiece, before he was replaced just after the hour mark.



Alex Samuel (left) played 88 times for Wycombe (PA)



# SPORT

## Wanderers still looking for first win of campaign



Action from the Wycombe v Exeter game

A OWN goal by Wycombe Wanderers captain Jack Grimmer continued their poor start to the league season, as they lost 1-0 at home to Exeter City.

The Chairboys went into the contest with no wins in the last six league outings, with their most recent triumph being against Bolton Wanderers back in April.

They made three changes to the team that drew against Doncaster Rovers on Saturday, but it was the Grecians who looked more

promising going forward.

City, who have only lost one of their last five games versus Wycombe since returning to League One in 2022, began well as Jack Fitzwater forced Mikki van Sas into a brilliant save just two minutes in.

Ethan Brierley fired a shot wide, whilst Ilmari Niskanen, Tom Dean and Sonny Cox caused mayhem in the box with their crosses.

For Wycombe, their best chances came via the left-hand side and through an unlikely

source.

Centre back Anders Hagelskjær, who was making his home debut 222 days after joining the club, first had a snapshot get saved by Joe Whitworth in the Exeter goal, before his header was easily gathered.

Wycombe went into the break without scoring in the first-half for the 22nd time in 25 matches under head coach Mike Dodds.

Exeter sat back during the second period as they allowed Wanderers to have the ball, which

led to Lowry, Dan Udoh and substitute Armando Junior Quitirna, but to no avail.

Then, with seven minutes left, Niskanen's innocuous cross, which van Sas seemed to have covered, was headed into his own net by Grimmer.

For Exeter, they have recorded their second league win of the season, whilst for Wycombe, they are now winless in seven.

Up next are Thames Valley neighbours Reading at Adams Park on August 23.

## Chairboys boss Dodds is not panicking yet

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds is not 'overly panicking and stressing' ahead of his side's derby clash against Reading this weekend following a poor start to the season.

The Chairboys go into their bout with their Thames Valley rivals with one win in 10 in all competitions, and have yet to score in the first half of any of their five matches this season.

This comes after the Adams Park team lost 1-0 against Exeter City on August 19, thanks to a very late Jack Grimmer own goal.

Boos could be heard around HP12 as Wycombe fell to a seventh loss in 10 games, but Dodds is remaining upbeat and insists Wanderers are getting 'close to being a really good team'.

Speaking ahead of this weekend's match, Dodds said: "I wouldn't say there is desperation [to secure Wycombe's first league win of the season against Reading], because if the performances were poor, I would be more agitated."

"Even though I'm not relaxed as I want to win games of football, I am relaxed in terms of the direction and in what we are doing."

"No-one is overly panicking and stressing, and I don't think Reading will be doing that either."

"Eventually, the league will balance itself out, and we will see where we are."

"I know it's a local game where they will give us a host of different challenges, but we have to keep believing in what we are doing."

"The group believe in what

we are doing, and we have been unlucky in previous games, excluding Saturday [against Doncaster], as I didn't like that performance."

"Overall, the players are not stupid and they are disappointed [to have lost against Exeter at home], and they know close we're something special."

Since taking over from Matt Bloomfield earlier this year, Dodds has won eight of his 25 games in charge, drawing seven and losing 10.

The Chairboys' last victory at home came in a 1-0 win against Stevenage back in April.

Since then, Wanderers have failed to win their last five at Adams Park, suffering four defeats.

They will hope their form changes against since they haven't beaten at HP12 since February 2021, when Fred Onyedinma's goal gave Wanderers a 1-0 victory over the Royals when both sides were in the Championship.

Since then, Reading have visited Buckinghamshire on two occasions, winning one (November 2023) and drawing one (1-1).

Dodds added: "They have got a manager that knows the league well and in a way, they are similar to us in terms of signing lots of new players."

"The style of play is different to before, and as I have said before, I will stay steadfast and true in what I believe in, as I am not changing until the day I am chased out of this place."

"We are getting closer to how we want to look and we're close to being a really good team."



Wycombe last played Reading at Adams Park in December 2024, which finished 1-1

## Fink looks set to make home debut at weekend

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Bradley Fink could make his home debut in this weekend's derby against Reading.

The 22-year-old, who joined for an undisclosed fee from Swiss side Basel, has only played nine minutes for the Chairboys following his summer move.

This was on the opening day loss away at Bradford City on August 2, when he replaced Alex Lowry.

It had been hoped he would have featured against Stockport County and Exeter City, respectively, but he was not fit enough for either matchday squad.

Speaking ahead of the all-Thames Valley clash on August 23, Dodds said: "Bradley is very close."

"We were hoping to have this evening [against Exeter], so we will have to see if he is and he is very close."

"We have a look to see."

Another player that is in contention to feature to appear against the Royals is Armando Junior Quitirna.

The winger, who hails from Guinea-Bissau, scored Wycombe's equaliser against Doncaster Rovers after coming off the bench.

He also looked impressive in the 1-0 loss at home to Exeter, again as a substitute.

When asked why he didn't start on August 19 versus the Grecians, he said: "He was really close [to making the starting 11] as it was a really close call and he is a big part of what we want to do."

"It is a 50-game plus season, so there is no rush at the moment, but his performances have given him a real opportunity [to start in future games]."

Quitirna

He has played in all of Wanderers' five games this season, but is yet to complete 90 minutes.