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Sport

FOOTBALL

Club to let fans in free at next home game

A Non League football club in Buckinghamshire have revealed that they will allow fans to enter their next home game for free.

Risborough Rangers, who play their games at the Kamtech Stadium in the village of Horsenden just outside of the town, take on AFC Welwyn in their Spartan South Midlands Premier Division match.

And in a bid to try and get more people through their gate, those attending the fixture will have free entry.

This comes as attendances this season has dropped to around or even below 100 people.

The free entry offer is also for this game, and fans must 'buy' their ticket via the club's website by using a code.

The initiative occurred in their recent match against Buckinghamshire rivals Winslow United on October 21, which saw 187 people attend.

For more information, visit Risborough Rangers' social media pages.



Risborough Rangers play their games at the Kamtech Stadium

FOOTBALL

Chesham secure vital win over high-flying Torquay

CHESHAM United secured a vital 1-0 victory over Torquay United, climbing to seventh in the league with a solid performance, defeating the Devonshire-based team who began the day in third place, making the stakes high for both sides.

The only goal of the match came in the 36th minute, following a well-executed set-piece which was finished by former Slough Town striker, Nathan Minhas.

Alfie Williams delivered a low corner to the near post, where Dan Bayliss cleverly turned the ball back into the box.

Minhas seized the opportunity, firing low past Torquay keeper James Hamon from just inside the area.

Despite a few close calls, including a chance where Minhas shot just wide, the home side maintained control for the remainder of the half.

The second half saw Chesham continue to dominate, with several chances to extend their lead.

Josh Addae had a promising effort saved by Hamon early on, and Minhas shot over the bar shortly after. Torquay struggled

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to find their rhythm, even after making multiple substitutions.

Their attempts to equalise were thwarted by a resolute Chesham defence, which has now conceded only ten goals in twelve league matches.

Ben Goode, in goal for the home side, comfortably dealt with a long-range effort from Callum Dolan, a shot on the turn from Sonny Fish from inside the area, and a powerful shot from Jordan Young.

Despite a lengthy eleven minutes of stoppage time, which extended to sixteen, Chesham held firm to secure the win.

Connor Stevens was named Man of the Match for his outstanding defensive display.

Following the victory, United would lose their next game three days later at home to Worthing.

At the time of writing, the Generals have dropped to 11th and sit on 17 points.

They take on Eastbourne Borough away this weekend.



Chesham United secured vital victory over high-flying Torquay United with a goal from Nathan Minhas. Image: Chesham United Media

FOOTBALL

Rams get another point with third draw

BEACONSFIELD registered another point on the board with a third 1-1 draw in a row away at Ware on Saturday afternoon, WRITES ARRAN WHITE.

After a cagey opening exchanges Ware took the lead in the 10th minute.

Samuel Kifwasima-May burst through the Beaconsfield defence before firing a shot low and hard across goal and in to the far corner.

Beaconsfield tried to fight back but found it difficult to get through the Ware midfield.

With the half drawing to a close a fantastic pass from Alex Peapell into the box gave strike Manu Oke-William the chance he needed, he slide onto the pass and made no mistake in knocking it past the keeper to level the tie.

The second half began with Ware on top.

Beaconsfield's best chance to take the lead came majority fierce shot from captain James Dobson, his shot stung the keepers hands before he managed to gather at the second attempt just before Oke-William could get to the ball.

Ware could, and probably should have won the game towards the end, denied twice by Beaconsfield keeper Josh Welland as the game came to its conclusion.

Beaconsfield are back at Hollows Park next Saturday facing Biggleswade FC.

The man of the match was named as Josh Welland.

Prior to that, they drew 1-1 with Hadley on October 14

Beaconsfield were caught in possession early on, and Hadley could have taken the lead, but thankfully for the visitors, Jordan James Edwards fired wide of the post. Beaconsfield pushed for an opener and Hadley had to defend well for a spell before they seemed to take control and start to dominate the game. However, a great delivery in from a corner from James Dobson gave Luke Neville all the chance he needed to head in to give Beaconsfield the lead before the break.

Beaconsfield could have extended its lead early in the second half. Hadley grew into the half again and Beaconsfield had to hang on at times and defend for large periods of time. As they looked to see out the win a moment of lapse in concentration gave Hadley their goal, Edwards scoring after everyone seemed to switch off at a short corner.

Beaconsfield could have stolen the win at the death, the ball falling to Alex Peapell inside the box who fired over the bar with virtually the last kick of the game.

Grimmer's late equaliser earns a point at Blackpool

WYCOMBE captain Jack Grimmer scored a 102nd-minute equaliser as Wanderers drew 1-1 away at struggling and managerless Blackpool.

The Chairboys went into the contest 11 unbeaten against the Tangerines, but for large parts of the contest, the home side bossed the ball yet did not penetrate Wanderers' defence.

Michael Duff's team soaked up the pressure and had several chances to take the lead, but struggled to convert.

Sam Bell, who scored the winner away at Wigan Athletic a week earlier, couldn't find his feet when one-on-one with Blackpool keeper Bailey Peacock-Farrell.

The ball was cleared away, but only to Donnell McNeilly, who couldn't get his shot on target on the half-hour mark, and just before the break, Wycombe again went close.

McNeilly found himself in front of Peacock-Farrell, but took an age getting his shot away.

After his attempt was denied by the ex-Leeds United and Burnley keeper, Leahy tried his luck with a brilliant bending effort.

However, his rebound went just wide of the mark.

Wycombe would rue these missed chances as Blackpool took the lead with their only shot on target, right on the stroke of half-time.

A mistake by Dan Casey allowed Ashley Fletcher in on goal. He ran down towards Will Norris before smashing home his third goal of the season.

Blackpool hadn't beaten the Chairboys in any capac-



Jack Grimmer (pictured in November 2024) scored Wycombe's equaliser against Blackpool. Image: Bradley Collyer

ity since 2004, and Wycombe looked to let this record continue as they peppered the Tangerine goal with attempts from all angles.

Dan Harvie, on his weaker right foot, saw his chance go wide, Grimmer fired over from 12 yards, before he tried his luck again, only to be denied by Peacock-Farrell,

before Fred Onyedinma smashed a fierce shot into the side-netting.

Substitutes in Armando Junior Quitirna and Alex Lowry added much-needed pace to the contest, as both went close but to no avail.

With three minutes remaining, there was a lengthy delay to the proceedings as

Blackpool's Michael Ihiekwe suffered a serious head/neck injury.

He was treated for roughly 10 minutes before the game restarted, and in the 12th minute of injury-time, Grimmer fired home his first goal since February 2024 to rescue Wycombe a very unlikely point.

The result means Wanderers are unbeaten in their last 12 against Blackpool, winning two and drawing 10.

Duff's men are on 13 points, as they move up to 17th.

Up next for the Adams Park side is Huddersfield Town, the first of four consecutive home games.

Attendance: 8,876

FOOTBALL

Duff happy despite 'awful' goal conceded

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has admitted the goal his side conceded in the 1-1 draw away at Blackpool was 'awful', but was happy with his team's second-half display.

The Chairboys went a goal down on the stroke of half-time thanks to a well-taken Ashley Fletcher finish, which was his third of the season.

A long ball by Tom Bloxham was misjudged by Dan Casey, as this mistake allowed Fletcher to go one-on-one with Will Norris, where he smashed the ball beyond the ex-Portsmouth keeper.

Wycombe looked for an equaliser and eventually found their leveller in the 12th minute of injury-time, when Jack Grimmer slotted home.

It was only the fifth time the Scotsman had scored for Wanderers since arriving at Adams Park back in the summer of 2019.

The result means the Chairboys are now 17th, and move onto 13 points for the season.

Speaking at full-time, Duff, who has only lost one of his opening seven games in charge, winning four times and drawing twice, said: "Every stat apart from the result, we win."

"Their xG in the second half was 0.02 per cent, and we had chance after chance."

"It showed there is character and quality in the dressing room, but we wait until we go 1-0 down."

"We gave an awful goal away as it's just a boot down the pitch and a flick on."

"We need to change that, but I thought, in the second-half, particularly, we played some really good stuff."

"[The point] was well deserved." Duff continued: "It's about the mentality of the group. The mentality is, at 0-0, a little bit of should I, shouldn't I, and then we go 1-0 down."

"Statistically, we're the worst team in the league between nought and 55 minutes, but we're the best in the last 15 minutes. As the game went on, we deserved a point, minimum."

Finally, Duff praised the leadership of Grimmer, who popped up with Wanderers' last-gasp winner. He had two chances earlier in the contest, with one shot going over and another firing wide.

Duff concluded: "Jack epitomises the whole club. He is the one talking after the game. I always give him two or three minutes. He is a leader and opened up a bit on Friday night and told us a couple of things I never knew."

"You always start thinking 'is time running out', and we hadn't worked on Connor Taylor taking a man on by the edge of the box and slipping Jack Grimmer in. I can't take any credit for that."

The Chairboys are unbeaten in their last 12 versus Blackpool, drawing 10 and winning twice.

FOOTBALL

Wycombe Women gear up for FA Cup clash

AFTER an outstanding start to the season with nine wins from nine across all competitions, the high-flying Chairgirls are set to hit another significant milestone early on as they take on Bridgwater United in the First Round Proper of the Adobe Women's FA Cup on Sunday, October 26.

It will be only the second time in the side's history that they have made it to this stage of the cup.

Their journey to this point of the competition has been nothing short of spectacular, with a dominating 10-1 win away to Wallingford and Crowmarsh in the Second Round Qualifying, before completing a total second-half comeback to win 4-2 against local opponents, Chesham United, in front of a home crowd at Adams Park.

The Blues are now set to host tier four side, Bridgwater United, at the 1878 Stadium in Burnham in the First Round Proper of the Adobe Women's FA Cup.

The opponents are currently sitting comfortably in fourth in Division One South West of the National League and defeated Bursledon 8-1 to secure their spot in the First Round Proper of the competition.

The season so far has been a goal-fest for the Wanderers, with 47 goals netted in their first nine fixtures of the season. Last season's top goalscorer, Kayla Potter, is looking keen to beat her tally from last year, having racked up 16 goals across all competitions so far.

New signing, Chloe Melton, isn't far behind Potter with 13 goals so far in her appearances for the Blues.

The First Round Proper tie will be taking place at the Chairgirls' home of the 1878 Stadium in Burnham, kicking off at 2 pm.

Similar to the Chairboys in their fixture against Huddersfield this weekend, the Chairgirls will be offering a quid-a-kid deal on tickets for under-18s attending the game.



Wycombe take on Bridgwater in the FA Cup. Image: PA

SPORT

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Injury update as Wycombe player set to miss four months



Anders Hagelskjaer (left) against Fulham. Image: Adam Davy/PA

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has provided an injury update on two players following the 1-1 draw at Blackpool.

The Chairboys made one change to the team that defeated Wigan Athletic a week earlier, as Caolan Boyd-Munce came in to replace George Abbott in the centre of midfield.

It has since been revealed that Abbott, who joined the Adams Park side on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, is set for a lengthy stint on the sidelines.

Duff also issued an update on centre back Anders Hagelskjaer, who has only

featured in nine games this season in all competitions.

Since arriving from Norwegian outfit Molde in January, for a then club record fee of £500,000, the Danish native has only featured 11 times for Wycombe.

Speaking to BBC Radio 3 Counties, the head coach said: "George felt something in his quad in the week. It's not good - he's looking at four months and probably some sort of surgery.

"He had a scan a couple of weeks ago because he's been feeling something, but that showed there was nothing. It's a real blow for him, and it's a blow for us

because he is a good player.

"Anders is struggling with an Achilles. He's not fully fit and we need to try and get him right."

Duff has also sent his well-wishes to Blackpool centre-back Michael Ihiekwe, who was stretched off in injury-time.

In the 87th minute of the contest, the former Rotherham United and Sheffield Wednesday man landed awkwardly on his head/neck and was treated for nearly 10 minutes before eventually leaving the pitch.

He added: "Being a centre-half, he jumped that high, he almost jumped

over Junior (Quitima) - his leg caught Junior's head, which spun him around, and it looks like he landed horribly.

"Nobody wants to see that, nobody wants to see anyone stretched off in any game. He's a competitor, he's been a very good player and is captain for them as well, so we wish him all the best for a speedy recovery."

In September 2020, Ihiekwe scored a 92nd-minute winner for Rotherham against Wycombe at Adams Park in what was Wanderers' first-ever game in the Championship. That match finished 1-0 in favour of the Millers.

No timeline yet for injured Scowen's return

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has provided an injury update on midfielder Josh Scowen.

The 32-year-old suffered an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury in the Chairboys' 1-0 away loss against Leyton Orient on April 26, with the regular recovery period being around one year.

This weekend marks sixth months since the former Sunderland and Queens Park Rangers man sustained the knee injury, with Duff revealing that 'it is hard' to have a definitive time frame on his return.

It is feared he will miss the entirety of the campaign, but Wanderers' head coach has stated that Scowen is 'working ever so hard' on regaining fitness, and that his character is still 'infectious' around the Marlow Road Training Ground and at Adams Park.

Speaking ahead of this weekend's clash against Huddersfield Town, which will be the first of four consecutive home matches, Duff said: "He's still not on the grass, so that would tell you he's still a long way away [from a return]."

"He's still around the place, and everyone who knows him is aware that he is an infectious character and he's a good guy.

"He's spent more time in the gym in the last six months than he has probably had in his entire career, and it might sound really weird, but sometimes it's not a bad thing.

"At that age, you need to start looking after yourself, and with these types of inju-

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ries, you think it's the end, but it's not.

"You start to look after yourself properly because you appreciate what you're doing, as this is the best job in the world.

"Sometimes, it does become a job, and you forget how lucky you are, so for Josh, he won't have that feeling as he is working ever so hard."

Scowen began his career with the Chairboys in 2012 and played 100 games during his first stint at Adams Park before leaving for Barnsley in January 2015.

Moves to QPR and Sunderland would follow in 2017 and 2019, respectively, before he returned to Buckinghamshire in the summer of 2021.

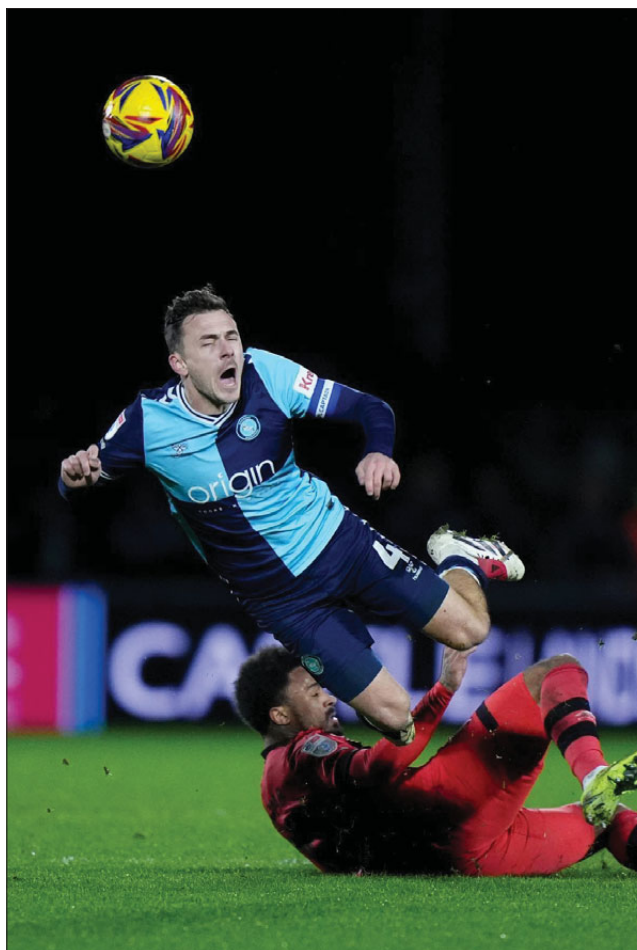
Since his move back to the Thames Valley, the fan favourite has featured in 170 matches, scoring four goals.

Duff continued: "At the moment, it is difficult to put a timeline on things as he's not on the grass yet.

"That's the first port of call because when he is on the grass, he'll still be quite a while.

"He's getting itchy as he's saying he's ready for the grass, but the physio has had to put the reins on him.

"It will add a few more weeks to it [his recovery], but it's right to do that in case he comes back too early and something horrible happens."



Wycombe Wanderers Josh Scowen in action last season. Image: Bradley Collyer

Sweden job for ex-Wycombe man Potter

EX-WYCOMBE Wanderers defender Graham Potter has been appointed as the new head coach of Sweden.

Potter, 50, who played five games for the Chairboys in 1993/94 on loan from Birmingham City, was named the Blågult's new man in charge on October 20, following the sacking of Jon Dahl Tomasson.

The latter's dismissal came after the nation lost 1-0 at home to Kosovo in their recent 2026 World Cup qualifier, leaving them with just one point from their opening four games, losing the last three.

A statement on the Swedish FA website said the goal is "to create optimal conditions to reach the World Cup in the summer of 2026".

Potter, sacked by West Ham United in September after a run of just six wins from 25 games, including 14 defeats, said: "I am very humbled by the assignment, but also incredibly inspired. Sweden has fantastic players who deliver in the world's best leagues during the week.

"My job will be to create the conditions so we as a team deliver at the highest level to take Sweden to the World Cup."

Swedish FA football director Kim Kallstrom, added: "It feels very good that Graham is coming in as the national coach for the men's national team.

"We are all aware of the situation we are in and believe that with his leadership skills, he will bring the team together in a good way.

"He is tactically skilled at creating conditions to win matches and has an ability to identify players' strengths and how they interact in the best way."

From January 2011-June 2018, Potter managed Swedish outfit Ostersund, taking the club from the country's fourth division to the top-flight, and playing in European competition for the first time.

His success landed him the Swansea City role in 2018, before he left for Brighton & Hove Albion 12 months later. Potter was hired by Chelsea in September 2022, but only lasted seven months, sacked after winning 12 of 31 games. He spent nearly two years out of the game before joining West Ham in January.