

# Bucks Free Press

Friday, March 21, 2025

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## TORY LEADER KEMI VISITS ELECTION BATTLEGROUND

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## FAITH LEADERS JOIN KNIFE CRIME BATTLE

M&S **£100 TO WIN** PAGE 38

# £3m revamp of street nears end

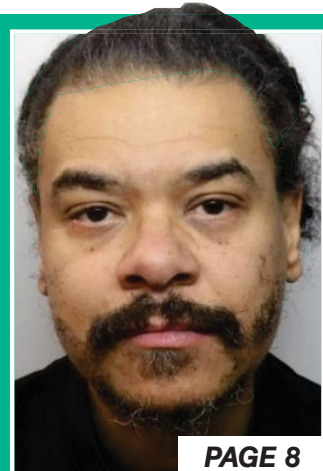


## Plan to create 'vibrant shopping destination'

THE multi-million-pound project to regenerate a large section of High Wycombe town centre is nearing completion. White Hart Street has had a £3.1million spend for paving, seating and planters. According to Buckinghamshire Council, the aim is 'more greenery and a more continuous theme with surrounding walkways through the town'.

By James Richings

Full story: Page 5



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## KILLER WHO STALKED POP STAR CHERYL IS LOCKED UP

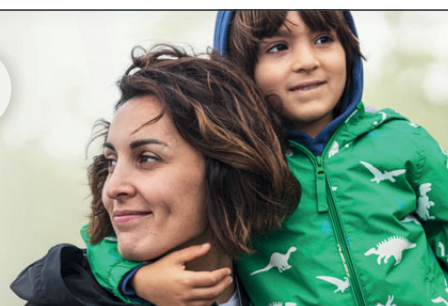
50 HOMES APPROVED FOR OLD SKI SLOPE: PAGE 4

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## Lions' First Nations & Pasifika XV tour game



Lions coach Andy Farrell

THE British and Irish Lions will face a team with indigenous and Pacific heritage during their 2025 tour, Rugby Australia has confirmed.

The match against the First Nations & Pasifika XV on July 22, three days after the first Test, fills the gap in the tour schedule created when the Melbourne Rebels went into administration.

Rugby Australia chief executive Phil Waugh, said the match at Melbourne's Marvel Stadium will be a "great celebration" of communities which contribute to Australian rugby.

The announcement comes 100 days from the opening match of the tour against Western Force in Perth on June 28 and as the final tickets for the tour are released.

Lions chief executive Ben Calveley described the match as one which "everyone at the Lions is hugely excited about".

Waugh played down speculation that Australia would not pick players against the Lions who were heading to play overseas.

He told the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "We've got to win the Lions series. We've got to be as competitive as we can be in the Lions series. We're going to work really hard to retain as many as we can, as we've got some really big events, and the Lions is one of them. But we need to put our best possible team onto the field to win Test matches for Australia."

Ian Foster, who coached New Zealand to the 2023 Rugby World Cup final, is part of the coaching staff for the Australia and New Zealand side which will face the Lions in Adelaide on July 12, the final warm-up match before the Test series.



Aston Villa and England forward Morgan Rogers

Pic: PA

## Tuchel's 'aura' impresses Rogers

ASTON Villa forward Morgan Rogers says Thomas Tuchel's "aura" could help fire England to World Cup glory next year.

Tuchel, who began work as Gareth Southgate's successor in January, met up with his players for the first time on Monday ahead of qualifiers against Albania, which is tonight at Wembley, and Latvia on Monday, also at Wembley.

The German held a team meeting on Monday night where he outlined his mission for glory in North America next summer and Rogers said he has never worked with a manager with such presence.

"He has that level of confidence, that level of respect already," he said. "Certainly his aura is one I've not experienced before."

Rogers could well be one of the key players in the US next summer given his meteoric rise since joining Villa from Middlesbrough at the start of 2024.

He has helped Aston Villa through to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup and Champions League, with Unai Emery's men also in the race for the top four in the Premier League.

# Tributes to legend of F1, Eddie Jordan

By PA Sport reporter

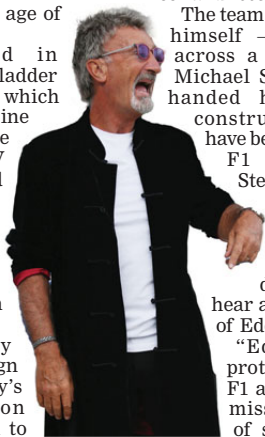
Press Association

EDDIE Jordan has been hailed as one-of-a-kind after the charismatic former Formula One team owner died yesterday.

A statement from Jordan's family released to the PA news agency confirmed the death of the Irishman at the age of 76.

Jordan revealed in December he had bladder and prostate cancer, which had spread to his spine and pelvis, but the ex-F1 team owner, TV pundit and entrepreneur continued to live life to the full and earlier this year led a consortium which bought rugby union side London Irish.

He also recently helped seal F1 design guru Adrian Newey's £20million-a-season deal from Red Bull to



Aston Martin, who were previously titled Jordan between 1991 and 2005.

The team – named after Jordan himself – entered 250 races across a 14-year spell, with Michael Schumacher notably handed his debut by the constructor, and tributes have been paid to its founder.

F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali said ahead of this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai: "We are deeply saddened to hear about the sudden loss of Eddie Jordan."

"Eddie has been a protagonist of an era of F1 and he will be deeply missed. In this moment of sorrow, my thoughts

and those of the entire Formula One family are with his family and loved ones."

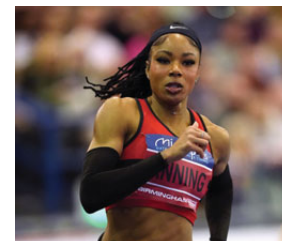
Jordan sold his F1 team in 2005 but returned to the paddock four years later as part of BBC's coverage. He went on to work as a pundit for Channel 4 and briefly as a presenter of *Top Gear*.

Presenter Jake Humphrey, who worked alongside Jordan at the BBC, tweeted: "Formula One won't see the likes of Eddie ever again where a guy with a love for racing can hustle his way into the sport and end up winning races."

Aston Martin's current team principal Andy Cowell added: "Eddie Jordan was one of the all-time motorsport greats. He was a one-off, a wonderful human being, and a charismatic leader who founded this team and took it to F1 in 1991."

Governing body FIA said: "Eddie Jordan was a legend of F1. He made an invaluable contribution to global motor sport."

## Big-money track events welcomed



BRITISH Olympic medallist Amber Anning is convinced the recent influx of big-money track competitions is exactly what her sport needs.

Reddit founder Alexis Ohanian last week announced his lucrative women's-only meet, Athlos, would be returning for a second edition in October, while Michael Johnson's Grand Slam Track, set to award over USD \$12 million (£9.2m) in prize money, premieres next month.

Sprinter Anning, who won Olympic bronze medals with the mixed and women's 4x400 metres relay teams in Paris, welcomes the innovative formats.

She told the PA news agency: "I think it's exciting. I just think it helps elevate the sport, helps get more eyes on it, gets people more involved."

## Goodbye to coach



EMMA Raducanu has parted company with coach Vlado Platenik after a 14-day trial, the PA news agency understands.

The British number two worked with the Slovakian coach at Indian Wells earlier this month, but Platenik was absent as Raducanu started her Miami Open campaign with a straight-sets win on Wednesday. PA understands the pair have parted ways as Raducanu felt the new partnership was not heading in the right direction.

Raducanu beat Japanese teenager Sayaka Ishii 6-2 6-1 to set up a second-round meeting with Emma Navarro today.

## FOOTBALL

# Flackwell Heath cruise past Hadley



Flackwell Heath

**FLACKWELL** Heath cruised past Hadley, winning 4-1 in Southern League Division One Central, writes Mark Glynn.

The home side came out of the blocks the quicker of the two and went ahead in the 22nd minute in style, a corner from Mephram was smashed home on the volley from Mapley. The lead didn't last long though as Hadley fired back just two minutes later, Ferguson levelling for the away side with a deft lob from outside the box. Going into half time level Flackwell would have been disappointed not to be ahead but Hadley defended well as a team.

The second half started much like the first with Flackwell coming out with the bit between their teeth,

Flackwell's Harding was taken down in the box on 51 minutes after a powerful run. The ever reliable Makowski converted the penalty to put the hosts back ahead. Just a minute later with the home crowd behind them a sumptuous through ball from Shakespeare put Harding through on goal who clinically finished to make it 3-1.

The Heathens weren't finished there, a Man of Match performance confirmed for Harding when he made it 4-1 in the 68th minute with another deadly finish to give the frontman a brace.

Hadley never gave up and won a penalty for themselves in the 86th minute but failed to convert with a fine save from Brooker.

## FOOTBALL

# Flackwell Heath a enjoy strong win over the Ducks

**FLACKWELL** Heath enjoyed a strong 5-0 victory over Aylesbury United in Southern

League Division One Central on Tuesday, writes Mark Glynn.

Flackwell came into this game off the back of a good win while Aylesbury look to be struggling for form, this showed as the buoyant home side came out the livelier of the two. It didn't take long for Flackwell to take the lead, on the 7th minute a dangerous corner whipped in from Mephram beat everyone including the flailing Aylesbury stopper Hopwood. Hopwood's night went from bad to worse when he mis-read a poor back pass from Peters, the ball bounced over the keepers head and Eddie Lee reacted well to put the hosts 2-0 up in the 16th minute with the simplest of finishes. Flackwell's dominant first half was capped off on the 44th minute with a third goal, yet another dangerous corner was flicked on well from Ni-

sabet and after some pinball from the Aylesbury defenders Pegg rose highest to head home.

With the game pretty much dead and buried at half time Flackwell didn't take their foot off the gas and came out in the second half with the same relentless press. Just 10 minutes into the second half the lead was extended to four, with the game littered with superb delivery's it was Lewis Patrick's turn to put a lovely in-swinging free kick from 10 yards outside the box, with the ball perfectly placed Eddie Lee met it with glancing header to complete his brace.

Jamie Ayres completed the scoring making it 5-0 in the 73rd minute, after some good work from substitute Odumosu the ball fell to man of the match Pegg who laid the ball perfectly for Ayres to smash home.

An impressive display from Flackwell Heath see's them strengthen their position in the play offs.



Lewis Pegg won Man of the Match

# Marlow Women still with relegation risk

MARLOW welcomed Exeter to Pound Lane on Saturday. Marlow started strongly with some great work from Holly McAlpine and Beth Halbard to enable Rachel Clarke to slot the ball past the Exeter keeper.

Exeter levelled the score minutes later from the restart. The hockey was end-to-end with both keepers making excellent saves to deny any further goals. Exeter took the lead with a slick penalty corner in the

26th minute and extended their lead in the 34th minute to go into half time

3-1 up. Marlow stepped up and dominated possession in the second half but were unable to capitalize on this despite numerous opportunities. Credit should go to the Exeter keeper who worked relentlessly to keep the reds from scoring. The final score remained 3-1 with Marlow at risk of being relegated unless they earn points

in their final two matches of the season.

The 2nd team had a 5-0 mid week win against Oxford Uni.2 Olivia Letchford with a brace, a converted penalty stroke from Lenny Conetta and a goal apiece for Megan Fulton and Jazzy Elsdon. However, Saturday's opponents, Amersham and Chalfont 2s, proved a tougher test and inflicted a 1-0 loss on Marlow.

The team adapted well to a changed line up but couldn't force

a goal from their possession and A&C took the lead at a short corner with little time remaining for Marlow to respond. They remain top but only a point above Oxford who have a game in hand.

**Other results:- The 3rd team drew 0-0 with Staines 1, 4s beat Reading 6 5-0, 5s lost 4-0 to Amersham & Chalfont 4 away, 6s lost 2-0 to Raeding Phoenix 2 away, 7s lost 5-1 to Amersham & Chalfont 6**

## FOOTBALL

# Windsor return to Holloways

WINDSOR FC, who beat Spartans 2-1 in their last game, return to action this Saturday when they take on Eversley & California at Holloways Park, and next Tuesday they are away to Belstone at the Medburn Ground in Radlett.

Windsor sit 19th in the table, eight points above the relegation zone, while Eversley and Belstone have their sights on the play-offs.

Mid-table Langley crashed to a 5-0 defeat at Eversley on Tuesday.

They had Marco Raposo sent off for handball after just nine minutes, enabling Max Laschok to open the scoring from the penalty spot.

Ross Baker scored the second goal after 37 minutes with Laschok, Mark Froude and Nathan Mindomba all finding the net in the second half at Fox Lane.

Langley have only two away league fixtures left to play, at Colliers Wood on March 26 and Rising Ballers Kensington on April 12.

They are still involved in the Esoteric Recordings Division One Cup following last month's 4-1 win over Yateley United.

## FOOTBALL

# Beaconsfield on Non-League Day

A NON-LEAGUE football club in Buckinghamshire will offer fans and visitors an opportunity to pay what they please ahead of their upcoming fixture this weekend.

Beaconsfield Town, who play their home matches at Holloways Park, are gearing up for Non League Day which will take place on Saturday, March 22 [3pm KO].

This includes the Rams, who are inviting guests to this weekend's clash against Enfield, the chance to choose their entry fee, with all of the money going towards Prostate Cancer UK.

Sam Togwell, the Rams' first team manager said: "Football has the power to bring people together, and this Non League Day, we're using that power for something bigger than the game."

At Beaconsfield Town, we know that prostate cancer affects so many—our fathers, brothers, and friends. That's why every penny from ticket sales will go directly to Prostate Cancer UK.

"We're asking the community to come together, not just to support local football, but to stand with those fighting this disease. No one should face it alone."

## Sport

## GOLF

## Charity of the Year named by golf club

A CAPTAIN of Harewood Downs Golf Club, Cathy Myers, has chosen Cure Parkinson's to be the club's Charity of the Year for 2025.

Cathy, from Chalfont St Giles, hopes to raise as much as possible for the Parkinson's charity, so has been busy planning some wonderful fundraisers for the year ahead.

Cathy picked Cure Parkinson's to be a beneficiary of the club's fundraising ventures after a dear friend was diagnosed with the progressive neurological condition. Cathy said: "I have chosen Cure Parkinson's because one of my oldest and closest friends, Janis, was diagnosed with this terrible condition over a year ago. I have known Janis for about 40 years, when we joined British Caledonian Airways and both flew together as air hostesses. As we all know, there is no cure for Parkinson's yet and I would really like to help to make a difference by raising money for this extremely worthwhile charity."

Fundraising for a cause close to her heart, Cathy was keen to get started and has already hosted a hugely successful bridge drive at the golf club in February. The sold-out event saw attendees take part in a bridge tournament, with prizes on offer for the winners. Guests were also served a delightful afternoon tea (featuring cakes baked by the golf club's members) and had the chance to win some lovely prizes in a raffle. The bridge drive helped to raise over £1,500 in support of Cure Parkinson's vital research, and with a whole host of other events planned for the year ahead it looks to be a great fundraising initiative for the charity.

With help from Janis, Cathy is organising another raffle with some top prizes secured (including a champagne afternoon tea for two at the Dorchester) and has numerous other fabulous events planned such as a Spring Tea on Tuesday 29 April for female members of the golf club, a Lady Captain's Day – a golf competition for female members of the club – on Tuesday 8 July, and a Gala Day on Sunday 3 August, where all club members will be invited to compete in teams of four with prizes on offer for the winners and runners up. Cathy is also busy planning for a dinner at the club in October.

Cure Parkinson's is extremely grateful to Cathy and the Harewood Downs Golf Club for raising funds throughout 2025 in support of our research. Helen Matthews, CEO, said:

"Fundraising support is absolutely critical for the charity to enable us to achieve our goal. We aim to cure Parkinson's and the only way we will do this is through the help of all our incredible supporters – it's as simple as that!"

To find out more about Cure Parkinson's and how you can organise your own fundraising events please visit <https://cureparkinsons.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise-for-us/>.

## FOOTBALL

## Chesham United secure first victory in five matches

**L**EWIS Rolfe's penalty in first-half stoppage time gave Chesham United a narrow 1-0 victory, their first win in five games, and left St Albans City firmly in the relegation zone.

This was far from a classic but on this occasion Chesham managed to pinch the points in one of the few decisive moments of the match.

Chesham made three changes from the Tonbridge defeat – Callum Adebisi, Jack Connors and Karl Oliyi replacing Taylor Foran, Ryan Upward and Samson Esan. St Albans came into the game desperate for points at the wrong end of the table and dominated the opening half but without creating any chances of note. On 14 minutes, Giorgio Rasulo had the first shot on goal after cutting in from the left but his effort went harmlessly wide.

Chesham had shown little in attack but had one chance on 20 minutes, when Jack Connors crossed and Nathan Minhas controlled and shot high and wide. On the half-hour a Rasulo corner came to David Longe-King at the far post, but his effort clipped the outside of the post and went behind. Chesham came back and Lewis Rolfe shot powerfully but straight at Michael Johnson in the visitors' goal.

The game's decisive moment came in the last minute of normal time, when a Jack

Andy Westlake

Connors throw ran loose in the area and Connor Stevens went for it but was clipped by David Longe-King. The referee was well placed to give the penalty, and Rolfe sent the keeper the wrong way shooting high and right to give Chesham the lead.

St Albans showed greater urgency in the opening stages of the second half and had their best effort on 50 minutes when Giorgio Rasulo's shot was superbly tipped round the post by Ben Goode.

The game was now more even but there was little good football from either side on a difficult pitch. The visitors' frustration grew, and they complained about every decision that went against them, and on 87 minutes Rasulo was shown a yellow card for a remark to the referee which was then upgraded to a red as he continued to argue.

With only ten men St Albans posed little threat and Chesham saw the game out without any alarm. 1-0 at full time and another important 3 points which sees Chesham up to 15th, now 16 points clear of the relegation spots with seven matches to play.

Next up The General travel to Weston Super Mare on Saturday and the women's 1st team welcome Real Bedford to The Meadow at 2pm on Sunday.



Lewis Rolfe dispatches the winning penalty! Photo Neale Blackburn.

## HOCKEY

## Marlow secure promotion with big win

**MARLOW** Hockey Club men's first side secured promotion to the National League with time to spare, beating Oxford OBU.

They started the game at top speed and in two minutes, following a fluent move, Matt Law was perfectly placed to score the first goal. Marlow stayed in control, but the next goal by Josh Morgans took another 20 minutes to arrive.

They went three goals up before half-time with a fine individual goal by

young Henry May.

After half-time, Marlow really got going, and their pressure led to another penalty corner, which Sam North converted confidently.

After that, Marlow were completely dominant with some of their best hockey of the season. Goals arrived regularly, each one well taken

by Alec Land, Mark Lowden, and Louis Cadinouche and a second goal by Josh Morgans to make the final score 8-0. It was a stunning

display of attacking hockey, and the post-match celebrations of promotion were fully deserved.

The 2nd team were away at Witney and lost 4-1. They have had a challenging season but should have enough points to avoid relegation.

Other results:- The 3rd team beat Thame 1sts 3-1, 4s beat Milton Keynes 3 5-0 away, 5s match was cancelled, 6s beat Amersham & Chalfont 6-0 away, 7s beat Wallingford 5 4-0 away.



Marlow men's first have secured promotion.

# Wycombe lose to Wrexham after 'sucker punch' goal

WYCOMBE Wanderers' dropped out of the League One automatic places following a 1-0 home defeat by Wrexham, but the game was overshadowed by a medical emergency in the crowd.

In what was the first meeting between the two sides at Adams Park since March 2008, Wanderers began the better and had a handful of decent attempts to take the lead.

Firstly, Fred Onyedimma's header from a Garath McCleary cross was caught by Arthur Okonkwo before the keeper did well to deny a screamer from Dan Udoh.

Wycombe continued to look dangerous as Josh Scowen and Cameron Humphreys pulled the strings, but they struggled to break down a stubborn Wrexham defence.

In the opening 45, Phil Parkinson's team had away 11 fouls as they did their best to contain a Chairboys side who were playing in front of their largest home crowd of the season.

A Joe Low header went wide of the mark whilst Udoh again went close.

For the Red Dragons, they offered very little in the opening period.

They began the second half a lot better and hit the post on 55 minutes.

A poor back header from Caleb Taylor allowed Sam Smith in, but he could only poke his effort onto the woodwork.

As the game went on, it became clear that one goal was enough to win the promotion-pushing battle between second and third.

However, in the 77th minute with Wycombe having a cor-



Jack Grimmer played the full 90 minutes in the 1-0 home loss to Wrexham. Image: Barrington Coombs

ner, cries from the away end were made after a supporter became unwell.

The game was delayed for close to 45 minutes as the stricken fan received life-saving aid from medics.

It was confirmed that they were transported to a local

hospital for further treatment.

The game eventually restarted with a Wycombe corner and from the set piece, Luke Leahy's delivery was headed towards goal by Caleb Taylor, but it was brilliantly saved by Okonkwo.

Then, the sucker punch for

Wanderers as Wrexham went on the counter-attack, and there was Sam Smith who fired home a deflected volley past Will Norris in front of the travelling supporters.

Wycombe threw the kitchen sink as James Berry went close, but the day belonged to

the Red Dragons.

The result means Wycombe have dropped into the play-offs on 66 points, with Wrexham leap-frogging the Adams Park side into the top two on 69.

Attendance: 9,333 (1,816 away)

## FOOTBALL Missed chances cost us dearly

MIKE Dodds, Wycombe's head coach, rued his side's missed chances as they lost 1-0 at home to promotion-pushing rivals Wrexham at Adams Park.

Dan Udoh, Caleb Taylor, Joe Low, James Berry and Fred Onyedimma all went close, but a Sam Smith volley with 12 minutes left gave the Welsh Dragons their first win in South Bucks since 1999.

More importantly, it means the Chairboys drop down to third with the Welsh outfit leap frogging Wanderers in second.

However, the main talking point of the contest was how the game was delayed for roughly 30 minutes after a fan was taken ill late in the second half.

The supporter, who was based in the away end, was given emergency treatment by numerous medics before being taken to a local hospital.

The game eventually restarted with a Wycombe corner which Taylor nearly scored from, but 80 seconds later, Smith's strike gave Wrexham the lead and eventually the three points.

Dodds said: "The most disappointing thing is that these games, Birmingham and Wrexham, we said they would be decided by moments and after they cleared the ball the line, they scored the winner one minute and 20 seconds later.

"That's how brutal it can be at the top and it's a harsh lesson for us.

"But, I was pleased with out-of-the-possession stuff as we nullified them but they were also well organised out of possession.

"Overall, it was two teams trying to cancel each other out and sadly for us, they got that moment and we didn't.

"We just need to put this to bed as we still have 30 points to try and get this season and we'll be ready to go again on Tuesday night at Rotherham.

"It is what it is but we have got to dust ourselves down and not feel sorry for ourselves."

The defeat is now Wanderers' sixth in the league this season, and their second this month.

They have only won five of their last 14 in the division since New Year's Day, and are now just two points ahead of fourth-placed Charlton Athletic.

And in their defeat to the Welsh outfit, they were without leading striker Richard Kone.

Dodds explained: "Richard reported this morning that he was ill and he was devastated. He tried his hardest to make the game but he ended up going home.

Not ideal preparation but it is not excuse at all.

"We have got to dust ourselves down and not feeling sorry for ourselves."

Up next is Rotherham away on Tuesday night.

## FOOTBALL

# Wrexham thank club over medical incident

WREXHAM co-owner and Hollywood actor Rob McElhenney has thanked Wycombe Wanderers for helping one of their supporters who suffered a medical incident in the most recent fixture between the two sides.

With 78 minutes on the clock with the score at 0-0 at Adams Park in front of 9,000 spectators on March 15, a travelling fan in the Whiff Away away stand suddenly became unwell.

The game was then suspended as both sets of players left the pitch so that medical treatment could take place.

A section of Wrexham fans also vacated that area of the stadium where the incident occurred.

Play eventually resumed roughly 30 to 45 minutes later, with Sam Smith scoring the winner for the Red Dragons just two minutes after the game restarted.

The result means Wrexham leapfrogged

Wycombe into second place, three points clear of the Chairboys.

More importantly, the fan in question was taken to a nearby hospital where they were in a stable condition.

McElhenney, who has co-owned Wrexham alongside actor Ryan Reynolds since February 2021, took to X and said: "As more information comes to light, it's becoming even more apparent that our supporters, Wycombe staff and Wycombe supporters worked together to save someone's life.

"We cannot thank you enough Wycombe. "What a brilliant show of humanity. "You are a beautiful organisation."

An update on the fan was also provided by the Welsh Dragons.

In an official statement, they said: "Wrexham can confirm the supporter who suffered a medical emergency at the match against Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday is now recovering in hospital."



Rob McElhenney (left) thanked Wycombe for helping an ill fan

# SPORT

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## Wrexham fan who fell ill in game in stable condition



The incident occurred in Wycombe's match with Wrexham

**BOTH** Wycombe Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds and Wrexham manager Phil Parkinson have sent their well wishes to a supporter who suffered a medical episode in today's match between the two clubs.

With the Chairboys about to take a corner on 78 minutes, play was halted after a section of travelling fans, as well as a handful in the Family Stand, alerted the officials of an incident.

It later transpired that a spectator, who was based in the Whiff Away away stand had collapsed and needed urgent medical care.

The players were taken off the pitch as the person in question was seen to, with stewards using numerous Wanderers flags as a barrier as the fan in question received treatment.

They were eventually

taken to a local hospital with their condition being described as stable.

Parkinson said: "Our thoughts are with him and his family.

"We've been told he is in a stable condition and that is the most important thing.

"It's terrible when something like this happens and it puts football into insignificance and he's on his way to hospital.

"Both sets of players wanted to continue with the game.

"It was a traumatic moment."

Dodds added: "On behalf of everyone at the football club, we wish him well.

"We have been told he is in a stable condition and sometimes when that happens, it puts life and stresses into perspective.

"We wish him and his family well."

## Dodds hails scrappy but vital win at Rotherham

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds felt his side set the record straight with their thrilling 3-2 win at Rotherham United.

After a terrible first-half from both sides, the game looked like petering out into a 0-0 draw but came alive with two late Chairboys goals from Sonny Bradley and Gideon Kodua.

The victory moved Wycombe back into the automatic promotion places and helped them get over their weekend defeat to Wrexham, who they have now leapfrogged into second.

Dodds said: "Every three points between now and the end of the season is going to be important.

"Come the end of the season it will read 3-2 to Wycombe and that is what people will remember.

"It wasn't a game for the purist, that's for sure.

"Our second-half performance was nearer where we wanted to be.

"It's an important three points, not (just) in terms of the league but because we didn't deserve to lose on Saturday.

"We now have a chance to iron out the things we could be a little bit cleaner with."

Shaun McWilliams had two chances to put Rotherham in front in the opening 45 but he headed off target and then could not turn in a low cross from Sam Nombe.

For Wycombe, Joe Low had perhaps the best opening of the half but he lifted over the top from close range.

Rotherham's Mallik Wilks was unlucky to see his effort cannon off the post and back

**James Richings**

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

into the grateful hands of Will Norris but they forged ahead when Louie Sibley's powerful effort bounced over the line via the underside of the crossbar.

Wycombe's response was rapid, and they levelled within three minutes thanks to Luke Leahy's perfect cross which was nodded home by Richard Kone.

It was Rotherham pushing for the winner and they thought they had got it when Jonson Clarke-Harris powered in from the edge of the box but after furious protests from the Wycombe players, the goal was ruled out for handball.

The Millers were then stung with Bradley heading in from Leahy's corner in the last minute before Kone supplied Kodua for a simple finish in the box.

Rotherham still had a chance to get a goal back from the penalty spot, with Clarke-Harris netting after Joshua Kayode had been fouled.

United manager Steve Evans said of Bradley's vital goal: "It's a simple corner and Dillon (Phillips) has to do better.

"Poor defending cost us two goals.

"Wycombe are a good side and I wish them every success.

"Their players know they've turned up with balaclavas on and taken the three points. Their equaliser was only the second or third time they've been in our box.

"There were too many big decisions (that went) against us."



Mike Dodds reacted to Wycombe's win at Rotherham Image: PA

## 'There is still a lot to work on' says Bradley

SONNY Bradley believes that Wycombe Wanderers' 3-2 away victory at Rotherham United 'wasn't perfect' but is hopeful that a full week's worth of training will improve the side going forward.

The Chairboys centre back started the win in South Yorkshire on Tuesday evening, in which he scored a vital header to put the Adams Park side 2-1 up in the final minute.

After a forgettable first half for both teams, Louie Sibley put Rotherham a goal up after a mistake from Will Norris on 66 minutes, before Richard Kone equalised three minutes later.

Bradley then popped up to put Wanderers head and in the dying embers of the contest, Gideon Kodua made it 3-1.

A Johnson Clarke-Harris penalty in the final seconds of the contest made it a nervy ending for Wycombe, but they held out to secure all three points.

The victory means they are now back in second place on 69 points, level with third place Wrexham.

Bradley said: "The senior boys told everyone that we had to keep the basics and do them well, and for the majority of the game, I thought we did that.

"I think for the first goal we conceded, we need to do better, but it's great to have the reaction.

"Luke [Leahy] put in a couple of great balls, one for Rich and one for me, and at the end, it was chaos.

"It was a bit of spice for the fans and of course, we don't want to do that every week, but it was all about getting three points.

"I was back in the team, I scored a goal and let's just keep going.

"I think we were a lot more open than what I would like us to be but as we have got senior boys, and boys who have played in this formation, the gaffer put trust in us and do it.

"At times, it wasn't perfect and there is still a lot to work on, but, we have got a break now and then a full week to work on it."