

Bucks Free Press

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Council leader slammed as two die at danger spot

A COUNCIL leader has come under fire over Daws Hill Lane safety concerns, after a crash left two young men dead. Emails, sent to the Free Press by an 'aghast' resident, state traffic calming measures were not installed on the High Wycombe road despite years of pressure on leader Steven Broadbent. The road was the site of a fatal three-car crash in July.

By Isabella Harris

Full story: Page 5



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Sport

CRICKET

Haddow stars with ball as Bucks clinch title

A SPECTACULAR bowling display by Conner Haddow secured Bucks a dramatic 19-run victory over Devon in the National Counties Clubberly Championship title-decider at West Bromwich Dartmouth on Tuesday.

The High Wycombe left-arm spinner bowled throughout and returned sensational match figures of 16-143, the second best in Bucks' history, and 9-73 in the second innings, to help them win the Championship for the second time in three years.

It is the 12th time the team have claimed the title, with only Staffordshire having won more.

It was on the same ground two years ago that Bucks beat Devon by a record 550 runs to land their 11th

title, but it was a much closer this time.

On a dusty pitch - ill-suited for the scheduled four-day match - spinners on both sides dominated proceedings after Bucks won an important toss and chose to bat first.

The innings was dominated by skipper Alexei Kervezee, who made light of the conditions to make 89 from 108 balls with nine fours - one of only two half-centuries in the match.

Apart from the Dodds brothers he received little support as Bucks slumped to 187-9 before a valuable last-wicket stand of 30 by Max Uttley and Tom Weymes lifted their total to 217.

Devon left-arm spinner Callum

Harvey finished with figures of 6-60 from 22 overs.

With opener Ben Privett scoring 67, Devon progressed smoothly to 111-3 before Haddow ripped out the middle order to reduce them to 138-9.

Their last-wicket stand saw them recover to 166 all out, a deficit of 51.

Ewan Cox recovered from his first-innings golden duck to hold the early part of the Bucks second innings together with 36, but got little support as Bucks slumped to 114-9.

Ed Bragg, who finished on 24 not out, helped to add 24 for the last wicket as Bucks were bowled out for 138.

Callum Harvey was again Devon's star bowler with 6-40 and match

figures of 12-100.

Devon were set 190 for victory and looked well set at 35-0, but Haddow, grandson of former Wycombe Wanderers legend Paul Bates, began to work his magic.

Devon slipped to 98-5 and when the ninth wicket fell at 150, Bucks seemed assured of victory.

But the last pair added 20 before Haddow trapped Matt Jeacock lbw and the Bucks celebrations could begin.

Haddow's first-innings figures were 27.2-6-70-7, and his second-innings figures were 25.5-2-73-9 for match figures of 53.1-8-143-16.

Afterwards, Bucks coach Jason Harrison said: "I need to lie on a sunbed after that."

FOOTBALL

Rampant Greens go goal crazy in cup rout

HOLMER Green thrashed Spelthorne Sports in the first round of the Division One Cup.

The Greens bounced back from their first league defeat of the season, dominating from the outset and effectively sealing the game within the first 30 minutes.

Spelthorne, relegated over the summer, had settled in mid-table with nine points from seven games.

Their last visit to Holmer Green came three years ago in The FA Vase when Ben Booker and Alex Dimitrijevic scored the goals in a 2-0 home win.

The match began with Jeffrey Fordjour, making his first appearance of the season, heading home an accurate cross from Aaron Bryan on 10 minutes.

Fordjour, last season's top scorer, doubled his tally on 21 minutes as he got on the end of a short through ball from Ollie Saunders, slipping it under the oncoming keeper.

Josh Peck joined the score sheet four minutes later, capitalising on a low cross from Sadibo Camara at the far post.

The Greens maintained their relentless pressure, with Fordjour completing his hat-trick from the penalty spot on 37 minutes after being fouled in the box.

He had been presented with a loose Spelthorne pass in midfield and had taken off down the pitch, with Peck keeping up twenty yards to his right, before he was fouled.

By half-time, the score was already 5-0, with an own goal by a Spelthorne defender trying to block a cross intended for Fordjour.

The second half saw Holmer Green continue their assault, with Saunders feeding Peck for his second goal, a fine individual effort from the right.

However, they conceded a poor goal on the hour mark, with a free-kick from the right being headed past Sam Bell by one of Spelthorne's centre-backs.

Holmer Green quickly regained control and just over 10 minutes later, Camara's fierce cross was inadvertently knocked into the net by another Spelthorne defender, restoring the six-goal lead.

Peck then secured his hat-trick, moving onto 11 goals for the season following a neat cut-back beyond the far post.

Camara, who had been instrumental in the attack, almost added his name to the score sheet late on.

With three minutes remaining, he struck the crossbar from 25 yards and was then narrowly adjudged offside when he netted a close-range shot after Fordjour's volley from a Loakes' cross was half-saved.

The game ended 8-1 to Holmer Green, a resounding win that marked a return to form after their recent setback.

FOOTBALL

Holmer Green get better of Amersham in lively cup clash

HOLMER Green narrowly defeated local rivals Amersham Town in an entertaining Berks and Bucks Senior Cup tie.

The Greens edged out their higher-division neighbours in a lively match on Tuesday.

The visitors chose to rest several key players, with none of Sam Bell, Aaron Bryan, Liam Butters, Ollie Saunders, Sadibo Camara, or Harrison Holbrook involved, but both sides created regular chances, leading to an exciting and open game.

Holmer Green's line-up saw Ellis Jensen in goal for his second start of the season, with Harry Loakes and Mason Green as full backs alongside Archie Witney and captain Ben Booker in central defence.

Alistair Grass, Jeffrey Fordjour, and Josh Peck formed the attacking force while the midfield trio of Adetola Baruwa, James Mangan, and Ozi Dow, boasting only 14 senior appearances between them, completed the line-up.

The ball seemed very lively early on and passes from both sides were going astray, leading to opportunities for counter attacks.

Following a good piece of play on the right, a strike from Peck hit the near post, but Fordjour was quick to react, firing the ball past former Green Matt Messenger in the home goal.

Town equalised four minutes later, capitalising on a gap in the Greens' right back area, a weakness they exploited throughout the match.

Another goal almost followed as Ellis had to head the ball away outside his penalty area, and the ball was quickly recycled goalwards but passed just wide.

Jacob Manuschka

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Holmer Green quickly regained the lead when Mangan picked up a half-cleared ball and hammered it past Messenger from 20 yards.

Amersham hit the bar shortly after, but Holmer Green maintained their lead into half-time.

The second half mirrored the first, with both teams looking better in attack than defence.

Peck again struck the Amersham post in the 53rd minute but extended Holmer Green's lead in the 61st minute.

Fordjour, coming back from an offside position, ignored the through ball, allowing Peck, sprinting from an onside position, to beat the oncoming Messenger to the ball.

After rounding the keeper, Peck headed the ball into the net from close range.

Amersham responded by scrambling the ball in at the far post from a corner on the 73rd minute, but Holmer Green held on.

Three more substitutions ensured a continuation of the end-to-end football, although no more goals were scored.

Michael Ogunbowale made a promising debut, keeping the Amersham defence on their toes while also helping out in defence during a promising 20-minute cameo.

Team: Ellis, Loakes, Witney, Booker, Green, Baruwa, Mangan, Dow, Grass, Fordjour, Peck.

Substitutes used: Lloyd Majaya, Ogunbowale, Elias Lubbat, Alex Colverd.

Substitute not used: Ascanio Polotti.



The Greens edged out their higher-ranked opponents on Tuesday. Image: Pixabay

Dodds wants team to show they can be 'a threat and a force'

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds wants his team to 'create an unbeaten run' as he aims to move the Chairboys up the League One table.

The Adams Park side, who take on bottom-of-the-table Peterborough United at London Road this weekend, secured their first victory of the league season last Saturday, beating Mansfield Town 2-0.

It was only their second win of the campaign in all competitions, and their first in the division since Good Friday.

For Wycombe, they haven't won back-to-back for five months, but with confidence riding high after last weekend's win, along with a free week, Dodds is feeling confident ahead of Wanderers' trip to Cambridgeshire.

He said: "I want to show that we can be a threat and a force."

"I felt relief for the players [after Mansfield], as I know how hard they are working, and for the fans, as I know how much this club means to them."

"It has been an easier week, but I always make the point that you're only as good as your next game."

"The bit I have made clear to the players is that, just because we won at the weekend, it doesn't mean we can move away from the standards and the intensity."

"We need to start to have a run of games together where we go undefeated."



Wycombe Wanderers last lost to Peterborough United in the league in January 2020 Image: Steven Paston

"That is the focus, and there's no disrespect to the run of games, but we need to start climbing the table."

"We need to create an unbeaten run, and this is the point we have made to the players."

"We have had our period of leniency in terms of that."

"I knew the start of the season was going to be difficult because of the size of the transition, but that

first win does make things a bit lighter."

"Our motivation is to build on from last weekend."

The free week was Wycombe's first since the opening week of the campaign, which has seen the Wanderers enjoy a full five days of training.

It will also be the same case next week, meaning the Chairboys will only play three games in 14 days – something Dodds is

pleased about.

Their next midweek fixture is away at Wigan Athletic on September 23 in the League Cup.

He continued: "It's been a very refreshing week."

"To have five days on the grass with the players, and in particular, the new players, as we have gone over things and have added to the playing style, has made it a nice week."

"Next week will be similar, and they are really im-

portant to us."

"Having a single game week, from a coaching and selfish point of view, is something I look forward to."

"Double game weeks, you're feeling like you're rolling and that you can't get any work done as such, and it makes it harder when you don't win those games."

The match against Peterborough United will kick-off at 3pm.

FOOTBALL

'Relief' at first league win of the season

WYCOMBE manager Mike Dodds says he's "a relieved man" following his side's first three points of the season after a 2-0 win over Mansfield Town at Adams Park.

Wanderers picked up maximum points for the first time since April in the league, thanks to goals either side of the break from debutants Sam Bell and Cauley Woodrow.

Sam Bell notched his first goal on-loan from Bristol City just 13 minutes into the action, lifting the ball over the onrushing Liam Roberts in the Mansfield net.

The Chairboys scored secured the points just seven minutes into the second half from the penalty spot, Cauley Woodrow converting after Fred Onyedinna was brought down.

Dodds said: "It was a professional performance today."

"We could've been better with the ball, but it's difficult to find fluidity when they lock on man for man."

Dodds made changes to his backline, which included only one recognised centre back in Connor Taylor, but was pleased with the endeavour and the clean sheet.

"I wanted the ability to be really aggressive on the sides of the pitch, and sometimes if you play centre halves in those wide positions, you don't have that mobility."

"I wasn't totally convinced by the performance, I thought it was professional, organised with endeavour."

"I would like to have more control, but that said, I'm pleased with the win."

Mansfield boss Nigel Clough claimed the game was "one to write off" following his side's first defeat in five.

"We certainly didn't help ourselves in the first half, [the injuries] certainly disrupted us."

"It's a routine ball forward for the first, and a really poor goal to concede. We hadn't started brilliantly, but there was nothing in it."

"The little things in the game didn't go our way; they finished off their one or two big chances."

Clough wasn't convinced of the penalty decision in the second half, suggesting his defender might have played the ball first.

"It's one of those 50/50 calls, maybe 60/40, that has gone against us."

"Aside from that, I felt we controlled the second half, but we haven't hurt the opposition enough."

FOOTBALL

Beckham's son seen at Wanderers game

THE son of former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham was recently spotted watching a Wycombe Wanderers match.

Romeo Beckham, who was once at the books at Arsenal, Brentford and Inter Miami, was seen at Adams Park during the Chairboys' 2-0 home victory against Mansfield Town on September 6.

He was watching Mike Dodds' side securing their first league win of the campaign in the executive boxes in the main stand at HP12, keeping an eye on his good friend and former

teammate, Max Dickov.

Dickov, son of former Arsenal, Manchester City, Leicester City and Blackburn Rovers striker Paul, featured in the fixture for the Stags after coming on as a substitute at half-time.

The duo both joined Brentford's academy in 2022, before Beckham left in 2024 and Dickov this year.

Romeo Beckham, the son of former Manchester United and England midfielder David, was seen at Wycombe's recent home match Image: @RomeoBeckham/Instagram



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'I achieved more than I ever thought I could' - Wheeler



Wycombe's David Wheeler (right).
Image: Bradley Collyer

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers utility player David Wheeler has announced his retirement from professional football.

The 35-year-old, who enjoyed a successful five-and-a-half-year stint with the Adams Park club, confirmed his decision to hang up his boots via social media on September 10.

Following his retirement from the game, Wheeler will move into a new career as a sport psychologist.

In a statement, he said: "After 627 games, 106 goals, five Wembley visits, and two promotions, I've achieved

more than I ever thought I could.

"I retire from professional football today with pride and gratitude for everyone who helped me realise my dream.

"I look forward to a new career as a sport psychologist."

Wheeler initially began his career with Brighton & Hove Albion before joining Non League Lewes in 2006.

He spent five years with the Non League outfit before moving to Staines Town in 2011.

His transfer to Staines came about after he decided to join a club relatively

near Uxbridge due to him being a student at Brunel University.

His two years in Surrey caught the attention of Exeter City, who took Wheeler on trial.

He would sign for the Devon-based club in 2013, where he scored 38 goals in 171 matches.

A move to Queens Park Rangers in 2017 followed, but after only nine first-team games in his first season in West London, he was deemed surplus to requirements and spent the first half of the 2018/19 campaign on loan at Portsmouth.

He spent the second half of that season with Milton Keynes, helping the North Buckinghamshire outfit achieve promotion to League One.

It was his goal on the final day of that season in a 1-0 victory over Mansfield Town that secured League One football for MK.

He would remain in Buckinghamshire that summer, but moved down south of the county to Wycombe, where he would enjoy great success.

This includes helping the club achieve promotion to the Championship for the first time in their history.

Coach has a 'little bit of sympathy' for Posh boss

MIKE Dodds has revealed he has 'a little bit of sympathy' for Peterborough United manager Darren Ferguson.

Wycombe Wanderers travel to the Posh this weekend as they aim to make it two wins from two following their first victory of the campaign last Saturday.

For Peterborough, they sit at the bottom of the League One table with one point from their opening seven games.

The London Road team currently have the worst goal difference in the division with -10, and are winless in their last 14 league games, tasting defeat on 10 occasions.

Additionally, this summer, Peterborough let several important first-team players depart, such as goalkeeper Jed Steer, winger Kwame Poki, striker Ricky-Jade Jones and defensive midfielder Hector Kyprianou.

Speaking ahead of this weekend's match, Wanderers head coach Dodds said: "We know Peterborough are going through a bit of a spell, but Darren [Ferguson] is an incredibly experienced manager.

"When you look at the money he has recruited for that club, the players he has developed and the style of play he has, naturally, I will stick up for him.

"I have a little bit of sympathy for him.

"Sympathy in football doesn't get branded around too much because when you're in my position, it's ruthless.

"There are some similarities [to Wycombe] as Darren has lost so many players this summer and he has had a huge transition in the squad.

"I have no doubts they will

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turn it around, but the plan is that it doesn't turn around this weekend.

"The plan is for us to go there and execute our game plan, but they're a good team and it won't be long before they climb the table."

Matches between Wycombe Wanderers and Peterborough in recent years have been thrilling watches for all those involved.

Since 2018, a whopping 46 goals have been scored in the previous 12 fixtures and last season, former Wanderers striker Richard Kone scored four goals across both games against the Posh.

This included scoring a perfect hat-trick within 11 minutes after coming on as a substitute in a 3-1 victory at Adams Park in October 2024.

He also scored a last-minute equaliser in the return fixture back in March, which finished 1-1.

Dodds continued: "People will look at the league table and think we should go there and win, but they have got some talented players and a good head coach.

"They have performed really well; they just haven't had the rub of the green.

"For us, we have to climb the table, and we need to start getting some wins on the board.

"More importantly, we can't do is take one forward and two back.

"That's the challenge, as we need to keep one foot in front of the other."



Mike Dodds has praised Darren Ferguson despite Peterborough's tough start to the season. Image: PA

Dodds on Wycombe's 'healthy competition'

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has revealed he has a 'fully fit squad' to choose from for this weekend's game against Peterborough United.

The Chairboys had two players leave the camp for the 2-0 win over Mansfield Town last weekend in Caolan Boyd-Munce and Jamie Mullins, as they were called up to represent Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland during the recent international break.

The only long-term absentee is Josh Scowen, as he continues to recover from his ACL injury.

Speaking ahead of this weekend's clash against the basement team, Dodds said: "Caolan rejoined us on Wednesday from international duty, and Jamie Mullins joined us on Thursday, and they are both being assessed.

"Caolan didn't play as much as he liked, which is a shame, but he trained every day when he was away.

"With Jamie, he has played a significant amount of minutes and speaking to him, he seems ready to go.

"Those two have come back to the squad, but there are no fresh injury updates."

Dodds also revealed he wants 'healthy competition' in the squad for when he has to choose his starting 11.

He added: "My preferred starting 11 will flex depending on the opposition, injuries, double game weeks, single game weeks, etc, but we do have a big squad that will create healthy competition.

"There will be players that won't be able to make the squad at times, but they need to roll their sleeves up and show that they can play for Wycombe Wanderers.

"I don't think it's a headache.

"It's more game on now - who is going to get into this team?"

"And with the new signings, we have signed high-level footballers, so the standards go up."