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FULL STORY: PAGE 5

Safety upgrade plea at accident hotspot after another incident

By Isabella Harris

A CRASH on a village road near High Wycombe has sparked increased concerns about an 'accident hotspot' as a resident pushes for change, saying he does not want future injuries on his conscience.

Six months on from a week with 'three accidents' reported by residents on Bryants Bottom Road, another crash has reportedly occurred.



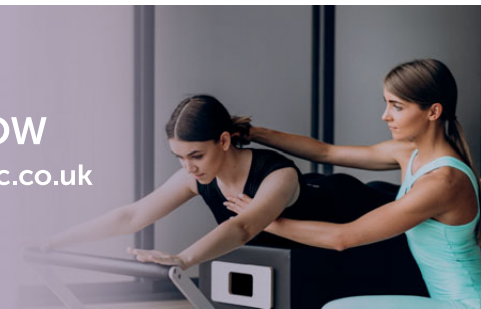
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Sport

RUGBY

Youngsters get taste of professional game

YOUNG rugby players got a taste of the professional game during a special festival.

The Under-11s Defender Rising Stars Cup, in partnership with PREM Rugby, took place on Sunday at the home of Northampton Saints.

The event included teams from Aylesbury RFC and brought together hundreds of children from more than 25 grassroots clubs for a day of friendly competition and fun.

Chunya Munga, a Saints player who attended the event, said: "Watching

these kids play with such enthusiasm and respect reminds you why grassroots rugby is so important.

"The future of the sport is in great hands. "It's brilliant to see so many young players enjoying themselves while learning the values that make rugby special."

The competition focuses on teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline, and sportsmanship, rather than just winning. For most of the youngsters, it was their

first experience on a professional training ground.

Aylesbury RFC player Coen Frankland, aged 10, said: "It's fun and active.

"It doesn't matter about scoring, it's about having a good time.

"We always follow the rugby values of TREDs – that's what it's all about."

Barney Nell, also 10, said: "It's so cool to be at the Saints training ground.

"One day I want to play in the Premiership just like them, so this is really good practice."



Young players get taste of professional rugby. Image: Aylesbury

FOOTBALL

Beaconsfield hold firm to secure back-to-back draws

BEACONSFIELD secured a hard-fought point in a 1-1 draw against Barton Rovers before backing it up with another 1-1 draw away at Hadley, writes Arran White.

Beaconsfield started a tough week of games with a home fixture against Barton.

The game was marked by a slow start, with the first half broken up by frequent stoppages and a lack of clear chances for either side.

Both teams battled fiercely in midfield, but the deadlock remained unbroken as they headed into the interval.

The second half brought a breakthrough when Ade Gbolohan was fouled in the box by the Barton keeper.

Josh Marcon stepped up to take the penalty, coolly slotting it home to give Beaconsfield a 1-0 lead.

However, the lead was short-lived as Barton equalised almost immediately through Rawn Seale.

The remainder of the match continued to be a hard fought affair, and Beaconsfield can thank their defence for making a number of crucial blocks in the closing stages to secure a point.

On Tuesday night, Beaconsfield travelled to Hadley in another challenging encounter.

The visitors were caught in possession early on, and the hosts could have taken the lead, but thankfully for

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the visitors Jordan James Edwards fired wide of the post when he had a chance to put Hadley ahead.

Beaconsfield responded by pushing for an opener, forcing Hadley into a spell of solid defending.

As the game progressed, the home side began to assert control, until 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 their lead early in the second half. But Hadley grew in to the half again and Beaconsfield had to hang on at times and defend for large periods of time.

Unfortunately for Beaconsfield, as they looked to see out the win a moment of lapse in concentration gave Hadley their goal.

Edwards scored after everyone seemed to switch off at a short corner, bringing the match level at 1-1.

In a dramatic finish, Beaconsfield nearly snatched a victory at the death when the ball fell to Alex Peapell inside the box.

But he fired over the bar with virtually the last kick of the game.

Next up for Beaconsfield is another away trip, as they travel to face the league's second-placed side, Ware, tomorrow.



Beaconsfield took on Hadley on Tuesday Image: Craig Anderson

DARTS

Jade Stewart and Sam Ridgway win Mixed Pairs

JADE Stewart and Sam Ridgway clinched the Mixed Pairs title at Chinnor Pavilion.

The season opener, held on Thursday, October 9, attracted 31 pairs of competitors, setting a lively tone for the 2025/26 season.

The event saw a blend of experienced players and fresh pairings, all eager to make their mark.

The opening rounds had their share of predictable victories and early upsets.

Stewart and Ridgway began their campaign with a 2-0 win over Mark and Tash Brewster, while Ross Hales and Alison Stewart advanced by defeating Terry Winfield Jnr and Julie Ludlow by the same scoreline.

Debbie Gibbs and Max Pritchard showed strong form in a 2-0 win against James Ward and Maria Stead.

The last 16 saw some impressive performances.

Sara Hill and Alex MacDonald had a straight-sets win against Ian and Vickie Campin.

However, it was Stewart and Ridgway who stood out as strong contenders, dispatching Ian Chadbone and Stevie Hogan 2-0.

The quarter-finals delivered gripping encounters.

Stewart and Ridgway continued their dominant run with a 2-0 win over Hill and MacDonald, while Zoe Gibbs and Dan Lynn fought back to overcome Matt Davis and Penny Makut 2-1.

The semi-finals showcased some of the finest performances of the evening.

Stewart and Ridgway maintained their composure to beat Gill Clark and Mark Amos 2-0, securing their place in the final.

On the other side, Gibbs and Lynn showed resilience, recovering from a leg down to defeat Colin and Kim Sulston 2-1.

The final saw Stewart and Ridgway face Gibbs and Lynn.

Stewart and Ridgway, who had been dominant all evening, carried their momentum into the decisive match.

With sharp finishing and strong teamwork, they sealed a 3-0 victory to claim the Mixed Pairs title and the first silverware of the season.

Their performance throughout the evening was outstanding – calm under pressure, clinical in finishing, and tactically solid.

It was a fitting end to an exciting opening competition for the 2025/26 season.

Event organisers praised the strong turnout and sportsmanship displayed by all 31 pairs.

One player commented: "It's great to see so many faces back at Chinnor Pavilion to kick off the competition season.

"The standard of play was excellent, and it sets us up nicely for what promises to be a brilliant year of competition."

With such an exciting start, players and supporters alike are already looking forward to the next event on the calendar.

'We were terrible with the ball' - Duff on win at Wigan

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff admitted that his side were 'terrible with the ball' but 'a win is a win', following their 1-0 victory away at Wigan Athletic.

Sam Bell registered his third strike of the campaign 10 minutes before the break after finishing off a brilliant counterattack involving Ewan Henderson and Fred Onyedima, which was all that was needed to secure the Chairboys their first away league win of the season.

It was also the club's first triumph in the division on the road for nearly six months.

Despite this, Wigan bossed possession and had seven more shots on goal than the Buckinghamshire outfit, but Will Norris was on hand to make two huge saves, one being to deny Dara Costelloe in the final seconds of injury time.

The result means Wanderers are 19th and have 12 points for the season.

Speaking at full-time, he said: "We were terrible with the ball, there's no getting away with that.

"We couldn't pass it from five yards to a blue shirt, but we found a way - and that's new territory for us.

"We haven't been winning many games this season... it's a new group, and our best football has come when we've been one or two goals down.

"It's easy to play like that, because it doesn't matter, you've already lost the game.

"We've got the worst record in the league in the first 30 minutes of games, which is evidence that we're used to



Michael Duff has had six games in charge of Wycombe, has secured four wins, with two of them being against Wigan

going 1-0 down.

"Obviously, we needed Will at the end, but I think that's the only thing he's had to do in the game.

"Without taking anything away from him, that is his job; it is a big moment, but that is what you want him to do.

"It's not like he's had to keep us in the game, and the

only real bit of quality in the game was our goal."

For the Chairboys, it is now back-to-back league wins at Wigan (both 1-0 victories) in consecutive seasons, a feat that has never been achieved before.

The club are also now unbeaten in their last five against the Latics, keeping five clean sheets in that time

- four wins and one draw.

Prior to that, Wanderers were winless in their last five against the Latics.

On the goal, Duff said: "It was always going to come from a counterattack, because we couldn't pass the ball, and we couldn't build our way up the pitch.

"But it's a young group, including players making their

Football League debuts, and they will have learned so much from this, when we've had to be dogged and rigid.

"Seeing the game out the way we did was really pleasing, and we'll be better for it.

"Where we are in the league, I don't think anyone will be too precious about whether it was a good win or a bad win...it was a win."

FOOTBALL

Wycombe Wanderers face rivals in FA Cup

WYCOMBE Wanderers will take on League One rivals Plymouth Argyle at Adams Park in the first round of the FA Cup.

It will only be the third time in the competition's history that the Chairboys will play the Pilgrims, with the previous two encounters taking place during the 1998/99 season.

The first clash ended all square before the Buckinghamshire side travelled to Devon to lose a midweek reply 10 days later.

The fixture will now be the first of three meetings between the two teams that will be played across November and December, as just over a month after the FA Cup tie, Plymouth will visit Adams Park once again, but this time, in the league.

The return fixture will then be played on December 29 - three years to the day Wanderers last travelled to Home Park.

Overall, there have been 32 matches between Wanderers and Argyle: Wycombe have won 12 times, Argyle 11, with there being nine draws.

Ticket information will be released in due course.

The full draw is as follows:
Weston Super Mare v Aldershot Town;
Salford City v Lincoln City;
Luton Town v Worthing or Forest Green Rovers;
Gainsborough Trinity or Hartlepool United v Accrington Stanley
Colchester United v MK Dons
Tranmere Rovers v Stockport County
Wigan Athletic v Hemel Hempstead Town
Newport County v Gillingham
Cheltenham Town v Bradford City
Barnsley v York City
Reading v Carlisle United
Bromley v Bristol Rovers
Peterborough United v Cardiff City
Oldham Athletic v Northampton Town
Crewe Alexandra v Doncaster Rovers
Tamworth v Leyton Orient
Stevenage v Chesterfield
Boreham Wood v Crawley Town
Farnham Town or Sutton United v AFC Telford United
Bolton Wanderers v Huddersfield Town
Chelmsford City v Braintree Town
Spennymoor Town v Barrow
Wycombe Wanderers v Plymouth Argyle
FC Halifax Town v Exeter City
Slough Town v Altrincham or Harborough Town
Wealdstone v Southend United
Rotherham United v Swindon Town
Grimsby Town v Ebbsfleet United
Buxton v Chatham Town
Burton Albion v Banbury United or St Albans City
Woking or Brackley Town v Notts County
Blackpool v Scunthorpe United
Cambridge United v Morecambe or Chester
AFC Wimbledon v Gateshead
Mansfield Town v Harrogate Town
Macclesfield v AFC Totton or Truro City
South Shields v Shrewsbury Town
Fleetwood Town v Barnet
Port Vale v Maldon & Tiptree
Eastleigh v Walsall

FOOTBALL

Wanderers secure first away league win

SAM Bell's second league goal in as many games secured Wycombe Wanderers their first away league win of the season, as they defeated Wigan Athletic 1-0 at the DW Stadium.

The on-loan Bristol City man finished off a well-worked move on the half-hour mark to seal the points for the Chairboys in a game of few clear-cut chances for both teams.

The ex-Premier League outfit started the better as Christian Saydee fired wide and Paul Mullin headed over inside the opening 11 minutes.

Wanderers sat back and allowed the Latics possession, and it was one moment of quality which sealed the win for Wycombe.

Ewan Henderson managed to carve out a fantastic ball for Fred Onyedima, who returned to the starting 11 after missing last weekend's 2-2 home draw against

Barnsley through illness.

The Nigerian ran into the box and laid it off to Bell, who fired home from six yards beyond Sam Tickle to put Michael Duff's men in front.

It was his third goal in six games since joining on Deadline Day.

Wanderers only had five shots on goal compared to Wigan's 12, but managed to have three on target whilst their opponents had two.

One of these Chairboys attempts came in the second period when Onyedima nearly got a third of the campaign, but he was denied by Tickle from an acute angle.

As time ticked away, Wigan began to throw the kitchen sink, and they nearly rescued a point deep into stoppage time, but Dara Costelloe's shot was brilliantly saved by Will Norris, who had brought back into the frame last weekend.



Wycombe have won their last three games away at Wigan

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Club chairman charged with misconduct by FA



Dan Rice became Wycombe's chairman in May 2024

THE Wycombe Wanderers chairman Dan Rice has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association.

The former Head of Emerging Talent at Everton, who has also held roles at Fulham, Arsenal, Southampton, as well as the FA, is alleged to have behaved in an 'improper manner' following the Chairboys' 2-1 away league loss to AFC Wimbledon on September 27.

The Adams Park side found themselves 2-0 inside the opening 32 minutes thanks to strikes from Omar Bugiel and Steve Seddon, before Ewan Henderson's first Wanderers goal just after half-time gave Wycombe hope.

Then, at the beginning of six minutes added on time, Bradley Fink thought he had scored the Chairboys' equaliser, only for referee Scott Jackson to chalk it off.

Confusion surrounded Plough Lane as no definitive reason for the ruling had been given.

Wimbledon defender Joe Lewis was on the ground in the box with a suspected shoulder injury, with some believing that was the cause of the goal being disallowed, until a throw-in was issued to the hosts, causing more uncertainty as to why the strike was ruled out.

In a brief statement, the FA

said: "Wycombe Wanderers FC's chairman has been charged with misconduct following their EFL League One fixture against AFC Wimbledon on Saturday, September 27.

"It's alleged that Daniel Rice acted in an improper manner towards a member of PGMO staff around the directors' box.

"He has until Thursday, October 16, to respond," the FA added.

Duff wants team to be more than 'alright'

MICHAEL Duff wants his Wycombe Wanderers side not to be 'alright' when the Chairboys travel up to Blackpool this weekend, suggesting that being 'alright' is the enemy in football.

The Adams Park outfit will head up the M6 to face the Seaside in the hope of securing back-to-back league wins for the first time this season, following last weekend's 1-0 away victory at Wigan Athletic.

Wanderers have won seven of their 18 competitive games so far this campaign, but some performances have been below par, as Wycombe currently sit 19th in the League One table, with three wins from their opening 12 matches, losing six times.

Speaking ahead of his team's visit to Bloomfield Road on October 18, he said: "I don't want to go up there and think we'll be alright because the moment you think you're 'alright', you're done.

"Alright is the enemy in football.

"That is one thing in football you can't be, as someone will go past you.

"Winning a game of football is hard, as you have to be at it every time, regardless of your opponent.

"Being alright is being in a dangerous position.

"We need to show the same doggedness, physicality and spirit that we had on Saturday [against Wigan], and hopefully we'll be better with the ball and hurt them in different ways, but I would take a win in any way."

In the last 11 matches between Wycombe and Blackpool, there have been nine draws, with Wanderers winning the other

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two encounters.

However, you need to go back to September 1999 for the last time the Chairboys secured a victory at Bloomfield Road – a winless run that stretches to nine games in both league and cup.

Going into the contest, the former Premier League side sit second from bottom in the league table with just eight points from the opening 12 games, and are managerless following the sacking of Steve Bruce earlier this month.

When asked if a change of manager could impact the opposition's planning, Duff said: "Yeah, but we just need to focus on us at the minute.

"You look at their team, and on paper, they shouldn't be where they are [in the table].

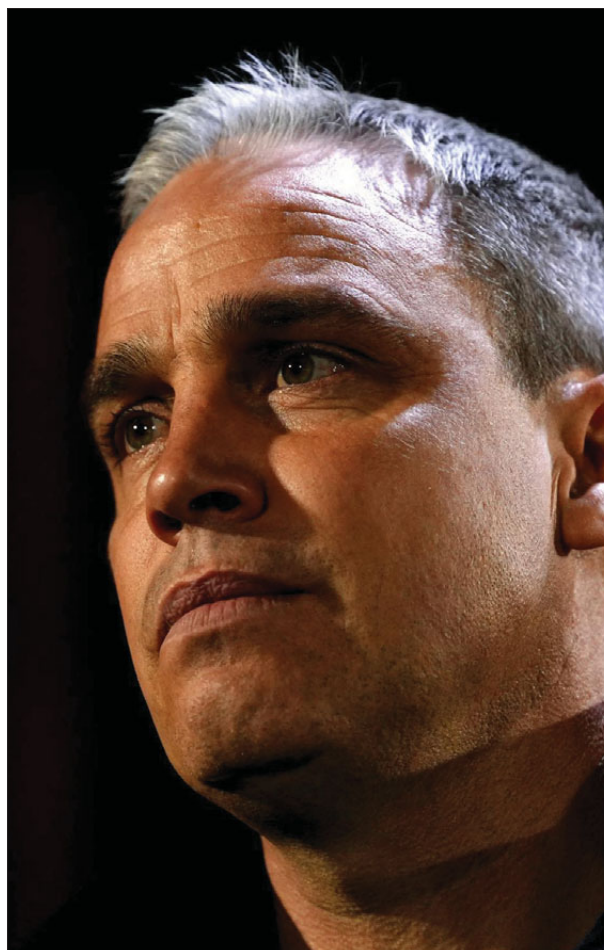
"I don't know the ins and outs of it, as something has happened, gone wrong, or sometimes it just doesn't work for whatever reason.

"They have got players that are better than their position suggests.

"If anyone did a predicted league table at the start of the season, I don't think they would have seen Blackpool where they are, but they are – the same with us, as we are not out of the woods by any means.

"They have got some good players."

Out of the 29 games between both clubs, Wanderers and Blackpool have won seven games each, with there being 15 draws.



Michael Duff has won four of his six games in charge of Wycombe
Image: Bradley Collyer

'Results will look after themselves' - manager

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff doesn't want his players to worry about results, but instead to put their focus on their individual performances.

The Chairboys are currently sitting 19th in the League One table after winning just three of their opening 12 games this season – which is their worst start to a campaign in the third tier since 1998/99.

After Mike Dodds was sacked on September 18 following a run of just nine victories in 31 games, Duff has come in and has somewhat steadied the ship, with four wins in six.

And with this Saturday's clash being against an out-of-sorts Blackpool side who are second bottom and have sacked manager Steve Bruce, the 47-year-old wants his team to 'chip away' at improving.

Commenting on his first month in charge of the club, he said: "The first and most obvious word is chaotic.

"It happened pretty quickly, and then you're straight into games.

"One day's prep before you're playing Saturday/Tuesday, so we are coming off the back of that.

"We have managed to pick up a few points along the way with some cup wins too, which has been pleasing.

"We're chipping away, and that has been pleasing, but I think the results will look after themselves.

"I have said to the players that their performances are their responsibility – both day-to-day, game-to-game.

"Getting results is my job. "It takes time, but I will be consistent with my message in what I will be saying."