

# Bucks Free Press

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# Major revamp of hospital unveiled



**£20m transformation plan, but no A&E in new facility**

PLANS for a £20 million transformation of Wycombe Hospital have been unveiled, but the project will not include a new A&E department.

The initial investment has been funded by NHS England and will cover the cost of constructing a new Endoscopy Department as part of the hospital's major redevelopment.

**By Nathaniel Lawson**

The hospital trust has revealed plans for a new six-storey building aimed at moving key services out of the site's ageing tower block.

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News

# Record-breaking night for Penn in Wanderers cup tie

**James Richings**  
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A NON-LEAGUE club achieved the highest home gate in their history during their Berks & Bucks Cup clash against Wycombe Wanderers.

Penn & Tylers Green, who play at their matches at Elm Road in the village, took on the Chairboys in the second round of the regional competition on October 8.

The fixture had been due to be played on October 7, but with the Wanderers first team in action versus the Fulham U21s in the EFL Trophy, it was agreed that the local cup match would be moved a day later to allow spectators to attend both matches.

In all, exactly 1,237 people crammed inside the stadium as Wycombe spoiled Penn's party with a 2-1 victory.

The club's previous record was around 500 people who went and watched Penn play a 'Showbiz XI' in 1984.

This was matched when the same number of people visited Elm Road in November 2024, for when the women's team played QPR in the Adobe Women's FA Cup first round.

The West London outfit won 3-0.

Speaking to the Free Press, club chairman Nigel Miller said: "From a financial standpoint, the fixture is a welcome boost.

"Gate receipts, refreshments, and merchandise sales are all expected to see a significant uptick.

"For grassroots clubs, such windfalls can make a meaningful difference - helping to fund equipment, facilities, and youth development programs.

"Beyond the immediate financial gain, the exposure and goodwill generated by hosting a professional club can open doors to future partnerships and sponsorships.

"We have once more been supported by our local sponsors, for which we are truly grateful for their support."

Whilst no first-team players were in action at Elm Road, the B&B tie allowed Wycombe fans to see some



More than 1,000 people attended the fixture on October 8

of the club's new academy players in the flesh for the first time.

It was also a new stadium to tick off for any groundhoppers, with the club's chairman offering a deal to any Wanderers fan if they fancy watching a game at the ground.

Penn currently play their league games in the Combined Counties Football League Division One, and last season, finished third, losing to Eversley & Californian in the play-offs.

The chairman continued: "One of the most exciting aspects of the match was the chance to see Wycombe's academy players in action, as this presents a unique challenge and a thrilling prospect.

"Facing high-calibre youth talent tested the squad's mettle and offered

a valuable learning experience.

"It also gave fans a glimpse of future stars in the making, adding an extra layer of intrigue to the encounter.

"The influx of visiting supporters, combined with local interest, promises a vibrant atmosphere, and we're also offering all Wycombe fans the chance to gain admission to games at Penn for half price for the remainder of the season.

"All they need to do is retain their ticket or show their Wycombe season ticket to gain admission as a concession."

Micah Olabiya and Mehki Savage put Wanderers 2-0 up in first-half, before Charlie Losasso scored a penalty midway through the second 45 to give Penn hope.



Penn & Tylers Green play their home games at Elm Road

# Taylor-Johnson to star alongside Defoe in horror flick

HOLLYWOOD actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson is to star in a new movie alongside Oscar-nominated performer Willem Dafoe.

The 35-year-old, who was born and raised in High Wycombe, will share the screen with the four-time Academy Award nominee in, 'Werewolf', an upcoming horror flick which is due to be released in December 2026.

The ex-Jackie Palmer pupil joined the cast in July of this year as the title character, with filming beginning in September in Elstree, Hertfordshire.

Other locations for the film will include areas of Bourne Wood in Surrey and Dartmoor in Devon.

For the latter, it has been reported by the BBC that the crew and actors will be in the South West of England for 11 weeks, which is set to provide a huge economic boost to the area.

According to numerous film websites, 'Werewolf' is set in medieval Britain, where a mysterious creature can be seen in the foggy countryside, causing locals to experience a supernatu-

ral threat.

Speaking on the Capital FM Breakfast Show in December 2024, Taylor-Johnson spoke fondly of his upbringing in High Wycombe.

He said: "Going back to [the topic of] High Wycombe, that was my normality.

"It was where I was grounded.

"I went to a regular school, but I had this crazy world to what I was going out to [in terms of acting], and then went back home."

When asked if he had ever performed at the town's Swan thea-

tre, he said: "I did perform there, but it was through our dance and drama group called Jackie Palmer in High Wycombe.

"That's where I started.

"They used to do an annual show and there was a lot of dancing and James Cordon was one of the others [in the group]."

The 35-year-old is one of the front runners to replace Daniel Craig as the new James Bond, but a decision on who will be the new 007 has not yet been confirmed.

Other names that have been

linked to the role include Tom Holland, Callum Turner, Theo James, Harris Dickinson, Charlize Theron, Kit Harrington, Idris Elba, Will Poulter, Hugh Jackman, Gerard Butler and Jude Law.

Since the first Bond film which came in 1962, there have been seven actors who have played the famous agent.

They include Sean Connery, David Niven, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig.

Sport

HOCKEY

Marlow men’s seal first win of season

MARLOW Men’s first team secured their first win of the season with a thrilling performance against Exeter University, marking a significant milestone since their promotion.

The England Hockey League match took place on Sunday at Exeter University.

The visitors displayed determination and skill throughout the contest, ultimately claiming a hard-fought victory.

Jayden Zamler was the standout performer, scoring a hat-trick that

included two goals in the opening quarter.

He struck first from open play and then added a second just before the quarter ended.

Although Exeter managed to pull one back before half-time, Marlow responded in the third quarter with a penalty corner goal from Tom McKinlay, restoring their two-goal cushion.

Zamler completed his hat-trick early in the final quarter, ensuring a comfortable lead.

Despite Exeter scoring

two late goals, the final score of four-three did not reflect Marlow’s dominance.

In contrast, Marlow Women’s first team faced a tough outing in Cardiff, suffering a heavy defeat.

After an early setback, they fought back but ultimately fell to a seven-one loss.

They will aim to bounce back this weekend with a home fixture against Exeter, while the Men prepare for another challenging away match against table-topping Chichester.



Jayden Zamler Image: Ian Foster @IFSportsImages

FOOTBALL

Greens secure commanding five-goal haul against Jets

HOLMER Green secured a commanding victory against Oxhey Jets, showcasing their attacking prowess with a five-goal haul at home.

The Combined Counties Football League Division One match took place on Saturday, 4th October 2025, at Holmer Green’s ground.

The game kicked off amidst challenging weather conditions, with Storm Amy creating strong winds that affected play throughout.

The visitors struck first, capitalising on a corner in the opening minutes.

The wind held up the delivery and a Jets player nodded the ball home from close range, putting Holmer on the back foot early on.

However, the home side, desperate to end a scoring drought, began to find their rhythm.

Despite a few near misses, including a shot that hit the crossbar, they struggled to convert opportunities until the first half’s dying moments.

In a dramatic turn of events, an Oxhey player was sent off just before halftime after a contentious incident involving a free-kick.

This left the Jets with ten men, and Holmer seized the opportunity.

Before the break, they were awarded a penal-

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ty, which Alex Colverd confidently converted to level the score at one apiece.

With the wind at their backs, Holmer began to dominate the match.

Callum Gray lobbed the ball and Holbrook laid it square to Josh Peck, who scored his first goal in almost a month.

The home side quickly doubled their advantage when Peck turned provider, crossing for Jeffrey Fordjour to head in.

As the game progressed, Holmer’s confidence soared.

New signing Elliot Few made an impact off the bench, and the home side struck twice more in quick succession.

Alistair Grass scored with a powerful shot, followed by Lloyd Majaya, who netted his first goal of the season, following up after Peck was denied by the ‘keeper.

Despite a late lapse in concentration that allowed the Jets to score a consolation goal, Holmer’s performance was largely dominant.

The match concluded with a final score of five-two, marking a significant turnaround for the Greens.



Greens secure a five-goal haul against Jets

DARTS

The cup delivers thrilling action for darts fans

THE opening round of the Princes Risborough & District Darts League Knockout Cup showcased a night of exceptional performances and nail-biting finishes.

The Honey Bee made headlines with a stunning eleven-nil victory over The Plough, marking the most dominant performance of the round.

Allan Way stood out with a remarkable 100 checkout, leading his team to an emphatic win.

Similarly, The Three Horse-shoes B matched this feat, dispatching Bradmoor Farm C with an identical scoreline.

Weavers also had a strong showing, overcoming Wendover RBL B nine-two, with Ross Hales delivering an exceptional performance that included a 180, a 152 checkout, and an 18-dart leg.

Ian Jenkins contributed with a fine 112 checkout, further solidifying their victory.

Wendover RBL A enjoyed a solid night as well, defeating Chinnor Pavilion C nine-two, highlighted by Craig Holmes hitting a maximum and Phil Newell checking out on 115.

Several matches were tightly contested, with The Watermead narrowly losing six-five to Chiltern Forest Golf Club, despite Martin Hill’s impressive 16-dart leg.

Bricklayers faced a similar fate, edged out six-five by New Zealand, with notable performances from Dan Lynn and Gary Dukes.

Chinnor Pavilion E also fell just short, losing six-five to Aristocrat Warriors, while Bradmoor Farm D succumbed to Bell B in another close encounter, with Daniel Sadd and Stephen Carter both delivering commendable legs.

In other notable results, Bledlow Village Cricket Club A defeated Whiteleaf Cross seven-four, and Bradmoor Farm Stags triumphed over Bledlow Village CC B with an eight-three scoreline, thanks to Ross Chapman’s 116 checkout.

The first round set the tone for an exciting tournament, with several teams asserting their dominance.

Fans can look forward to the next round of fixtures, scheduled for Thursday, October 23, featuring matchups such as The Black Horse (Missenden) against Chinnor Pavilion D and Rivets facing Bledlow Village Cricket Club A.

# Duff asks team to be clinical after win over Fulham U21s

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff wants his side to be 'more clinical' following their 3-1 home victory against the Fulham U21s in the EFL Trophy.

Goals from Donnell McNeilly, Caolan Boyd-Munce and Bradley Fink gave the Chairboys their first victory in the competition this season.

The young Whites did pull one back through a brilliant strike from Farhaan Ali Wahid a minute after Wanderers went three up, with the Adams Park team finishing the game with a staggering 25 shots on goal – 10 of which were on target.

Despite this, only three went into the back of the net, and Duff wants his side to score more goals, as they prepare to face Wigan Athletic in the league this Saturday.

Speaking at full-time, he said: "There were good bits and bad bits, but winning the game is important as we want to get into a rhythm of winning games."

"It's almost as if the game came a bit too easily, as we started to make decisions that we wouldn't make if it were 0-0."

"We had patience, physicality, and I thought some players did them a few favours (regarding squad selection) for this weekend."

"But we've had 25 shots at goal but only scored three times – we need to be a lot more clinical."

Duff made 11 changes to the side that drew 2-2 against Barnsley on Saturday, and he was impressed with what we saw.



Caolan Boyd-Munce (right) and Bradley Fink (left) both scored their first Wycombe goals in the 3-1 win over Fulham

He praised the performance of McNeilly following his first Adams Park goal, which was his second of the season, as well as Fink, who managed to register his first Wanderers strike.

The duo, along with Alex Lowry, Anders Hagelskjær,

Magnus Westergaard and Junior Quirina, also impressed.

On McNeilly, Duff said: "I thought he was very good."

"He impacts the game differently than what we have, and he's a very positive player."

"Things happen when he's

on, and we protected him today as he'll probably come into our thinking on Saturday [away at Wigan]."

"He's got a good attitude, he's got pedigree, and I thought he was one of many good positive displays."

On Fink, he added: "Goal scorers want to score goals,

and he scored probably the hardest chance of the night."

"But that doesn't matter as he's off the mark."

"It's a weight off his mind and hopefully he'll go from strength to strength."

The clash against Wigan will kick-off at 3 pm on Saturday.

## FOOTBALL Ex-boss Bloomfield sacked by Luton

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has been sacked by Luton Town.

The 41-year-old, who spent 22 years with the Chairboys as a player, coach and manager across two spells, was relieved of his duties on October 6, two days after the Hatters lost 2-0 away at high-flying Stevenage.

He was appointed by the ex-Premier League outfit in January of this year following Rob Edwards' exit, where he won 12 of his 33 games in charge, drawing seven and losing 14.

In the league this season, Luton had won five, lost five and drawn one of their opening 11 games, following their relegation from the Championship to League One – the same league Wycombe are currently in.

Along with Bloomfield, assistant manager Richard Thomas, first team coach Lee Harrison, and first team analyst Ben Cirne have all left the Kenilworth Road club.

In a brief statement, Luton said: "Matt joined the Hatters in January from Wycombe Wanderers and despite overseeing a run of just two defeats in 11 games leading into the final day of the 2024/25 season, was unable to prevent relegation from the Championship following defeat at West Bromwich Albion."

"Performances and results from the opening 11 matches of the current campaign in League One have fallen below the levels expected, and the Board of Directors has taken the difficult decision to relieve Matt, his assistant Richard Thomas, first team coach Lee Harrison and first team analyst Ben Cirne of their duties."

"The Board wishes to thank Matt, Richard, Lee and Ben for their efforts during a difficult period for the Club and wishes them the very best for their future careers."

"Alex Lawless, aided by Paul Benson, Kevin Foley and Kevin Pilkington, will take control of the team for the interim period, starting with Tuesday night's Vertu Trophy trip to Cambridge United."

"With two training weeks ahead of the next league match, the process of appointing a new manager is now underway, which will be led by a committee involving members from the executive team, recruitment, football staff and the board."

"The Club will be making no further comment at this time."

Last season, Bloomfield took Wycombe to the top of the League One table after a terrific start to the campaign, and despite interest from Coventry City, who had fired Mark Robins in November, he opted to remain at Adams Park.

He stayed in South Buckinghamshire until January of this year, leaving with 108 games as manager, 52 of them being wins, 24 ended in a draw and 32 defeats.

## FOOTBALL

# Carabao Cup opponents sell out allocation

WYCOMBE Wanderers' Premier League Carabao Cup opponents have confirmed they have sold out their allotted ticket allocation for this month's clash at Adams Park.

Fulham will take on the Chairboys in the fourth round of the competition on October 28, with Michael Duff's side reaching this stage of the cup for only the second time in their history.

Marco Silva's team will be backed by around 1,600 travelling fans who will make the relatively short trip from West London to South Buckinghamshire.

The two clubs have played each other 12 times, with Fulham tasting victory on six occasions.

Wycombe have won two of

those matches, with four games ending in draws.

Additionally, the last five meetings between the two have come in cup competitions, with the previous three encounters all coming in the League Cup.

Oddly, the away team has been victorious in those games, with Fulham winning twice at Adams Park in August 2015 and August 2017, and Wanderers once at Craven Cottage in September 2006.

Wycombe have also played the Fulham U21s four times in the EFL Trophy since the 2018/19 campaign.

The previous clash occurred yesterday (October 7), which resulted in a 3-1 win for the Chairboys.



Fulham's Jayden Quashie (left) and Wycombe Wanderers' Junior Quirina battle for the ball during the Vertu Trophy Southern Group G match at Adams Park.  
Image: Adam Davy/PA Image: Adam Davy

# SPORT

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## Record signing Westergaard missed game with injury



Wycombe Wanderers' Anders Hagelskjær

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has provided an update on the club's two record signings in Anders Hagelskjær and Magnus Westergaard.

The duo, who were both signed by the Chairboys in January of this year, have only featured five times between them since the beginning of September.

This is after appearing in 11 games in all competitions during August.

Hagelskjær had started the season as one of the club's first-choice centre-backs, making outings in

Wycombe's five opening six league games, as well as playing in the League Cup victory at Leyton Orient.

For Westergaard, the box-to-box midfielder has had an inconsistent start to the season, as he has only completed 90 minutes twice this term, which have both come in cup competitions.

Duff said: "We have picked a similar team for the three league games [Northampton Town, AFC Wimbledon and Barnsley], and we changed the 11 for a cup game [against Wigan Athletic]."

"We have to get to the point where we find a more settled 11 in the right shape, as there are many players at the club.

"We need to find solutions as this is an opportunity for players after two disappointing performances, especially after two disappointing first-half displays [in the 2-1 loss at Wimbledon and in the 2-2 home draw against Barnsley]."

When specifically asked about the two Danes, he said: "Mags didn't play because he is injured, but Anders is not injured.

"He has been training with the group."

Hagelskjær joined from Norwegian outfit Molde on January 8 for a fee to be around £500,000 - smashing the club's previous record of £200,000 for Sean Devine from Barnet back in 1999.

However, the Danish defender's record did not last long as Westergaard followed suit eight days later, joining from Viborg, in a deal worth nearly £1 million. The duo returned to the frame in Wycombe's win over the Fulham U21s.

## The players all want to play, says head coach

MICHAEL Duff wants to 'find a balance that works' as he prepares his Wycombe Wanderers side for a league trip to Wigan Athletic this weekend.

The Chairboys head to the Brick Community Stadium with three wins from their last five games following the 47-year-old's arrival at Adams Park in the middle of September.

One of those victories was against the Latics in the League Cup five days after his appointment, and in the three weeks he has been with the club, he has already fielded 28 different players.

He admitted that he is still 'assessing' his squad before he has a concrete starting 11, but admitted that the large squad is a 'good problem' to currently have.

Speaking ahead of this weekend's trip, he said: "It will be a difficult game, and when you're away from home and where we are in the league, we know it will be difficult.

"We've had a difficult start to the season, and we have got a difficult run of games coming up.

"We will go there [Wigan] and need to have a better first-half display compared to the last two games [against AFC Wimbledon and Barnsley], where we can show our quality.

"It's about stitching the two together, as we want to get used to winning.

"We have to be better than what we have been, and we need to get that balance right."

Wanderers head up to Great Manchester off the back of a comfortable 3-1 EFL Trophy

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group stage victory against the Fulham U21s in midweek, which saw the Chairboys have a whopping 25 shots on goal, with 10 being on target.

Duff also admitted that some of those who played against the Premier League 2 side could feature this weekend, and that he is conscious of Wycombe's poor form in 2025.

In the 60 competitive first-team games the club have had since New Year's Day, Wanderers have only achieved back-to-back wins on four occasions.

He continued: "The squad selection is a good problem to have and we're trying to get an assessment of where all the players are at physically, mentally and tactically.

"I'll have honest conversations with players and sometimes they won't like it, but it's down to them to get themselves in the team.

"My job isn't to pick them; it's for them to get picked.

"The players all want to play, so they need to show that when they step out onto the pitch.

"We don't want players to show off 30 seconds of brilliance and nothing again for the rest of the game, as there is every part of the game you need to be good at.

"It's a lot easier to be consistent when you're winning, and the club haven't done that enough this calendar year.

"We need to find a balance that works."

The match on Saturday will kick-off at 3pm.



Fulham's Aaron Loupalo-Bi and Wycombe Wanderers' Niall Huggins battle for the ball during the Vertu Trophy Southern Group G match

## EFL Trophy chances alive after win over Fulham U21s

WYCOMBE'S EFL Trophy campaign remains alive after they comfortably beat the Fulham U21s 3-1 at Adams Park.

The Chairboys needed to avoid defeat against the young West London side to have any chance of progressing into the next stage of the competition, following a 2-1 home loss against Colchester United last month.

Michael Duff made 11 changes to the side that drew 2-2 against Barnsley on Saturday lunchtime, with Bradley Fink, Alex Lowry, Anders Hagelskjær and Junior Quirina being some of the notable names that came back in the frame.

The contest very much belonged to the Chairboys as they started brightly and nearly took the lead on eight minutes, when a header from Hagelskjær kissed the top of the net.

On 24 minutes, they took the lead through a terrific piece of individuality from Donnell McNielly. The on-loan Nottingham Forest man sat down two Fulham defenders before firing home his second goal of the season.

It was then two three minutes later, when Caolan Boyd-Munce scored his first goal since joining from St Mirren in the summer.

Wanderers didn't break a sweat during a very routine 45 minutes, ending the half with 15 shots at goal compared to Fulham's one.

The second half was the same as the first, with Wycombe looking in control, and they managed to wrap up the contest on 50 minutes.

A long ball over the top by Lowry seemed to be dealt with by Fulham defender Eddy Nsasi, but he slipped at the vital moment, which allowed Fink in, and the Swiss forward managed to score his first goal for Wanderers from an incredibly tight angle.

Farhaan Ali Wahid pulled one back 60 seconds later, but the night belonged to the Chairboys.