

Bucks Free Press

Friday July 26, 2024

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.60



PAGE 16

LOOK HUGH'S IN OUR GYM

STAFF 'STARSTRUCK' AT JACKMAN VISIT

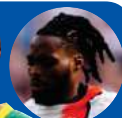
MAN, 28, JAILED FOR STALKING

PAGE 12



2 former wanderers legends rumoured to return

PAGE 72



7 arrested in shocking knife brawl

Number of people injured in hospital



MANY arrests have been made following a huge brawl in Stokenchurch which led to some members of the public suffering minor stab wounds.

At about 1.10am on Sunday, July 21, officers from Thames Valley Police received reports of an altercation involving a large group along the village's High Street.

Upon arriving along with the ambulance service, they discovered that some people had been injured and were taken to hospital with

By James Richings

stab wounds but their injuries are not believed to be serious.

Seven people have since been arrested.

Superintendent Euan Livingstone, of the Buckinghamshire Local Command Unit, said: "We are in the very early stages of this investigation and we are working to establish exactly what took place."

Full story: Page 9

PAGE 22



TV's Packham accuses councillor of lying over 'toxic' weed killer

Wills & Probate solicitors in Aylesbury



Amending your wishes as life changes.

Contact our Wills & Probate team today to arrange a free consultation.

kiddrapinet
SOLICITORS

01296 506035

kiddrapinet.co.uk

Sport

FOOTBALL: THE DUCKS DO THEIR BIT

Charity benefits from Non League club

AYLESBURY United have revealed that they have raised £2,541.75 for the Youth Concern charity during the 2023/24 season.

Money was donated through numerous events such as the annual sponsored walk (the longest they have ever done at more than 20 miles), quiz nights and the club's raffle at their community day.

In addition, 191.45kg of food and care items were donated at our game versus Biggleswade Town.

Since the charity partnership concept began in 2016/17 season, the club has raised more than £13,000 for the local charities involved.

Andy Martin, chair of supporters' trust 21CD and one of the club directors, said: "I would like to thank our players, supporters and others associated with the club for their generosity this season."

"I'm so pleased that as a club we have been able to support Youth Concern this season, a charity that is so

important for young people in Aylesbury.

"It's amazing that we have extended this into a long-term partnership and we look forward to working with Youth Concern into the future."

Hannah Asquith, CEO at Youth Concern, said: "Thank you for choosing to partner with our charity this year."

"The money raised has enabled us to do more activities with young people at our Drop-in Centre and our supported housing project."



Support for Youth Concern

SPORT: PADEL CRAZE IN GREAT MISSENDEN

Two padel courts installed at small village tennis club

GREAT Missenden Lawn Tennis Club ushered in a new phase this weekend with its two new padel courts.

Despite morning rain, the club's annual Open Day proved to be a great draw with people visiting the club for the first time to sign up as members.

The opening of its two state-of-the-art padel courts was the centrepiece of the day.

Club chairman, Roger Hill, said: "Our club is always seeking ways to grow and remain a hub of healthy and social activities."

"In addition to all-weather clay and traditional grass courts, the club has now invested in padel courts."

"Padel is a worldwide phenomenon and one of the fastest-growing sports in the world."

"It's something that is easy to play and attracts all ages."

"The club resisted the temptation to allow padel to be run as a lucrative business."

"This is for our members and an extension of our successful club. We have opened up the courts for non-members to pay-and-play, but our ultimate aim is to get as many people as possible playing all forms of tennis."

"We hope that padel enthusiasts will come here for the courts, but then fall in love with our club and become full members and enjoy the social aspects too."

The courts were built by UK firm Hexa Padel, with Andy Rasmussen, club president, being impressed with the way the company conducted themselves during the building and installation process.

He said: "The Hexa Padel team were great, and giving up their time on Open Day to provide taster sessions brought the courts to life for

By James Richings

everyone."

Andy looked on as Bucks LTA President Jill Newby cut the ribbon to formally open the padel courts.

The club also signed up several new members on the day who were attracted by the new membership categories.

Roger added: "We introduced new categories this year to make the club more affordable for young adults and adults under the age of 40."

"The pricing provides great value for money, as there is no further charge for use of the clay, grass or acrylic courts."

The club is also active in the community too and recently raised £4,000 for Hector's House, a local charity which aims to support young people with their mental health.

To find out more about the club and enquire about becoming a member go to www.gmltc.com.

What is padel?

According to the Macron website, padel is like tennis with walls.

The padel court size is about a quarter smaller than that of a tennis court and the walls required are not portable.

How do you play it?

- The right to serve first is decided by a draw

- Serve is done by bouncing the ball off the ground and hitting it diagonally into the service box on the opponent's side

- The ball must be hit when it is at or below the waist level

Scoring

- Scoring in padel sport follows that of tennis: 15, 30, 40, game
- 40-40 is a deuce



The courts opened earlier on this month and have been well-received by the public

FOOTBALL

Warming up for the season ahead

HERE is what Chesham's Chairman Peter Brown has had to say this week:

In the past week we have played two further pre-season friendlies, both against teams from the league above, and I have been delighted with our performance and the comments received by supporters about the progress we are making.

Last Saturday we beat a solid Wealdstone side 1-0. In the past when we have come up against sides from leagues above it has always looked as though they were always physically bigger and more comfortable on the ball, that was not the case in this game. I thought we looked very strong and competitive, which with so many new players only playing together for the first or second time, was very pleasing.

On Tuesday night we lost to a Barnet side who are amongst the favourites to be promoted to the Football League next season from the National League, and you can see why. Former Chesham striker and current Barnet Manager, Dean Brennan, has put together a very impressive, full-time professional, outfit who are going to take some stopping this season.

We now have a date for our official ground-grading, this will be on 7th August. In preparation for that it would be great if we could get more volunteers along to join our Monday morning work party this coming Monday. We have a number of signs and odd jobs to get done if you are available, people will be around from 9.30am on Monday to advise as to what needs to be done.

This Sunday we are looking to have another work party for a couple of hours between 10am and midday, painting white lines around the ground and other maintenance jobs. For more information, or if you are available to help, but just cannot make these times, please contact me directly at chairman@cheshamunited.co.uk.

The pitch has been looking in good condition and had a low cut this week, looking good for the season ahead where it is going to be important that we make use of home advantage.

A big thank you to Craig and the ground staff for getting it ready for two early pre-season friendlies, we are now staying off it for a couple of weeks as we play away fixtures, the next one being at Chertsey Town next Tuesday - I hope to see many of you there.

When you come to games at The Meadow you will notice that there are several reserved parking places, please do take note of these and not park in them. In many cases they are reserved for supporters with medical conditions or personal needs, so please do not make their visits more challenging by not following the guidelines - that will be appreciated.

I know as crowds get bigger parking becomes more of an issue, but there is plenty of parking within a short walk of the ground, or the clubhouse does open early on matchdays if you wanted to arrive early to secure your place and enjoy some refreshments.

More minutes under the belt as the season edges closer

WINDSOR followed up a commendable 3 – 3 draw against Flackwell Heath in their first pre-season friendly, with another impressive performance against Step 4 opposition, when Binfield were the visitors last Friday evening to Holloways Park.

The away team just edged the result in a game that produced five goals and plenty of other incidents.

In truth, this felt more like a cup tie than a friendly; both sides set off at a frenetic pace with a no-holds-barred approach to tackles.

It was the Moles who would come closest to opening the score on eight minutes, however; with Cairo Richards in the Windsor goal diving to his right to palm away a powerful shot from just outside the area.

Two minutes later it was Windsor's Jamil Yusuf's turn to take the plaudits.

Picking up the ball 40 yards out, he glided effortlessly past two tackles before curling an exquisite shot onto the left-hand post from 30 yards in Phil Foden-like fashion.

His audacity alone deserved a goal. A mix-up between Windsor's trialist centre backs (who were otherwise impressive) led to the opening goal on 15 minutes – with Binfield's centre forward nipping in to take advantage of the mistake.

Sam Healey looked to have equalised on the half-hour, tapping home from close range, but his effort was ruled offside by a decision that would not have stood VAR scrutiny.

The decisions once again did not go Windsor's way when Sam Healey was upended in the box for what looked like



The match took place earlier on this month

a stone wall penalty on 34 minutes, only for the referee to wave play on. Binfield increased their lead on 36 minutes, with the goal that resulted from the Jack's attempt to overplay in their defensive third.

By way of trying to make amends, this was swiftly followed by an exquisite nine-man move from the home side which ended in a trialist forward smashing the ball into the side netting.

The second half started in

the same frenetic fashion as the first, resulting in a hat trick of bookings in the first five minutes.

This was never a dirty game however - more a case of players staking a claim to a place in their respective sides for the coming season. Windsor came close to pulling a goal back on 56 minutes with Sam Healey showing delightfully quick feet to evade two tackles before chipping the goalkeeper from 18 yards - only for the ball to bounce off the crossbar

to safety.

A minute later, Windsor finally scored the goal their efforts deserved when Sam Healey made the most of a goalmouth melee to bundle the ball home. Windsor commitment to an equaliser would prove their undoing in the 85th minute, when Binfield made the score 3 – 1 with a goal on the counter attack.

This was a text book goal from a text book cross with their centre forward heading home from 6 yards giving

Cairo Richards in the Windsor goal no chance. Not to be outdone however 17-year-old Windsor substitute Reece James, scored the goal of the game in the 85th minute, cutting in from the right wing, he neatly sidestepped two challenges before placing a powerful left foot shot into the top left-hand corner of the net.

That proved to be the last meaningful incident of a thoroughly entertaining game in which both sides played their part in equal measure.

FOOTBALL Champions League for ex-player

A former Wycombe Wanderers loanee is hoping to reach the Champions League group stage with his current club in Slovenia.

Rolando Aarons, who played 13 times and scored twice for the Chairboys during the 2019/20 season, now plays for NK Celje in the Slovenian PrvaLiga.

He moved to the Balkans country at the beginning of this year following his release from Huddersfield Town at the back end of 2023, and has so far scored one league goal in 12 league appearances for his new side.

Since his move across Europe, the 28-year-old helped Celje secure their respective league title for only the second time since 1991.

This triumph made them the only team in Slovenia to make the qualifying rounds of the Champions League.

His side easily brushed aside Flora of Estonia 7-1 on aggregate earlier on this month, with Aarons being one of the goal scorers.

They then faced Slovan Bratislava of Slovakia this week, which finished 1-1.

The return leg will be played on July 30.

Aarons, who was born in Jamaica but moved to England as a child, began his career at Bristol City where he spent three years in the youth team before being released in 2012.

He then spent nine years at Newcastle United but only played 27 times and scored four goals – one of which was in a Premier League thriller against Crystal Palace, which finished 3-3 in August 2014.

His time at St James' Park was filled with numerous loan spells to various teams across the continent.

The two-capped Jamaican international spent time at Hellas Verona in Italy, Slovan Liberec in the Czech Republic, Motherwell in Scotland, along with two EFL moves to Sheffield Wednesday, and of course, Wycombe.

His stint at Adams Park was deemed relatively successful, as his winning strike against Shrewsbury Town in November 2019 in a 1-0 victory played a pivotal role in Wanderers' promotion that season.

That win was one of many that helped Wycombe gain a better average through the points-per-game system, as the Chairboys moved from eighth to third at the end of the 2019/20 campaign.

Aarons would eventually depart Newcastle permanently in January 2021 for Huddersfield Town, but his time in Yorkshire was a disaster.

He only played 11 times across two-and-a-half-years and after a loan move back to Motherwell didn't work out, he eventually left the ex-Czech Republic side in the autumn of 2023.

He would remain unattached for several months before joining Celje, where he has revitalised his career.

PACQUETTE TO REMAIN A MAGPIE Staying put in Bucks for a second season

A NON LEAGUE legend who has had 39 separate transfers in his career will stay on at Amersham Town as an assistant manager.

Richard Pacquette, who has also had stints in the Football League with Brentford, Queens Park Rangers and Mansfield Town, joined the Magpies as player/assistant manager, and scored nine goals in 24 league games.

However, it seems that the 41-year-old will hang up his boots (for now) as he helped manager Stuart Atkins take charge of the South Bucks team during the 2024/25 season.

Pacquette began his career as a school player at Queens Park Rangers, before breaking into the first team in 2000.

Across the next four years, he featured in 41 games for the West London team in both the second and third tier, scoring seven goals.

His time at Loftus Road saw him go out on loan to Stevenage, Dagenham & Redbridge

and Mansfield. Since then, he has represented the following teams:

Milton Keynes, Brentford, Farnborough Town, Stevenage (second spell), St Albans City, Hemel Hempstead Town, Hampton & Richmond Borough, Worthing, Thurrock, Havant & Waterlooville (where he scored against Liverpool in the FA Cup to give the Non League side a 1-0 lead at Anfield in February 2008), Maidenhead United (two consecutive spells), Histon, York City, Eastbourne Borough, Hayes & Yeading United, Maidenhead United (third spell), Lincoln City, Bromley, Eastleigh, Sutton United, Maidenhead United (fourth spell), Eastbourne Borough (second spell), Hampton & Richmond Borough (second spell), Lewes, Walton & Hersham, Hampton & Richmond Borough (third spell), MET Police, Grays Athletic, Harrow Borough, Thamesmead Town, Harefield United and now Amersham.



Richard Pacquette pictured in 2008 against Liverpool (PA)

Sport

FOOTBALL

Reynolds' speaks ahead of Wycombe clash

WREXHAM co-owner Ryan Reynolds admits he "lives, breathes, eats and sleeps" the Welsh club ahead of their season opener against Wycombe Wanderers.

Hollywood actor Reynolds and fellow owner Rob McElhenney have overseen the rise of the Red Dragons from the National League to League One with back-to-back promotions.

Their clash against the Chairboys on August 10 will be their first in the third tier since 2005, and their first against the Adams Park

team since the 2007/08 season.

In fact, Wycombe have a relatively good record over their Welsh counterparts, winning eight of the 24 matches played between the two.

Wycombe have been victorious on six occasions, with there being 10 draws.

Additionally, Wanderers have only lost one of their last 10 matches against the Dragons.

Speaking on the One Show, Reynolds, who aims to watch Wrexham against the Chairboys live in the flesh next month, said:

"One time I checked how many steps I got through during a match and it was like 9,500.

"I'm like a caged tiger. I live, breathe, eat and sleep Wrexham and the only thing that can derail from that is Deadpool because Deadpool swallows your whole life and that's the only way to do it, to let it consume you, so I'm so happy to be back now."

Billionaire-backed Wycombe will be hoping to spoil the Hollywood party at the Racecourse Ground, with the fixture streamed live on Sky Sports.



Rob McElhenney (left) and Ryan Reynolds (right) (PA)

FOOTBALL

Ex-Risborough Rangers man joins first EFL club

A FORMER Non League footballer who played for Risborough Rangers has joined an EFL club.

Marcus Wylie, who spent several years with the Horsenden-based club where he scored 83 goals in 143 matches, has signed for League Two outfit Gillingham.

The 25-year-old signed for the Kent club from Enfield Town after bagging 34 strikes in 49 appearances for the North London team.

His goals saw his previous club helped them secure a third-place finish in the Isthmian League Premier Division last season.

They would eventually win promotion to National League South via the play-offs.

The move to Gillingham is also the first-time in Wylie's career he would have played in one of England's top four divisions as a full-time professional.

Risborough Ranger's director of football and former manager, Mark Eaton, said: "Marcus is not only an incredibly talented footballer but an even better human being.

"He was a dream to manage: quiet and humble, he let his performances on the pitch speak for him, creating his own showreel of great goals.

"At this level of football, seeing one of our players make it into the professional ranks is deeply satisfying and makes it all worthwhile.

"Everyone at the club is so proud of him, and we are pleased that we were able to play a part in his journey.

"We wish him every success at Gillingham."

Marcus first joined Risborough as an 18-year-old, signed by Jamie Rayner and after making 48 appearances in his maiden season, he went to the University of Nottingham.

Despite the distance, Mark Eaton persuaded him to return to the club,

By James Richings

and Marcus regularly travelled from Nottingham to play in games.

Mark once remarked that Marcus had 'magic in his boots', and this was proven due to his incredible scoring record.

This included bagging 36 goals in his first campaign.

He was also an integral part of the club's 53 unbeaten league run, which eclipsed records once held by Nottingham Forest (42) and Arsenal (49).

Speaking on his move to Gillingham, Marcus told the club's media outlets: "I am really excited to be here; it all happened so quickly and I am still processing it.

"This is what I have always wanted [playing full-time] and I am delighted to finally get the chance to do it."

Director of Football, Kenny Jackett, added: "This is a really significant signing for us.

"As a community club, we have a responsibility to scour the various leagues and recruit players who we believe have a bright future and can add depth to our squad.

"We have done our due diligence on Marcus, he is a strong hardworking lad who had a prolific season with Enfield Town and I have no doubt he is the type of player that Gillingham fans will enjoy watching.

"Our recruitment team are working very hard when it comes to spotting talent in our region who have the capabilities to play at our level, and possibly even higher.

"We are giving players the opportunity to show what they can do and we will continue to work hard to add quality to our existing setup."



Marcus Wylie spent several years at Risborough, scoring 83 goals in 143 matches (Risborough Rangers)

OLYMPICS

Marlow to Paris as the Games arrive

MARLOW rower Rory Gibbs and the men's eight are in a 'dangerous' position ahead of Paris 2024, says double Olympic champion James Cracknell.

The boat have been almost untouchable in the run up to the Olympic Games, with only one Rowing World Cup defeat to their name as they still came away with a silver.

But despite being heavy favourites, Cracknell believes they must look out for boats who are making a late charge.

"It's a dangerous position to go in with people thinking you are going to win," Cracknell, who'll be working with Eurosport and discovery+ for their Olympics rowing coverage, said.

"Someone will come with a rattle, the Australians it is their priority boat, the Americans put their crew together very late.

"And they have got such a big geographical footprint that they will get eight really big strong guys so if they click it will click well if it doesn't, disaster.

"But if they get it right, brilliant for them. And then the Dutch, they are very very good in the heat and a bit rubbish in the final."

The men's eight have won three European Championships gold and have twice topped the podium at the World Championships during this Olympic cycle.

It is why many are already handing them the gold medal, which Cracknell believes is a harder place to be.

He should know, having twice been part of boats that were heavy favourites to win, but both times the men's four delivered, as he won gold in Sydney and Athens.

He added: "Going in as the favourite is difficult, it is much easier to be the underdog than the champion because you've got to be constantly resetting the bar and everyone is aiming at you.

"I remember we went into the Sydney Olympics and we won the World Championships in '97, '98 and '99 so a lot of people had put the gold medals around our necks and actually any one second of those six minutes, you could lose that.

"No amount of pressure is more than you put on yourself, but that expectation of you've done it, and it is in the bag is a bit difficult.

"My brother-in-law was competing in the swimming Athens and my parents watched him do his semi-final which was on at the same time as my semi-final in the rowing because they assumed 'well you'll be in the final'.

"And I just thought 'we haven't got a lane mum!'. Even your parents are making judgements about their viewing based on how they think you are going to do."

SPORT: HELPING THOSE IN NEED

A round of golf raises £120k for charity



Many people took part on the day as an incredible £120,000 was raised for Alzheimer's Research UK

AN incredible £120,000 has been raised for Alzheimer's Research UK following a successful event at Harleyford Golf Club.

Taking place on June 13, leader organiser Rob Marsh and his amazing team achieved the phenomenal figure by holding what can only be described as an epic day.

Supported by 26 super volunteers from Alzheimer's Research UK, participants were able to enjoy a round of golf whilst also taking part in a raffle and auction.

Rob was inspired to organise the charity golf day after both his mother and grandmother were diagnosed with dementia.

The personal connection was evident as well as smiles on the day, many shared their stories and offered kind words and support to those impacted.

Jess Jenkins, Regional Fundraising

Officer for Buckinghamshire at Alzheimer's Research UK, said: "From my first meeting with Rob and the team at Harleyford, I knew that this day was going to be special, but I didn't know quite how special it would turn out.

"£120,000 is an incredible amount of money to have raised and shows a huge depth of support for Rob and Harleyford Golf Club within their network and local community.

"On behalf of Alzheimer's Research UK I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the day, you have taken us further along the road to a cure."

For further information about Alzheimer's Research UK, or to find out more about fundraising for the charity, call 0300 111 5555 or visit www.alzheimersresearchuk.org.

CRICKET

It's all about the women

MARLOW Cricket Club hosted five teams from the area in their first women's softball cricket festival.

Held on July 21, women and girls from Chalfont St Peter, Maidenhead & Bray, High Wycombe and Penn & Tyers joined the home team for a round-robin event.

Primarily focused on participation, the teams and supporters enjoyed some great games: lots of excellent batting, good bowling and strong fielding.

Excitingly, the competition element came down to the very last over of the day with Chalfont St Peter narrowly winning, narrowly defeating runners-up Marlow by seven runs.

The festival was enabled by Marlow Cricket Club and a grant from Bucks Cricket for softball festivals that are happening across the region this Summer.

Softball cricket is a fun accessible form of the game, ideal for beginners and experienced players alike.

On top of the play, a raffle with some amazing prizes from local businesses in Marlow was held to raise money for the Take Her Lead charity, dedicated to enabling women and girls to take part in cricket at all levels.

BOWLS

Another tense match at Marlow Bowls Club

JUST a week after the Ladies against Gents match at Marlow Bowls Club, the club played their President versus Captain.

Taking place on July 20, the fixture was close throughout the afternoon; at half time the Captain's team was in the lead on four of six rinks and by seven shots.

By close of play, the President's team had recovered and turned the game around to lead by six shots and on four of six rinks.

Top rink for the Captain was skipped by Captain Martin Timbrell playing with Jo Perry and John Prowse.

Top rink for the President was skipped by Roy Fabry playing with President Fliss Rees and Karl Schrader.

FORMER WYCOMBE MAN LOOKS FOR NEW CLUB

Ex-Wanderer Mellor seen on trial at non-League clubs

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers striker D'Mani Mellor is currently on trial at non-League AFC Fylde.

The 23-year-old was released by the Chairboys this summer after only playing 13 times across two seasons, scoring just once.

He also had three loan spells away from Adams Park during his time at Buckinghamshire.

They were at Sutton United, where he failed to score in eight games and two separate stints at Rochdale.

Overall, he featured 28 times for the Greater Manchester team, scoring a solitary goal.

He has now been spotted playing in Fylde's recent friendly match against Wigan Athletic, which they

lost 4-0.

He came on as a second-half substitute and was praised for his work rate.

Prior to his trial for the Coasters, he had also played in a couple of Hartlepool United's fixtures earlier on this month.

At the time of writing, the ex-Manchester United youth graduate remains unattached.

He made one first-team appearance for the Red Devils, featuring in the club's 2-1 Europa League loss to Astana in November 2019.

His other competitive appearances for the Manchester United U21s in the Football League Trophy between 2019 and 2021. Mellor also had a brief loan spell at Salford City at the end of the 2021/22 season.



D'Mani Mellor (left) spent two years at Wycombe where he scored once in 13 matches (PA)

Generals sign new striker from Slough Town

CHESHAM United have confirmed the signing of Nathan Minhas after his contract expired with fellow National League South side Slough Town.

A prolific goal-scorer at both Step 2 and Step 3 in the Non League pyramid, in his first season at the National League South level last season with Slough, Minhas scored 17 times as he led the line for the Rebels after joining from Beaconsfield the previous summer.

In his time with the Rams, he notched 52 league goals over two seasons at Step 3.

Prior to his spell at Holloways Park, the forward was with Maidenhead United, before moving to Ascot United in 2018 where his performances earned him a move to Billericay Town in National League South.

He has also had spells at Bracknell Town and Hampton & Richmond Borough.

The striker has also represented Punjab in the 2018 CONIFA World Cup, scoring three times as the team finished fifth overall.

Joint Manager Michael Murray had this to say about the signing: "Nathan is a player we have have tried to sign for a few years now, and we thought we had missed out again when it was announced he had re-signed with Slough.

"But once we heard this wasn't the case, we spoke to Nathan and

are delighted to have got the deal done.

"We appreciate that it has taken a bit of time to get this announced, but it's one where we've had to wait for the process to play out and Nathan's previous deal to expire before we could announce the news."

Chesham will play in the National League South this season following their promotion in the summer.

SPORT

0963-2336



A brilliant tense victory for team Buckinghamshire



It was a great win for Buckinghamshire (Pixabay)

BUCKS pulled off a stunning three-wicket victory over first-class opponents Leicestershire at Grace Road

High Wycombe clubmates Cameron Parsons and Conner Haddow starred with the bat as Bucks completed their second showpiece match victory in three years, having beaten Surrey at High Wycombe two years ago.

When the Wycombe duo came together Bucks were 205-7 in pursuit of the home side's 295-6 in this 50-over match, needing an

unlikely 91 off 11.4 overs to pull off a famous victory

With Parsons, better-known for his parsimonious seam bowling, leading the way, the pair actually thumped the attack for 94 from 10.2 overs to see Bucks home to a famous victory with eight balls to spare. A final flourish saw them score 19 runs off the final five balls.

Parsons hit 75 from 53 balls, while Haddow scored 21 off 28 balls before the Bucks celebrations began.

The platform for victory was laid off by 19-year-old Vanish Jani and skipper-for-the-day Alexei Kervezee, who added 68 in eight overs for the fourth wicket.

Jani, an outstanding prospect, was unluckily run out for 70 off 72 balls, while Kervezee hit a rapid 39.

Ed Bragg kept up the chase with a lively 30 before the match-winning stand between Parsons and Haddow

Earlier Leicestershire had won the toss and chosen to bat,

reaching 295-6 from their 50 overs. Sam Evans (86 from 107 balls) and skipper Lewis Hill added 145 for the third wicket in 25 overs before Liam Trevaskis added a final flourish with 45 from 29 balls, but it was to prove not enough.

Parsons was the pick of the Bucks bowlers, dismissing both openers in a ten-overs spell of 2-43, but it was as a batsman that he was to prove the match-winner on a memorable day for Bucks cricket.

Former heroes could make Wanderers return

By James Richings

THE Bucks Free Press understands Matt Phillips and Fred Onyedinna would be open to a return to Wycombe Wanderers this summer.

The duo, who have had previous stints in South Buckinghamshire, are currently free agents following their departures from West Bromwich Albion and Luton Town respectively.

It has been rumoured that Phillips, who is from Aylesbury, has been working with a personal trainer in Oxford to maintain his fitness in the hunt for a new club.

He currently remains unattached.

Whilst for Onyedinna, the Nigerian has had three previous spells with the Chairboys, and there had been loose speculation that he could have made his fourth return to Wanderers in January this year.

However, after suffering a 'significant injury' whilst on loan at Rotherham United, no deal ever materialised.

He remained out of action for four months before making his comeback as a Premier League player in the Hatters' 2-1 loss against Tottenham Hotspur in March - his first appearance for the club in nearly a year.

Phillips' links with Wycombe

The 33-year-old began his career with the Chairboys in 1999 aged eight and spent nine years in the academy and youth team.

The utility player, who can play as a left-back, winger, or striker, impressed coaches and was brought into the first team at the end of the 2007/08 campaign aged just 17.

He made the club's final four match-day squads of that season, playing three times as Wycombe reached the 2008 League Two play-offs.

However, they would lose in the semi-finals to eventual winners, Stockport County.

He would then play a further 84 times for Wycombe during the next two-and-a-bit years, scoring nine times, helping the club achieve promotion to League One in 2009, whilst also making his England Youth Team debut in 2010.

His time at Wanderers also saw him pick up two 'Young Player of the Year' awards and the League Two 'Apprentice of the Year'.

In all, he played 142 matches in the top flight, scored 12 times and registered 23 assists for three teams across five seasons.

Phillips would also play 16 times for the Scotland National Team, scoring once.

Could Fred return once more?

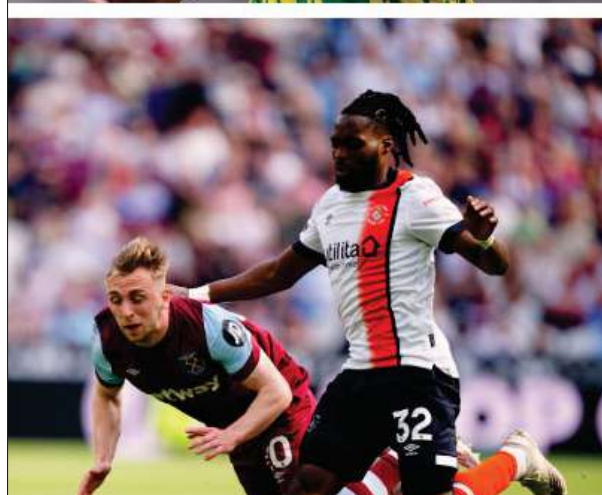
Fred Onyedinna is no stranger to Adams Park.

During his previous three spells (2014/15, 2018/19 and 2019-21), he played 114 times and scored 23 goals, with each season playing a pivotal role in the club's recent history.

His first stint saw the Chairboys reach the 2015 play-off final where they lost to Southend, his second spell helped the club avoid relegation back to League Two in 2019, before his third year saw the club achieve promotion to the Championship in 2020, as well as playing in that second-tier campaign in 2021.

A move to Luton Town followed that summer, but Onyedinna was used sparingly over the next three years as he battled ongoing injury issues.

In all, he featured 60 just times for the Hatters, but did play in the club's 2023 Championship play-off final victory over Coventry City and eight appearances in the Premier League.



Matt Phillips (top) and Fred Onyedinna (bottom) have had previous spells with Wycombe and are currently free agents (PA)

What's your number for the class of 2024/25?

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed their new squad numbers for the upcoming season.

The eight new arrivals have all been given numbers vacated from departing players, whilst only two names who were at the club the previous campaign have changed their allotted figure.

Those two are goalkeeper Franco Ravizzoli, who will now wear the number one shirt, which was last worn by Max Stryjek.

The Argentine had the number 25. His old number has been given to left-back Declan Skura.

Skura, who was the penultimate signing of the Gareth Ainsworth tenure at Wycombe following his arrival in February 2023, had been number 39 for the Chairboys.

The list is as follows:

1. Franco RAVIZZOLI (new number)
2. Jack GRIMMER ©
3. Dan HARVIE (new signing)
4. Josh SCOWEN
5. Alex HARTRIDGE (new signing)
6. Ryan TAFAZOLLI
7. David WHEELER
8. Matt BUTCHER
9. Sam VOKES
10. Luke LEAHY
11. Dan UDOH (new signing)
12. Garath McCLEARY
13. Laurie SHALA
15. Jack YOUNG
16. Tyreeq BAKINSON (new signing)
17. Joe LOW
18. Brandon HANLAN
22. Nathan BISHOP (new signing)
23. Kieran SADLIER
24. Richard KONE
25. Declan SKURA (new number)
26. Jason McCARTHY
27. Brody PEART (new signing)
29. Jaiden BAROLO (new signing)
30. Beryly LUBALA
31. Jasper PATTENEN
32. Taylor CLARK
33. Luca WOODHOUSE
34. Jack MATTON (new signing)
35. Christie WARD