

# Bucks Free Press

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## COME ON ENGLAND! THREE LIONS BID FOR EUROS GLORY

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### GUN SCARE AT PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Ousted MP Baker: 'I'm finally free'



### New MP: 'I'll protect hospital'

ELECTION COVERAGE: PAGES 6, 7, 8, 9, AND 10

### MISERY OVER ROADWORKS



PAGE 4

# Toxic waste burnt for weeks, report reveals

## BFP investigation uncovers what happened at Bellway site

AN investigation by this newspaper has revealed a 'hazardous' chemical was found in the fire that was left to smoulder for more than four weeks at a Bellway housing site in Hazlemere prompting complaints of fumes making neighbours feel ill.

The contaminant identified was part of the total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) family of chemical compounds found in

**By Charlie Smith**

crude oil, according to a report into fly-tipped waste that was dumped at a former vehicle repair centre off the A404 Amer-sham Road.

Residents of Hazlemere and Holmer

**Continued on page 2**



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## Sport

## ROYAL REGATTA

## Marlow defeat Thames Valley neighbours

MARLOW Rowing Club has won their first event in 11 years and has junior quads in both The Diamond Jubilee and Fawley Challenge Cup Finals

At a historic Henley Final, for more than one reason, played out between Marlow and Thames in the race for The Wyfold Challenge Cup on July 7.

Both crews shot off from the start, with the Putney-based club edging out to take a narrow lead at the Quarter Mile.

The determined crew from Marlow never let their foot off the gas and kept

the pressure on Thames all the way down the course.

Alongside the progress boards, Marlow moved through Thames and had a dramatic clash in neutral water.

Marlow came out on top to claim their club's first Henley Royal Regatta win in 10 years.

Following the win, Marlow announced that Jamie Axon will be head coach for the senior squad.

In their statement, they said: "Jamie joined the Marlow coaching team in

July 2022 after a successful rowing career at Oxford Brookes where he twice won the Ladies Plate which he followed by coaching at Leander.

"Jamie has successfully grown and developed the Marlow Senior Men's squad which has just achieved a new first for Marlow; winning the Wyfold Challenge Cup.

"This post has become available as a consequence of Senior Women's coach, Lachlan Chapman, deciding to return to Australia at the end of the summer."



It was a day to remember for Marlow (PA)

## ROWING

## Edging closer to stardom in Marlow

MARLOW rower Katie Breeze has moved a step closer to sporting stardom after selection for a prestigious sporting programme which helped propel Sir Steve Redgrave to legendary status.

The 18-year-old, who is in her final year at Wycombe High School, will attend Syracuse University in New York next year fresh from being singled out by charity SportsAid as an athlete with the potential to reach the very top.

A winner at the Junior Sculling Regatta and an U23 triallist, Breeze's biggest achievement yet in her burgeoning rowing career was representing her country at the 2023 edition of Coupe de la Jeunesse, taking home bronze at the tournament's conclusion.

She recalled: "It feels incredible. It feels surreal to say that I've won a medal for Team GB. It fills me with excitement for the future and it makes me happy that I'm in a sport that I love.

"To be able to do it with my friends as well as for myself is incredible and it's such a great achievement."

Breeze is one of 50 athletes supported by a partnership between SportsAid and Pitching In, a multimillion-pound grassroots sport programme established by Entain, owner of Ladbrokes and Coral.

SportsAid athletes like Breeze are Great Britain's brightest sporting prospects. They are nominated to SportsAid by the national governing bodies of more than 60 sports based on set criteria from each.

The typical value of a SportsAid award is £1,000 with money generated through a combination of commercial partnerships, trust and charitable funds, and fundraising activities.

Breeze hailed SportsAid for their support in helping her find a second wind both on and off the water – helping to overcome adversity as an athlete.

She said: "They did a webinar the other day on resilience and just how to cope with racing and things like that. Sport is so physically and mentally demanding, when things get hard it's easy to think 'Oh my gosh, I can't do this', but it's really normal and part of being an athlete.

"It gets hard, and you have to find a way to bounce back and get back to it. It's hard when you've got two things you want to put 100 percent to, but it's just that advice on how to cope with it and knowing where to find information, to find that balance between the two.

"Your sport and school are really demanding for young athletes so it's important to know that mental side of it. You don't want it to get you down, you want to keep giving 100 per cent at both.

That's where SportsAid comes and it's giving you that help and info, resilience, and nutrition and making sure you're fuelling yourself both in sports and studying."

## THE COUNTY HAS BEEN ONE OF THE DAMPEST

## Wimbledon impacted by the Bucks' wet weather

THE boss of Wimbledon has blamed the "terrible" weather for low attendances at the Championships, as the UK is set to be battered by further downpours.

Yellow weather warnings for rain have been issued by the Met Office across parts of southern England and south Wales on Monday night, and in northern Scotland on Tuesday night.

Wimbledon organisers said they are confident the tournament will finish on time despite the wet forecast and delays to play at the weekend due to heavy rain.

Greater London, where the tournament is held, has so far been drenched by over half of its average monthly rainfall in just one week, according to Met Office data. Speaking to reporters on Monday, chief executive of the All England Club, Sally Bolton, said: "The weather has been so terrible that perseverance in the queue has been even greater this year than it ordinarily is."

"We're never about maximising our attendances, we're all about protecting the queue and making sure that we have still got that accessibility, accepting that as a result of that was some variability on the numbers that we will end up achieving.

"Every year when we get back to the end of the championships we look back and try and analyse the data to understand what might drive that. But this year the weather has been so variable and so bad at times, that at the moment our assessment is it's almost certainly the weather that's impacting it."

According to Met Office data, several areas in the south east of England, including Hertfordshire, Essex and Buckinghamshire, have already seen 80% or more of the

By Rosie Shead

average expected rainfall for July within the first week of the month.

The soggy start to summer follows the UK's wettest spring since 1986 and the sixth wettest on record.

The recent damp weather has been paired with chilly conditions.

The Met Office recorded the average temperature for the first week of July as 12.9C – some 2.4C below the month's long-term average.

June also ended with an average temperature of below 13C, despite a mini-heatwave in parts of the country towards the end of the month.

These cool conditions have largely been caused by the jet stream – the high velocity wind in the atmosphere which causes changes in pressure, according to the Met Office.

Deputy chief meteorologist David Hayter said: "In recent weeks, the jet stream has been either directed towards the UK, or shifted further south, which has predominantly brought cooler air over the UK, with frequent incursions of some unseasonable winds and rain.

"For warm weather in the UK in summer, you'd tend to see the jet stream shifted further north, which allows the possibility of warmer air to drift over the UK from the south, though this isn't always the case.

"Unfortunately for those who like the warmth, we have only had brief periods where this pattern has been present in summer so far."

The chilly and damp start to summer may be unwelcome news for the UK's tourism industry and those hoping to enjoy brighter weather during the upcoming school holidays.



It's been a very wet start to the summer (PA)

## WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR PETER BROWN



There is a lot going on at Chesham United this summer

# Chesham's Chairman on club's future endeavours

By Peter Brown

THE squad has continued to train hard and I am confident that we will hit the ground running when the league season starts in August.

I am also aware of talk on social media and online newspapers about us being associated with another new signing, however there is a right way for us to do things out of respect to all parties and when the time is right we will make the relevant announcement.

There are certain protocols to follow and once everything is confirmed you will be the first to know.

I appreciate that supporters would like, expect even, to hear the news from us first, but we can only do that when the time is right.

Your away support last year was magnificent and undoubtedly helped us to achieve our promotion goal, it would be fantastic if we could maintain that for the season ahead – and your home support of course!

The Meadow is starting to look fantastic and I would like to thank everyone that has worked hard over the summer on this, including Craig

our groundsman who once again has done a superb job and enabled us to play home pre-season friendlies much earlier than we normally would.

We are still looking to have a white line painting party at the club this Saturday and Sunday ahead of the friendlies. Please do come along with your brushes if you are available.

This week we were delighted to welcome the local fire brigade to The Meadow once again, spending 40 minutes running training drills on the pitch, and adding a much needed 35,000 litres of water onto the pitch.

These people do a magnificent job protecting us around the town, particularly now when we seem to be having an issue with arson attacks on local buildings.

The latest was an attempt on the town's brilliant food bank, which could have been catastrophic for all

the people that rely on this community facility.

Thankfully the fire was spotted by a local council employee who called 999 and the fire was dealt with.

Please, let's look after each other as a community, and if you do see any wrongdoings going on, don't stay quiet, report it to the relevant authorities.

Elsewhere this week I had a very humbling meeting with a local charity in Amersham that I was not previously aware of, the MPS Society.

These wonderful people support the welfare of children with illnesses that condemns them to a limited life expectancy. Imagine receiving a diagnosis so rare that even your doctor is unfamiliar with it.

This is the reality for those with MPS, Fabry, or related lysosomal storage diseases.

When you or your child is diagnosed with one of the 27 conditions they cover, you not only need information and specialist support but also a community that understands.

I want us as a club to help raise

awareness on this local charity because I was not aware of it previously, and I am sure many others are not.

During the coming season we will be holding bucket collections for the organisation and offering free monthly adverts in our matchday programme.

Please keep an eye out for more details on this, we will announce in advance which games this will be at so you can bring along some extra change (or notes) in your pocket on that day.

Where we live we are fortunate to have many fantastic places to eat and drink and it is our vision to continue down this path of using our success on the field to raise the awareness of the club, and through that the town, to make Chesham a vibrant and thriving social and business community.

That may sound overly idyllic, but we are seeing the signs that it can be done, and I am excited about what still lays ahead for us as more of a community football club.

## SPORT

### Helping out the needy in Bucks

STOKE Park, the luxury hotel, golf and hospitality estate in Buckinghamshire was delighted on each day of The Boodles Tennis, to present the winner of the first match the Reliance Foundation ESA Cup.

This special award was introduced to The Boodles in 2023 and each day, when it is presented to the winner, a charitable donation is made to a local charity by Stoke Park.

The Reliance Foundation, founded by Mrs Nita Ambani, has impacted the lives of over 69.5 million people across India.

One of the foundation's key initiatives is the Education and Sports for All program, driven by Mrs. Ambani's vision to empower every child in India through the power of Education and Sport.

The ESA program has so far touched the lives of over 22 million children, especially from marginalized backgrounds.

Joining hands with Stoke Park's extensive community outreach programme, the Reliance Foundation ESA initiative is committed to supporting local causes, especially those that positively impact children.

Winners of the first match on each day - Andrey Rublev, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Hubi Hurkacz and Alexander Bublik were presented the Reliance ESA Cup by The Boodles guests, invited by Stoke Park, to present. These guests were Chair of Governors - Stoke Poges School, Ed Bramley-Harker, Hello! Fashion Editor Natalie Salmon, Olympic Champion Dame Denise Lewis, Stoke Park Director PJ Singh and Vicar of Stoke Poges, the Revd Natasha Brady.

Stoke Park made donations to five local charities - Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Forever Colours Children's Hospice, The Gerrards Cross Community Association, Give a Child a Chance Fund via The Berkshire Community Foundation and the Williams Fund.

PJ Singh, Director of Stoke Park commented: 'We were thrilled to be able to support all of these wonderful local charities on each day of The Boodles Tennis.'

'In 2021 we set up The Stoke Park Community Outreach programme.'

'The programme's primary objective is to support and collaborate with local charitable organisations and work with specific projects that support, engage and have a positive impact and lasting benefit within the local community.'

Ed Charvet, Chair of Trustees for Forever Colours Children's Hospice, one of the charities supported during the event, added: 'Forever Colours Children's Hospice are delighted by the partnership with Stoke Park.'

'This extremely generous donation and partnership will support over 130 babies, children, young people and their families who are requiring hospice care each week.'

'Forever Colours could not be more grateful to everyone at Stoke Park who has made this happen and warmly welcome the ongoing relationship.'

## Sport

## FOOTBALL

## Hit football song won't be played

THE Eden Shopping Centre in High Wycombe has confirmed it will not play 'It's Coming Home' in the build up to England's Euro 2024 final against Spain.

The Three Lions, who have reached the showpiece for the second consecutive tournament, are hoping to end 58 years of hurt when they take on the three-time winners in Berlin on Sunday.

But to avoid disappointment, the frequently-used shopping complex will refuse to blast out the tune that was penned nearly 30 years ago.

Written by comedians Frank Skinner and David Baddiel and performed with the Liverpool-based band, the Lightning Seeds, the song has been adopted as England's official track when at international tournaments.

First played during Euro 1996 which was held in England, a second version of the tune was released two years later for the 1998 World Cup in France.

Twelve years later, another version was recorded for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, before a Christmas edition was released in 2022.

This was for that year's World Cup in Qatar, which was the first to not be played in the summer due to the country's intense heat.

It was the anthem for when the Three Lions reached the 2018 World Cup semi-finals in Russia, losing out to Croatia before it was heard all over the nation at Euro 2020 (which took place in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic).

Sadly, the championships ended in heartbreak as England lost the final to Italy at Wembley Stadium via a penalty shootout.

This meant Gareth Southgate's side had become the third nation to lose the tournament on home soil, following Portugal in 2004 and France in 2016.

So to avoid any upset, the famous tune will not be heard at the Eden Centre.

Marketing manager, Rebecca Gomme, said: "Like the rest of the country, we're crossing our fingers that this is the year England gets over that final hurdle and brings home the Euros.

"After the heartache of the last two tournaments, where we might have played It's Coming Home a few too many times at Eden, we've decided to try a different approach. It's not Saka at left back – but it's what we can do!"

Where are you going to watch the final on Sunday?

Let us know by email us through our 'Send Us Your News' section on the website.

## FOOTBALL: A MOVE FROM BUCKS TO BERKS



Rob Couhig is expected to be announced as Reading's new owner. Picture: PA

## Couhig's move to Berks starts to creep forward

James Earnshaw

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers chief Rob Couhig is reportedly 'closing in' on a deal to take over at Reading, just four months on from controversially attempting to purchase the Royals' training ground for the Buckinghamshire neighbours.

Leaving supporters in two minds over the 75-year-old American, The Reading Chronicle has spoken to supporters and experts at Adams Park on what to expect should the lawyer rock up at the SCL Stadium.

Insight from Wycombe Wanderers correspondent for Bucks Free Press, James Richings.

**What is Rob Couhig's ownership style?**

"When the Couhig's came in, nobody knew too much about them.

"The thing they did that won people over was that they were active, seen and getting involved with the fans.

"They didn't know much about English football, they looked at it as a business venture, but they would be with the fans and mingle outside of games.

"They took a lot of what the fans on board.

their heads above water; Reading are a sinking ship.

"The circumstances are different, but he wants people on his side that he can trust.

"He has no reason to get involved at Reading, he could stay in America and see out the rest of his days, but he wants to help the club.

"He has the best interests for Reading, otherwise he wouldn't have got involved."

**What was the youth policy like under Rob Couhig?**

"Wycombe had an Academy but that stopped under the previous ownership due to the lack of funds, so for eight years, they didn't have an Academy or development team.

"In 2019/20, they didn't have a lot of players and they noticed Gareth Ainsworth was involved in the squad to make up the numbers.

"Rob Couhig said they couldn't have that if they were to progress, and they launched a development team.

"That led to the findings of Anis Mehmeti, Chris Forino and Al Al-Hamadi.

"They wanted young players who

were rejected at previous clubs and gave them second chances."

**What is the policy of the women's side under Rob Couhig?**

"When I started covering Wycombe it was unknown but in 2022, they really pushed it and there were lots with Wycombe Women.

"They occasionally have a game at Adams Park, they currently groundshare at Burnham and slowly but surely, they are improving, and fans are going to games.

"He wants the club to succeed at every level possible."

**How should Rob Couhig approach 'Bearwood-gate'?**

"If I were Rob, I'd nip it in the bud and say it how it is right from the start.

"You don't want it to linger.

"From a Reading perspective, it must have been awful to hear that news but from a Wycombe perspective, it was an opportunity. There were so many layers to that saga.

"Now, it is done and dusted.

"Wycombe have a new training ground in Harlington and now it's in the past."

## SPORT: FAN FAVOURITE TAKES THE ARMBAND

# Grimmer named as new skipper

WYCOMBE Wanderers right-back Jack Grimmer said he feels 'very honoured' after being named as the side's new captain.

The 30-year-old Scotsman, who is now in his sixth season with the club, was named the Chairboys' skipper on July 4.

He takes over from the departing Joe Jacobson, who had the armband for just over two seasons between February 2022 and April 2024.

"To be captain of any club is a great achievement, but to do it here where I've had such great leaders such as the gaffer [Matt Bloomfield], who was my first captain, Bayo [Adebayo Akinfenwa], JJ... these are big shoes to fill, but it's an exciting period.

"I've played with numerous captains and players who are leaders and they are all very different.

"When I first joined, we had Adam El-Abd and he was your stereotypical captain as he was such a big presence, but everyone leads in their own way.

"I think I've been very fortunate as we have a squad of players that any one of them could be in a leadership group, and anyone could be captain.

"That could make my job slightly easier as we have those kinds of personalities in our squad, and I'm sure they'll help me as I'll help them.

"I did a lot of stuff with JJ last sea-

son and he was very good in keeping me in the loop with certain things, so I feel equipped moving into it."

Chief Football Officer Dan Rice added: "Jack is clearly a hugely respected member of the club and will head up a leadership group within the squad, helping to drive us forward on and off the pitch and support the growth of our future club values and culture."

Manager Matt Bloomfield, who was also a captain of Wycombe, said: "Jack has demonstrated leadership qualities throughout his time here and was the stand-out candidate to take the armband going forward.

"I know he will be a huge success in the role."

Since arriving from Coventry City in the summer of 2019, Grimmer has played 174 times for the Chairboys, scoring four times.

Prior to that, the Manchester United fan began his career at his local side, Aberdeen, playing four first team games in two seasons.

A move to Premier League Fulham soon arrived in January 2012, where he played in the club's academy, before breaking into the first-team in the 2014/15 season - the year after their relegation from the top-flight.

A loan move to Port Vale and three separate transfers to Shrewsbury Town followed, before his move to Coventry, and then Wycombe five years ago.



Jack Grimmer has been with Wycombe since 2019 and has played nearly 200 times for the Chairboys (PA)

## Waterski championships to take place



Manon Costard of France, one of the world's leading female slalom waterskiers. Picture: Lynn Novakofski

NINETEEN of the world's best male and female slalom waterskiers, including five past World Champions, will descend on the UK this week for the final stop in the European leg of The Waterski Pro Tour.

The Oxfordshire Pro Am promises to be a great spectacle with the final taking place under floodlights on Saturday night which include seven pro skiers.

This include two Buckinghamshire-based participants in Charlie Emmett (23) from Aylesbury, and Calum Heath (28) who is from Chesham.

The current Tour leader and two-time Men's Slalom World Champion, Will Asher (41) and his cousin, Rob Hazelwood (25), both from Lincoln, will also take part along, Arron Davies (25) from Bolton and Ben Turp (23) from Gosfield.

A week ago Hazelwood won the second professional competition of his career, beating Asher for the first time.

Joel Poland (25), from Clapham,

London, who is the overall world waterski record holder (which involves competing in slalom, trick and jump skiing), is also competing.

Unfortunately, the current Men's Slalom World Champion, Freddie Winter (34) from Wandsworth in London, will be absent.

He is out for the rest of the season after breaking his leg in a crash while competing in France at the end of June.

Among the leading international waterskiers taking part are the two-time Men's Slalom World Champion and 10-time European Champion, Thomas Degasperri of Italy; the two-time and reigning Women's Slalom World Champion, Jaimee Bull of Canada; the 2019 Women's Slalom World Champion, Manon Costard of France.

As well as the Pro skiers, 80 amateurs of all ages will compete in teams of four, relishing the opportunity to meet and rub shoulders with their idols.

Steve Glanfield, who runs Oxford

Wakeboard & Ski Club and is the organiser of the event, said:

"The Oxfordshire Pro Am is not just a competition; it's a celebration of waterskiing excellence. It is a privilege for me to welcome the world's best waterskiers to picturesque Queenford Lakes.

"This is a rare opportunity for the public and waterski fans across the UK to witness to see up close these exceptional athletes showcase their talent in what is an extreme and spectacular sport."

The Oxfordshire Pro Am takes place on Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13 at Oxford Wakeboard & Ski Club, Queenford Lakes, Burcot Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7PQ.

British Water Ski & Wakeboard (BWSW) is the sport's national governing body and a non-profit making membership organisation. All its income is invested in developing and protecting waterskiing and wakeboarding across the UK from the grassroots to our top athletes.

# SPORT

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## Wild Thing goes wild as England aim for Euros glory



Gareth Ainsworth was reporting for Sky Sports News on July 10

HERE is the moment when former Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth reported on England's 2-1 European Championship semi-final victory over the Netherlands.

The 51-year-old, who spent nearly 14 years at Adams Park as a player and then manager, was covering the fixture live for Sky Sports News on July 10.

The clash between the Dutch and the Three Lions saw Xavi Simons put Oranje ahead after seven minutes with a fantastic strike, before England captain Harry Kane equalised 11 minutes later with a penalty.

The contest was an even affair with both sides hitting the post, Jordan Pickford made several important saves to keep Gareth Southgate's side in the tournament, whilst Phil Foden had an attempt blocked on the line.

But on the stroke of 90 minutes, substitute Ollie Watkins buried his shot past Bart Verbruggen to send England into the second Euros final in two tournaments, and their first-ever on foreign soil.

Back in the Sky Sports studios, Ainsworth on the moment that led to the goal said: "I'm sure there's going to be

an opening somewhere.

"There's going to be a bit of magic from someone.

"Cole Palmer has just put Ollie Watkins in...go on Watkins."

The Aston Villa man scored from his subsequent shot, which was his fourth goal for England in his 14th appearance. It was also his first strike for the country away from Wembley Stadium.

After his celebration at the London-based studios, Ainsworth added: "Go on Ollie Watkins! What a goal, in the 90th minute!

"Cole Palmer passes it to Ollie

Watkins, he's on the right-hand side of the penalty area, he turns but it looks like the angle is impossible.

"But he shoots across the keeper and it's gone into the far stick.

"The Dutch are losing their heads – there are bookings everywhere!

"All the substitutes are on the pitch, what a finish that was!"

The win over Holland means England will play Spain in Sunday's final in Berlin.

The Three Lions have never won the Euros, losing in two semi-finals (1968 and 1996), and one final (2021).

## Chairboys legend set for CEO job at Reading

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers captain Joe Jacobson is expected to be named as Reading's new chief executive office.

The 37-year-old, who left the Chairboys after decade at Adams Park this summer, is set for a boardroom role at the Berkshire-based team following Rob Couhig's potential takeover.

The latter owned Wanderers between 2019 and 2024 before selling his 90 per cent stake in the club to the Kazakhstani-Georgian billionaire Mikheil Lomtadze in May of this year.

Following his exit, Couhig has had talks with Reading about purchasing the side from Chinese millionaire Dai Yongge, who has decimated the club's finances since his takeover in 2017.

The American has been spotted at the Royals' Select Car Leasing Stadium, where he has had chats with Head of Football Operations Mark Bowen, and after members of the board.

But in a radical move, it is expected that Jacobson, who hasn't publicly announced his retirement from professional football, is set to take up a position within the club's hierarchy.

The news first reported by Anthony Smith, formerly of the Reading Chronicle, it is believed that the Welshman will take over from Dayong Pang as the club's Chief Executive Officer.

Jacobson made 400 appearances for the Chairboys at left-back in a decade at Adams Park, where he spent an 18-month period as club captain.

By James Richings

He also earned promotion on two occasions in 2018 and 2020, whilst also playing in two play-off final defeats in 2015 and 2022.

The Welshman also has the distinction of being one of few players to score an EFL hat-trick through set pieces – two of which were corners.

This came in Wanderers' 3-1 victory over Lincoln City in September 2019 – the same year where he scored the winning goal against Oxford United in that year's play-off showcase at Wembley.

That strike sent the Chairboys to the Championship for the first time in their history.

Wycombe will start the season away at Wrexham on August 10, and will not face Reading until December, when the two sides will meet at Adams Park.

**What do the fans think?**

Many are surprised that Jacobson, who is highly respected across the Football League, is taking up the job just months after leaving a club he had spent so long at.

This is in addition to the lack of rumours linking the Welshman to the role.

However, many are looking forward to what the future might bring.

One Wycombe fan said: "He was probably the most intelligent footballer in the EFL. Really articulate, really bright, very personable and socially adept.

"Just an all round brilliant man who you'd be lucky to have in any capacity."



Joe Jacobson spent 10 years at Wycombe between 2014 and 2014, playing 400 times in that period (PA)

## How did Bucks do this week in the league?

BATTLING centuries from Alexei Kervezee and Aadi Sharma enabled Bucks to recover from a big first-innings deficit to earn a draw in their National Counties Championship Division 1 match against Lincolnshire at Sleaford.

The defending champions conceded a first-innings lead of 149 to their hosts, and when they slumped to 3-3 in their second knock, a defeat in two days was a strong possibility.

But the experienced Kervezee and the 18-year-old Sharma resisted with a fourth-wicket stand of 187 in 46 overs.

Sharma scored 103 from 144 balls to make it centuries in successive Championship matches following his ton in last year's final victory over Devon.

Kervezee, who had earlier been forced to don the wicket-keeping gloves following the late withdrawal of Ross Richardson, went on to score 165 from 232 balls with a six and 18 fours as Bucks attempted to set a stiff fourth-innings target.

He was assisted by Cam Parsons's second half-century of the match as Bucks reached 393 from 93 overs in their second innings. This set Lincs a target of 245 for victory but they made little attempt and finished on 106-3 from 39 overs to earn 12 points to Bucks's 8.

The first half of the match belonged to Lincolnshire. Bucks, choosing to bat first, slumped to 75-6 before Parsons (59) led a recovery that lifted them to 220.

The hosts sailed past this score thanks to a brilliant 154 from Tom Keast and 126 from Ben Wight in a third-wicket stand of 257 in 64 overs. At one stage they were 313-2 but were restricted to 369-8 from their 90 overs.

Although time was lost to the weather, it was the resolution of Kervezee and Sharma that earned Bucks a draw.

Bucks now take on Suffolk at Tring Park, starting this Sunday, for which they have named the same squad including Richardson.