

Reaches 75% of adults in High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Marlow each month

*E Telmer Oct 2021 (4 weeks in print & online)

Bucks Free Press

Friday, September 22, 2023

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.50



WYCOMBE WONDERS
THREE GAMES UNBEATEN IN GREAT START TO SEASON
 See Back Page

BUT ...

REPLICA KITS TAKEN OFF SALE AFTER FANS GET SHIRTY ABOUT QUALITY
 Page 64



Aston Bowring was on holiday in Barcelona with girlfriend Leanne when he was arrested on charges of assault

Teenager 'locked up and beaten' inside Spanish police cell


Shock of holidaymaker arrested and girlfriend abandoned on street

Story Page 7

POLICE CHASE ENDS IN CRASH AND ARRESTS



Page 2



BAR SEEKS £15K FOR URGENT FIX

Page 5

Briants Fencing Supplies

LAP PANELS

Autumn/Winter can be a great time to replace broken and damaged fence panels. Once the shrubs and borders have been cut back it's far easier to access those awkward areas.



Opening Hours - Weekdays 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 1:45 - 5:00 PM
 Collection OR Local Delivery (Within approx 20miles of HP27 9SG)
 Order Instore, online or call 01844 343863. www.briantsfencing.co.uk

KEEPING OUR CUSTOMERS SAFE

D: D TAXI

SPECIAL OFFER TO HEATHROW AIRPORT TERMINAL 1, 2, 3 AND 5 - £35 PLUS DROP OFF CHARGE

Book **FAST!** Book your taxi in moments via our app.

Download the app

Tel: 01494 558080 Email: door2doorhw@hotmail.com

Sukhothai Thai Restaurant

Restaurant & Takeaway



50 High Street
 Great Missenden HP16 0AU Bucks
 Tel: 01494 868 911
 www.sukhothaimissenden.com

Boss on EFL Trophy win

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield said he was 'disappointed' despite his side winning their first EFL Trophy home match in five years.

The Chairboys defeated the Crystal Palace U21s 1-0 at Adams Park with Luke Leahy's last minute penalty settling the score.

Wanderers' dominated large periods of the contest as they registered 21 shots on goal, but only five were on target.

Speaking on the game, he said: "We wanted to win the game but we wanted to win by having a good performance.

"This was an opportunity for some players to build up their minutes for first-team action and showcase what they have on what

was a competitive Palace team.

"I'm pleased with the way we conducted ourselves and we got the three points which was needed. "It was nice to get the win and it's an important habit to get into.

"In a way, I'm kind of disappointed in tonight as we had several chances in the first half as we were quite wasteful in the opposition penalty area.

"Maybe it was a touch that rang away from us or a misplaced pass, but in a way, that would indicate a lack of match minutes for the boys.

"We improved on that in the second half as I wanted us to have more confidence and composure and we saw that.

"We piled on the pressure and got the winner in the end."

Alan Parry's Previews: New bounce



Michael Appleton (PA)

AS the in-form team in League One after winning four of their last five games, Wycombe should have no fears about a trip to Charlton Athletic on Saturday, September 23, but beware the new manager 'bounce'.

The former Premier League club recently appointed the experienced Michael Appleton as their boss, and this will be his first game in charge at the Valley where the Addicks regularly attract crowds of over 15,000.

The ex-Oxford manager will be eager to make a good impression on the home fans after gaining a point in his first game at league leaders Stevenage thanks to a stoppage time penalty.

He has been a coach for twenty years enjoying periods of success at Portsmouth, Blackpool, Blackburn Rovers and of course, Wanderers' Thames Valley Rivals along the M40.

He was also assistant manager at Leicester City in the Premier League. Appleton replaced Dean Holden who was sacked after Charlton lost four of their first five games this season.

He is Charlton's fifth manager in just over two years and inherited a team which has won only twice and sit nine places below Wycombe in the table.

The corresponding fixture last season ended in a 1-1 draw with Chris Forino netting for the Chairboys, and it was the same scoreline when the teams met at Adams Park, Anis Mehmeti on target for Wanderers.

Wycombe are undefeated in the last four meetings between the clubs, although they have beaten Charlton only three times in nine previous matches.

It is fourteen years since Charlton were relegated from the Premier League and they have spent six of the last seven seasons in League One with just one campaign in the Championship during that spell.

They finished tenth last season, one place and seven points behind the Chairboys.

Wycombe could face their nemesis Alfie May who scored four goals against them in a crazy 5-5 draw at Adams Park two seasons ago when he was playing for Cheltenham Town.

May, who moved to Charlton in the close season, missed last week's game at Stevenage with concussion but is expected to return for the visit of Wycombe.

A tough fixture for the Blues, but they are on a roll and confidence is high.



Matt Bloomfield's side have won the last three games without conceding a goal (PA)

McCarthy to miss next three months



Jason McCarthy (pictured in November 2021) has only played one game for Wycombe this season Image: PA

WYCOMBE Wanderers will be without right-wing back Jason McCarthy 'for a significant period of time' after he suffered a recurrence of his toe injury.

The 27-year-old missed the entirety of pre-season and has only featured in one competitive match for the Chairboys this campaign.

This was in the 2-1 away victory at Bristol Rovers on August 26.

He was an unused substitute in the 1-0 League Cup loss against Sutton United and the 1-0 away victory over Northampton Town at the start of September but has not featured since.

It has since been revealed that the ex-Millwall and Southampton man is due to have surgery and is expected to return to the first team in roughly three months' time.

Manager Matt Bloomfield said: "He's suffered a recurrence of the sesamoid bone injury.

"It's unfortunate for Jason as he's a real diamond of a lad and we think extremely highly of him.

"He's been part of the fabric of this club for a number of years as we love his energy, attitude, personality and what he gives on the pitch.

"Sadly, he's got a recurrence of that injury and he'll be out for a significant period of time.

"It's a crying shame for us and for him personally, but, he'll go through the rehab the right way and we look forward to having him back in the team."

The boss was talking to the press after his side defeated the Crystal Palace U21s 1-0 in the EFL Trophy.

By James Richings

Luke Leahy's last-minute penalty secured the club's first win in the competition since November 2019 and their first at home in the cup since September 2018.

It was also Wanderers' third consecutive win without conceding, in which they have been victorious six times in their 10 matches this season.

He continued: "Any decent team is built on a strong defensive line and that's one of the things we were disappointed with earlier in the season when we freely conceded goals.

"We've worked on that a lot and I feel as if we're being as solid as we can without sacrificing too much of our attacking instincts."

McCarthy's absence could pave the way for a handful of the development players to make their mark in the first team, with one being Declan Skura.

The youngster made his debut in the victory over the Palace U21s and Bloomfield was impressed with his performance.

He said: "We've got high hopes for Deco.

"He's been unfortunate with injuries since he got here.

He joined when I was at Colchester and I remember speaking to JJ [Joe Jacobson] and [Richard Dobson] about him when we played his trial game at Farnborough.

"He's been injured for a little while but he has impressed us and he deserved his chance."

SPORT

0963-2336



Hummel will make Wycombe's shirts until 2028 (PA)

New kits taken off the shelves as numerous complaints are made

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that 'all replica shirts have gone off sale' following several complaints about the kits' quality.

The home and away jerseys, which are produced by the Danish sports supplier, Hummel, went on sale last month after they confirmed their five-year contract with the European clothing manufacturer.

Initially met with enthusiasm and excitement amongst the fanbase following the announcement back in June, the kits were not available to be purchased until August following a delay in shipping.

Once they were made accessible for sale in the club shop, many supporters have since noticed that the Hummel logo would fall off after one wash.

Those who were impacted by this shared image of the damaged kits on social media.

The club said: "We regret to learn of manufacturing challenges with the new replica shirts supplied by Hummel, and would like to assure supporters that every effort is being made to rectify these challenges and guarantee the highest possible standards going forward."

They continued: "The club have received complaints relating to the Hummel logo coming away from the shirt and has been in regular discussions with the supplier to change the application and quality control processes, whilst replacing all faulty items.

"Until the new supply of shirts is available, all replica shirts have gone off sale".

Getting ready for the capital

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed he wants his side to be 'confident' to stop Charlton Athletics' 'new manager bounce'.

The Chairboys travel to the Valley this weekend following three consecutive wins in all competitions without conceding a goal.

They are also unbeaten in their last five league games and are one of the inform teams in the EFL.

However, they will be taking on a Charlton side who have recently appointed former Oxford United, Blackpool, Blackburn Rovers and Lincoln City boss, Michael Appleton, following the departure of Dean Holden who was fired in August.

Bloomfield told the Free Press: "Inevitably, there is usually that 'new manager bounce' when someone takes over and no doubt there will be a good atmosphere at the ground on Saturday.

"We'll be aware of that, and we just need to concentrate on ourselves.

"We've shown our different qualities in recent games, and going to the Valley at any time is always a tough game on a big pitch with a good crowd behind them.

"We know that this will be a very difficult game so we need to be really respectful of that but we want to be confident in what we want to implement."

The 39-year-old also admitted that the appointment of Appleton slightly impacted his preparation for this weekend's fixture.

He told the BFP: "Every manager has an idea of how they want the game to be played,

By James Richings

and Michael Appleton will have different ideas to Dean Holden and that's just part of the beast which is football management.

"The same individuals are there so we know about them, and from the team element, we'll have a look at what they did against Stevenage last week and try and adapt if we need to."

Wycombe go into this weekend's fixture in the capital with a good record against their opponents, as the Chairboys are currently unbeaten in their last four against the Addicks.

This includes doing the double over the ex-Premier League team in the 2021/22 season, whilst earning two 1-1 draws in the previous campaign.

The latter two results were the first Wanderers and Charlton had shared the spoils in any competitive match between each other.

Bloomfield concluded: "The vibe has been good around the place and I'm pleased with the way the boys performed on Tuesday.

"Some games present chances but others don't but we need to be more clinical and against Palace the other night, we should have done better around the box as we had many opportunities to see them off.

"We needed that composure at the vital moments but everything is a learning curve and hopefully we can use that moving forward."

A win for Wanderers could see them move into the top six.



Wycombe drew with Charlton 1-1 last season at the Valley (PA)



Another win for the Wyc (PA)

Blackpool beaten in Bucks

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield believes starting with a front three is a tactic he'll continue to use during the season.

The Chairboys defeated Blackpool 2-0 at Adams Park with Sam Vokes, Brandon Hanlan and Garath McCleary leading the line in attack.

The move worked as Vokes and Hanlan both got on the scoresheet to register their first goals of the season, whilst McCleary chalked up another assist to add to his two strikes so far this campaign.

The result was also Wanderers' third win in a row as they made it five unbeaten in League One as they moved up to eighth in the table.

Speaking on the performance, Bloomfield said: "Today was the product of the hard work we have put in over the last two weeks.

"I was nervous going into the game as I wanted the boys to get the rewards for what they've done in that time, so I'm very happy.

"I'm so happy that Sam Vokes got his goal today as he was excellent when we didn't have the ball.

"On Brandon, there has been a lot of noise around him in recent weeks but he's trained so hard and when he's on his game, he's unplayable.

"His goal came from some magic work by Garath who still has a spring in his step.

"We wanted it today and we hit them early on the front foot. They deserved it."