

Bucks Free Press

Friday, April 5, 2024

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.60

PAGES 20-21

Bunny fun on Easter trail at Hughenden



Egg hunting time



WIN



Chocolate hamper

PAGE 32

dobbies
garden centres



£5 OFF
a £25 spend

PAGE 23

Paralympian to open new store

Canoe gold winner to hand out fruit



A PARALYMPIAN will be officially opening the new Aldi in High Wycombe later this month.

Aldi, which is getting ready to open on Crest Road, is planning to open its doors on April 18 at 8am.

The new store will be run by store manager Stuart, along with a team of 30 colleagues from the local community.

By Isabella Perrin

Gold, silver and bronze medalist Jeanette Chippington will be performing the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Paralympics paracanoe star Jeanette will also give away bags of fresh fruit and vegetables from Aldi's Super 6 range to the first 30 customers

in the queue.

Aldi Store Manager Stuart said: "We can't wait to open the doors to the new store in High Wycombe. It's set to be a special day and having Paralympic hero Jeanette Chippington join us will make it a morning to remember."

Full story: Page 3

Survivor's charity shop



PAGE 9

RADHUNI
LOUNGE · RESTAURANT



The Old Library,
Princes Risborough,
HP27 9AA
01844 690446
www.radhunilounge.com

Radhuni Lounge & Restaurant is a stylish and welcoming space to relax and socialise. Perfect for meetings, lunches, drinks/cocktails and premium dining.

Sukhothai
Thai Restaurant

Award Winning
Restaurant & Takeaway



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

20% off food bill only with this advert or quote BFP
Sunday - Thursday only

Elgiva for Everyone
this Spring!

Check out our fantastic programme at elgiva.com

Sport

SQUASH

Player shortlisted for unsung hero award

THE success of Wycombe Squash & Racketball Club (WSRC) is largely down to one woman, Tina Kershaw, who has been shortlisted for an England Squash Unsung Hero award.

The club is frequently cited as an exemplary representation of community, producing both county and national level players, nurturing a junior membership of 116, and boasting 12 teams in county leagues.

But this didn't happen overnight.

Club administrator, Kershaw, is instrumental in

organising fixtures, overseeing memberships, maintaining the club's books and liaising with the local community.

In addition to her official responsibilities, Kershaw coaches players, facilitates matches, looks after the club's building maintenance, and even barbeques for 300 people.

At the heart of her ethos is the belief that squash can be a force for good, promoting fitness amongst different social groups.

Kershaw works to engage local schools and organisations, establishing

fitness habits and enabling everyone to get on the court and stay active.

Beyond her vital role in the club's day-to-day running, Kershaw is a Level 2 coach, supporting skill development and love of the game.

"There are many other people that help make sure that WSRC is both a great squash venue and a welcoming place to visit," Kershaw said.

The club is thrilled at Kershaw's nomination, seeing it as recognition for the dedication of all involved at WSRC.



Tina Kershaw - Unsung hero nominee

CHAIRBOYS

Solid point on the road at Blackpool

WYCOMBE Wanderers secured a well-earned point on the road as they drew 0-0 against play-off-chasing Blackpool.

The Chairboys made six changes to the side that lost against Portsmouth on Good Friday, as manager Matt Bloomfield had one eye for the club's EFL Trophy final appearance versus Peterborough United in six days.

Out went Jack Grimmer, Ryan Tafazolli, Nigel Lonwijk, Freddie Potts, Kieran Sadlier and Richard Kone, whilst Chris Forino, Joe Low, Jason McCarthy, David Wheeler, Chem Campbell and Dale Taylor all came in.

And it was the latter who had Wanderers' best chance of the opening half, as he headed over a Bez Lubala cross after just five minutes.

The first period was littered with half chances as Luke Leahy and David Wheeler went close but to no avail.

For the Tangerines, Sonny Carey forced Franco Ravizzoli into a routine save from a close-range free-kick, with the Argentine also denying CJ Hamilton.

However, there was one concern for Wycombe in the first-half, as Josh Scowen was taken off hurt with what seemed to be an impact injury.

The tempo increased dramatically in the second period as both sides tried to find a winner.

For Wycombe, Sam Vokes fired over from a Freddie Potts cross, whilst the latter smashed wide.

Wheeler, Taylor, and Low also tried their luck but Dan Grimshaw denied them in the home goal.

Down the other end, Blackpool tried to find that decisive winner to help with their play-off push, but Ravizzoli produced two stunning stops in the final five minutes to secure a vital point on the road.

The ex-MK man first denied Jordan Gabriel before he tipped a Jake Beesley shot onto the crossbar.

There was drama in the final few seconds as Vokes smashed the crossbar, before the Wanderers' shot-stopper once again denied Beesley.

Wycombe remain 13th and take on Peterborough in the EFL Trophy Final next Sunday, April 7.

Manager Matt Bloomfield said: "The last thing I wanted was to go to Wembley next week with poor league form hanging over us.

"Our form has been good recently and our performances have been really good.

"A point and clean sheet on the road can't be sniffed at, as I wanted selection headaches going into the final as places are up for grabs."

Attendance: 10,171

FOOTBALL

Champions crowned as Chesham secure promotion

AS Chesham United approached the Easter Weekend there was a palpable sense of anticipation in the town.

With a healthy lead in the Southern League Premier South there was a chance that the games on Good Friday and Easter Monday could provide enough, with some help from the teams in second and third, to get The Generals over the line.

Excitement has been building in Chesham that promotion to National League South was close – could the Easter weekend deliver!

First up Hayes & Yeading at home on Good Friday.

With an amazing league crowd at The Meadow (1,353), the supporters enjoyed a tight encounter against a team fighting to avoid the drop. Hayes' endeavour showed with a tight and competitive first 45 minutes.

However, midway through the second half Chesham made a double substitution and broke the deadlock!

James Harding got on the end of a Roddy Collins cross and scored his first goal for the club with a header just inside the far post.

Hayes had plenty of pressure late on and forced several corners which Chesham's defence dealt with, but Chesham held on for the win and 3 important points.

With Gosport losing at home on Friday and Salisbury drawing 3-3 on Saturday, Monday's task was made a little easier for Chesham who required 2 points against Harrow Borough to secure the title.

And so to Monday! Chesham's

By Andrew Westlake

faithful had made the short trip on The Metropolitan Line / the H9 bus for what everyone hoped would be a massive day in the club's history.

The early stages of the game didn't quite go as Chesham hoped with Ronny Mfinda, an ex-Chesham player, scoring for Harrow on 6 minutes.

However, on 32 minutes Kieran Murphy flicked a corner in and The Generals were level. Murphy was in the goals again 10 minutes later giving Chesham a 2-1 advantage at half-time.

The second half eventually eased the nerves for the visiting fans as Ricardo German scored an 82nd minute penalty and Callum Adebisi smashed a header in on 90' to seal the win 1-4, and the league title for Chesham.

At the full-time whistle the Chesham fans charged on to the pitch and the celebrations started!

They went on long into the night as the players, management and fans look forward to National League South next season!

Chesham United FC are next at home on Saturday 6th April against Salisbury FC. Salisbury are currently in 3rd so it's an important game for them as they chance a playoff place. Chesham United FC Women's next home game is at The Meadow against QPR FC Women on the 21st April.

To celebrate the occasion, special home, away and third kits have been made available to purchase through the club shop.



Champions! Photo by Darren Campbell

ARCHERY

Champion named at South Bucks comp



Chris Jordan beat Kalhan Jogireddy to become the South Bucks Archers Indoor Champion 2024.

SOUTH Bucks Archers Archery Club held their annual indoor Club Championship on Wednesday, March 27.

Shooting a novelty target for the preliminary round, archers shot 42 arrows each to determine group winners for the elimination round.

The elimination round saw longbow archer Mark Saunders, barebow archers Claire Moore and Kalhan Jogireddy, and recurve archers Bruce Miller, Chris Jordan and Dan Harrison pitted against each other in knock out stages.

Each archer shot three arrows at a regular three spot archery target with the lowest scoring archer knocked out in each round.

2023 champion Dan Harrison was the

first to be knocked out of the competition followed by Bruce Miller then Mark Saunders.

Claire Moore claimed third place before a tense final round saw Chris Jordan beat Kalhan Jogireddy to become the South Bucks Archers Indoor Champion 2024.

Club Records and Tournaments Officer, Kevin Gray, was pleased with how the event went.

He said: "It was a challenging yet fun shoot to close the indoor season. Well done to the group winners and congratulations to South Bucks Archers Indoor Champion 2024 Chris Jordan."

To read more about the latest sports news in Buckinghamshire, follow James Richings on X (@James_BFP).

AP'S PREVIEWS

Our Wembley history

WYCOMBE Wanderers take the familiar road to Wembley on Sunday, April 7 for a remarkable fourth time in the last nine years, an achievement they share with giants of the game like Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal.

The Bristol Street Motors Trophy has its detractors and obviously lacks the glamour of the FA Cup and League Cup, but there are 46 EFL clubs who would happily swap places with the Chairboys on Sunday.

Mat Bloomfield's men won seven ties to reach Wembley, eliminating the U21 teams from Premier League clubs Crystal Palace, Fulham, West Ham United and Brighton and Hove Albion along the way - no mean feat.

It will be Wycombe's eighth appearance at the historic home of English football where they have been victorious four times, losing the other three. They have scored fifteen goals on the hallowed turf, conceding ten.

The club's first visit to the national stadium came in 1957 when they lost 3-1 to Bishop Auckland in the FA Amateur Cup Final.

It would be 34 years before they returned to the famous venue.

In 1991, Martin O'Neill led Wanderers to a 3-1 win against Kidderminster Harriers in the FA Trophy Final just a year after being appointed manager.

They were back again only two years later, this time defeating Runcorn 4-1 in the same competition.

By 1994, Wycombe had won promotion to the EFL for the first time in their history and celebrated their inaugural campaign in style beating Preston North End 4-2 at Wembley in the Division Three play-off final.

In recent times, Wanderers have appeared in another three Wembley play-off finals with mixed fortunes.

They lost on penalties to Southend United in 2015; beat Oxford United in 2020 to memorably gain promotion to the Championship; then succumbed to Sunderland just two years ago.

Considering how many football fans have never seen their team play at Wembley, it is a fabulous record for a small club from a town in 'leafy Bucks' and if they can add to their list of triumphs on Sunday, the Adams Park boardroom will have another shiny trophy to put on display.

RUGBY

Beaconsfield hammer Oxford in comfortable win

BEACONSFIELD made it 21 wins out of 21 under the floodlights, in the midst of a storm of quite biblical proportions last Thursday night.

In an already once-postponed match, it was only through the concerted efforts of many club volunteers that the match was playable at all, with a dedicated squad spending the afternoon sweeping water off the pitch.

The sleet and near-hurricane wind blew the length of the pitch for the duration, with Beaconsfield boldly electing to face the elements in the first half. A large and powerful Oxford pack dominated the first 35 minutes, consistently deep in Beaconsfield's 22, but a defensive display worthy of Rorke's Drift, albeit with fewer fatalities, thwarted the visitors. Beaconsfield never abandoned their trademark game plan though, and a rare mo-

ment of possession lead to a length of the pitch score, with the irrepressible number 8, Rhys Amos [pictured below], finishing off the move for the home side to turn around 5 - 0 up.

Having successfully repelled boarders into the face of the storm for 40 minutes, Beaconsfield grew in confidence and ambition after the break, profiting from the ever-worsening conditions and camping on the visitors' line. Relentless forward pressure lead to promising young hooker Thomas Rendell driving over from a line-out, closely followed by a short range try from fly-half Aled Lewis off a ruck. Lewis, uncharacteristically, failed with all three conversions, mainly because the posts and floodlights were swaying so much in the storm, but successfully slotted a penalty to take the final score to 18 - 0.



Rhys Amos. Pic by Richard Gommo

Fan favourite Forino racially abused in draw

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has described the racist abuse aimed at Chris Forino as 'abhorrent' following the club's away draw at Blackpool.

The Chairboys held the ex-Premier League side to a 0-0 stalemate at Bloomfield on Easter Monday [April 1], as the Adams Park team remain 13th whilst the Tangerines sit ninth.

However, the match was overshadowed after Forino reported to the matchday officials of a discriminatory remark made towards him during the opening period.

The Saint Lucian centre back played for the remainder of the encounter and put in a brilliant display to help the Chairboys secure their 16th clean sheet of the season in all competitions.

Speaking after the draw, Bloomfield said: "Chris has heard some racial abuse from behind the goal which he reported.

"He dealt with it extremely maturely and fair play to him for how he dealt with it, as he cleared his mind to play.

"It's abhorrent in my mind that we live in a society where people think this be-

haviour is acceptable.

"Football is for all as it doesn't matter your age, creed, colour or sexuality.

"It's our national sport and we need to protect it."

Wanderers have also released a statement following the incident.

They said: "Wycombe Wanderers are dismayed to confirm that a racist remark was directed at Chris Forino by a Blackpool supporter during today's League 1 fixture at Bloomfield Road.

"The player reported the incident to the

match official at the time and the club will work with Blackpool to help identify the individual responsible.

"Wycombe condemn all forms of discrimination and continues to support the fight to eradicate racism from the sport and society as a whole.

"The club fully stand by Chris and commend him on his actions."

A statement on the Blackpool website has asked fans to email customerservices@blackpoolfc.co.uk if they have any information.

SPORT

0963-2336



If it's not broken then there's no need to fix it



Wycombe's visit to Wembley will be their fourth since 2015 (PA)

MATT Bloomfield has admitted that the preparation for this weekend's EFL Trophy final will not change against Peterborough United.

The Chairboys will partake in the competition's showpiece for the first time in their history, after only reaching the semi-finals on one occasion.

But a positive run of results since the New Year has taken Wanderers away from relegation fears to mid-table safety, with a day at Wembley getting ever

closer.

He said: "I was pleased on Monday with the performance levels and I wanted that on the day, especially from the boys who hadn't played in a while.

"It was important for us [to keep a clean sheet].

"Our defensive display has been alright apart from two games where we had a four and a three, but since we've gone to a four at the back, we've looked good.

"It's really important for us to build on a solid defensive display

as Peterborough are a team that can "hurt you at any moment."

On the final, he added: "I feel fairly calm as I'm proud of the players who have taken us here.

"It'll be incredibly proud to lead my club out at Wembley, but my focus is making sure we have the right game plan, the right preparation for the training and check on a few bumps and bruises.

"It's my job that the excitement is tempered.

"We'll going to train the same,

we'll prepare the same, we'll eat the same food and we'll travel in the same tracksuit.

"Everything will be the same but there'll be a different feel about it. "My only focus is getting training right because if we prepare right, then I believe in this team.

"For us, we've been here a few times in the play-offs, but we need to perform to the level that we can.

"We do that, then there's no better place to win but it's a cruel place to lose."

Gearing up for cup final day at Wembley

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has provided an injury update going into the club's EFL Trophy final appearance against Peterborough United.

The Chairboys made six changes to the starting 11 that drew 0-0 at Blackpool on Easter Monday following the 3-1 home defeat to Portsmouth on Good Friday.

The boss made the alterations due to the quick turnaround of fixtures, as he wants 'selection headaches' ahead of the Wembley showpiece on April 7.

On specific players, he said: "Kane Vincent-Young won't be available.

"He picked up a bad quad injury at Stevenage so that's his season done for us.

"Saxon Earley won't also play a part for us this season, along with Brandon Hanlan but Garath McCleary is doing a bit of light training.

"We're seeing what's happening with him, and with Josh Scowen, he picked up a knock [at Blackpool] so we thought it was good for him to come off.

"But hopefully we'll have a fit squad for Sunday.

"Everyone has been training well and we've got good depth in all positions as I want selection headaches."

The visit to the home of English football on Sunday will be the fourth time in 10 seasons that the Chairboys have played under the famous arch in North London.

The first occasion since the stadium reopened in 2007 was in the 2015 League Two play-off final, which ended in heartbreak following a penalty shootout loss against Southend United.

But it was all smiles five years later as a victory in the 2020

By James Richings

League One play-off final at the expense of Thames Valley rivals Oxford United sent the Chairboys to the Championship for the first time.

A year in the second tier concluded with relegation back into League One, where they were second best in the competition's play-off showpiece against Sunderland in May 2022.

Each occasion involved Bloomfield as a player or as a coach with the Adams Park side, and he revealed what emotions he'll be experiencing when he walks out of the tunnel at Wembley with his beloved Wycombe.

He continued: "Captaining the team at Wembley was amazing and the feeling of being manager of this club for the first time was something I felt extremely proud about, but being the manager of a club that is close to my heart will be a proud moment.

"To lead the team that I love out at Wembley is a proud moment for me and my family.

"We've had to share a few tough moments this season where I've had to dig deep and my family has had to be there to support that at times.

"There have been some low moments this season where they've had to live through some tough times when I've not been answering my phone or concentrating on football when I should be giving them time.

"So for my family to see walk the team out at Wembley, I hope they're proud but even prouder at full-time.

"I feel calm but I'm looking forward to it."



The EFL Trophy final will take place this weekend between Peterborough United and Wycombe Wanderers (PA)

Praising the Posh ahead of the final

WYCOMBE boss Matt Bloomfield has praised Peterborough United manager Darren Ferguson ahead of Sunday's EFL Trophy final.

The two sides have already met twice this season in the league, with the Chairboys defeating the Posh by an aggregate score of 9-4, which includes a 5-2 thumping at Adams Park in February.

In fact, Wanderers have only lost one of their last seven games versus the Cambridgeshire-based team as Wycombe are unbeaten in their last five encounters.

But Bloomfield is are of the talent that Boro possesses and that he has 'respect' for the opposition.

He said: "This will be different to the league games as it's a cup final at a neutral venue and there's a lot at stake.

"Peterborough have been very consistent this season, as they have got a number of players who have played a huge chunk of the season for them and we know we have to be at our best when up against them.

"They've got players that can hurt you, especially in the wide areas who have a lot of ability, as they play a style of football which is ingrained in them.

"Darren has done a brilliant job and it fascinates me that he's not linked to higher jobs when they come about.

"We respect them, but we've got players in the wide areas that can also hurt our opponents."

"This isn't what I think but if you look at the bookies, I think we are the underdogs and Peterborough are the favourites and understandably so.

"When you look at where they are in the league and the amount of money they have spent on their squad, so I think that's the perception.

"We need to prepare in the way that we always do, irrespective of opponents as we need to build a game plan that we believe in.

"Anything can happen on the day."