

Bucks Free Press

Friday, August 16, 2024

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DJ Vernon 'moves it'

Radio star in parkrun surprise

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£2k refund on 'extortionate' British Gas bill



POWER OF PRESS AS BFP GETS 'ERROR' SORTED

Knifed in the street



Attempted murder probe launch after couple hurt

By Eleanor Burleigh

AN ATTEMPTED murder probe has been launched after a man and woman were stabbed in High Wycombe.

Neighbours heard screams after an altercation between three people in Havenfield Road at about 11.30pm on Sunday.

Witnesses said it seemed the man and woman, both 41, were walking along the street when they were attacked. They were seriously injured and remain in hospital, with life-threatening injuries.

A cordon was put in place in the early hours of Monday, cutting Havenfield Road and Sycamore Road off from public access.

Full story: Page 5



THE BEACON

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Sport

SPORT: WANDERERS

Boss 'disappointed' at red card in cup win

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has described Alex Hartridge's red card in the recent 2-0 victory over Northampton Town as 'disappointing'.

The 25-year-old, who joined the Chairboys from Exeter City in May, was shown a second yellow card in the EFL Cup win on August 14 for allegedly timewasting.

The defender was seen walking over to the ball to take a throwing before he adjusted his headband.

Already cautioned,

referee Declan Bourne thought Wanderers' number five was deliberately winding the clock down, so he opted to show him yellow card.

However, following Hartridge's shocked expression, Bourne then realised he had already penalised the defender, before brandishing a red.

There was a delay of around 10 seconds before he was sent off.

Bloomfield said: "It's disappointing.

"We chased him for a long time and were really

pleased to get him in the building.

"So I'm not sure if the referee knew he had already been booked.

"There was a big delay between the booking and the sending off.

"So maybe if he realised that it was a second booking

"I'm just assuming from the actions on the night.

"There didn't seem a particularly long delay in restarting the game.

"But we have to be wary of that as it allows

others to get back into the game."



Bloomfield has been in charge of 75 games. Image: PA

SPORT: KEEPING UP WITH THE CRICKET

Bucks beat Beds in classic as summer of wins continue

AFTER a match of wildly fluctuating fortunes, Bucks eventually defeated Bedfordshire by 34 runs at Flitwick on Tuesday to record their first victory of the season in National Counties Eastern Division 1.

After dominating the first day thanks to excellent centuries from Alexei Kervezee and Cameron Hemp, Bucks seemed in command. But a second-innings collapse turned the fortunes around and made Beds marginal favourites.

However, an inspired spell of pace bowling from skipper Tom Hampton, who took 5-26, saw Bucks squeeze home amid mounting tension to keep alive their chances of retaining the National Counties Championship title.

After winning the toss, Bucks rattled up a mammoth total of 468-7 from their 90 overs in the first innings.

Kervezee led the way with a spectacular 180 from 152 balls with a six and 25 fours. Hemp scored his second successive ton, making 105 from 118 balls with three sixes and 14 fours. Kervezee shared century partnerships with George Harvey (48) and Ed Bragg (55) as Bucks ran riot.

Bedfordshire, 90-1 overnight, also made the most of a benign pitch and a fast outfield on the second day to reply with 379 all out from 89.5 overs. The hosts, too, had two century-makers. Young Jack Tarling, who joined Beds from Bucks this season, made 126 from 237 balls, while George Thurstance hammered 108 from 126 balls with three sixes and seven fours.

With a first-innings lead of 89, Bucks seemed in command but their batsmen, after fielding in the extreme heat, succumbed to excellent fast bowling from Matt Coles and Jack Fuller and slumped to 64-6

By Michael Knox

in their second innings. They eventually struggled to 134 all out, setting Beds 224 for victory.

At 70-1, the hosts were favourites to pull off an unlikely victory. But an inspired three-wicket spell from Hampton turned the match around.

And despite a frustrating last-wicket stand of 33, Bucks dismissed the home county for 189 to pull off a memorable victory.

The Eastern Division 1 title will be decided when Bucks entertain leaders Staffordshire at High Wycombe, starting this Sunday.

However, Bucks have been forced to make changes for their possible National Counties Championship Eastern Division 1 title-decider against Staffordshire at High Wycombe, starting this Sunday.

Batters Cameron Hemp and George Harvey are unavailable. AJ Woodland plays his first Championship game of the season, while his High Wycombe clubmate Eliot Callis is recalled after two years.

There is a Championship debut for the Aylesbury-born all-rounder Ryan Friend, who has recorded two big scores for the Bucks 2nd team in recent weeks.

Wycombe seamer Cameron Parsons, who missed the exciting 34-run win over Bedfordshire this week, returns to the squad.

Bucks squad: T Hampton (Wokingham) capt, A Woodland (High Wycombe), V Jani (Richmond), E Callis (High Wycombe), A Kervezee (Halesowen), R Richardson (Henley), D Chapman (Stony Stratford), R Friend (Berkhamsted), E Bragg (Halesowen), C Parsons (High Wycombe), C Haddow (High Wycombe), T Weymes (Tring Park).



The victory means its another win for Bucks so far this summer

SPORT: FOOTBALL

Devastating
Dynamos
demolish
Dunstable

AFTER the disappointing close 3-2 defeat against Potton on Saturday, Dynamos faced local rivals Dunstable Town in the 4th League game of the season, which they won 5-0.

Dynamos started brightly and Bax Daffeh and Blaaze Lawrence both had early shots saved.

However, it wasn't long until Dynamos opened the scoring.

Alfie Anderson was the architect beating a player and finding Dave Brown, he swung in a lovely cross where Bax Daffeh was on hand to head home. 1-0 Dynamos.

A couple of yellow cards were shown, one for a Dunstable player and Anderson going in the book for a late challenge.

Half an hour played and Daffeh carved out an opening for Anderson, but his shot went over the bar.

Dynamos had the ball in the net on 34 minutes after Baldwin's shot was spilt and Brown stole the ball and slotted it home, but the referee gave a foul. 37 minutes and Dynamos took control.

A weak clearance was pounced upon by Baldwin who got a vital touch and the ball fell to Bax Daffeh.

He danc'd his way through three challenges into the box and beat the keeper with a low shot. 2-0 Dynamos.

A few minutes later Dynamos were out of sight.

Baldwin gained control on the right wing and sent a lovely ball into the box where Brownie was lurking, unmarked, and headed home. 3-0 Dynamos.

Half Time: Dynamos 3-0 Dunstable Town

Dunstable had an early chance but Sean Locke-Hart came out and claimed well, getting clattered in the process.

On 58 minutes, Bax Daffeh completed his hat-trick.

Jacob Williamson played a lofted pass straight into the feet of Bax who controlled, sidestepped the stranded keeper and calmly slotted into an empty net to make it 4-0.

In the 82nd minute, a bad tackle from Dunstable player saw him get a second yellow and was subsequently sent off, before Dynamos wrapped up the win in the dying embers, Lawrence made it 5-0.

Team: Sean Locke-Hart; Abu Khan, Nathan Brownsword, Exauce Buenga, Jordan Jenkins; Bakary Daffeh, Jacob Williamson, Dave Brown, Alfie Anderson, Blaaze Lawrence; Jake Baldwin Subs: Rheon Pascal, Nabil Salum, Aidan Ackah-Sanzar, Owen Broughton, Oscar Cole

Narrow defeat on opening weekend in North Wales

WYCOMBE Wanderer began the 2024/25 League One season with a 3-2 away defeat to newly-promoted Wrexham.

In what was the first match between the two sides in 16 years, the Adams Park side were second best for large parts of the opening period.

Despite having the first attempt of the contest after just one minute, as Kieran Sadlier's tame effort was easily saved by Arthur Okonkwo, the half belonged to the Welsh team.

On nine minutes, Wrexham took the lead through Max Cleworth, as the young defender stabbed home from an Elliot Lee corner.

The strike came one day after his 22nd birthday, with the goal being only his second for the club in the league.

Wycombe rarely threatened with Richard Kone, Garath McCleary and Luke Leahy all having attempts that didn't cause the Dragons' backline too many issues.

It was a relatively slow start to the opening match of the campaign for the Chairboys, as Wrexham bullied the Blues in nearly every department.

And this dominance led to the hosts getting their second as on the half-hour mark, the Hollywood-owned team made it two thanks to a brilliant volley by Jack Marriott.

The Racecourse was raucous with the noise being made for the team in red.

Wanderers began to im-



Wycombe experienced their first defeat since losing to Portsmouth 3-1 in March. Image: PA

prove in the last 10 minutes of the opening half, as Josh Scowen and Daniel Harvie both hit the bar, whilst Kone also went close.

Wycombe took their good spell at the end of the first period into the second, as they managed to pull a goal back.

Harvie's cross caused mayhem in the box before it fell to the young Ivorian in Kone, who fired home.

It gave Matt Bloomfield's

side the hope they desperately needed.

The shift of the fixture completely changed after Wanderers' goal, as Wrexham began to feel the pressure.

Misplaced passes, unnecessary fouls and a lack of communication allowed Wycombe to have a foothold in the game despite being a goal down.

The introduction of Daniel Udoh and Jaiden Bartolo, who both made their

league debuts, added more pace to Wanderers' attack and caused more problems for Wrexham.

However, despite several half chances, Wycombe just couldn't find that all-and-important equaliser.

And in the final five minutes, the former Burnley, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Sunderland man, Steven Fletcher, wrapped up the victory with a brilliant bending finish from the edge of the box.

Sam Vokes did get on the scoresheet with two minutes left, but it was too little, too late to rescue a point.

The result means Wycombe sit in the bottom four of the table.

Up next for the Chairboys in the league is Birmingham City at home, with an away trip to Northampton Town taking place on Tuesday night.

Attendance: 13,214 (1,091 away)

FOOTBALL

Sadness at death of ex-keeper

CHESHAM United's chairman Peter Brown shares his thoughts this week:

I have to open with the sad news of the passing of our former goalkeeper Martin Baguley at the age of 62 on the August 6, we are aiming to have a minutes applause for him prior to the start of our game against Boreham Wood on August 17.

Martin played in both of our FA Cup 2nd Round matches vs Merthyr Tydfil in the 1979/80, before we progressed to the 3rd Round and hosted Cambridge United a game in which Billy Barber returned from injury.

Martin played 245 times for the first team between 1979 and 1993, along with around 600 appearances for the Reserves and Youth as he represented the club across multiple teams.

An interesting footnote to Martin's Chesham career is that in his penultimate game, we played Newbury Town in the B & B Cup where a certain Brendan Rodgers (currently Celtic manager) scored Newbury's consolation goal.

As a club, we send our deepest condolences to Martin's family at this very sad time.

Last Saturday, we completed our pre season programme with the visit of Brackley Town, a side who have been in the playoffs in the National League North for the last seven completed seasons.

The game itself was very competitive fixture which was great for the squad to test themselves against a top side at our level.

The game ended in a narrow 2-1 defeat but we showed plenty throughout the game to suggest we should acclimatise to the level well, some spells dominated the game and the managers in their interviews were very pleased with the efforts from the squad.

A special mention has to go to the managers for preparing and setting up such a brilliant pre-season fixture and training sessions.

Last Sunday, our Women's team completed their fine unbeaten pre-season with a 5:3 win against Wycombe Wanderers Women in a highly enjoyable encounter, which was marred though by a late head injury for Kat Bowers, who had to spend Sunday night in hospital, but fortunately all the scans showed no major injuries.

Kat is now resting and following Football Association protocol for returning to play after a concussion to have a full recovery, we hope to see Kat again soon on the pitch.

SPORT: WANDERERS

Wrexham boss was 'delighted' with win

PHIL Parkinson was overjoyed as Wrexham began life back in League One with three points after beating Wycombe 3-2 and hailed Jack Marriott's wonder goal in the win.

Wrexham led through Max Cleworth's early close-range finish before Marriott doubled the lead before the half-hour with a sublime goal, chesting down a clever Ollie Palmer flick-on before volleying into the top corner with the outside of his boot.

Wycombe striker Richard Kone halved the deficit following half-time but Steven Fletcher restored Wrexham's two-goal advantage before Chairboys substitute Sam Vokes netted late on.

Parkinson reserved special praise for Marriott after the win, saying: "That goal today, I don't think you'll see many better goals in the EFL. That was

really good link-up play between the two strikers and an outstanding finish.

"You could sense our supporters warm to him not just because of his goal, but his work for the team. He was tireless and I'm very pleased for Jack.

"First 35 minutes, I thought we were outstanding. Everything we set out to do against their shape, we did. We got in some terrific positions, got the goals and they had a little spell before the break.

"Second half we had chances to extend the lead, didn't quite take them. The third goal was really important. They got a couple of goals in the game so it made it tight.

"But I don't think we can be too picky. It's a great effort from the lads and I'm so pleased to get the first three points on the board."



Wrexham boss Phil Parkinson (PA)

Sport

SPORT: CHESHAM UNITED

Point gained in first fixture at new level

CHESHAM'S debut match in the National League South brought them a hard-earned point against Eastbourne, with the game finishing 1-1.

After going behind in the second half, Chesham fought

The home side made the stronger start on their artificial pitch but the Generals' defence stood firm and Ben Goode was not tested.

Their first effort on goal came in the 11th minute when Connor Stevens headed over from a Jack Cawley long throw.

The second half began to open up, as Eastbourne's Brayden Johnson shot flew over the bar in the opening minute.

Chesham came back with Joe Grant setting up Alex Lafleur whose shot was parried by Wright, but it was the home side who broke the deadlock on 58 minutes.

Dan Quick again crossed from the right and Ben Goode saved Pavey's header but Jayden Davis prodded in the loose ball.

Chesham brought on Nathan Minhas and started to show greater urgency,

Alex Lafleur setting up Mitchell Weiss who shot over the bar.

On 77 minutes, Alex Lafleur crossed after a corner was taken short but Joe Grant's header was off target, then Grant broke down the right and squared to Nathan Minhas who miss controlled and Wright was able to grab the ball.

However, Chesham were not to be denied because on 86 minutes, Nathan Minhas' header found the net through a crowd of players to rescue a point for the Buckinghamshire club.



Chesham United are in the National League South

FOOTBALL

Rams start the season with double victories

BEACONSFIELD made it two wins from two as they look to bounce back from last season's relegation.

The season's first home game didn't take long to spark into life, with Antonio Dembele providing a great cross for Jadyndundas to latch onto.

His shot was pushed away by Carter in the Kidlington goal, only to be smashed home by Joe Lawal to give the Rams the lead 10 minutes in.

The Rams continued to press well, with Troy Silvera putting a ball in for Dundas, this time it was well saved.

Kidlington then went down the other end and scored, with a great move that initially resulted in a good save by Eddie Brearey, before a tap-in made it 1-1.

Kidlington's turn to put the pressure on, hitting the bar with just over 10 minutes to go till the break.

The Rams continued to fight for every ball, the pressure paying off just before the stroke of half-time.

This time Lawal turned provider, as Dundas tapped in to give the Rams a deserved 2-1 lead going into the break.

A half-time change for the hosts saw Dembele replaced by Eli Grant.

Kidlington looked to start the second half on the front foot, piling the pressure on.

Beaconsfield responded well, extending the lead in the 54th minute through Joe Lawal, who followed home a saved shot from Dundas, to make it 3-1.

The game started to become end to end, fresh legs required as the Rams made 3 changes. It was only moments after the modifications that Kidlington scored.

The visitors were back in the game at 3-2, with 10 to play.

Time for Akhsishvili to shine, showing his pace and skill to beat the defender, before unleashing a fantastic shot at goal, coming off the bar to restore the hosts two-goal lead with just a few minutes left.

A good win for the Rams, seeing out the game to win 4-2, and continuing a solid start to life at Step 4.

Beaconsfield Town
1 Edward Brearey (GK) 2 Juan Gonzalez Velasco 3 Troy Silvera 4 Matthew Harriot 5 Benjamin Tricker 58 m 6 Germaine Dua 7 Eremide Lawal 2 14, 60 m 8 Joshua Marcon 9 Jamie Davies 10 Jadyndundas 45 m 11 Balai Dembele SUBS: 12 Elias Grant 14 Autandili Akhsishvili 85 m 15 Akiel Raffie 16 Iker Noguera Leon 17 Alexander Mapp.

Written by Arran White

WREXHAM 3-2 WYCOMBE WANDERERS

Manager remains upbeat despite opening day loss

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has reflected on his side's 3-2 opening day defeat to Wrexham.

In the first match between the two clubs since March 2008, the Chairboys went 2-0 down inside 30 minutes, as Max Cleworth and Jack Marriott gave the North Wales side the lead.

Richard Kone pulled one back not long into the second period, but Steven Fletcher's brilliant finish with five minutes remaining sealed the victory.

Sam Vokes scored in the dying embers to give Wanderers hope, but the day belonged to the Dragons.

The result means it's the second time in two seasons that Wycombe have been defeated on the season's opening day.

Speaking to the press at full time, Bloomfield said: "It was disappointing to concede two goals so early on.

"The first one happened when Jack Grimmer was off the pitch [being treated] so we had 10 players, and we knew that coming here with how Wrexham set up, they are a physical team so we knew we had to step up to that.

"Near the end of the first half, we were in the ascendancy as we hit the bar, had one blocked off the line and had one one-on-one.

"We had more of the ball at the end of the first half and I thought it was just a matter of time, but we ran

By James Richings

out of time [for the first half].

"We made the changes and I thought Dan Udoh was excellent as I decided to move with two sitters and put Dan behind Richard Kone up top.

"I was tempted to make the changes at half-time but I thought I'd give the boys another five minutes or so, but the start of the half wasn't in our favour.

"So we put Dan on and I thought he was very good.

"He has proven he can do it at this level and he'll be a huge player for us."

On the positives, which included giving 18-year-old Jaiden Bartolo his professional debut in English football, he continued: "We want to be a team that plays on the front foot, that passes around and run forward at the right time and all the things we spoke about during pre-season.

"It was a good game between two very good teams, but we're in an evolution stage.

"There were plenty of positives with our style and we dominated large parts of the game, as we passed the ball around very well.

"Nothing today surprised me as we're in a building stage in which there'll be good and bad bits."

Up next is a home league match against Birmingham City on August 17.



Matt Bloomfield had bittersweet feelings about his side's 3-2 away loss to Wrexham on the opening weekend (PA)

SPORT: WANDERERS

Bus service stays for the Blues this season



Carousel Buses are back to help Wycombe Wanderers this season. Image: Carousel Buses

CAROUSEL Buses and Wycombe Wanderers matchday bus shuttle service is back for the new season to help connect supporters to Adams Park for all home league games.

The 'Wycombe Wanderer 1' shuttle bus service will operate between High Wycombe railway station and the stadium for home and away fans for league matches. It will collect passengers at the bus station and stop along the route through Dashwood Avenue.

And in further good news fares for the matchday shuttle service are still part of the national £2 fare cap for single journey, meaning a return ticket will cost just £4 per person.

The continuation of the service builds on its successful launch during last season's campaign via a formal partnership between

Carousel Buses and Wycombe Wanderers. Luke Marion, Carousel Buses Managing Director, said: "We're pleased to confirm our Wycombe Wanderers matchday shuttle service is returning for this season.

"Our partnership with the football club has gone from strength to strength and we're looking forward to helping more supporters attend matches and support their local club. The service is great community asset, value for money and helps reduce congestion and carbon emissions."

Carousel Buses, a subsidiary of the Go-Ahead Group, operates 50 buses in High Wycombe and the wider Buckinghamshire area.

It also serves locations including Slough in Berkshire, Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire and Uxbridge, and carries more than 2.5 million passengers per year.

WANDERERS

Bright future for Bartolo

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed he wants to 'promote youth' this season.

This comes after he gave 18-year-old Jaiden Bartolo his Football League debut in the recent 3-2 away loss against Wrexham on August 10.

The Slough-born Gibraltarian striker came on as a 62nd minute substitute for Kieran Sadlier in the defeat in North Wales, before being an unused sub in the 2-0 victory against Northampton Town in the EFL Cup three days later.

Bartolo joined Wanderers from Non League Wealdstone, and despite not reaching his 20s, he has already represented 11 clubs.

He has also played three times for the Gibraltar national team, with each appearance coming this calendar year.

Bloomfield said: "I'm very happy that we gave him his league debut [on Saturday]."

"He came in on trial at the end of last season and impressed us.

"I want to promote and use youth so we know there is work to be done in the transfer window."

FOOTBALL

Boss thanks fans after away cup victory

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has thanked the fans for their support following the club's 2-0 away win over Northampton Town in the League Cup.

The Tuesday night fixture at Sixfields saw the Chairboys reach the second round for the fourth year in a row, where they will face Swansea City of the Championship.

Nearly 300 people made the midweek trip to Northamptonshire for the fixture, after 1,000 spectators travelled from Buckinghamshire to North Wales for the opening day defeat to Wrexham on August 10.

Speaking after the win, Bloomfield said: "I think the guys enjoyed watching us tonight [August 14] and they were vocal behind the goal.

"Thank you to everyone who came to watch us in Northampton - we need them on Saturday."

"At the end of last season, Adams Park was great for us and we want everyone to be looking forward to Saturday afternoon, to watch our team and we want them to roll us on to victory.

SPORT: FOOTBALL

Chairboys cruise past the Cobblers in Carabao Cup

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield hailed a job well done after his side coasted through to the second round of the Carabao Cup with a 2-0 victory over Northampton.

Dan Udoh struck after just eight minutes before an own goal from Luke Mbet secured Wycombe's victory.

The result means Wanderers have now won six of their last seven games in all competitions against the Cobblers, keeping five clean sheets in that time.

The last time Wycombe fell to a defeat by the Northamptonshire-based team was in February 2016.

Speaking after the win, he said: "I'm delighted.

"Two goals and a clean sheet, we have to be pleased with that.

"We held a real threat all night and we hit the bar twice but we scored two goals and I'm delighted that Dan got on the scoresheet because he's such a diligent guy and he fits right in.

"We changed shape tonight

because we felt that would suit the players that were available and I was really enthused with the performance, especially Dan and Richard (Kone) up front.

"We could and should have scored more because we had numerous chances and I was slightly disappointed that we didn't make more of the amount of shots we had on their goal.

"But that's four goals in the first two games and we have to be happy with that - but we're always hungry for more."

Northampton manager Jon Brady bemoaned his side's defending.

He said: "They made four changes but we made seven and that showed because we were disjointed and I was probably expecting that to be the case.

"But you can't gift them two goals like we did. The first one is not good enough and that puts you on the back foot and to be honest they could have scored more."



It's the fourth year in a row that Wycombe have made the second round of the League Cup. Image: PA

Donation made through Wycombe Wanderers

CHILTERN'S Prostate Cancer Support Group (CPCSG) has thanked the Wycombe Wanderers Ex-Players Association for a 'tremendous' donation which aims to help over 120 men receive a free PSA blood test.

Colin Smith of the WWFC Ex-Players arranged, via the staff at the Wycombe Hospital Urology ward, how best for the donation to be used in the ongoing challenge of raising awareness of prostate cancer.

This will be beneficial to helping CPC-

SG with its role of raising awareness and support in the community.

The free blood test will take place at the Wycombe Arts Centre on October 26, Barry Sarl, Chairman of CPCSG, said: "I would like to place on record, on behalf of the group, this tremendous donation by WWFC Ex-Players Association and the help by Colin Smith in arranging for the donation to be passed on to us.

"The Association chairman, Alan Hutchinson, will present the cheque on

August 24.

"Alan and his team are pleased on behalf of their members to be able to support CPCSG in their work of raising awareness of Prostate Cancer.

The earlier it is detected the better the chances are of treatment and saving men's lives.

"This funding will help in ensuring some 120 plus men will receive early information regarding possible Prostate Cancer and in turn will save lives".

He added: "We would also like to thank

the staff at the Urology department for their support in nominating us and the incredible work they do every day in saving lives and ensuring prostate cancer treatment is delivered with care and utmost professionalism."

CPCSG will be presented with the cheque on August 24 ahead of Wanderers' home match against Rotherham United at Adams Park.

For more information on Prostate Cancer and testing dates, visit cpcsg.org.uk

SPORT

0963-2336



Into the next round after dominant away display



Another win for Wanderers on the road at Northampton (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers progressed into the second round of the Carabao Cup for a fourth consecutive season following a comfortable 2-0 win over Northampton Town.

The visitors were dominant from the first whistle at Sixfields and they led after just eight minutes through Dan Udoh – his first goal for the club since his move from Shrewsbury Town this summer.

Ex-Wimbledon keeper Nik Tzanev was at full stretch to keep out Ryan Tafazolli's early header,

but Matt Bloomfield's side wasted little time in going ahead when Tyler Magloire lost possession in a poor area and Richard Kone squared for Udoh to stroke home.

Another mistake by Northampton saw Jack Baldwin almost give away a second goal, before the Cobblers eventually threatened through Cameron McGeehan, whose cross-shot was hacked away just yards from goal.

But Wanderers remained by far

and away the more dangerous side as both Kone and Tafazolli rattled the crossbar before Joe Low's cross cannoned off Luke Mbete and wrong-footed Tzanev to make it 2-0 at the break.

Northampton created their best opportunity at the start of the second half but McGeehan ballooned over and then Tyreeq Bakinson side-footed wide at the other end.

Wycombe went down to 10 men after a red card for Alex Hartridge, whose second yellow

was for time-wasting on 78 minutes.

It was the second time in three seasons that the Chairboys had beaten the Cobblers in the cup, with Wanderers keeping their good record against the Sixfields side intact.

In fact, Wycombe haven't lost to Northampton in their last seven matches, winning six times in which they have kept five clean sheets.

February 2016 was Town's last win over Wanderers.

Bloomfield's boys take on the Blues in Bucks

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield wants his side to play with 'energy and enthusiasm' in the club's opening home league game of the season.

The Chairboys take on Birmingham City at Adams Park this weekend, with the former Premier League side being one of the favourites for promotion.

Their relegation into League One means it's the first time they have played in the third tier since 1994/95, spending the previous 29 campaigns in either the Championship or in the top-flight.

The Blues have also had a solid pre-season, securing five wins from six games, whilst also signing 11 new faces.

This includes former Wanderers keeper Ryan Allsop from Hull City for nearly £1m, and prolific goalscorer, Alfie May, from Charlton Athletic.

May, who has scored 93 club goals since the 2019/20 season, bagged four strikes against Wycombe in an incredible 5-5 draw for Cheltenham Town in February 2022.

Other notable names include ex-Leeds United and Burnley goalkeeper, Bailey Peacock-Farrell, Willum Willumsson from Dutch side, Go Ahead Eagles, Marc Leonard, who has spent the last two years on loan at Northampton Town from Brighton & Hove Albion.

Speaking ahead of this weekend's clash, Bloomfield said: "When the fixtures came out, Wrexham away, Birmingham at home, we knew that we were going to have an exciting start to the season

"They are two really big games for us.

"We had a real good go with

Wrexham last week and unfortunately, we were on the wrong side of a 3-2 defeat.

"With Birmingham, they have recruited incredibly well.

"They have one of the most exciting young coaches in the country [in Chris Davies] and I'm sure they'll be extremely well drilled.

"We've already watched them back from the game against Reading last week.

"They retain possession really well and play with a lovely style and philosophy style and we know we're going to be expecting."

Following the opening day loss against Wrexham on August 10, Bloomfield made four changes to the side for the EFL Cup tie away at Northampton.

This worked as Wanderers won the fixture 2-0 to secure their first win this season.

And Bloomfield admits he might have some selection headaches going into Saturday's match.

He continued: "Everyone who came into the team on Tuesday evening performed incredibly well, especially to get a clean sheet away from home.

"The defenders put in a good shift, and with the two up top in Richard Kone and Daniel Udoh, they gave us a really good threat.

"So we have to consider how the energy of the group is.

We need to make sure that we pick the right team because when we're at our best, we play with real energy and enthusiasm and we need to make sure that first."



Matt Bloomfield is aiming to secure the club's first league win of the season this weekend against Birmingham City (PA)

Chairboys heading to Wales to face Swans

WYCOMBE Wanderers will travel to Swansea City in the second round of the Carabao Cup.

The Chairboys reached this stage of the competition after comfortably beating League One rivals Northampton Town 2-0 at Sixfields, whilst the Swans brushed aside Gillingham 3-1 in South Wales.

The upcoming match will take place at the end of August, with it being the club's first visit to Swansea since April 2021.

This was when both clubs were in the Championship, with the entertaining fixture finishing 2-2.

The two sides have faced each other on only 15 occasions since their first meeting in 1994, with the Chairboys and the Swans achieving five wins each, while also sharing three draws.

The solitary encounter between the Wycombe and Swansea in this competition came during the 2006/07.

Wanderers, a then League Town team, defeated the then-League One outfit 3-2 at the Liberty Stadium in the first round of the competition.

Strikes from Jermaine Easter, Stefan Oakes, and a winner by Mike Williamson in extra time secured a famous win for the Adams Park team.

The Chairboys would later reach the semi-finals for the first time in their history that season, joining the likes of Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea in the last four.

They would eventually play the latter, losing 5-1 on aggregate, but they did take a 1-1 draw back to in Stamford Bridge for the second leg.

Ticket details for the match will be announced in due course.

The match will take place on either Tuesday, August 27, or Wednesday, August 28.