

Bucks Free Press

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News

Horne's Comedy Football gig

By Andy Westlake

NOW that the football season has come to an end at The Meadow, all eyes turned to the second coming of The Alex Horne Comedy Football Trophy.

Many of our readers will remember this event from 2023. Chesham welcomed what has already become the biggest rivalry in English football - Chicken City vs Egg United and on that occasion Chicken City emerged victorious with an incredible 11-9 win.

Nearly 4,000 spectators poured into The Meadow under a beautiful blue sky to watch some of the country's best and brightest comedians take to the field alongside a number of 'proper footballers' from Chesham United FC and Chesham United FC Women.

There were lots of famous faces taking to the pitch. For Egg United we had Nish Kumar as Director of Football and team members including Alex Horne, James Acaster, Alex Brooker, Jon Richardson and Annie McGrath. Chicken City boasted Player Manager Hugh Dennis, Doc Brown, Russell Howard, Elis James and Maisie Adam.

After the rousing anthems the game kicked off and a dramatic first half had the scores tied at 3-3. There were tired legs but no lack of passion from both teams to see the game to a successful conclusion.

As we closed in on the full-time whistle Egg United were 7-5 up with seconds of the game to go. Maisie Adam then miraculously scored for Chicken City and even more miraculously her cross-bar challenge (for another goal) struck the steel of the frame and the scores were tied. Adam went mad. The crowds were in disbelief! 7-7 and we went to an American style penalty shoot-out.

Lots of penalties were then missed including from Alex



Horne but revenge was sweet as his team, Egg United, won the day with a 9-8 scoreline. Chesham's new mascot Chess Ham, unveiled by it's creator Sam Campbell joined the celebrations as chants of 'Egg, egg, egg, egg, egg' rang around The Meadow.

The game was sponsored by Dickinsons Chartered Accountants and Bucks Garden Rooms supported the half time primary school penalty shoot-out. Let's hope we see the match back again in 2025.





Sport

SPORT: FOOTBALL

Cheerful Chairgirls win the Sponsors Cup

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women have retained the Sponsors Cup after clinching a 3-1 victory over Maidenhead United at The 1878 Stadium in Burnham on Sunday.

Axelle Courlander scored a brace and Kine Andersen netted direct from a corner to put the Chairgirls three goals up at the break, and there was no way back for the Magpies.

Many fans took to X [formerly known as Twitter] to congratulate

late the Chairgirls on their achievement.

Marc Bufton said: "Well done, ladies."

Craig Anderson, who is part of the club's backroom staff, added: "It's not a bad way to finish the season - Fantastic weekend with Wycombe Wanderers Women, topped off with retaining the Sponsors Cup."

Following the win, academy coach Danny Harrigan announced he'll be leaving the club.

Taking to social me-

dia, he said: "It was an absolute pleasure to be part of this team & club over the last few months."

"Thanks to the [manager] Carl Simon and all the WWFC Women for my time at the club.

"Looking forward to my next opportunity."

Carl Simon said: "It was great having you with us and I wish you every success in your future endeavours."

For more information, go to @WWFC-Women on X.



The club won the cup on Sunday, May 12

WYCOMBE WANDERERS WOMEN

Women's team celebrate many personal accolades

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women revealed their end of season award winners on Saturday, to conclude the 2023/24 season.

All three squads came together at Adams Park to celebrate the collective and individual successes of 2023/24.

The trophies up for grabs included Golden Boot, Players' Player of the Season, Recognition For Continuous Development, Manager's Player, The David Robertson Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Women's Football, and The Wycombe Sound Award.

Golden Boot:

First Team: Katie Riddington

U23s: Shannon Read

U18s: Poppy Lloyd

Katie Riddington and Shannon Read picked up their Golden Boot awards for the second consecutive seasons, whilst U18s new arrival Poppy Lloyd secured her first trophy for the Chairgirls.

Players' Player of the Season:

First Team: Emily McCartney

U23s: Milanna Cadore

U18s: Millie West

Often thought of as the most prestigious award of the evening, Emily McCartney, Milanna Cadore and Millie West all stated their gratitude to their teammates for the recognition of their efforts.

Recognition for Continuous Development:

First Team: Molly Carter

U23s: Elena Mitchell

U18s: Abbie Read

These three young players were recognised by their teammates for their development and hard work throughout the season.

Manager's Player:

First Team: Kine Andersen

U23s: Milanna Cadore

By Craig Anderson

U18s: Mia Parkin

Whilst Kine Andersen and Milanna Cadore were awarded for their performances and efforts in their retrospective teams, Mia Parkin was recognised for her contributions to all three squads; having primarily featured for the U18s, she went on to play 13 games for the U23s and finished the season with five first-team appearances at just 16 years old.

The Dave Robertson Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Women's Football:

Nigel Kingston and Tony Hector

Head Coach and First Team Manager Carl Simon said "Nigel Kingston and Tony Hector were worthy recipients of The David Robertson Award for all they have done for Wycombe Wanderers Women on behalf of the Trust.

"On a personal note it was a great privilege for me to give them this award, especially with Tony now taking a step back as we merge with the Foundation."

The Wycombe Sound Award:

Kine Andersen

"Wycombe Sound wanted to acknowledge the strong connection with Wycombe Wanderers Women by giving an award to a player who contributed to a show and left a lasting impression.

"As a community radio station we considered Wycombe Wanderers Women as a huge part of our community.

"As such the recipient of the first Wycombe Sound broadcast community partner award goes to Kine Andersen." - Colin Besley



Kine Andersen holding her award following a brilliant season (Craig Anderson)

FOOTBALL

Losing weight for a good cause

AN Aylesbury football club that encourages overweight and obese men to get fit and adopt healthy lifestyle choices has helped 23 local men lose 200 pounds in excess weight in the last twelve months.

MAN v FAT Aylesbury takes place every Monday evening at Aylesbury RFC, Ostler's Field and the club's organisers are currently looking for new players to participate.

Currently, 8,200 players have taken part in more than 150 leagues across the UK.

The programme was created by Andrew Shanahan, who, fed-up with traditional weight loss classes primarily aimed at women, decided to develop a programme that combines the beautiful game with achievable weight loss goals for men.

The total amount of weight lost by MAN v FAT players in the UK currently stands at more than 650,000 pounds.

It is aimed at men with a BMI of higher than 27.5.

Aylesbury MAN v FAT coach Laminn-Thaynt McMahon says: "In addition to achieving weight loss, doing so with the no-pressure enjoyment of playing football in a welcoming environment for those all abilities, age and levels of overweight is really important.

"It provides men with a social connection and friendships that we know improves mental wellbeing."

"We are looking to prioritise a health and fitness mindset over and above just playing football.

"This means more focus on diet and lifestyle improvements and making use of the Dug-out, online facility available to members with lots of resources including an online gym and a mental wellbeing app.

"In this way, we will see players gradually improving their health, weight and fitness, which will also help us grow the club, bring more players on board and add more teams."

The latest data from Buckinghamshire Council shows that three out of five adults 60 per cent aged 18 and over are overweight or obese in Buckinghamshire, which could equate to as many as 39,000 adults in Aylesbury.

Recent research from the National Food Strategy review estimates that every unit of body mass index put on by every individual raises the UK's annual healthcare costs by £16.

Before matches, players are weighed, this is followed by a 30-minute game of six-a-side football, with extra goal bonuses awarded to teams based on their weight loss.

Weight loss and match scores then contribute to teams' league positions within a club.

SPORT: FOOTBALL

Marlow lose Berks & Bucks cup final



It wasn't Marlow's day against Reading on May 15 as they lost 2-1 in the showpiece in Sandhurst

MARLOW'S chance of winning an unprecedented double were shattered as they lost 2-1 to the Reading U21s in the 2024 Berks & Bucks Cup final.

In a rematch of the first-ever Senior Cup final way back in 1879, Noel Hunt's Royals enacted revenge on the Blues for last year's semi-final exit.

The young Royals dominated their non-league opponents in the first half, putting themselves in the driving seat at the break after goals from Jeremiah Okine-Peters and Adrian Akande.

Marlow, who earned promotion through the play-offs last week, looked stronger after the break and pulled one back through Brandon

Curtis' spectacular set-piece routine.

Seeing out the game well, and hitting the crossbar through Michael Strickland, Reading lifted the crown for the second time under Hunt, winning the award back in 2022.

More than 600 supporters turned out on a beautiful evening, many staying long after the final whistle to celebrate with the squad and trophy.

On Monday, Reading host Sunderland in the semi-final of the PL2 play-offs, with the winner travelling to Tottenham or Chelsea for the PL2 grand final.

To read more about the local sport in the area, go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport, or follow James Richings on X [Twitter] by searching for @James_BFP.

SPORT: CARS

The Stig to appear in Chesham

THE Chesham Motor Show is set to return to the town next month.

Taking place on June 30, the event will allow petrolheads to see a showdown between the Best of British and the Best of Italian Cars and Bikes, whilst also enjoying the classic motors that will be in attendance.

In addition to all the vehicles arriving in the town, a former Top Gear Stig will also be present.

Ben Collins was 'the man in the white suit' for seven years between 2003 and 2010, before he was 'killed off' in the 15th series of the programme.

The 49-year-old has also been a stuntman in several James Bond movies such as Casino Royale (2006), Quantum of Solace (2008) and Skyfall (2012).

Mark Rosales from the Chesham Motoring Show said: 'Prepare to be dazzled by a stunning array of supercars, featuring the likes of Ferrari, McLaren, Lamborghini, Lotus, and Bentley

'But that's not all - we've got some extraordinary show cars in store, including iconic models from Mini, Lancia, Abarth, and Alfa Romeo.

For more information, go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chesham-motor-show-best-of-italian-vs-best-of-british-tickets-874848153377.

CRICKET

A close match between two Thames Valley teams

SLOUGH CC were involved in a thrilling finish to their opening game in the Home Counties Premier League Division Two at the Eddie Thompson Oval, squeezing home by one wicket.

After restricting Amersham to 211-9 in 50 overs, they recovered from 81-5 to reach 212 off the final ball with their last two batsmen at the crease. Humza Ishaq remained unbeaten on 13 and Saatvik Bhagi four, the pair having come together at 203-9.

Their top-scorer was Umair Mushtaq with 55, which came off 68 balls with the help of four sixes and five fours. He and Syed Bukhari (47) added 51 for the sixth wicket. His coming Saturday, Slough are away to Stoke Green, who lost to Bicester and North Oxford by five wickets last weekend.

GOLF

Busy month ahead as Wycombe Heights win trophy

ANOTHER month another trophy for Wycombe Heights.

April saw Wycombe C beat Huntswood 120-112 and Wycombe A beat Tilgate Forest 118-114 to qualify for the finals of the NAPGC Gordon Forster Bowl that took place on April 28 at Gaudet Luce GC.

With eight teams qualifying for the national finals Wycombe C (Charlie Maddock, Roy Wood, Quentin Van Der Merwe, team captain Jagdev Singh Khatkar) went onto win the trophy with team captain's Manjinder Singh Mahil's Wycombe A (Peter Hobden, David Parker, Joe Butler, Gabba Singh Juttla / Ben Moyle) finishing runners up.

Wycombe welcomed the Royal Household from Windsor Castle in round 1 of the BB&O's Hillman Trophy and prevailed with a 7-0 win to progress into the next round.

There was convincing wins from Charlie Maddock, Paul Brain, Jagdev Singh Khatkar, Gary Morris, Roy Wood, Peter Hobden and Paul Lewis.

Wycombe also kicked off the new season in the Chiltern Breakfast League with a 4.5-1.5 away with against Waterstock. (Team: Mark Vining & Tommy Keeling, Ben Moyle & Jay Singh Talwar, Charlie Maddock & Paul Brain, Roy Wood & David Godley, Chris Welland & Quentin Van Der Merwe, Joe Butler & Steve Russell).

In club competitions April's Stableford division 1 was won by Chris Welland 35 points and division 2 Manoj Parveen with 35 points.

April's Medal division 1 was won by Roy Wood with a net 67 and division 2 by Graham Collingwood net 69.

A busy May ahead with many other competitions starting, stay tuned for updates.



Wycombe Heights Golf Club trophy

Narrow defeat for Bucks in trophy opener

BUCKS suffered a last-over defeat against Oxfordshire at Wormsley on Sunday in the opening group match of their National Counties Trophy 50-overs campaign.

Oxon squeezed home by three wickets with just one ball to spare in the idyllic country house setting near Stokenchurch.

Choosing to bat first, Bucks lost a wicket in the first over but a second-wicket stand of 111 in 22 overs by AJ Woodland (54) and

Billy Mead (63) laid the basis for a challenging total.

After the fall of three quick wickets, the reins were taken up by Ross Richardson (54) and Michael Payne (41) who put on 91 for the fifth wicket in 15 overs.

At 230-4 with more than six overs to go, Bucks were looking at a total of 275 plus.

But five wickets fell for 23 runs and Bucks had to settle for 253-9 from their 50 overs, Tom Hinley

taking 5-38 for Oxon.

An innings of 91 by opener Jamie Harrison put Oxon top in the run chase but off-spinner Max Uttley took 3-48 on his Bucks debut and when the seventh wicket fell Oxon still needed 27 off 4.2 overs.

But Hinley, with 29 not out guided them home. Oxon needed three from the final over bowled by Bucks skipper Tom Hampton and got home with a ball to spare.

Hampton, who took 2-33 from 8.5 overs, will be hoping his team have better luck in their second group game against Devon at High Wycombe on Sunday June 9.

To read more about the latest sports news in the county, go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport.

Alternatively, go and follow James Richings on X [Twitter] by looking up @James_BFP.

SPORT

0963-2336



Fan favourite Hanlan continues with his recovery



Brandon Hanlan scored in the 2023/24 season (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Brandon Hanlan has provided an update as he continues to recover from his ACL injury.

The 27-year-old has not played competitive football since November 11, 2023, when he was badly hurt in the Chairboys' 1-0 home loss against Stevenage.

Boro captain Carl Piergianni threw him to the ground and was treated for some time before being stretchered off the pitch.

This meant his season ended prematurely with three goals from 19

matches.

However, despite Wanderers campaign ending just over two weeks ago and with the club's players on their summer holidays, Hanlan is continuing with his recovery.

The forward is spending some time St George's Park this summer, the base for where the England players train.

And in a social media post that was shared on May 14, the ex-Bristol Rovers man revealed that he was running for the time in six months, despite having 60 per cent body weight.

Speaking at the back end of last

season, manager Matt Bloomfield revealed when he'd like the forward to return to the squad.

He said: "I think it'll be back end of pre-season.

"With these things, the last thing we want to do is rush him.

"This injury means a very long rehabilitation period and you need to do it properly.

"We want to get the Brandon Hanlan before the injury back.

"It might take a bit of time because he'll have to feel his way back into it, but I think we've got the balance

between giving him time and looking forward to having him back.

"Behind the scenes, he's working so hard as he's doing his work as diligently as you can.

"I had this injury so I know how tough it is to go into the gym day in and day out when everyone is out on the grass preparing for games.

"I believe he'll have a couple of weeks at St George's Park over the summer to continue his work while the medical team staff have a bit of time off.

"And we'll hope to work him back in as soon as he can."

Formalities complete as new era is underway

WYCOMBE Wanderers' billionaire owner has formally been named as one of the club's directors.

Mikheil Lomtadze, who had been in talks with the club since the autumn of 2023, was confirmed as the Chairboys' purchaser on Friday, May 3, with an announcement confirming the news one day later [May 4].

The Georgian tycoon, who currently resides in Kazakhstan, has bought the Couhig family's 90 per cent share of the Adams Park side, ending their five-year tenure of owning the South Bucks team.

Now, as confirmed via the Companies House website, Lomtadze along with Eduard Vyshnyakov and Dan Rice, have been named as directors.

The formalities were complete by May 15.

Following the sale at the start of this month, Lomtadze said: "To the Wycombe fans, I do not and will not take lightly the responsibility for the Club in front of its fans, staff and players.

"Our goal is to achieve long-term success both on and off the pitch whilst building a financially sustainable club.

"The football world is evolving very fast and our priority will be to integrate data analytics and technology to elevate the Club's performance to new levels.

"I am also a strong believer in youth development and it will be fundamental to the Club's vision."

The vision includes building a 'world class academy' within the next three years.

It is expected that Wanderers will aim to help the development of several promising players from the Eastern European/

By James Richings

Central Asian country, whilst also looking to nurture talent on homegrown soil.

Lomtadze explained: "It was my longing dream to create a world-class professional children's football academy in Kazakhstan and England, where the best and most talented young football players and future stars will be trained."

Finally, the sale of the club was conducted by a law firm based down in the South West of the country.

Kitson Boyce LLP, which is situated in Torquay, have also masterminded the takeovers of other clubs across the EFL and National League.

One of the law firm's partners, Cris Boyce, told the Insider Media Limited, said: "We are delighted to have completed the deal on behalf of Rob and his team which will see significant further investment into Wycombe Wanderers in the future.

"It further demonstrates our ability to advise on strategic deals involving sellers and purchasers across international territories and timezones whilst growing our reputation with football clubs here in England."

Former owner, and recently appointed chairman, Rob Couhig, added: "When I first began looking at investing in English football, I was very fortunate that Cris Boyce and his firm were recommended to me.

"Cris has the unique perspective of actually knowing what it's like to co-own a club.

"I know that if I invest in another club, Cris will be my first call."



Mikheil Lomtadze is now the new owner of Wycombe Wanderers (YouTube)

When do next season's fixtures come out?

THE fixture release date for the 2024/25 season has been confirmed.

Wycombe Wanderers will find out when they will face their League One counterparts on Wednesday, June 26 at 9am.

The following EFL season will begin on the weekend of August 10/11, with the regular League campaign ending on May 3, 2025.

The 46 rounds of League matches will take place across 33 weekends, nine midweeks and four Bank Holidays in the Championship, with Leagues One and Two playing over 36 weekends, six midweeks and four Bank Holidays.

The Cup and Trophy competitions remain in their current formats with the Carabao Cup beginning in mid-August and the Group Stage of the Bristol Street Motors Trophy, involving League One, League Two and 16 invited under-21 Premier League teams, starting in early September.

The Sky Bet Play-Offs will be played over the 2025 May Bank Holiday Weekend.

EFL Chief Executive, Trevor Birch said: "Whilst the fixture calendar remains a shared asset across the EFL, Premier League and Football Association, additional pressures from revamped European competitions means that scheduling across the season remains challenging and complex, so it requires a whole game response to find a solution.

"As it stands there is no agreement in place to make any changes to the Carabao Cup's two-legged semi-final format, which continues to provide significant financial benefit to EFL Clubs."

Wycombe have started each of their seven league seasons with a home fixture, winning three (2019, 2021 and 2022), drawing two (2017 and 2018) and losing two (2020 and 2023).

The last time Wanderers began a season away from home was in 2016 at Crawley.