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FOOTBALL FEVER

Thousands of youngsters enjoy sports festival - picture special: page 14

Man killed in horror crash

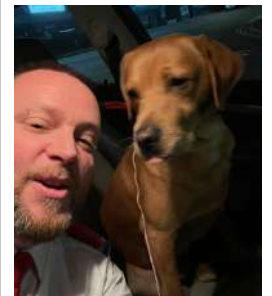
Tributes left at A-road crash scene as 'kind' 20-year-old moped driver dies at busy junction

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Hero bus driver saves dog on M40



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NEWS

Leader's stalking fears



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EX HEAD FACES FRESH TRIAL

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SPORT

Ticket info for City cup tie

FANS ARE ALREADY PLANNING THEIR TRIPS TO EASTLANDS

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been allocated 3,000 tickets for their Carabao Cup tie away at Manchester City.

The fixture, which will kick-off at 7.45pm on Tuesday, September 21, will be the first time that the Chairboys will play at the Etihad Stadium, in what will be the first meeting between the two sides since 1999. The game will not be shown live on TV or on iFollow.

The club said: "Wanderers have been given an allocation of 3,000 tickets for this fixture, in the South Stand (Levels 1, 2 and 3, Blocks L1, L2 and L3), which will be available to season ticket holders in the first instance (one per season ticket holder).

"These will then go on general sale. On-sale dates will be confirmed once the tickets arrive at Adams Park. You can still become a season ticket holder by purchasing a subscription package, starting at £28.50, which is effectively a rolling season ticket, paid monthly, which secures your access to every home game, as well as earning top priority status for booking tickets for high-demand away and cup matches."

Boss up for EFL award

THE CHAIRBOYS CURRENTLY SIT JUST OUTSIDE THE PLAY-OFF SPOT

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has been nominated for the Sky Bet League One Manager of the Month award for August.

The 48-year-old, alongside his right-man Richard Dobson, have helped the Chairboys enjoy one of their best starts to an EFL season, as Wanderers gained 10 points from a possible 15.

In those five games, Wycombe defeated Accrington Stanley, Cheltenham Town and Lincoln City, as well as drawing away at Wigan Athletic before they ended the month losing away to Sunderland despite a positive performance.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink of Burton Albion, Sunderland's Lee Johnson, and Wigan Athletic's boss Leam Richardson have also been nominated.

FOOTBALL: The proposals could impact the leagues EFL against two year plan for the FIFA World Cup



The EFL are against the plans which could see the FIFA World Cup be played every two years than the traditional four (PA)

THE Premier League and the EFL have expressed their opposition to a World Cup every two years.

The leagues are members of the European Leagues group, which released a statement on Thursday morning saying it "firmly and unanimously opposed" plans from FIFA to shorten the gap between the showpiece tournament from four to two years.

The statement read: "The leagues have firmly and unanimously opposed any proposals to organise the FIFA World Cup every two years.

"The leagues will work together with the other stakeholders to prevent football governing bodies to take unilateral decisions that will harm domestic football which is the foundation of our industry and of utmost importance for clubs, players and fans across Europe and the world.

"New competitions, revamped competitions or expanded competitions for club and national team football both at continental level and/or at global level are not the solutions to the current problems of our game in an already congested calendar.

"The football calendar definitely requires the agreement of all stakeholders and can only be the result of a subtle balance between club and national team football and between domestic and international club football."

European Leagues represents 37 member competitions, also including LaLiga, Ligue 1, Serie A and the Bundesliga.

In May, FIFA Congress agreed to a feasibility study into the calendar change, after it was requested by the Saudi Arabian football federation.

Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, now FIFA's head of global

By Jamie Gardner

development, is consulting across the game about the plans and is due to address the media about it on Thursday afternoon.

Football Supporters Europe wrote to UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin last week about its misgivings regarding the plans, and the European football chief replied to express his own "grave concerns".

The European Club Association (ECA) said earlier this week that consultation was key, with its new chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi, the chairman of Paris St Germain, saying it was crucial that no "unilateral" decisions were made.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Wednesday he hoped a decision would be made by the world governing body's member associations by the end of the year.

Since the FIFA World Cup began back in 1930, there have been a total of 21 finals that have taken place all across the globe.

At the first tournament, there was a total of 13 teams that took part in the competition, compared to the previous WC in 2018, in which 32 countries participated, but this will be increased to 48 for the 2026 edition, which will be the first to be hosted across three countries in Canada, Mexico and the United States of America respectively.

Overall, 80 different countries have played at the World Cup since the 30s with there being seven different winners of the competition.

Those nations are Brazil (five), Germany (four), Italy (four), Argentina (two), France (two), Uruguay (two), England (one) and Spain (one).

SPORT: Wycombe's forward to miss three games



Anis Mehmeti, pictured in the 1-0 away loss to Reading in October 2020, will miss the next three games for Wycombe Wanderers (PA)

Mehmeti sorry for suspension

WYCOMBE'S attacking midfielder, Anis Mehmeti, has apologised after it was revealed that he would miss Wanderers' next three matches due to a suspension.

The Albanian Under 21 international breached the FA Rule of E1.1, which happened in the 3-1 away loss at Sunderland on August 28.

The midfielder's behaviour in the 30th minute of the fixture was not seen by the match officials at the time, but it was caught on camera.

He subsequently admitted that this behaviour constitutes violent conduct, but contested the automatic penalty.

An independent Regulatory Commission dismissed Mehmeti's claim during a hearing, and imposed the standard three-match suspension.

This will mean he will miss the Chairboys league matches against Oxford United at the Kassam Stadium on September 11 and at home to Charlton Athletic on September 18, as well as the League Cup tie versus Manchester City on September 21.

Mehmeti said: "I'm disappointed to be missing the next three games due to suspension and wanted to apologise to the fans, manager and my teammates for not being available for the team."

FOOTBALL: Wycombe to play Ipswich in November



Wycombe will play Ipswich Town at Adams Park on November 2 after the original game was postponed due to international call ups (PA)

New date for Ipswich game

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that their home match against Ipswich Town has been rescheduled to Tuesday, November 2.

The fixture was originally going to take place on Saturday, September 4 but it was postponed as three of Wanderers' players were called up for international duty.

Those players were Daryl Horgan of the Republic of Ireland, Tjaj De Barr of Gibraltar and Anis Mehmeti of Albania respectively.

It will be the third meeting between the two sides with the previous two encounters ending in draws.

Prior to the new date for this fixture, Wanderers fan and regular columnist Jamie Cameron said: "Due to Wanderers' policy of releasing very little information about injured players, it's difficult to say whether adequate replacements are available for the trio, so the decision could be an entirely justified one if a couple of attacking players are still struggling with knocks."

"However, there's also the issue of

revenue coming in from what would've been a bumper attendance.

"There were more than 8,500 present the last time the Chairboys played host to the Suffolk club.

"The game is now likely to be played on a Tuesday night, and Wanderers would do well to attract 6,000 punters for that one.

"You can certainly understand the move to postpone the game from a purely footballing point of view if the squad is looking thin, but from a commercial point of view, it's questionable.

"That's backed up by the fact that Wanderers have several more home fixtures on international weekends across the season, so either the club are going to take a huge hit on matchday income, or will have to do without a couple of key players for those games.

For ticket information regarding the new date for the Ipswich game at Adams Park on November 2, you can get in touch by emailing the club at tickets@wwfc.com.

Media rookies at WW match

THE TEENS ARE EAGER TO GET INTO JOURNALISM IN THE FUTURE



WYCOMBE Wanderers have hired three local school students to join their media team as apprentice TV match day reporters.

Amani Khan, Daya Bhangoo and Maryam Zaman, who are all in Year 9 at Wycombe High School, will primarily cover games for the Club's three women's teams.

Their first assignment was the U18s game versus Sandhurst Town at Lane End on Saturday – a 13-0 victory for the Chairgirls.

Dave Ward, Head of Women's Football for Wycombe Wanderers said: "We're delighted to appoint these new apprentices to help raise the profile of the Club's three women's teams.

"Their first report was really professional and the fact that we won 13-0 is a really good omen for the rest of the season".

Amani said: "We are so grateful for the opportunity Wycombe Wanderers have given us.

I'm elated." Daya added: "Getting this role has made my day, my summer - It's an awesome opportunity".

And Maryam said: "This is amazing. I'm so happy."

Wycombe High School Head, Sharon Cromie said: "It's fantastic - wonderful that the students have this opportunity and to be part of the local community.

"Wycombe Wanderers hold a very special place in many people's hearts, it's a great team to be associated with and it's lovely to see these students reporting on the women's game and helping to raise its profile."

The three teenagers could follow the paths of two former students of the Wycombe High School that have gone on to have successful careers in journalism.

One of those former students is Rachel Burden who currently presents the breakfast show on BBC Five Live and the and the BBC TV Breakfast programme at the weekend.

Rachel, who has 83,500 Twitter followers, attended the school and is originally from Marlow.

Another one of the school's ex pupils who has achieved a lot in journalism is Isa Guha who was recently voted the best female sports commentator in the world. Isa currently has over 200,00 followers on Twitter.

FOOTBALL: Oxford United vs Wycombe Wanderers

Is this the M40 derby? Or is it just another fixture?



Several Wycombe fans will be making the short trip along the M40 to the Kassam Stadium this Saturday (PA)

WANDERERS' last meeting with Oxford United was arguably the greatest day in the club's history, as they secured promotion to the Championship via the Wembley play-off final.

It was a travesty that fans of both clubs weren't able to witness it, but the return of spectators in full this season has been fantastic.

With this M40 clash as close as the Chairboys have to a 'derby', the away end will be near-sold out to see two sides separated by just one goal in the league table.

The last time Wycombe played at The Kassam Stadium, more than 10,000 were in attendance, and a repeat of that crowd would provide a stark contrast from the 2-1 Wanderers victory in the capital 14 months ago.

Some Chairboys fans see this as a huge rivalry, and some see it as just another game, whereas the vast majority of Oxford fans believe it's the latter, and understandably so.

The rivalry the U's have with Swindon Town is one of the fiercer in English football, and despite Oxford being marginally closer to High Wycombe than it is to Swindon, that derby is one that has more history than Wycombe v Oxford will ever have.

While Oxford were in the top flight and winning major silverware in the 1980s, Wycombe were still in non-

By Jamie Cameron

league, but it only took ten years from that point for the first meeting between the clubs.

They have met fairly regularly since then, but the point still stands that it's a game that means much more to Wanderers supporters than United followers.

As mentioned, there will be more than 1600 travelling fans that make the short trip into Oxfordshire.

With the nature of a club like Wycombe where there are some fans that prefer to stand and sing and some that prefer to sit, a packed-out away end can always cause some problems.

The club did allocate a 'singing section' for this game, but it appears that it sold out before tickets went on general sale, so there'll be plenty of fans wanting to stand that don't have a ticket for that section.

It's caused problems at the Kassam before, and it may do so again on Saturday, but hopefully all of the 10,000 or so punters at the ground can enjoy what should be a pulsating game between two promotion contenders.

The first meeting between the two sides since the League One play-off final last July will kick-off at 3pm at the Kassam Stadium, and the atmosphere is going to be electrifying.

SPORT

0963-2336



SPORT: Glyn Creaser's heart stopped four times Ex captain is 'stable' after cardiac arrest



Glyn Creaser pictured as the manager of Aylesbury United on Saturday March 25, 2017, after the Ducks defeated Egham Town 1-0 at the ASM Stadium in Thame, Oxfordshire. The former Wycombe Wanderers captain spent two years in charge of AUFC before leaving in Christmas 2017.

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers defender and Aylesbury United manager Glyn Creaser has suffered a cardiac arrest.

The 62-year-old, who recently celebrated his birthday on September 1, collapsed just before the second-half started in the Martin Gittings Benefit Game on Sunday, September 5 at the Lamex Stadium, the home of Stevenage FC.

The game was subsequently abandoned but the club have since confirmed that Creaser 'is now in a stable condition in hospital.'

In a statement, Stevenage said: "The Club and the players family would like to thank the prompt action of Club Doctor Kevin Zammit and the onsite Pro-Medicus Staff, who saved his life with the aid of a defibrillator.

"The incident has once again highlighted the importance of defibrillators in sporting environments at all levels of the game.

"The Club's wishes Glyn a safe recovery and would like to thank

By James Richings

those who attended Sunday's match for their understanding of the situation which arose."

Creaser spent seven years with the Chairboys, where he played 181 league matches for the club and scored 14 league goals.

His only managerial job was at Aylesbury United between 2015 and 2017.

The former Chairboy was present at the Lamex as he has roots to Barnet FC – a club he spent four years at before joining Wanderers in the 1980s.

He was present in Hertfordshire on Sunday in support of the match, which was between a Paul Fairclough XI and Barry Fry's Barnet, in order to raise funds for Stevenage's all-time goal scorer, Martin Gittings, who was diagnosed with the incurable and irremediable condition of Multiple System Atrophy (MSA).

The condition is closely associated with Parkinson's disease but with rapid deterioration of nerve cells in the brain.

Gittings, who scored 217 goals for Boro between 1981 and 1994, currently receives 24-hour care at home, and any money raised from the benefit match will be split between specialist care and an MSA charity.

Overall, around 1,200 attended the match.

John D Taylor of the Wycombe Wanderers Ex Players Association said: "The terrifying incident, which occurred prior to the start of the second half and led to the abandonment of the game, was witnessed by wife Andrea and daughters Clare and Megan.

"Glyn's heart stopped four times and it was thanks only to the prompt action of Stevenage club doctor Kevin Zammit and the onsite Pro-Medicus Staff, who saved his life with the aid of a defibrillator.

"He suffered 14 broken ribs during the recovery process and had three

stents inserted in hospital shortly afterwards.

"But Glyn and the family want to again highlight the importance of defibrillators in sporting environments at all levels of the game. "All at WVEPA, the club and fans will wish their former Blues' hero a speedy recovery.

"He suffered a cardiac arrest at half-time during Sunday's Martin Gittings's Benefit Game and is now in a stable condition in hospital. "He's shown remarkable resilience in the past, coming back from an argument with a forklift truck that almost cost him his foot while playing part-time with Martin O'Neill's great squad shortly after lifting the FA Trophy at Wembley in 1991.

"Creaser defied the odds to make a return and led Wycombe into the Football League for the first time in 1994.

"We look forward to welcoming him back soon – although his playing days may finally be over.

"Get well soon Glyn."



Wycombe Wanderers Women U18

Wanderers smash Sandhurst

IT WAS A GREAT START TO THE SEASON FOR THE CHAIRGIRLS ON SUNDAY

THE newly formed U18 team at Wycombe Wanderers started their 2021/22 season in fantastic fashion, as they smashed Sandhurst Town 13-0 in Lane End

A large crowd turned out at Lane End on Saturday to watch the newly formed U18 team's opening league game.

This team is managed by Christian Price who brought across many players from triple cup winning Marlow U16 team, merging them seamlessly with other recruits from other local clubs.

Sandhurst turned out with their bare 11 squad due to Covid but looked determined. Wycombe dominated possession from the get-go and created lots of opportunities with a handful of corner kicks that went unconverted.

The ball bounced off the woodwork a few times and it was only a matter of time before Wycombe found their stride and overpowered a depleted Sandhurst, who only made it through the Wycombe defence a couple of times and were unable to cause any real issues.

A frustrated Sandhurst suffered an injury after 20 minutes.

At the same time, Ruby Paish entered the fray and with a great through ball from her strong midfield players, wrote her name on the score sheet with her first debut for Wycombe.

It wasn't long before she repeated the same sort of run, catching Sandhurst defence still trying to rearrange their team and finding the back of the net again.

The second half served up more of the same with the Chairgirls making nearly every ball theirs and playing some beautiful football.