

# Bucks Free Press

Friday, February 9, 2024

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# 'Stop abusing our roadworks crews'

## Council in plea to angry drivers harassing staff

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Council has urged people to respect its workforce amid ongoing resurfacing and maintenance roadworks.

Ten resurfacing projects will begin or continue next week, alongside street lighting upgrades at locations across Buckinghamshire.

A spokesperson for Buckinghamshire Highways said the transport branch of the unitary authority has now completed over 28,000 road repairs since April 2023 and asked

By Eleanor Burleigh

residents to "respect its workforce" amid an increase in road worker abuse over the last year.

They added: "We have up to 21 crews working on road repairs, including potholes, some seven days a week and around the clock.

"Since April, our projects have included cleaning almost 62,000 gullies, fixing 2850 streetlights and completing 12 grit runs.

"In addition, we also respond to emergencies on the highway such as flooding and fallen trees and, with several recent major storms, our crews have responded to over 540 callouts in January alone."

Work in the coming week includes upgrades of damaged street lighting columns and removal or damaged stumps, but work is said to be 'extremely weather-dependent'.

Full story: Page 11



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## Sport

## GOLF

## January news from Wycombe Heights

WYCOMBE Heights Golf Club welcomed the new year with two round 1 matches in the NAPGC Gordon Forster Bowl.

Wycombe Heights led by club captain Jagdev Singh Khatkar, Roy Wood, Quentin Van Der Merwe & Chris Welland defeated Thorney Park GC 136 points to 90 facing Birdhills Golf Club next.

Wycombe Heights B led by Robbie Allen, Steve Sidhu, Matt Dunn and Jay Talwar unfortunately lost to Huntswood GC 126 - 131

in the same competition. Defending champions Wycombe Heights A received a bye.

On 20th January Wycombe Heights hosted their annual Harlequin team competition that saw Robbie Allen, Thomas Keeling and Jagdev Singh Khatkar win the trophy with a score of +2 over par.

On 27th January defending champions Wycombe faced local rivals Richings Park in the Chiltern Breakfast League Winter Knock

Out Quarter Final and won 4.5 - 1.5.

Three pairs played at home Quentin Van Der Merwe and Steve Russell, Charlie Maddock and competition captain Paul Brain, Joe Butler and Peter Hobden. Three pairs played away Mark Vining & Jagdev Singh Khatkar, Ben Moyle and Jay Singh Talwar, Roy Wood & David Godley. Wycombe now progress into the semi finals to face Aldwickbury Park Golf Club.



Club captain Jagdev Singh Khatkar & Thomas Keeling lifting the

## RUGBY MATCH REPORT

## Beaconsfield RFC celebrate victorious match

BEACONSFIELD 1st XV were back in league action against Grove, looking to build on their 16 consecutive wins.

Injuries and unavailability's created opportunities for Max Wright and Alex Marks to start in the pack, whilst Connor Peters and Ryan Morgan returned to the backs, all slotting in seamlessly.

Inspirationally aggressive defence from the off, by young flankers Tom Rendell and Callum Saganowski, secured turnover ball, and a quick transfer from fly-half Aled Lewis, and the centres, freed winger Tyson Evans-Peters to cruise over from long range for his first score.

The try was converted by Aled, as were all the subsequent nine tries, and a penalty – a quite outstanding performance from the veteran Welsh wizard.

Tom and Callum were two of a very pleasing ten home grown players in the squad, and part of a back row of average age only 19.

The sides were polar opposites in approach, with Grove direct and confrontational, and Beaconsfield elusive and ambitious. Captain and centre, the imperious Henry Revell, soon scored his 15th try of the season, with impressive young scrum-half Connor Peters and centre Ryan "Love Island" Morgan rapidly joining him on the score sheet.

The half time score was 31-7.

The second half was all about discipline and support play, as Grove rallied and carried hard, and disrupted Beaconsfield's ruck speed.

However, Beaconsfield's willingness to move the ball to the

By Richard Gommo

wings and support the ball carrier paid dividends, with Tyson scoring his second long range try and the towering lock Barney Gucklehorn showing deceptive pace and guile to scorch over near the posts.

The writing was now rather on the wall, and further tries followed from Henry, and strapping winger Sam Mark, who also had another excellent game.

The lineout was run superbly by the ubiquitous and irrepressible Number 8, Rhys Amos, the relative veteran in the back row, and provided ample ball for Aled to unleash the back line.

Daniel Lofthouse-smith, now on at wing, and full-back Joe Thomas, each scored to put the icing on the cake. Final score 73 - 17.

Man Of The Match was the tireless Callum Saganowski, who continues to impress at the top level. He was presented with a bottle of champagne by club stalwart and sponsor, Humphrey Pocock.

Coach Phil Smith was understandably delighted, commenting "The lads put on an absolute show. The game plan worked, the lineout was brilliant, winning all 16 of their throws, and the handling and ambitious width, producing ten tries, pay testament to the players' attitude and fitness."

Beaconsfield, now 17 wins from 17 in the league, have a weekend off, then travel to Milton Keynes on the 17th February.



A photo of Sam Mark with the ball. Pic Richard Gommo

## SPORT: FOOTBALL

## Another defeat for the Greens

HOLMER Green lost again this season as they fell to a 3-0 away defeat against Langley.

Holmer's overall performance was an improvement from recent toothless efforts. But the end result was still the same.

The opposition took some of the chances that Holmer presented them with, and Holmer failed to take their fewer chances at the other end.

It could be said that Holmer were fairly good going forward, until the final 10 per cent, as opposed to the final third previously.

But no goals again, and no points since November. Langley opened the scoring on 16 minutes, and Matt Gilbert in The Greens' goal had already made several good saves by half-time.

On 37 minutes Holmer had almost scored through Ewan Philpot, and Pavel Kotwica's follow-up header had come back off the bar in Holmer's best moments.

The visitors' approach play in the second half was better, with Holmer having more of the possession than in the first 45 minutes. But the lack of a goal led to a Langley breakaway being tapped in on 82 minutes.

Into stoppage time and Langley poached a third, with a similar foray to their second goal.

## SQUASH

## 'Exciting year' for squash

HOLMER Green Squash & Racketball Club ended 2023 in a very positive way, writes the club.

The club in Watchet Lane held a charity event for the Rennie Grove Hospice just before Christmas, raising £345 for the charity. It's a charity close to members at the club, and they hope the donation will help them continue the great work they do.

The achievements of all three teams in the Bucks Squash Leagues are impressive, and it's great that the momentum has carried into the new year.

The club stand in a strong position for all three of their teams, which shows the great strength of the club.

The juniors are going from strength to strength, building their skills on court through coaching programs each week.

They've had victories against Beaconsfield and Buckingham in some team matches, and along with their evident joy for the game and sportsmanship, the quality on show speaks volumes about the positive impact the coaching is having on their games.

Holmer Green Squash and Racketball Club will be holding an internal Club Championships during February, culminating in the final's day on the 25th.

## RUGBY

# High Wycombe's 1st XV marches on



Phoenix Festival Winners

HIGH Wycombe Rugby 1st XV continued their winning ways this weekend with a 10-26 win away to Abingdon, leaving them still unbeaten and 24 points clear at the top of Counties 2 Tribute Berks/Bucks & Oxon North, writes Dave Smith

Not wishing to be outdone by the grown ups, the U12s returned victorious from Sunday's Phoenix Tournament in Taplow, featuring Drifters, a combined Phoenix/Slough team and 2 teams from Beaconsfield RFC.

After some hard-fought group games, Wycombe and Drifters met in the final with Wycombe, eventually winning by five tries to one.

Wycombe Captain, Edward Dobbs commented, "It was a great win for us, particularly our games against

Beaconsfield and Drifters. There was better communication amongst the players, something our coaches have been encouraging us to work on..."

Following a successful run in this season's Bucks Cup, HW U14s hosted Amersham & Chiltern in the semi-final at Kingsmead this weekend. Unfortunately, they were unable to go one further, eventually losing out 3-28 to a strong A&C side, who now look forward to the final at Marlow RUFC on 10th March.

Wycombe's half-term Rugby Camps for boys and girls aged 5-16 start on Kingsmead this coming Monday 12 February and running through to Friday. Prices start at £30 for the day and £120 for all five. Book online via [www.clubs-hub.com/highwycomberfc](http://www.clubs-hub.com/highwycomberfc).

## AP'S PREVIEWS

# Posh come to town

A MUCH-NEEDED win in their last game against struggling Cheltenham Town has eased the pressure on Wycombe boss Matt Bloomfield, but Wanderers now face four successive games against promotion chasing teams, starting with the visit of Peterborough United to Adams Park on Saturday, February 10.

Last week's victory at Cheltenham was only the second time in the last eighteen league games that the Chairboys have collected all three points, and they remain uncomfortably close to the relegation zone.

They are fourteen points shy of the average total (48) needed to avoid the drop in League One, and they have the toughest run in of all the teams around them with games against the current top eight clubs before the end of the season.

They are just four points above the relegation places and probably need to win at least four of their seventeen remaining league games to be safe.

Bloomfield's men produced one of their best displays of the season when they travelled to Peterborough last October.

The game ended in a 2-2 draw, but even Posh manager Darren Ferguson admitted that Wanderers deserved to win.

Wycombe beat Peterborough home and away last season, scoring six goals in the process and conceding only one, and they have a superior head-to-head record against their rivals who have not won a league match at Adams Park for over twenty years.

Games between the clubs are often high scoring affairs, and Posh are currently top scorers in League One despite the absence of prolific striker Jonson Clarke-Harris who has been frozen out after turning down big money moves to Coventry City and Charlton Athletic.

Ephron Mason-Clark - sold to Coventry last month but loaned back until the end of the season - is leading scorer with 10 goals including the one he scored against Wanderers in October when he also netted an own goal.

Posh conceded two own goals and had a man sent off in their surprise defeat at Exeter City in midweek, but they remain fourth in the table just three points behind the automatic promotion places.

## SPORT: CHELTENHAM 1-3 WYCOMBE WANDERERS

# Long wait for an away league victory arrives in the West

WYCOMBE Wanderers claimed three vital points against Cheltenham Town following a 3-1 at the Completely Suzuki Stadium.

The win was Wycombe's first away from home in the league since October, following this well-documented run of poor form.

First-half goals from the skipper Jack Grimmer and Garath McCleary set the tone for Wanderers, in a classic away day performance.

Wanderers rode their luck in the early stages, a bright start

from the hosts caught their visitors off guard, although there were no clear-cut chances to report.

Jack Grimmer's opener came from Wycombe's first real period of sustained pressure.

Luke Leahy's corner was flicked on towards the back post, and the Scotsman had the simple task of bundling the ball home.

Garath McCleary's strike to double the lead was vintage, as a neat interchange with Sam Vokes on the halfway line gave

the Jamaican a clear run at goal, albeit fifty yards. Fine finishing, hard and low, gave Luke Southwood no chance.

Wycombe were comfortable until the halftime break, though Cheltenham squirmed a big chance just before the interval, Elliot Bonds put the ball on a plate for Aidan Keena, but his effort rolled comfortably into Max Stryjek's hands.

The third came within four minutes of the restart.

McCleary's penalty was comfortably saved by Southwood, only for Freddie Potts' ball across the box on the rebound to be steered into his own net by Curtis Davies.

Matty Taylor scored his first Robins goal on his debut moments after the penalty to quickly push Wycombe back to a two-goal lead.

Wycombe missed big chances to kill the game off, with two of them coming through veteran striker Sam Vokes.

Wycombe face promotion chasers Peterborough United next in league action.



It was Wanderers' first away league win since October 7 (PA)

### THE LINE UP LAST WEEKEND

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1. Stryjek</b>        | <b>8. Butcher</b>  |
| <b>44. Vincent-Young</b> | <b>23. Sadlier</b> |
| <b>2. Grimmer</b>        | <b>9. Vokes</b>    |
| <b>17. Low</b>           | <b>20. Taylor</b>  |
| <b>10. Leahy</b>         | <b>SUBS USED:</b>  |
| <b>12. McCleary</b>      | <b>Wheeler and</b> |
| <b>19. Potts</b>         | <b>Lubala</b>      |

# Cricket club aim to secure funds for new nets

A Buckinghamshire cricket club is hoping to raise a five-figure sum of cash to help restore parts of its premises.

Knotty Green Cricket Club, which is situated in Beaconsfield, aim to secure £30,000 in donations to improve its net facility, as its current nets being 'not fit for purpose'.

The club is also looking to recruit new players, scorers and umpires come the summer.

In a brief statement on the GoFundMe page, which has saw more accumulated £2,070, £2,000 of which was donated by an anonymous member of the public, it reads: "We are raising vital funds for the community of Knotty Green Cricket Club that will allow not only the club, but the wider community to be able to have a place to train and support the local area with a facility that can be used all year round.

"Our current net facility is not fit for purpose and we need to develop the area to not only encourage participation in sports but also to ensure the club attracts new members and is there for many years to come.

"It's important to us that we provide a facility where people of all ages have somewhere they can come and develop their skills and to be safe."

A 3D drawing of how large the

net will be has also been included in the donation page.

To make a contribution to the cause, go to [www.gofundme.com/f/knotty-green-cricket-club-nets](http://www.gofundme.com/f/knotty-green-cricket-club-nets) or contact the club by calling 01494 815458.

Additionally, if you are interested in joining the club, you can

visit their website by going to [www.knottygreen.play-cricket.com/home](http://www.knottygreen.play-cricket.com/home).

# SPORT

0963-2336



## Date secured for semi-final showdown at Bradford



The Chairboys will take on Bradford on Feb 21 (PA)

A date has been confirmed for Wycombe Wanderers' EFL Trophy semi-final against Bradford City later on this month.

The Chairboys will take on the League Two Bantams with Blackpool hosting Peterborough United (both of League One) in the other semi-final.

And it has been established that Wanderers will face the ex-Premier League side at Valley Parade on Wednesday,

February 21 with an 8pm kick-off.

Wycombe have also confirmed that those who cannot make the midweek trip up to West Yorkshire can watch the clash, which will be live on Sky Sports, at Adams Park.

It's only the second time that Wycombe have reached the last four of the competition, with the previous occasion being in the 2016/17 season, when they lost to eventual winners, Coventry City.

The match against Bradford will only be the second time this season that the Chairboys will play a fixture in this competition away from home.

Wycombe Wanderers' run in the EFL Trophy this season

September 19, 2023: Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 Crystal Palace U21s (Adams Park)

October 10, 2023: Stevenage 0-1 Wycombe Wanderers (Lamex Stadium)

November 19, 2023: Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 AFC Wimbledon

(Adams Park)

December 5, 2023: Wycombe Wanderers 3-2 Fulham U21s (Adams Park)

January 9, 2023: Wycombe Wanderers 2-1 West Ham United U21s (Adams Park)

January 31, 2023: Wycombe Wanderers 4-1 Brighton & Hove Albion (Adams Park)

February 21, 2023: Bradford City vs Wycombe Wanderers (Valley Parade)

The final will take place on April 7 at Wembley Stadium.

## Preparing for play-off pushing Peterborough

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has praised his opposite number in Darren Ferguson as his side prepares to take on promotion-pushing Peterborough United this weekend.

The Chairboys face the Posh at Adams Park after securing their first away league victory in nearly four months last Saturday, with a 3-1 victory at struggling Cheltenham Town.

That triumph lifted Wanderers up to 15th in the League One table.

However, midweek results when Wycombe did not play, which includes 10-man Peterborough's 2-1 loss away at Exeter City have seen the Chairboys drop down one place.

And despite being four points above the relegation zone, Bloomfield was full of praise for Ferguson as the Posh is currently in fourth, three points off the automatic promotion places.

Bloomfield said: "We know that one of their players won't be able to play.

"We need to expect a possession-based team with attacking intent on the pitch, so we have to be resilient at the back and keep our defensive shape as they're a good team.

"They've come back off a long trip last night with a sending-off that might change Darren's thoughts on Saturday, but he's consistent with his team's selection and he has a deep belief of what he thinks is right."

On Ferguson, who will take charge of his 585th game in charge of the club in what is his fourth spell as manager, Bloomfield continued: "He's done an incredible job at Peterborough over different times.

By James Richings

"I think they're consistent, we know their shape, and we need to be prepared for that.

"Darren is a guy that I know quite well.

"When I was at Colchester, he [Darren Ferguson] came to visit me a few times to have an overview of training and we've kept in contact since.

"He's someone who I think highly of and he's done a brilliant job as a manager over several years, and has great success.

"His team play football in a distinct style, possession and attacking, so they'll want to attack and control the ball on Saturday.

"We need to be sound and solid. "We have got a good threat too and we need to make sure we fight fire with fire."

Bloomfield also confirmed that despite some of his players missing training this week due to 'knocks', there are no fresh injury updates.

He added: "We have got optimism for the future.

"The boys are in a good spot as we're going through all of the data, our details, and performances and we're pleased with the football we're playing.

"There's loads for us to get better at, but we're happy with the signings we've made and we're eager to get on with these games."

The last five meetings between the two sides in all competitions: 2019/20: P'boro 4-0 Wycombe 2022/23: Wycombe 3-1 P'boro 2022/23: Wycombe 1-1 P'boro 2022/23: P'boro 0-2 Wycombe 2023/24: P'boro 2-2 Wycombe



Matt Bloomfield's side sit 16th, four points clear of the League One drop zone but have only lost one game in eight (PA)

## Fighting back to defeat title favourites

GOALS from Jessie Poulter and Giulia Livi secured Wycombe Wanderers Women a huge 2-1 win against undefeated top of the table Bournemouth.

The Chairgirls returned to league action at home today following a break for the League Cup last weekend.

A couple of injuries in the warmup meant some last-minute changes to the starting line-up. Despite those changes Wycombe went in to the match with a clear game plan and, even after conceding from a corner just three minutes in, they stuck to the plan and got themselves a foothold in the game.

In fact, it was Wycombe that made most of the running and put the Bournemouth team under a lot of pressure with some intense and concerted pressing.

Their determination and confidence to follow the plan was rewarded on the 13th minute.

After collecting a forward pass, Krystal Follett turned and played a ball out wide to Giulia Livi who cut back inside on to her left foot and fired a dipping shot over the Bournemouth keeper into the far corner to claim her first goal for the Wanderers.

An acrobatic save by Chelsea Coles from a close-range free kick kept the scores level and with the players energized they continued to dominate a strong opponent.

Shortly before half time Wycombe had another chance to go ahead but a curling freekick from Kine Andersen hit the bar and they were unable to force the follow up over the line.

The second half turned out to be a half of few chances.

However, on the 75th minute, after another Andersen free-kick hit the bar, Jessie Poulter was on hand to follow up and knock the ball over the line to give the Chairgirls a 2-1 lead, and like Livi, claim her first goal for the first team too.

Assistant Manager Dan Weber said: "It was an excellent performance from the whole squad and we thoroughly deserved the points.

"We worked on a certain way of playing during the week in the lead up to this and the players took on the details."