

# Bucks Free Press

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## Lighting a beacon for heroes

Remembering our D-Day veterans

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## Crash mayhem on road



# 'Holiday over, now I'm ready to serve'

## Steve Baker on THAT trip and poll hopes



STEVE Baker has discussed why he should be Wycombe's next MP, why he went on holiday at the start of the general election campaign and what his chances are in the July 4 vote in an exclusive and wide-ranging interview with the Bucks Free Press.

The 53-year-old Conservative candidate, left, who is originally

**By Charlie Smith**

from Cornwall, has been elected as Wycombe's MP four times in 2019, 2017, 2015 and 2010. In a new interview with the Bucks Free Press, the Northern Ireland minster has set out his six election pledges, which include tackling the cost-of-living crisis and trying to secure

new facilities for Wycombe Hospital, which faces a £100 million repairs backlog, much of which relates to its crumbling 1960s tower.

The hospital is one of the top talking points in this year's election, with candidates across the board promising to try and find

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## TV James Corden's new home



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## Sport

## SPORT: ICE SKATING

## Win some Torvill and Dean signed skates

A PAIR of ice skates signed by Olympic gold medalists Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean are among the items that can be won in a Buckinghamshire village fete's silent auction later this month.

The highest bidder will carry away the famous duo's boots after the Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Fete introduced the auction for the first time this year.

The ice skates were donated to the fete by ITV Studios, the makers of Dancing on Ice, which

features Torvill and Dean as judges and is filmed at the nearby Bovington Airfield.

The fete, which will be held on Saturday, June 29, from 12:30 to 4:30pm at Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall in Bellingdon, is also auctioning tickets to see the Channel 4 show TaskMaster being filmed as well as a morning's fly fishing instruction on the River Chess.

All money raised goes to fund the charity which runs the village hall, as well as the Chiltern Food

Bank. "We want our fete to be a fun day out for the whole family, and our silent auction is an exciting addition to traditional games stalls, a fun dog show and classic car display," said Alf Field, chairman of the Bellingdon and Asheridge Community Association. "We also have our raffle, as usual, which has some great prizes this year."

Bids can be placed at any time via email, to fetesilentauktion@gmail.com, or on the day of the fete at the raffle stall.



The ice skates that could be won are near Chesham

## SPORT: FLYING

## Grandmother, 73, to take part in wingwalk for charity

A 73-YEAR-OLD grandmother of seven is set to embark on an extraordinary challenge to raise £10,000 for Willen Hospice by participating in a Wing Walk this Saturday.

Taking place at Shuttleworth-Old Warden, Sheila Nanon, a remarkable has been a supporter for the Buckinghamshire-based charity for over 40 years.

She has served as a fundraiser, Chair of Trustees, and now as a patron.

Despite overcoming significant health challenges, including surviving a heart attack and cancer in 2019, Sheila has been given the all-clear by her GP and is in excellent health, ready to take on this daring feat.

She said: "It's been a challenging few years, but surviving cancer is a reminder that life is here for living. I just like to get on with it."

Her journey with Willen Hospice began many years ago when her best friend was admitted to the Hospice following a battle with breast cancer.

She recalls: "I was so struck by just how peaceful and tranquil it is, and how wonderful all the staff were."

Over the years, Sheila has raised over £250,000 for the Hospice through various fundraising activities.

Her first major fundraising effort was running the New York Marathon, despite never having run before.

Encouraged by her family, Sheila completed the marathon and has since taken on numerous challenges, including climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, trekking in Borneo, completing the Everest Marathon and skydiving.

In addition to these adventurous pursuits, Sheila, a former dress shop owner, has organised fashion

By James Richings

shows and several fundraising golf tournaments over the past decade.

Her dedication to the Hospice is also evident through her long-term service, first as a trustee in 2001 and later as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Sheila's Wing Walk is part of a new initiative by Willen Hospice to diversify their fundraising programme.

Vanessa Ginnelly, the Hospice's Challenge Fundraising Manager, says, "It's the first time we've put together a wing walk challenge. We wanted to expand the way our community can support us while having great fun. The wing walking experience really is the ultimate in extreme sports activities! We are so grateful to Sheila and the five others who join her this weekend in aid of Hospice care."

Sheila has already raised over £7,500 in sponsorship money and hopes to exceed her £10,000 target.

To support Sheila and contribute to Willen Hospice, please visit her Just Giving page: Sheila's Just Giving Page.

A spokesperson for the charity said: "For those inspired by Sheila's incredible journey, Willen Hospice offers a fantastic programme of organised events designed to help you push yourself while raising vital funds."

"Whether you want to run, walk, cycle, take to the skies, or embark on an overseas adventure, there's something for everyone."

"To find out more, please contact Vanessa Ginnelly at Vanessa.Ginnelly@willen-hospice.org.uk, who will help you find the perfect challenge."



Sheila Nanon will do the walk for charity

## FOOTBALL

## Ex-forward looks ahead to the future

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers striker Uche Ikpeazu believes he is returning to the Scottish Premiership as "a more mature player" after the ex-Hearts striker agreed to join St Johnstone on a two-year contract.

The 29-year-old had two seasons at Tynecastle from 2018 to 2020, with the majority of his time there under the charge of current Saints boss Craig Levein.

Since leaving the Jambos four years ago, Ikpeazu has had spells at Wanderers, Middlesbrough, Cardiff, Turkish side Konyaspor and most recently Port Vale.

His best stint would have been his only year at Adams Park during the 2020/21 season, where he scored six goals in 33 appearances.

Prior to his move north of the English border this summer, the Ugandan forward had been linked with a return to Buckinghamshire since for past two years.

There were very strong rumours that he was going to re-sign for Wycombe in 2023 prior to the summer transfer window's deadline day, but no move for the one-time number nine was ever finalised.

He said: "I'm excited, I can focus on this new journey and challenge back here in Scotland."

"I'm looking forward to imposing myself on the league."

"The supporters might know me from my time in the Scottish Premiership before. I'm a more mature player now and want to exceed my own expectations."

"I have worked with the gaffer before and I'm ready to help the team. I want to show my quality and talent."

"I'm hungry, determined, focused and can't wait to see everyone at McDiarmid Park. I know where I'm at and I can really get the head down and build forward."

Manager Levein is looking forward to working with the bustling striker once more.

"I'm really pleased to get Uche in and to get him in so early," he said. "I know exactly what he is capable of from his previous time spent in Scottish football."

"He is a real handful in the forward department and is a top professional too. I'm sure he will be a great asset for the team and for our other strikers at the club."

"Uche will be keeping himself ticking over until we return for pre-season and then we look forward to getting started with him fully."

Ikpeazu scored one goal in 16 games for Port Vale last season.

## SPORT: SWIMMING



The six friends will take part in the event next month

# Preparing themselves for a huge charity Channel swim

A TEAM of local outdoor swimmers are busy preparing to swim the Channel in July.

With only seven months preparation the team have been training hard to make their strokes efficient, increase their speed, prepare for the cold and all the other obstacles that may come their way during the challenge.

Professional swim coach, Stephen Gould, became aware of the opportunity and approached fellow swimmers at Taplow Lake.

The hand-picked team consists of six swimmers; Katy, Claire, Carine, Janet, Bondy and Mike.

The team age may be above the average for a channel relay, but so is their determination.

Their drive is not only to complete the swim but also to gain sponsorship for The Samaritans.

The charity are often the place people turn when they feel they have no one else to talk to. As well as answering as many calls as possible, Samaritans use leg-

By Sally Sharp

cy gifts and donations to develop new ways of making sure the service is available to those who need it.

Samaritans carry out outreach work in schools, prisons, across the railway network, festivals and are continuously evolving communications to reach as many people as possible.

They provide workplace training to help people take better care of their mental health at work, as well as campaign for more investment in national and local suicide prevention. One team member, Katy, volunteers for the Samaritans, 'It's hard to know sometimes how much of a difference a call can make to someone. All calls are confidential and it's unlikely we'll ever speak to the same caller again. But being able to give someone the time and space to be them-

selves, explore their thoughts and feelings with no judgement and know that they matter can be the starting point to finding a way to get their life heading in a better direction.' Early in July, the team will have bags packed by their doors ready for the call. Then they will head to Dover to undertake the biggest physical challenge they have ever experienced.

Only one in five relay teams succeed so they are doing all they can to prepare.

When it is their turn to swim solo, knowing that they are raising funds to help people who are isolated through no choice of their own will be a real motivation.

You can sponsor Taplow Sea Bears at [www.justgiving.com/page/taplow-sea-bears-1713707903093](http://www.justgiving.com/page/taplow-sea-bears-1713707903093).

Follow their progress on Instagram @TaplowSeaBears and also follow @TheSamaritans #TeamSamaritans to find out

about the amazing work they are doing.

Their JustGiving page reads: "We're the Taplow Sea Bears - Bondy, Carine, Claire, Janet, Katy, Mike and Coach Stephen. In September last year we had never met.

"In July we're going to attempt to swim the English Channel together.

"In the process raising money and awareness for the Samaritans - a charity providing emotional support for people who don't know where else to turn. Callers can be anyone. People whose lives those on the outside may see as idyllic or perfect - we often don't know what's going on inside.

"The overriding aim being to support people in crisis and reduce the number of lives lost to suicide."

At the time of writing, they have raised £8,344 and they aim to break the £10,000 mark by next month.

## DARTS

### Risborough's year to remember

SATURDAY, June 8, 2024 saw the PRDDL celebrate the end to a fantastic winter season, where 22 teams competed over 2 divisions.

The season was highly competitive with The Crown Chinnor A coming out on top in Division 1 with Rivets coming runners up.

Division 2 was won by Thame Snooker Club with Chinnor Pavilion B gaining promotion in a close battle for 2nd spot.

Knockout Cup Winners were Weavers who won a closely fought final against The Crown Chinnor A.

Plate Cup Winners were Bradmoor Farm who saw off a challenge from Bledlow Cricket Club.

End of Season Competitions 3-A-Side Winners were from Chinnor Pavilion D and contained a pair of 15 Year Old lads (Richard Smith/George Slatter (15)/Henry Croxford (15))

They defeated Long Crendon in the final (Colin Turner/Darren Simons/Dessie Painter)

Pairs Winners were from Rivets (Dave King/Simon White) who defeated a Bradmoor Farm Pair in the final (Karl Higgins/Ben Howland)

Mixed Pairs was won by Thame Snooker Club pair (Matt Davis/Penny Majkut) against The Bull A pair (Darren Tidd/Claire Tidd)

Ladies Singles was won by Wendover RBL player (Emily Evans) who defeated Rivets Player (Nikki Eburne)

Captains Cup was won by The Plough Captain (Ross Chapman) who took a very close final against The Three Horseshoes Captain (Clayton Ford)

Men's Singles was won by Rivets player (Jamie Whittaker) who defeated fellow Rivets player (Simon White)

Presentation night was held at Bradmoor Farm on Saturday 8th June where we welcomed 3x World Darts Finalist Tony "Silverback" O'Shea to present our trophies and play members of the league and lucky members of the crowd.

A fantastic night was had with over 100 players and friends in attendance, Tony played fantastic darts all evening and was only defeated 4 times in 20 games.

Raffle prizes were donated by Bradmoor Farm, Target Darts, Darts Performance Centre and some members of the league, where over £300 was raised for charity in memory of past committee member Geoff Bishop, was a committee member for over 20 years, sadly passed away in 2023.

The summer season kicks off on Thursday 13th June 2024, with 25 teams competing over 4 divisions.

Checkout our websites to keep up to date with all the tables and stats which are updated on a daily basis.

Any players who may be interested in joining or forming a team for the next season can find all the information in our Facebook Group, search for "Princes Risborough & District Darts League"

## Sport

## SPORT: WYCOMBE WANDERERS

# Could ex-Wycombe owner Rob Couhig swap Bucks for Berks?

By James Richings

REPORTS have suggested that former Wycombe Wanderers owner and chairman Rob Couhig is 'leading the way' to purchase League One rivals, Reading.

The American, who spent five years at Adams Park, officially sold his 90 per cent share of the club to the Kazakhstani-based Georgian billionaire, Mikheil Lomtadze in May.

The takeover meant that whilst Couhig's nephew, Pete, and wife, Missy, left the Wanderers board, Rob moved from being owner to chairman – a role he took up at the start of last month.

But on June 8, it was announced that the lawyer would officially depart Wycombe, just over 30 days in his new role.

It has now been indicated that the lawyer is one of the main names interested in becoming the Royals' new owner, just three months after he tried to buy Reading's state-of-the-art Bearwood training facility.

The news led to a huge backlash from the Berkshire-based fans, who organised a peaceful protest outside Adams Park.

It occurred just six days after Wycombe had beaten Reading 2-1 at the Select Car Leasing Stadium.

But now, there is a huge possibility that the 75-year-old could be the main man in charge at the former Premier League outfit, with the lawyer allegedly being spotted in Berkshire over the past few weeks.

The news was first broken by the Daily Star on June 11 which revealed that Couhig's party are one of several still keen on acquiring the club.

This includes a US-Saudi consortium put together by former QPR favourite Marc Bircham, but as reported by the Reading Chronicle, it is believed that Couhig 'leads the way' after lengthy negotiations.

Despite this, a deal to purchase the club is 'some way off completion'.

## What did Rob Couhig do at Wycombe?

It's the summer of 2019 and the Chairboys are preparing for their second consecutive season in League One.

They had endured a tough first campaign back in the third tier following a six-year absence from the division.

This included a run of just three league wins in 17 matches from January 29, 2019, to May 4, 2019, but those three victories came in the final six fixtures and incredibly, those nine points effectively saved Wanderers' season.

They helped sort out the club's books, mingled with fans before, during and after home matches, and frequently posted updates on social media.

Their enthusiasm was matched by then-manager Gareth Ainsworth, so it was no surprise that Wanderers enjoyed one of their best starts to a league season ever, losing just four of their opening 23 games.

Fast forward a few months amid a pandemic, Wycombe achieved promotion to the Championship for the first time with 2-1 win over Oxford United in the 2020 League One play-off final.

A year later, the Chairboys were relegated back to the third tier but finished one point and one place from safety, despite many suggesting they would finish the season bottom of the table.

Another appearance at Wembley followed in 2022, but a strong Sunderland side swept Wycombe aside in that year's play-off showpiece.

But with 83 points from 46 games, it was one of Wanderers' best seasons in their history.

The 2022/23 year as a unique one for Wycombe as they said goodbye to manager Gareth Ainsworth.

He departed for Queens Park Rangers which ended a 14-year stint at Adams Park, but the Couhigs were swift in bringing in club legend Matt Bloomfield as boss from Colchester United hours after Ainsworth had left.

And for the season that has just finished, Wycombe enjoyed another trip to Wembley, but lost in the EFL Trophy final to Peterborough United.

The Americans also introduced a development team which has produced several promising talents.

Some of those names include Anis Mehmeti who has since moved to Bristol City, Ali Al-Hamadi who is at Premier League Ipswich Town, and Chris Forino, who, at the time of writing, remains at Wycombe.

In short, each of the club's league finishes from the last five years are some of the highest in their history, in which they have reached new levels of achievements.

This would not have happened if the Couhigs were not at Adams Park, as the money was just not there.

And whilst Reading are a much bigger club than Wycombe, stability is what the Royals need after seven disastrous years with Dai Yongge.

This is what the Couhigs should bring in abundance.



Rob Couhig was the owner of Wycombe for five years between 2019 and 2024 where he helped the club reach three Wembley finals and financial security (PA)

**SPORT**

# Magical moment for the U14s football team



The U14s with the trophy following their victory earlier on this month

THORPE House School in Gerrards Cross's extraordinary U14 football team completed a remarkable treble this season, securing victories in the ESFA National Cup, the Small Schools South Area Cup, and the Buckinghamshire County Cup.

This incredible feat is a testament to the students' efforts and teamwork, and it is even more amazing when these students have just 35 pupils in their year group.

The pinnacle of their success came with the ESFA PlayStation National Cup, held at the prestigious Hawthorns stadium, home of Championship Side, West Bromwich Albion.

The players had the unique opportunity to play on a championship pitch and experience the atmosphere of a top-tier stadium cheered on by 100 of their friends and family.

They duly delivered an outstanding performance, triumphing with an impressive

5-1 victory.

This historic treble win is a monumental achievement for the small independent school which celebrated its centenary year this year.

It underscores the dedication and hard work of our players and coaches, who have demonstrated exceptional talent and sportsmanship throughout the season.

"We are immensely proud of our U14 team," said Mr Jake Burnett, Headteacher of Thorpe House School. "Their success on the field is a reflection of their commitment and the strong sense of community at our school. These victories are a source of great pride for everyone at Thorpe House.

"It is a perfect time as the School has officially announced that we will become a football-first school starting in September, with new coaches and opportunities."

**BOWLS**

# Brilliant bowls for Marlow

ON June 5, Marlow Ladies hosted Flackwell Heath ladies Bowls Club for a friendly triples game over three rinks.

A good day for Marlow winning on all three rinks with top rink honours shared by Annie Mindry (with Karen Wells and Mags Shelley) and Sue Burden (with Floss Rees and Jo Perry).

On Saturday, June 8, Marlow were at home to Maidenhead Town in a five rink mixed friendly.

The weather was again kind and Marlow won on 4 rinks with the final score being 105 shots to 72.

Top rink honours went to Rink 1 - Peter Barltrop with David Dicker and Jean Barltrop who won by 18 shots.

Rink 5 (Steve Tight with Tricia Best and Angela Moss) seemed to be on course for a significant loss, but scores of 3, 6 and 2 on the last 3 ends turned things around to win by six shots.

*Do you want to have your sports story in next week's edition of the Bucks Free Press? Send in your reports to our Send Us Your Page via website.*

**CRICKET**

# Thames Valley side take on Cornwall-based team

BUCKS have made one change in their squad for the National Counties Trophy tie against Cornwall at Redruth this Sunday.

All-rounder AJ Woodland, who was unavailable for the 92-run defeat by Devon at High Wycombe on Sunday, returns to the 12 in place of George Harvey.

Bucks's second defeat in two matches means that they are bottom of Group 3 and are very unlikely to qualify for the knock-out stages of the competition.

With three teams already of four points, and Berkshire and Oxfordshire facing each other, Bucks's only chance is that they win their last two matches by huge margins and pip Devon on net run rate.

Tom Hampton's side will be going all out to beat Cornwall, who have also lost their first two games.

Bucks squad: T Hampton capt, AJ Woodland, C Hemp, W Mead, A Kervezee, R Richardson, E Bragg, M Payne, H Ramanad-anpulle, C Haddow, C Parsons, M Uttley.

**SPORT: WYCOMBE WANDERERS**

# Chairman lays out plans for the long-term future

WYCOMBE Wanderers' chairman Dan Rice has revealed that bringing in young players is at the 'forefront' of the club's identity following the recent takeover.

The 38-year-old, along with the director Eduard Vyshnyakov and owner Mikheil Lomtadze, arrived at the club at the start of May where they purchased the Couhig family's 90 per cent share.

This ended the American's five-year stint in charge of the

Adams Park side.

Now, Lomtadze who is from Georgia but is based in Kazakhstan, hopes to introduce an academy to nurture untouched talent to help Wycombe secure Championship football.

The Chairboys have been without an academy since 2012 but launched a development squad in 2020.

Rice told Wanderers TV: "We want to be at the forefront of bringing in young players through our programme, and

we want to attract young players to our club.

"We also want to make sure that there is a feel in the community within the local sector that they know young players get an opportunity here.

"The community has a stronghold within the club, so to make sure we're bringing our own through, and having players in our first team they've seen in the local community will be huge for us.

"We hope that our aspirations are in line with everyone else's at the club, and we want young players in our first team, but we know that this will take time.

"Within year one, we hope to build a mechanism to propel us forward so year one will be a development year for us.

"We then hope to build on from that.

"We are going to build everything that we feel is right for the club in the long term, but whether it's for the academy or the first team, it will take time."



Dan Rice hopes the plans will benefit Wycombe in the long-term future (Wanderers TV)

**THE NEW LOOK BOARD AT AP**

<b>Owner:</b>	Eduard Vyshnyakov
<b>Mikheil Lomtadze</b>	<b>Trust Reps:</b>
<b>Chairman:</b>	Tony Hector and Trevor Stroud
<b>Dan Rice</b>	
<b>Director:</b>	

# Frustrating weekend for Buckinghamshire

BUCKS men suffered their second defeat in the National Counties Trophy when they lost by 92 runs to Devon in their group match at High Wycombe on Sunday.

Following their narrow defeat by Oxfordshire in their first game, this result leaves their hopes of qualifying for the later stages of the competition hanging by a thread.

Devon, for whom this was a

measure of compensation for their 550-run defeat by Bucks in last year's National Counties Championship final, chose to bat first on an excellent pitch and fast outfield.

The visitors made 279-8 from their 50 overs thanks to a splendid 101 from 112 balls by opener Ben Privett who hit one six and ten fours.

When they were 157-1 after 28 overs they looked like topping

300, but they slipped to 197-6 against some tidy bowling from Conner Haddow (3-43), Max Uttley (3-53) and Cam Parsons (2-43).

A fine flourish from Lawrence Walker (40 not out from 27 balls) enabled Devon set Bucks 280 for victory.

Bucks needed a big innings from one of their main batters, but did not get it as George Harvey (34), Cameron Hemp (32) and Billy Mead (25) all got out when well

set.

Seamer Kaz Szymanski blew away the middle order with figures of 5-28 to leave Bucks struggling at 92-5.

A defiant 47 from Ed Bragg delayed the inevitable before Bucks were dismissed for 187 in 41.3 overs.

To keep their hopes alive, Bucks will have to beat Cornwall at Redruth this Sunday and Berkshire at Chesham the following Sunday.

# SPORT

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## Owner says goodbye to the Chairboys after five years



Rob Couhig with former manager Gareth Ainsworth in 2022 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers has confirmed that former owner Rob Couhig has stepped down as chairman.

The American, who has been involved with the Chairboys since 2019, was appointed the role in May this year, following Mikheil Lomtadze's purchase of the club.

The takeover meant Couhig moved from owner to chairman, but he officially left his position of the latter on June 7.

Dan Rice, who joined the Adams Park club several weeks ago in the multi-million-pound purchase, will act as interim Chairman.

He initially arrived at HP12 as one of the new directors, alongside Eduard Vyshnyakov.

Speaking to Wanderers TV, Couhig, who helped Wycombe reach two play-off finals, a season in the Championship, a first EFL Trophy appearance, and the club's first managerial change in well over a decade, said: "My commitment when I first became associated with Wycombe was to upgrade the infrastructure, enhance the game day experience, diversify and solidify revenue, operate efficiently and in a financially

sustainable manner, and create an environment that would allow the club to compete in the Championship.

"While I may be biased in my view, I believe we have accomplished those goals.

"As we learn in Ecclesiastes, to everything there is a season.

"For me, my official relationship is now over but I will always remember with fondness and joy my days as a Chairboy."

New owner, Mikheil Lomtadze, added: "I have the utmost respect and appreciation for the work that Rob and

his family have done at Wycombe Wanderers.

"During the many months that I have got to know him, he has become a friend and someone that I have been able to trust and call on for advice and guidance.

Interim chairman, Dan Rice, who has also worked at Arsenal, Everton, Southampton and in the England youth set-up as a scout, added that the board members are 'working around the clock to prepare the football department in the best possible manner for the new season'.

## Wanderers' new training ground is confirmed

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced that they are to move their training facilities to Harlington in West London, the former home of Chelsea.

Chairboys have been exploring options to move away from Marlow Road over recent years, most notably in controversial talks to purchase Reading's Bearwood Park in March.

Falling through under the ownership of the Couhig family, new owner Mikhael Lomtadze highlighted new training facilities as a priority when confirming his purchase.

Aiming to move to Harlington as soon as possible, the Imperial College London owned site boasts '18 full-size grass pitches and a floodlit FIFA-certified 3G astro, as well as a gymnasium, canteen, changing rooms, office and classroom space, meeting and video analysis rooms and a media studio.'

Chelsea, QPR and Sutton United have all used Harlington in the past, with the R's moving to a new purpose-built facility in 2022.

Dan Rice, the club's new Chief Football Officer and Interim Chairman of the Board of Directors commented: "Our vision for the sustainable growth and success of the club are underpinned by the need for Wycombe Wanderers to have access to first-class training facilities and we are delighted to have secured our deal with Imperial College London to achieve our goal.

"Harlington is an excellent venue for us to develop our plans for establishing our first team at a higher level, and for creating an academy at the highest possible standard.

By James Earnshaw

"We have undergone a thorough process to identify and secure the right facility for us and Harlington - with convenient transport links and located close to both Wycombe and London - suits our requirements."

Eduard Vyshnyakov, a member of the club's Board of Directors, added: "We are delighted to be moving to Harlington, which offers opportunity to develop first-class training facilities.

"Harlington's floodlights and all-weather pitches ensure our players can train at an elite level all year round, overcoming the winter restrictions, and will support our player availability for the entirety of the season.

"With regards to the current training ground at Marlow Road, we are considering it as an alternative training site, alongside other possible opportunities."

The news of the new training ground has been met with much excitement from several Wanderers fans.

One support said: "Exciting times ahead, will also undoubtedly help us attract a higher calibre of player as well developing the first team operations as well as development team/Academy.

"Everything all on one site will be a major benefit too."

Another said: "Guess it shows the ambition to build something new and for the future though so staying positive."

The new season will start on August 10.



Wycombe will move away from Marlow Road and training at Harlington in West London (NQ)

## Chairboys chairman on chasing PL dream

WYCOMBE Wanderers' new chairman Dan Rice has revealed plans are being put in place to try and help the Chairboys achieve promotion to the Premier League.

The former Southampton, England, Everton, Fulham and Arsenal scout joined the Adams Park side as part of Mikheil Lomtadze's takeover of the club at the start of May.

He initially arrived as a chief football officer but was moved into the role of chairman following Rob Couhig's departure earlier this month.

The American had been Wanderers' owner for the past five years, but transitioned into the position of chairman, only to leave the post roughly 30 days later.

Speaking in his first official interview with the club's media team, Rice said: "We're very pragmatic about how we approach things as we need to be methodical without changing too much too soon.

"For us, our strategy (short term, mid-term and long term), is thought out and well-planned, so the squad needs to be aligned with that.

"We need to ensure that we'll still be able to provide everything that we want on the pitch, and Matt [Bloomfield] has done a great job.

"We want to continue that."

"The medium-term goal is to be back in the Championship, be sustained in the Championship, and long-term is the Premier League.

"We're not going to hide that. "But we know that this will take time and for where we are today, there is a lot of foundation work to put in place for us to get to the Championship and to keep us there."

The new season will start on August 10, with the league fixtures being announced later on this month.