

Bucks Free Press

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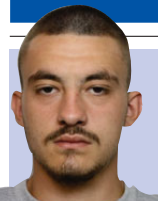
PAGE 14



Royals visit hospital

PAGE 38

WIN
A fresh 5kg turkey for Christmas



Man jailed for attempted beheading of pensioner: P5

Flood fears over 100,000 new homes

'Temptation to build on land not considered before'



THE 100,000 new homes Buckinghamshire Council says are planned for the county over 20 years have prompted warnings about more frequent flooding.

Conservative councillors raised concerns that the new Labour government's proposed reforms to national planning policy and plans to build 1.5 million new homes over this parliament could see new development in areas of Buckinghamshire at higher flood risk.

By Charlie Smith

If approved, the reforms would see the annual number of homes required to be built in Buckinghamshire rise by 42 per cent from 2,912 to 4,122.

Cllr Mick Caffrey said: "There is going to be a lot of temptation to build on places that we wouldn't have built on before or considered."

Full story: Page 2

PAGE 7



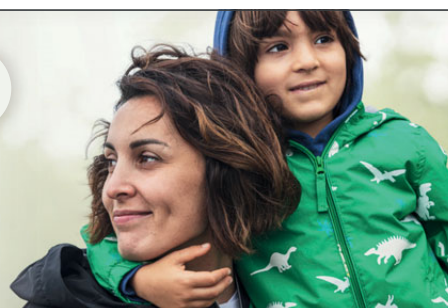
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Sport

HOCKEY

Marlow Hockey Club hold out to win

Marlow Hockey Club men's first team survived a late comeback to win 5-4 at Bournemouth.

They soon got over any effects from the journey by going two goals up, both scored by Louis Cadinouche, in the first four minutes.

Marlow continued to dominate the game but Bournemouth were dangerous on the counter-attack and levelled the score before Alex Land and Mark Lowden made the score 4-2 to Marlow before halftime.

Marlow went further ahead through a great goal from Sam North who intercepted a ball in defence, ran through with several exchanges of passes and slotted the ball home.

At 5-2 ahead and time running out the game seemed to be settled but Bournemouth came back with two goals in the last eight minutes leaving Marlow winners 5-4.

On Saturday at Pound Lane, they are at home to bottom club Henley starting at 11.45

Marlow Seconds took

on Milton Keynes Firsts on a quest to kick-start their season- but ultimately lost 3-1.

Marlow again started the second half strongly but again MK hit Marlow on the counter-attack to make it 2-0 and shortly after converted a controversially awarded penalty corner.

Marlow managed to pull back a consolation goal by James Ashburner when everything finally clicked to make the score 3-1.

Next week sees Marlow travel to Oxford Hawks to take on their Third team.



Sam North scored for Marlow Firsts

FOOTBALL

Chesham United return to winning ways after exit

CHESHAM put last Monday's FA Cup defeat firmly behind them as they clinched their third successive league win and kept a first league clean sheet of the season in a 2-0 victory over Worthing in National League South.

Worthing were one of the division's form teams, but Chesham dominated the game and should possibly have won by a bigger margin.

After a quiet opening the first major incident of the game came in the fourteenth minute. Mitchell Weiss was clean through on goal and the Worthing keeper Chris Haigh came out of his area and clearly knocked the ball away with his arm but the referee and linesman were unmoved.

The incident seemed to fire up the Chesham players as they increased the tempo and dominated the rest of the half.

The breakthrough for Chesham came on 32 minutes. A Lewis Rolfe free kick was headed on by Connor Stevens and Mitchell Weiss shot across the keeper. A defender slid in and tried to clear but only succeeded in knocking the ball into the net at the near post.

After chances at both ends Worthing's Glen Rea was shown a straight red card in stoppage time for a foul on Joe Grant – perhaps a little harsh but the referee went straight to his back pocket without hesitation.

Worthing made a double substitution at half-time and started the second half strongly. Chesham snuffed that momentum out just before the hour mark making it 2-0. Haigh came out of his area but lost possession and Mitchell Weiss lobbed into the unguarded net

By Andy Westlake

from 35 yards.

Worthing's main tactic was to use the long throws of Ollie Black, but every effort was dealt with by Cian Moore and his defenders. A couple of chances from Ryan Upward and Nathan Minhas saw the game to its conclusion and a very solid 2-0 home win. 3 more points and up to ninth.

On Tuesday night, Chesham were back in action in the third round of the County Cup against Amersham Town, losing on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Amersham set up to defend strongly and attack on the break wherever possible and they did it to great effect. Amersham started brightly and got their noses in front on 18 minutes courtesy of Alex McLeish. Despite a few great chances for Chesham the half ended 1-0 to the home team.

The second half provided a much more dominant display with Chesham in control of possession for large periods. When Karl Oliyide scored on 58 minutes it felt like the visitors would prevail, but Amersham continued to work hard defensively seeing the game out and straight to penalties with the score at 1-1.

With nine of the 10 penalties scored the result came down to Joe Grant's miss for Chesham and Amersham Town progress.

Next up Chesham United FC welcome Chippenham Town to The Meadow on Saturday, November 16 in the FA Trophy. Chesham's women are away at Penn & Tylers Green in the Senior Women's County Cup.



Celebrations after Mitchell Weiss' second. Photo Neale Blackburn

FOOTBALL

Chesham Women fall to Chatham Town defeat

CHESHAM United Women were unable to match the men's side and get a win over the weekend, slipping to a 3-1 defeat at home to Chatham Town.

This is Chatham's first season in tier four, having been relegated in 2023/24 from the Southern Premier Division without a win.

However, this season they are finding their level with a solid league position, sitting in third place.

The game started very evenly with Chesham working hard defensively but creating a chance here and there to attack on the break.

However, after 13 minutes Chatham were given a gold-plated chance to score as the ball found its way to the feet of their forward line, and they made no mistake to take an early advantage.

Chatham then worked hard to continue to pile on the pressure but Chesham coped well with a solid and physical defence.

Just before the break Chesham's chance came. The ball was cleared from a corner but found the feet of Gemma Fraser who turned and hit a sweet cross into the box that Becky Fraser headed home to level the tie at 1-1.

Sadly, Chatham responded almost immediately with a back post header from a corner finding the net, and that's where the half ended, with the visitors holding a narrow 1-2 advantage.

The second half continued in much the same way with Chesham working hard in defence.

But another Chatham breakthrough came in the 59th minute as Chesham's keeper Nicole Spittle parried a ball that unfortunately ended up at the feet of the onrushing striker who scored to take the tie away to 1-3.

For the last 30 minutes, Chesham grew in confidence and great chances fell to Tasha Smith and Natalia Makowska but they couldn't find a way to convert.

Seven minutes of second half injury time was not enough to convert the momentum and while the points go back to Chatham, the home side were pleased with the performance - something to take into other important ties still to come this season.

Next up Chesham travel to Penn & Tylers Green on Sunday, November 17 for the quarter-final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Women's Cup and after that they're back to league action with a run of games away from home.

Mixed results for the Rams as progress made in the cup

BEACONSFIELD Town were well beaten 3-0 in the league by Barton Rovers, before thumping local opposition Penn and Tylers Green 5-0 in the Berks and Bucks Cup, writes Arran White.

First to Saturday, where Beaconsfield were well beaten, losing 3-0 to a strong Barton Rovers team at Holloways Park.

It was a fast start to the game which saw both teams having some good attacking chances within the opening 15 minutes, before Barton took the lead on the 20th minute. A foul by Beaconsfield skipper Ben Tricker gave Barton a chance, and the free kick was curled in by Taylor Rhiney.

As the game approached half time, Beaconsfield had their chances with Eli Grant hitting the bar and Joe Lawal stinging the Barton keeper's palms. Despite the hosts' pressure, Barton went into the break 2-0 up, scoring their second on the stroke of half time through John Shomolo.

The second half started with Barton pushing to extend their lead. They were denied a third by the linesman's flag, but soon found themselves further ahead as Shamolo got his second of the game, scoring with a flying header.

Beaconsfield had their best spell of the game after the third goal, testing the Barton goalkeeper on a couple of occasions as well as missing by a matter of inches on others.

Despite the late pressure from the hosts Barton left with a deserved 3-0 win and took the three points back to Bedfordshire.

On Tuesday night, the Rams emphatically beat Penn and



Beaconsfield Town players in a huddle before the match at Holloways Park

Tylers Green 5-0 win at Holloways Park in the Berks and Bucks Cup.

Beaconsfield started on top, going close to an opener within minutes as Manu Oke-William tested Sam Butcher in the Penn goal.

Beaconsfield had several chances as the game went on, but finally took a deserved lead after 33 minutes when Oke-William got the goal his efforts deserved, heading home from a perfect Josh Marcon delivery. They should have

been further ahead moments later when Joe Lawal found himself free in the box, but his effort went just wide of the post.

Beaconsfield made it 2-0 just before half time, with a wonderful team move, as Matty Harriott and Marcon passed their way through the Penn midfield before the latter slotted an inch perfect pass through to Lawal who went round the keeper and slotted the ball into the empty net.

The second half started as

the first ended, with the home team well on top, with their pressing and passing causing plenty of problems.

It was not long before they found another, as in form Akiel Raffie fired home from the edge of the box to make it 3-0.

A fourth goal followed shortly after, when Oke-William showed great control to bring the ball down before playing in Lawal who slotted the ball into the bottom corner for his second of the night.

Youth team stars Oliver Saunders, Reilly Hudson & Sam Wraith were handed well-earned debuts as the game started to edge towards full time, with Hudson scoring Beaconsfield's fifth and final goal of the evening, assisted by his young teammate Wraith to wrap up the game and a great evening for Beaconsfield.

Beaconsfield have a Bucks derby next, when they return to league action, travelling to Aylesbury United on Sunday, November 17.

HOCKEY

Marlow women update

MARLOW Hockey Club Women's First travelled to the southwest to take on Exeter and lost 1-0.

Exeter put early pressure on the visitors with keeper Alys Ramm having to make early saves. Marlow had their own chances and late into the first half the Marlow forwards forced the Exeter keeper into making saves.

At the start of the second half, Exeter had an early opportunity which the Marlow defence successfully dealt with. Marlow upped their intensity, linking their passes and some great work from Rachel Clarke earned an unsuccessful penalty corner.

Exeter earned their own penalty corner within the final ten minutes of the game and broke the deadlock with a hard strike into the bottom corner. Marlow were unable to equalize as the Exeter keeper made a diving stick save to ensure that the home side earned all three points.

On Saturday they have another long trip to play Swansea.

The Seconds moved within two points of the league leaders with a convincing 3-0 win at home to Milton Keynes Firsts.

Marlow dominated possession and territory throughout the match and went ahead through Izzy Fuggle's short corner strike.

Olivia Letchford's flick over the keeper on the left post doubled Marlow's lead in the 42nd minute before Megan Fulton sealed the win 10 minutes before the end.

FOOTBALL

Windsor lose late

WINDSOR FC conceded two late goals on Saturday to lose 3-1 at Oxhey Jets in Combined Counties Division One.

The Jacks missed three guilt-edged chances in the first-half to put their noses in front and were punished as Dominic Mosca curled an effort into the top corner from the edge of the penalty box.

The visitors managed to haul themselves level after the break when Troy Williams headed Ethan Kemp's delightful cross into the back of the net.

However, Toju James and David Miguel were on hand to steal the three points with two goals in the final five minutes.

Tonight (Friday) Windsor host Woodley United.

GOT A STORY? Get in touch

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FOOTBALL

Makowski brace earns Heathens a point

AN impressive crowd of 285 were treated to a post-Halloween treat, as Flackwell Heath and Ware played out an entertaining 2-2 draw, writes Glenn Alcock.

Similar to the last home fixture, Flackwell started the first half the stronger side, but were pegged back after a corner routine was intercepted, enabling a Ware breakaway, ultimately enabling Jonny Allotey to slot the away side ahead early on.

A determined Heathens pushed throughout the first half for an equaliser, with multiple half chances created for the likes of Jamie Ayres and Eddie Lee - to their credit, Ware defended stoutly throughout the half.

The second half began in a similar vein to the trend in the first, with the Heathens continuing to heap pressure on 'The Blues', who found their way through 'The Reds' defence again on the 50th minute, with Jon Clements the scorer.

In moments like these, a hero is needed -

step forward the Heathens top scorer Wiktor Makowski, who fired home in the 61st and 84th minutes to level the scores.

It was little more than Flackwell deserved against a dependable step four opponent, and the home side could have nicked the three points through debutant Jeffrey Fordjour in the dying embers of what was another exciting game at Wilks Park.

On Tuesday, Flackwell returned to winning ways after securing a 2-0 victory at Welwyn Garden City.

As a competitive first half neared its scoreless conclusion, the more creative Heathens found the breakthrough. A superb through ball to Michael Harding was then squared for Ayres to open the scoring.

As the game reached its dying embers, a clumsy tackle from a Welwyn defender saw a 90th minute penalty for Flackwell - dispatched by the ever-dependable Wiktor Makowski for his 18th goal of the season.



Flackwell Heath striker Eddie Lee battles for possession

Sport

FOOTBALL

Scowen injury concern as Hanlan returns

WYCOMBE manager Matt Bloomfield has described midfielder Josh Scowen 'as a fighter' following the club's recent 2-1 victory over Crawley Town.

The 31-year-old, who has played 19 of 21 matches in all competitions this season, hobbled off as a second-half substitute in the win against their League One rivals on Tuesday night in the EFL Trophy.

He came on just after the hour mark for Ryan Tafazolli but was replaced moments before the end after a collision with

Tyreese John-Jules.

It has been confirmed he has 'tweaked' his knee, but its seriousness has not been disclosed.

Speaking at full-time, Bloomfield said: "We'll have to get it scanned and see how it is. He reminded me inside that he did it away at Blackpool last season, only to play at Wembley in the final a few days later.

"That's Joshy - he's a fighter. We'll get it scanned, see how he is, and hopefully it'll settle down quickly."

The victory means Wanderers topped their

EFL Trophy group, to reach the next round.

Bloomfield handed striker Brandon Hanlan his first start of the season after his recovery from an ACL injury. It was his third appearance of the campaign, the start occurring one year and a day after he ruptured his knee in a 1-0 home loss against Stevenage.

He marked the occasion with a well-taken finish after just five minutes to put the Chairboys ahead, the strike being his first in a competitive fixture since October 2023.



Josh Scowen (left) and Brandon Hanlan. Images: PA

FOOTBALL

Ainsworth 'the standout candidate' for top job with Shrews

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has found himself a new job.

The 51-year-old, who spent a little over 13 years at Adams Park as a player, player-manager, and then full-time manager, is now the man at the helm at Shrewsbury Town.

He joins the Shrews with his long-standing number two Richard Dobson - who has been appointed as the club's assistant head coach.

Ainsworth replaces Paul Hirst who was fired earlier this month following a dismal run of form which saw the Shropshire side win just twice in 19 games.

It was Hirst's second spell with the club following a successful stint between 2016 and 2018.

But since rejoining in January of this year, he only won six of his 37 games in charge.

Ainsworth joins Shrewsbury after being out of management for just over a year.

That break followed his sacking from the top job at Championship side Queens Park Rangers.

He had been in charge of Wanderers for 10-and-a-bit years prior to his move to Loftus Road in February of last year.

But his tenure in London proved a testing one, and after winning five of his 28 games in charge, Ainsworth was fired.

Shrewsbury's director of football, Micky Moore said: "I'm delighted to welcome Gareth and Richard to the football club.

"I think it is a massive coup for Shrewsbury Town to have them here.

"From the moment we started the recruitment process, Gareth and Richard were our number one targets.

"I've known Gareth for a long time.

"He was the standout candidate, and he is someone I have always admired for the outstanding work he did at Wycombe.

Wycombe will travel to Shrewsbury on Saturday December 14.

This will be the first time Ainsworth will be up against his successor and former Wanderers teammate, Matt Bloomfield.

FOOTBALL

Wycombe into the knockout stages of the EFL Trophy

James Richings

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WYCOMBE Wanderers have progressed to the knockout stages of the EFL Trophy after they defeated Crawley Town 2-1 at Adams Park.

In the second meeting between the two sides following last month's league encounter which the Chairboys won 1-0, first-half goals from Brandon Hanlan and a stunning Luke Leahy free-kick cemented Matt Bloomfield's team into the round of 32.

The first goal came after four minutes when Hanlan latched onto David Wheeler's pass, and he steered home from 10 yards.

His strike, which is his first of the season, came one year and one day after he suffered a serious ACL injury, which put him out of action for 12 months.

The lead did not last long, however, as Tola Showunmi equalised for the Red Devils 10 minutes later.

Jack Roles' long-range attempt was pushed away by Shamal George, and there was Crawley's number 29 to fire in the rebound from inside the six-yard box.

It was his second strike of the campaign.

The first-half was an even affair with both teams having several chances to take the lead, with Wycombe regaining their advantage in some style on the half-hour mark.

Leahy, who scored a brace against York City in the FA Cup at the start of the month, brilliantly bent home a free-kick from 25-yards for his fourth of the season.



Wycombe defeated Crawley Town in the last group stage game of the EFL Trophy. Image: Adam Davy/PA

The second-half was another even affair, with Wanderers having a glorious chance to extend their lead.

On 54 minutes, Benjamin Tanimu was penalised for handling in the area.

Leahy was buoyed by his earlier strike, and took the resulting spot-kick - but it was brilliantly

saved by Connal Trueman in the Crawley goal.

He got down to his left-hand side and pushed the ball onto the post before Hanlan fired over the rebound.

One negative on the injury front is that Josh Scowen, who came on as a second-half substitute, hobbled off with five min-

utes remaining.

The result means that Wanderers progress into the next round, topping their group with AFC Wimbledon finishing second.

Up next for the Chairboys is Lincoln City in the league on November 23.

Attendance: 723

FOOTBALL

Man of the match Ravizzoli is 'very proud'



Goalkeeper Franco Ravizzoli was mobbed by his teammates against Wigan. Image: WWFC

WYCOMBE Wanderers goalkeeper Franco Ravizzoli said he was 'proud' to have made the saves he did in the club's recent 1-0 win over Wigan Athletic.

Joe Low's 11th minute header gave the Chairboys their first victory over the Latics at the Brick Community Stadium, which cemented their place at the top of the League One table going into the international break.

Despite winning the encounter, Wanderers were under the cosh for much of the second half, with the Argentine producing two stunning stops in the final 15 minutes to give Wycombe the victory.

The first was a point-blank stop to deny Toby Sibbick, whilst the other thwarted a goal-bound header from

Theo Aagaard.

He was awarded the Man of the Match prize for his efforts, and at full-time, all of the Chairboys players went up to Ravizzoli to congratulate him.

Speaking after the game, he said: "When I made those saves, I saw the clock as saw we had about 10/15 minutes and I just wanted the time to go so fast, as I wanted the clean sheet.

"I haven't made that many saves in the last couple of games [Leyton Orient and Stockport County], so it was good to make them.

"The first save, I was in the right position and it came straight at me and in second one was a bit more of a reaction.

"Overall, I'm very proud and in the last few games, we have played very good."

FOOTBALL

Joe Low with the winner as Wycombe's run continues

WYCOMBE Wanderers made it seven wins in a row after they defeated Wigan Athletic 1-0 at the Brick Community Stadium.

Joe Low's 11th minute header from a Dan Harvie cross separated the two teams in Greater Manchester, as the Chairboys remain top of the League One table.

Wanderers went into the match off the back of a brilliant 5-0 away victory at Stockport County four days earlier, which was their first-ever win at Edgeley Park.

Past forward a few days, they registered their inaugural victory at the home of Wigan.

The Chairboys started the better with Richard Kone, Dan Udoh and Fred Onyedimma looking sharp in attack, but it was a set-piece that gave Wycombe the lead.

An inswinging Harvie corner was planted into the net via Low's head for his second of the season. His previous strike was his injury-time winner against Bristol Rovers in September.

The first was void of many clear-cut chances as Wycombe looked comfortable out of pos-

session. They allowed Wigan to play the ball around with little end product, but moments before half-time, the Latics nearly equalised as Jonny Smith's bending effort from range crashed the bar.

It was their best chance of the half, with Wycombe keeper Franco Ravizzoli being called into make comfortable stops on a handful of occasions.

Wanderers began to look leggy in the second period, as Theo Aagaard, Silko Thomas and ex-Wycombe man Dale Taylor all went close.

But Ravizzoli was on hand to make several huge saves in the dying embers of the contest. One kept out a point blank Aagaard header in the final minutes. It looked to be a certain goal, but the Argentine produced the goods.

The result means Wycombe have won their latest seven league games, stretching their unbeaten run to 12.

They are on 32 points for the season and remain top of League One.

Up next in the league are Lincoln City away, on November 23.



Joe Low scored Wycombe's winner against Wigan. Image: Bradley Collyer/PA

'Like old school Wycombe - we ground it out'

WANDERERS manager Matt Bloomfield said that watching his side's hard fought win over Wigan Athletic was like witnessing 'old school Wycombe at times', as the Chairboys' churned out a 1-0 victory.

Joe Low's 11th minute header gave the Adams Park side their first-ever win over the Latics away from home, as they remain on top of the League One table.

The result means Wycombe

are now unbeaten in 12 league games, and have continued to score in every league match this season.

They are now two points clear of second placed Birmingham City, who drew 1-1 at home to Northampton Town.

Speaking after the win, Bloomfield said: "I thought Wigan were excellent as it was a hard-fought game.

"We had to be patient out of

possession and we spoke about how it will be different to Tuesday night [against Stockport County].

"I thought we could have been a bit cleaner in possession at times as we had a couple of giveaways from us, but in terms of desire and togetherness, that can't be forgotten.

"I got a message from Bayo [Adebayo Akinfenwa] as it did feel like old school Wycombe at

times.

"We had to grind it out with our backs against the walls at times, so it was nice to see that grit and determination from the previous gaffer has been retained.

"It was nice to see that Wycombe spirit surviving and thriving and it's nice to see these boys running it."

The result means Wycombe have now won their last six league games.

CHAIRBOYS

Kone wins October PFA award

WYCOMBE Wanderers forward Richard Kone won PFA League One Fans' Player of the Month for October.

The 21-year-old has been on fine form for the Chairboys as Matt Bloomfield's side ride high at the top of the third tier.

Hitting 10 goals in 21 appearances so far this season, the forward enjoyed a particularly strong October - scoring six league goals.

Bagging a hat-trick against Peterborough United and a brace against Stockport County, Kone proved a worthy winner which was decided by public vote.

He was up against Tomoki Iwata (Birmingham City), Matt Pearson (Huddersfield Town), Sam Smith (Reading), Joe Whitworth (Exeter City) and Willum Willumsson (Birmingham City).

This completes a perfect month for the Chairboys as manager Bloomfield was named the League One Manager of the Month by the English Football League.

WANDERERS

Chairboys star Wheeler up for Climate Action award

WYCOMBE Wanderers star David Wheeler is up against Liverpool Football Club in the Football Supporters Association's Climate Action Award.

The midfielder, who was appointed the first-ever Sustainability Champion of the Professional Footballers Association in February 2023, has been shortlisted for the award alongside the Premier League giants as well as Northampton Town's Community Trust and Sustaina-Bees at Brentford FC.

Wheeler has been a prominent figure within football's efforts to tackle climate change for a number of years, and remains heavily involved in a sustainability working group within Wycombe Wanderers.

The winners of the FSA's wide-ranging awards will be revealed at a ceremony in London on December 2.

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SPORT



Bloomfield on importance of 'family time' in football



Matt Bloomfield. Image: Barrington Coombs/PA Wire

EVEN though Wycombe Wanderers Matt Bloomfield 'would have rather played' Huddersfield Town this weekend, he understands the importance of the Chairboys players spending time with their families.

The Adams Park team had been due to face the former Premier League side this weekend, but after the Terriers confirmed three of their players had received international call-ups, their request to have the match postponed was granted by the EFL.

It means it's the third month in a row that Wanderers' league fixture on the

international weekend will be rescheduled.

No date has been set for when Wycombe will play Huddersfield as of yet.

Bloomfield's side would have gone into the fixture off the back of eight consecutive victories in all competitions, with the club losing just four times from 21 games since August.

They are on their best run of league form for two years with no losses in 12, as they sit top of the League One table.

However, despite recent successes, the 40-year-old believes that the

importance of having a free weekend to spend time with loved ones shouldn't be ignored.

He told the press after the EFL Trophy victory over Crawley on Tuesday night: "They'll be in for a couple of days and then they'll have the weekend with their families.

"We have spoken about the relentless schedule we have before Christmas, so they must spend time with family.

"Family is everything to me as it's part of our values and morals, and the boys need a weekend with the kids to relax a bit.

"But come Monday morning, we'll be at it as we have an exciting period coming up.

"We've got Lincoln away, Mansfield at home and Exeter away [in the league] and we need to be ready for them."

When the Chairboys return to action on November 23 away at Lincoln, it will be the first of 10 matches they will play before the end of the calendar year.

Eight of these fixtures will be in the league, one in the FA Cup away at Wealdstone and then an EFL Trophy round of 32 tie in the middle of December.

'Just speculation' - manager dismisses Coventry links

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has reacted to the rumours linking him to the vacant role at Coventry City.

The 40-year-old, who was named League One's Manager of the Month for October last week, has steered the Chairboys to the top of the third tier after a brilliant start to the season.

Despite losing their opening two league matches against Wrexham and Birmingham City respectively, the Adams Park team have managed to pick up 10 wins from their last 14 fixtures.

They have also scored in 19 of their 20 fixtures in all competitions this season, and with 32 points on the board already, they have accumulated the most points out of any of the 92 teams in the Football League.

Bloomfield's recent successes have seen him gain much-deserved praise, and following Mark Robins' shock sacking from Coventry on November 7, rumours began to circulate that Wanderers' man at the helm could be on his way out.

This was after several bookmakers reported that the 40-year-old was high on the Sky Blues' wish list.

However, Bloomfield has confirmed that he 'has not heard anything about it', and that the Wycombe players have his 'sole focus'.

Speaking to the press after his side's recent 1-0 away victory at Wigan Athletic on November 9, he said: "I've not anything from my club.

"I've not heard anything about that.

"As far as I am concerned, it is just speculation.

James Richings

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

"It is lovely to be linked with jobs higher up the food chain as it shows that the job you are doing is the right one.

"It's all about the players because if they aren't performing on the pitch, you get linked with leaving your job for all the wrong reasons and if they're doing well, you get linked the other way."

His comments came after Wanderers defeated the Latics at the Brick Community Stadium for the first time in their history.

It was only their third victory over Wigan in their history, and following Birmingham's 1-1 draw at home to Northampton Town, Wycombe now have a two-point gap at the top of the League One table.

He continued: "For me, it's about the group.

"The award in the week was about the group as it's all about them.

"You're perceived as doing a good job by getting results.

"I haven't had any time to sit and think and as far as I am concerned, there is nothing to think about.

"My only focus is this football club.

"This club means a lot to me, the fans means a lot to me, and the players have my sole focus."

Up next in the league for the Chairboys is a trip to Lincoln City on Saturday November 23.

This is after their home fixture against Huddersfield Town on Saturday November 16 was postponed due to the international break.



Matt Bloomfield has spent his entire adult life (bar five months at Colchester) with Wycombe as player, coach and now manager. Image: Bradley Collyer/PA

Bloomfield earns award for strong October

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has been named the Sky Bet League One Manager of the Month for October.

The 40-year-old, who was also nominated for the September edition but lost to Blackpool's Steve Bruce, saw his side score 12 goals and secure 13 points in five unbeaten games to surge into the top two.

Additionally, five of these strikes were scored by players he brought on in games – this includes Richard Kone's nine minute hat-trick against Peterborough on October 19.

Speaking on his award, Bloomfield said: "I'm absolutely full of pride to be named the Sky Bet League One Manager of the Month.

"There is so much hard work that goes into getting the results that we've achieved lately, particularly in the manner we've performed in those games, and to go up against some very esteemed and excellent managers on the shortlist and win this award is especially pleasing.

"I really believe that your football club is only as strong as the players on the pitch and the fans that follow them across the country.

"As a manager and a group of staff, we have an idea of how we want to play and go about our business, but the players are the ones who bring it to life and we wouldn't have had the results we've had without the players' application and endeavour every single day.

"Football isn't linear; there's always bumps on the road and you have to be proud of moments like this and get ready for the next challenge.

Danny Wilson chairs the Sky Bet Championship Manager of the Month judging panel.

He said: "Unbeaten in October, Wycombe kept up with the pace at the top of League One with an impressive haul of four wins and a draw. They also scored 12 goals adding even more confidence for Matt and the squad."