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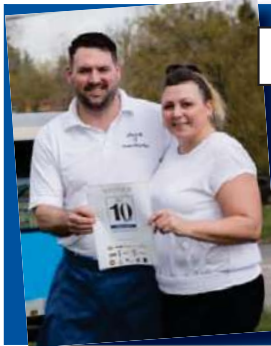
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SPORT

How did the ladies do?

HERE'S how the Wycombe Women did last week.

Wycombe Wanderers Women Reserves 3-3 Goring

Wycombe shared the points last weekend as they played out an entertaining 3-3 draw against Goring.

Despite a strong Chairgirls start, it was Goring who took a surprise lead through their striker Charlotte Bigmore, before Lauren Dunlop doubled their advantage moments later from 30 yards.

However, within a five-minute spell, Wanderers' Amy Norfolk scored twice to make it all square at the break.

Wycombe continued the second period as they ended the first, as Shannon Read raced onto a through ball slotting it past the Goring goalkeeper to make it 3-2.

But the Oxfordshire club left it late to leave Buckinghamshire with a point, as they scored their equaliser in the final moments of the match.

Manager Jaymie Bailey said: "A good result against tough opposition. Felt like we could have won it but wasn't meant to be."

"We go again next week"

Wycombe Wanderers Under 18s 3-1 Worthing Town

The Chairgirls returned to action at Burnham last week where they defeated Worthing 3-1.

An early goal from Molly Carter, along with a Talia Mead strike, gave the home side a much-deserved lead.

Wanderers carried on with their attacking flair in the second half, as Amelia Sage scored a third from distance.

Worthing scored a consolation late on, but the points were safe for Wycombe.

To read more about the latest news regarding the women's team, you can follow the club's Twitter account by going to @WWFCWomen and giving them a follow, or, you can visit their website which is <https://www.wffc.com/womens-team>.

The life of Brian - A Wycombe hero



Brian showing off some of the trophies he'd won as manager (Wycombe Wanderers Ex Players Association)

BRIAN was born in Sale, Cheshire in February 1936.

Although he went to a rugby-playing Grammar School, football was his sport but hopes of a professional career with Port Vale were curtailed by a serious foot injury.

He immediately turned to coaching and at 18 became the youngest FA Staff Coach in the country.

After a spell as a teacher, he joined the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire, then got an early chance as player-manager of semi-pro club Wellington Town in the Southern League. In 1966 the twin jobs led to a new role at Bisham Abbey, working for the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

Here, along with his wife Shirley-Ann, he got to meet the country's greatest sporting stars – and a few other special guests as well.

Wycombe Wanderers comes calling

In December 1968 he was approached by Wycombe Wanderers.

Aged only 32, he accepted the part-time job to succeed Barry Davill, but only after guarantees that his role was to be Manager, not just Coach like the previous six occupants.

Within weeks he got the long tradition of the team selection committee disbanded.

The next seven years were to be extraordinary with four Isthmian League titles in five seasons while runners-up twice – confirming the Blues as the top amateur club in the country. Brian's extensive list of contacts meant Great Britain & international stars were attracted

to join the already impressive Wanderers squad.

A truly golden era was to unfold. Brian's only managerial disappointment was not making a bigger impact on the FA Amateur Cup competition, with a semi-final appearance against Hendon in 1972 the closest they came to matching the 1957 Wembley heroes.

But in 1975, he and his team made history by reaching the third round of the FA Cup.

A crowd of 12,000 packed Loakes Park to watch them hold First Division leaders Middlesbrough to a thrilling 0-0 draw.

It took an 89th-minute goal from England winger David Armstrong to slide Jack Charlton's team through in the replay at Middlesbrough.

There was silverware though late that year when Lee's side again defied the odds to lift the Anglo-Italian Cup, beating Monza in October 1975.

A month later Brian resigned because of the pressure of work at Bisham.

But he agreed to stay on until his great friend Ted Powell was able to take over the hot seat in July 1976.

A generation of great players would remember Lee forever.

Although leaving the manager's hot seat to concentrate on his Bisham job and family life, the club were keen to tap into Brian's deep knowledge of the game.

He was appointed a Wycombe Director, and in 1981 he moved up to become Chairman.

To read the full story, go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport.



Stuart Pearce attended Marlow FC's ground on March 25 to watch the club in action (Dylan Randall/Sportsbeat)

Ex-Man City boss spotted watching Marlow

A former England international and Manchester City manager was spotted watching a fixture at a Non League club in Buckinghamshire.

Stuart Pearce, who also played for and managed Nottingham Forest, attended Marlow FC's 2-0 home league win against Tooting & Mitcham United on March 25.

His visit to the Alfred Davis Memorial Ground was part of the annual 'Non League Day' event, which encourages fans to watch games lower down the football pyramid whilst fixtures in the Premier League and Championship are paused.

Speaking on his visit to South

Buckinghamshire, Pearce said: "These clubs don't run without volunteers, there is not a budget to pay people."

"It's the same clutch of local people, they love football and want to give something back, it's fantastic."

"It's the enjoyment of being involved in a football team, at whatever level."

"There are 22 players fortunate enough to play, but it's the rest of us watching or volunteering."

"There will be a lot of players that will have been youngsters at bigger clubs that haven't made the level and need to play."



Joe Jacobson will remain with Wycombe until the 2023/24 season, after penning a new one-year deal (PA)

A decade at Wanderers

WYCOMBE Wanderers captain Joe Jacobson has signed a new one-year contract extension with the club.

The 36-year-old left-back triggered the improved deal after reaching playing a certain amount of games for the Chairboys this season.

This now means the Welshman will receive a testimonial which is due to be played in the summer of 2024 10 years after he initially joined the club.

He said: "Fortunately, I have triggered something in my contract so I'm here next season."

"I've spoken to the owners over the past few days and I've managed to be given a testimonial.

"The last one I played in was the gaffer's when I first joined and it was an amazing occasion.

"When I signed here at the age of 27, not once did I contemplate anything like that.

"It's been amazing for me and I'm looking forward to seeing where we're at next season, and hopefully that will be in the Championship."

Since joining Wycombe on a free transfer from Shrewsbury Town, Jacobson has played 380 times for the club and has scored 44 goals.

One of those strikes was the winning goal against Oxford United in 2020 to secure Wanderers' place in the Championship for the first time.

Alan Parry's Previews: The all-Bucks clash



Tafazolli against MK (PA)

THE League One finishing straight is in sight and Wycombe are among a pack of half-a-dozen teams chasing a play-off place as the season reaches an exciting climax.

Plymouth Argyle, Sheffield Wednesday, Ipswich Town and Barnsley are favourites to finish in the top four. Two of them will be promoted to the Championship automatically with the other two almost certain to qualify for the play-offs.

Bolton Wanderers and Derby County currently occupy the other places in the top six, but Wycombe are only three points behind them. Peterborough United, Portsmouth and Shrewsbury Town are also in contention.

With every point vital at this stage of the season the Chairboys surely can't afford to lose more than one of their remaining eight games if they are to make the play-offs.

The run-in begins on Saturday, April 1 when MK Dons visit Adams Park needing the points just as badly as Wanderers in their battle for League One survival.

The Dons are only four points above the relegation trapdoor, but they have found momentum at just the right time, winning their last three games without conceding a goal.

Their newly discovered defensive stability is in sharp contrast to earlier in the campaign when they conceded five goals away to Sheffield Wednesday and Bolton, and also lost heavily at Plymouth, Ipswich and Barnsley.

However, they have won more points away-from-home than at Stadium MK where their eleven defeats included a 1-0 loss to Wycombe in October, 2022.

It was only the fifth time Wanderers have beaten MK in 17 meetings, but they also got the better of their Buckinghamshire rivals in last season's play-off semi-final.

MK's squad has changed a lot since then and now includes two former Wycombe players, Anthony Stewart and Sullay Kaikai.

However, they both missed last week's 1-0 victory against Morecambe, Kaikai on international duty with Sierra Leone and Stewart out injured.

This is the first of four remaining home games for Matt Bloomfield's men that are crucial to their ambitions of making the play-offs and a big crowd is expected at Adams Park.

Fantastic Forino is there to save the day



Wycombe Wanderers have not lost a game this season which Forino has scored in (PA)

CHRIS Forino's late header rescued a point as Wycombe Wanderers drew 1-1 away at Charlton Athletic.

In what was a fiery affair at the Valley which saw several skirmishes and eight yellow cards, both sides felt they could have won the match in South East London.

The visitors started off the better and enjoyed a spell of possession and nearly took the lead after just 60 seconds, but David Wheeler's header went just wide.

Despite the positive start, the tide turned as for large periods during the opening 45 minutes, Charlton controlled the game.

Albie Morgan saw his attempt from just inside the box bounce past Max Stryjek, before the former played a bit part in the Adicks' opener.

After a quarter of an hour, the 23-year-old managed to evade two defenders and fired a shot across the six-yard box, with his attempt being tapped in by Miles Leaburn at the back post.

It was the striker's 10th of the season and his third in his last three games.

Wycombe were patient in trying to carve open the Athletic defence but they did end the second half the stronger.

Ryan Tafazolli headed wide, Chem Campbell's overhead kick was pushed away by Ashley Maynard-Brewer and a Joe Jacobson free-kick skimmed the top of the net.

It was a flat first period, but the

By James Richings

Chairboys improved as the half came to an end.

The second 45 was end-to-end.

Max Stryjek thwarted attempts from Jes Rak-Sakyi, Tyreece Campbell and George Dobson, whilst David Wheeler and Chem Campbell again went close for Wycombe.

Wanderers continued to throw the kitchen sink in the final 10 minutes, and after Nick Freeman's shot was tipped away by Maynard-Brewer, Forino smashed in his fourth of the season with a powerful header.

In the dying embers of the contest, Rak-Sakyi again went close but his shot went wide, whilst Dobson and Scott Fraser fired over.

Down the other end, Forino ended playing as a centre forward and saw his half-volley in stoppage time go wide, whilst Hanlan was denied by the keeper.

The result means Wycombe stay eighth but are now three points off the top six.

Attendance: 15,278 (1,171 away)

Wycombe's remaining fixtures

April 1: MK (H)

April 7: Forest Green (H)

April 10: Ipswich (A)

April 15: Morecambe (A)

April 18: Cambridge (A)

April 22: Lincoln (H)

April 29: Cheltenham (H)

May 7: Portsmouth (A)

May 29: Potential play-off final (N)

SPORT

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Chris Forino scored his fourth goal of the season (PA)

The awesome attitude at Adams Park earns a point against the Addicks

CHRIS Forino has stated that the club's never die attitude helped Wanderers earn a point in their 1-1 draw away at Charlton Athletic.

The 22-year-old scored a later header after Miles Leaburn's 15th minute opener to keep the Chairboys' play-off target intact.

The Adams Park side are now three points off the top six with

eight games remaining.

Additionally, it was the centre back's fourth strike of the season, and whenever he has scored this campaign, Wycombe have not lost.

He told the press after the draw at the Valley on March 25: "My first thought was that it was disappointing to not win the game.

"Of course, it's nice to score

but that has been dampened by us not getting the win.

"With the goal, I just jumped and I don't really know what happened!

"I tried a different technique because I was closely marked in the box and thankfully, I connected with it well and it went into the far corner.

Nick Freeman's bending shot is tipped away by Maynard-

Brewer, and from the resulting corner, Forino smashes in the header from a Jacobson delivery!

"We deserved the point and we never give up.

"One of my first games was against Sunderland last year where we got a last-minute equaliser and that's what we do.

"We never give up and we never say die."

Bloomfield on all-Bucks battle

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has played down this weekend's derby against county rivals Milton Keynes, who will make the trip to Adams Park.

In what will be the 39-year-old's first all-Buckinghamshire clash since taking over as the club's manager in February, he has insisted that the fixture on April 1 is 'another game' between 'two good teams' who have different aims for the season.

The Chairboys are targeting a play-off finish for the third time in four years, whilst MK, who finished third in the previous campaign, are hoping to avoid relegation to League Two for the first in four years.

Additionally, this Saturday's clash of the county will be MK's first visit to Wycombe since their 2-0 first-leg semi-final play-off loss in May last year.

That defeat effectively ended their chances of promotion, with Wanderers securing a spot in the Wembley showpiece at their expense.

When asked about managing his first Buckinghamshire derby, Bloomfield told the Free Press: "I haven't really thought about it too much from my side of things.

"It's another game against two good teams, MK Dons have got their qualities, their atmosphere and everything else.

"We can only play the game that is in front of us and not the occasion which I know is

By James Richings

a cliché line, but, I personally haven't thought about anything else.

"For me, it's all about preparing the players for what will be another tough game. "That has been our only focus."

He will go up against Mark Jackson who has been in charge of the North Bucks side since December, following Liam Manning's sacking.

The 45-year-old took over with MK in 22nd place, but with six wins from his 17 games in charge, with five of those victories coming in the league, he has moved the club up to 19th place, four points off the relegation zone.

Speaking on his opposite number, Bloomfield added: "I know Mark as he's on the UEFA Pro Licence course which is the same as me, and he's a good man and is a very good coach.

"MK Dons have got good players but they had a huge overhaul of their squad, so it was hard to replicate what they did last season because of that.

"They'll provide us with a stern test."

Wycombe have won five of the 17 games they have played MK, but they did defeat their rivals in the reverse fixture back in October.

Nick Freeman scored the winner in a 1-0 triumph at Stadium MK.



Bloomfield faced MK six times during his playing career at Wycombe (PA)



The centre back celebrates (PA)

Forino on Saint Lucia

WYCOMBE Wanderers defender Chris Forino has revealed why decided to pledge his international allegiances to Saint Lucia.

The 22-year-old centre back was eligible to represent both England and Italy but opted to choose the Caribbean Island in December last year.

His decision to play for the country, which is managed by former Birmingham City, Sunderland, Coventry City and Southampton forward, Stern John, came at the conclusion of a meeting with delegates from the nation's football association.

Speaking after Wanderers' 1-1 draw against Charlton on March 25, Forino explained: "I had a chat with my sister and other members of my family about it and in a way, it was a bit of a no-brainer.

"It's always an honour to be called up to your country, whatever country it is at any level.

"I felt it was the right decision for my career in the way I see my career going.

"I feel as if England or Italy are unrealistic for me, so I'm lucky to be playing for Saint Lucia.

"It also takes you to a wonderful part of the world."

"Two of the country's representatives came over to talk to myself and Terell Thomas of Charlton back in August.

"They got everything sorted out in terms of my paperwork."