

Reaches 75% of adults in High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Marlow each month

*E Telmer Oct 2021 (4 weeks in print & online)

Bucks Free Press

Friday, May 12, 2023

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.50



PRINCESSES CAUSE A FRENZY

Royal's surprise visit to Coronation Street Party causes a stir - **plus historic souvenir supplement, free inside**

BANK HOLIDAY BLOODBATH



Six arrests after boy, aged 17, is stabbed to death in High Wycombe by 'masked gang' and another is seriously injured

Full story, page 5

CRIME

Mum admits killing five-week-old baby



Page 2

OFFER

Win a year's free gym membership



Page 19

INSIDE • Property • Freetime • Letters • 7 pages of puzzles • 4 pages of sport

Briants Fencing Supplies
LAP PANELS
 Autumn/Winter can be a great time to replace broken and damaged fence panels. Once the shrubs and borders have been cut back it's far easier to access those awkward areas.



Opening Hours - Weekdays 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 1:45 - 5:00 PM
 Collection OR Local Delivery (Within approx 20miles of HP27 9SG)
 Order instore, online or call 01844 343863. www.briantsfencing.co.uk

MASTERCLASS CRICKET is now offering
 1-2-1 and group coaching services in Bucks (Chalfont St Peters cricket club) SL9 0QA

Our amazing track record with over 80% of our students playing representative cricket shows the high standards and quality of our coaching

1-1 assessments and sessions available everyday Group coaching available every Saturday and Sunday 9.30-11.30 for ages 9-13 Boys and girls welcome

For more information please contact Our team on
 M: 07961 692226 (Whatsapp)
 E: info@masterclasscricket.co.uk
 follow us on socials @masterclasscricket



Shahin's We are now open 7 days a week

Anniversary Offer
 Sunday - Thursday
 Choose from our menu
 1 Starter, 1 Main Course, 1 Side Dish (Share with 2) 1 Rice or 1 Nan Bread
 £14.95 (Per person)
 Any seafood, duck, £3.95 extra
 Offer ends end of September

Celebrating Our Anniversary
 Free delivery within 3 mile radius
 Opening Hours: Lunch 12pm-2pm and Evening 5.30pm-11pm • **BOOK NOW**

01494 764038 | www.shahinsindian.net
 9 Nightingales Corner, Little Chalfont, Amersham HP7 9PZ

SPORT

Bucks finish bottom of group

DESPITE their win in the first game, Bucks finished at the bottom of Group 4, just below Oxfordshire on nett run rate.

The first game started strong for Bucks as AJ Woodland and Alexei Kervezee put on an impressive 127 for the first wicket in just over fifteen overs.

Woodland scored the first 22 runs before making 64 off 51 balls with three sixes and six fours while Kervezee added 67 from 44 balls with three sixes and seven fours.

Ross Richardson helped Bucks reach 178-5 from their 20 overs.

Bedfordshire could only manage 115-9 in their chase, giving Bucks a 63-run win.

However, in the second game, despite another good start from Woodland and Kervezee, Bucks could not pick up the pace and ended with 147-4 from their 20 overs.

Bucks will now focus on their National Counties Trophy 50-over campaign starting on May 29 against Wiltshire at Marlborough College.

In Group 4, Berkshire was on top with five wins in eight matches and a nett run rate of 1.16, and Wales NC followed with two wins, two losses, and four no results with a nett run rate of 1.14.

Backing the girls at the 1878

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women will host a sponsors day for when they take on Maidenhead United on Sunday, May 14.

The fixture will take place at the 1878 Stadium, the home of Burnham.

The main club sponsors are Swish, Red Kite, Optima & Eleven Sports.

Additionally, the Chairgirls will be supported by the Wycombe Wanderers Trust, OWWSA, Twenty 11 and Martin & Co.

Each player from the first team down to the under 18s own personal sponsors have also been invited to mark the occasion.

Tickets are £1.50 or free if you are under 18.

THE club said: We also want to show how grateful we are to be supported by all the families of our players. Without you plenty of what we do as a club would not be possible.

Who is staying at Adams Park?



Wycombe Wanderers have revealed their retained list on May 10 with several players being released (Carol Mason)

WYCOMBE Wanderers' retained list for the 2023/24 season has been confirmed.

The Adams Park side made the announcement in the evening of Thursday, May 10 10 days before the EFL's deadline.

The list has revealed that several first teams will depart upon the expiration of their contracts on June 30, which include Lewis Wing and Nick Freeman.

Dominic Gape, Jordan Obita, and Jack Wakely are also out of contract, but talks remain ongoing with manager Matt Bloomfield regarding whether they will remain in Buckinghamshire.

The list of RELEASED players is as follows:

- Curtis Thompson
- Lewis Wing
- Tyla Dickinson
- Jordan Willis
- Daryl Horgan
- Nick Freeman
- Adam Leathers
- Josh Blunkell
- Charles Hagan
- Arnold Matshazi
- Ben Kaninda

The list of RETAINED players is as follows:

- Max Stryjek
- Jack Grimmer
- Joe Jacobson
- Chris Forino
- Ryan Tafazolli
- David Wheeler
- Sam Vokes
- Garath McCleary
- Jack Young
- Brandon Hamlan
- D'Mani Mellor
- Jason McCarthy

By James Richings

- Josh Scowen
- Tjay De Barr
- Jasper Pattenden
- Luca Woodhouse
- Christie Ward
- Antoine Makoli
- Declan Skura

The departure of Lewis Wing might come as a surprise to most fans, following a successful campaign with nine goals in 48 across all competitions.

This included a spell of scoring six in eight matches between December and February.

However, his individual quality and talent was described by some as 'being too good for League One', and with the 27-year-old now being a free agent, he will not be short of offers this summer.

Another face leaving Adams Park is Nick Freeman.

The midfielder featured in 49 games for the club this season, the most out of any player.

This comes after playing just four times the previous campaign after suffering an ACL injury.

He will join Daryl Horgan, who spent the latter of the year at Stevenage where he won promotion to League One, and Jordan Willis, who signed a short term deal with the Chairboys in February.

Another face leaving Wanderers is Curtis Thompson.

The 29-year-old was an ever-present under Gareth Ainsworth but after suffering a serious knee injury in February 2022, he has only gone on to play six times this season.



The match took place on May 9 at the Racecourse Ground in Ascot, as Bracknell beat Marlow 1-0 in the Berks & Bucks Cup final (PA)

'Homophobic abuse' reported after cup final

MARLOW narrowly lost the 2023 Berks & Bucks Cup final 1-0 to Thames Valley Rivals, Bracknell Town.

Taking place on May 9 at Ascot United's Racecourse Ground,

Darryl Sanders scored the only goal of the contest just after half-time to secure the Robins' first-ever triumph in the competition.

For Marlow, it was the sixth time they had been defeated in the final in what was their first appearance in the showpiece since 2009.

Overall, a crowd of 1,007 saw

the Robins lift the trophy, but the match was overshadowed by 'homophobic abuse' being reported by some spectators to stewards.

In a statement that was shared on Twitter, the Berks & Bucks FA said: "We have been made aware of an incident involving homophobic abuse by spectators.

"We are actively investigating the incident and will take appropriate action in accordance with FA Regulations.

"There is absolutely no place for this behaviour in our game."

Fab goal at Fratton Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield said he was 'not that surprised' to see Lewis Wing score from more than 40-yards out in their 2-2 draw against Portsmouth.

The 27-year-old lobbed a stranded Josh Oluwayemi from near the half-way to bag his ninth goal of the campaign, and his first under the new boss' tenure.

It was the Chairboys' final goal of the campaign, with Wing's previous strike coming in Gareth Ainsworth's last match in charge back in February.

On the goal, Bloomfield said: "We know about the talent and ability Wing possesses and he's been incredible all season.

"He's been a big player for us and

he has produced moments of quality that have stood out.

"He just has that and whilst it was amazing goal, we're not that surprised as he produces moments like that all the time in training."

On the fixture, which saw Wycombe take the lead twice before being pegged back by goals from Marlon Pack and Paddy Lane, he continued: "It was a very entertaining game, nothing like an end-of-season match.

"We might have felt a bit hard done by near the end when we had our third goal ruled out for offside, but they had several good chances too.

"So a 2-2 draw with plenty of entertainment is a nice way to end the season."

Praising the fans away at Portsmouth



Matt Bloomfield (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield has thanked all of the fans that have shown him support since he took the job in February.

Just under 1,000 supporters attended the club's final game of the season against Portsmouth on May 7 at Fratton Park, which included 100 spectators who had flown over from Spain.

The fixture, which ended 2-2, means that the Adams Park side have ended the season in ninth place on 69 points.

Speaking on the fans, Bloomfield said: "Thank you to them all.

"I'm not just saying it as I really mean this I have received a lot of support from the fans even though we've had some disappointing results in that time.

"I think they believe in what we're trying to do and for an end-of-season game, more than 900 have arrived with 100 coming from Spain.

"We had supporters in our hotel last night which was nice as we had a chat with them, and we're really grateful.

"The atmosphere added to everything and a draw is a fair result."

'Creating a new and exciting future'

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has reflected on the news that the club will release several players this summer.

In total, 11 faces will depart Adams Park which includes first-team players in Curtis Thompson, Jordan Willis, Daryl Horgan, Lewis Wing, and Nick Freeman.

Bloomfield explained: "It's really sad to see all the guys leave, but football can be an evolution at times and we feel the time is right for that.

"We're working hard in the background as there is a lot of work to do in terms of research on potential players coming in, along with agents and clubs.

"We've got to do personal checks on these guys as there are spots that we need to fill, and we want to create a new and exciting future."



The draw means Wycombe ended the season on 69 points - 17 less than the previous year when they finish sixth in the table (PA)

Wanderers end the season with a draw



Wycombe ended the season with a 2-2 draw away at Portsmouth at Fratton Park Image: NQ

LEWIS Wing scored a screamer from 40-yards as Wycombe Wanderers drew 2-2 with Portsmouth on the final day of the League One season at Fratton Park.

The hosts nearly took the lead after just three minutes when Tom Lowery's shot was tipped away by Max Stryjek, and it was the Polish keeper who was kept the busier.

The 26-year-old did incredibly well not only to deny Paddy Lane from close range, but also Connor Ogilvie and Colby Bishop.

The Wanderers goal was living a charmed life but Wycombe did look threatening when on the counter.

Tjay De Barr was dangerous, whilst Wing's long balls were causing the Portsmouth backline to stretch.

Matt Bloomfield's team did chalk up several attempts on goal, notably through Sam Vokes who was denied by Josh Oluwayemi before Josh Scowen fired wide.

But they did break the Pompey backline on the half-hour mark through Garath McCleary.

Oluwayemi gave the ball away after being pressured by De Barr, with his panicked pass going into the path of the Jamaican.

He entered the box and fired his shot at goal, which went underneath the scrambling goalkeeper.

It was his seventh of the sea-

son and first since February.

But Portsmouth equalised on the stroke of half-time when a Michael Jacobs corner was flicked on by Marlon Pack.

It was his fifth of the season and his third in five games.

The second period had limited chances, but it did have one moment of brilliance from Wing on 54 minutes.

After he spotted Oluwayemi off his line, the 27-year-old lobbed the young goalkeeper from 40-yards.

It was his ninth of the season and his first under the Bloomfield reign.

His previous strike was in the 1-0 victory over Bolton Wanderers in February, which turned out to be Gareth Ainsworth's final game in charge.

But Portsmouth levelled 18 minutes later thanks to a Paddy Lane header which was his first goal for the club, as it ended 2-2 it ended in Hampshire.

This means Wycombe finished the season on 69 points in ninth place, whilst Portsmouth ended the campaign one place and one point above the Chairboys.

Attendance: 18,286 (951 away). *Despite the season being over, there will be plenty of sports news to read over the summer months.*

Go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport or follow James Richings on Twitter.

By James Richings

SPORT

0963-2336



Bloomfield (left) and Thomas (right) Carol Mason

Gearing up for the future as Wanderers plan for 2023/24

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has insisted that are 'lots to improve on' for next season, as the Chairboys ended the campaign in ninth place.

An entertaining 2-2 draw away at Portsmouth on May 7 concluded a unique season for the Adams Park side who had their first managerial change in over a decade.

And with the club expecting to confirm their retained list for the next campaign in the coming weeks (or sooner), Bloomfield has admitted that he wants the club to move forward.

"It's been an incredible journey over the last 10 years under the gaffer [Gareth Ainsworth], and whilst it's important to re-

spect that, we need to move forward and try and implement our own ways."

Finally, on the season as a whole, which saw him have three separate roles, he added: "I think this season has certainly taken it out of me."

"Spent so long in one place, to move twice in a few months in three sepa-

rate roles has been exciting, but I'm looking forward to spending time with my wife and kids.

"But I'll still be working as I want us to improve."

"I want to be my own man as I have my own ideas and we'll be working hard to do that."

Wanderers ended the season on 69 points.

Did Wycombe send MK down?

WYCOMBE Wanderers' county rivals have been labelled as a 'failed football experiment', following their relegation from League One.

Milton Keynes, a side 36 miles away from Adams Park, saw their four-year stay in the third tier of English football come to an end on May 7 after a 0-0 draw against mid-table Burton Albion.

The club, which were founded off the back of the original Wimbledon's extinction in 2004, needed to beat the Brewers to avoid a final day demotion.

However, their stalemate in the Midlands, along with Cambridge United's 2-0 home victory over already-relegated Forest Green Rovers, sent the north Buckinghamshire club down.

After the match at the Pirelli Stadium, several angry MK fans approached the club's chairman, Pete Winkelman, and expressed their enmity towards his stewardship this season.

In a video that was shared on Twitter, one fan is heard saying that the club was a 'failed football experiment', whilst another shouted, 'You sold us Premier League football'.

An angry Winkelman responded by saying, 'What can we do about it? We've done it [got relegated] what can we do? Put it back in the f***ing bottle? Come on!'

As the owner and chairman then left, several MK supporters approached his entourage and explained their concerns, with one saying that the club 'will die in League Two'.

Confirmation of their relegation into the fourth tier of English football has also seen manager Mark Jackson lose his job, along with the rest of his staff, with the news being

By James Richings

confirmed on May 9 two days after their relegation.

It has been a real decline for MK after finishing third in League One just 12 months ago.

And their relegation to League Two was sealed one day before the first anniversary of Wycombe's memorable play-off semi-final victory against them last season.

The Chairboys had beaten MK 2-0 in the first meeting on May 5, 2022, but lost the second match 1-0 in Milton Keynes three days later.

Despite the loss on the day, an overall 2-1 aggregate victory in favour of Wanderers sent the Chairboys to Wembley where they would take on Sunderland in the final.

Additionally, Winkelman gave Wycombe the lowest ticket allocation possible for the second leg with around 1,800 being available.

This was on top of the travelling Chairboys being segregated at the top of their 30,500 stadium.

Alas, the tactic failed, and Wycombe's play-off win started a butterfly effect that sent their county rivals down to the bottom tier of the Football League one year later.

MK's demise has been caused by the sale of their best player in Scott Twine to Burnley, the departure of Troy Parrott who was on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, a terrible start to the season, overwhelming signings, the sacking of their manager Liam Manning.

This means there will be no Buckinghamshire derby in League One next season, but Wycombe can look forward to Thames Valley matches against Oxford and Reading respectively.



Wycombe defeated MK in the play-offs 12 months ago (PA)



Nick Freeman (PA)

Freeman's farewell from Bucks

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has explained the reasons why midfielder Nick Freeman has decided to leave the club.

The Chairboys announced their retained list for the 2023/24 season on May 10, but the roster did not include the 27-year-old, along with Lewis Wing and Curtis Thompson.

He told the club's media: "We did discuss a contract with him, but he has a big desire to be a first-team regular and he didn't see that happening here."

"He told me that his decision was made with a really heavy heart."

"He has loved his time here, and I completely understand that as he is in that peak age who wants to be on the team sheet every week."

Following his move to Wycombe in the summer of 2016, Freeman played 178 games and scored nine goals for the club.*

*This does not include appearances and goals in the Berks & Bucks Cup.