

# Bucks Free Press

Friday, October 11, 2024

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.60

## TOTAL CARNAGE

One fatality after six crashes in four days



- Man killed on A404
- Two M40 crashes
- Car hits farm shop
- AA urges motorists to 'get a grip'

Full report: Pages 5-7

Vernon says:  
'Use shops  
or lose them'



PAGE 3

Lack of A&E  
'disgusting'



PAGE 2

WIN £100  
theatre voucher

PAGE 14



Conveyancing solicitors in Aylesbury | 

Ready to support your next move.

Contact us to help you buy or sell your home for a sensible fixed fee.

kiddrapinet  
SOLICITORS

01296 506035  
kiddrapinet.co.uk

## Sport

## LOCAL SPORT

## Hero Hay takes on 100 sport challenge

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE-BASED** Isaac Hay is taking his love for exercise up a notch and has kicked off a challenge to try out 100 different sports in a year.

He is using the challenge to raise money for charitable causes, including local hospice charity, Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care.

"I'm supporting Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care as one of my three chosen charities," Mr Hay said. "The organisation is close to my heart as its nurses cared for my

grandma before she passed. My whole family has supported the charity since then, so I'm really pleased to be able to use this challenge to raise funds to support vital hospice care in the local area."

Isaac's challenge will run until September 2025 and will see him turn his hand to team sports like baseball, lacrosse and rugby. He will also attempt individual activities like boxing, ballet, pole vault and an ultra-marathon. While he's tried some of the

sporting activities before, many are completely new to him. To end his monumental challenge, he is taking part in an Iron Man event on 22 September 2025.

The inspiration for the challenge came from his work as a movement coach where he noticed that a big barrier to people getting involved in new sports or physical activity is a lack of confidence or fear of the unknown. He hopes to show that trying new sports is fun and not scary.



Isaac Hay in goal for Flackwell Heath

## LOCAL FOOTBALL

## Holmer Green return to winning ways in the league

**H**OLMER Green returned to league action with an emphatic 3-1 victory over London Samurai Rovers on Saturday.

With only a cup game since the last league match two and a half weeks ago, Lloyd Majaya for Sammy Hill was the only change from the most recent line up.

Within two minutes, Tyler Sims rose at the far post to bullet a header in. The 'keeper did well to even touch the ball, but it flashed into the roof of the net for the perfect start.

15 minutes in from a set piece, Oskar Esplund-Evans headed goalwards. One defender was able to get a touch on the ball with his head, but this only managed to put the ball further beyond the reach of the 'keeper.

Hill replaced Wooster at half-time, the former having four consecutive starts to his name for the first time since the away game at Amphyll just over two years ago.

The visitors introduced a late-arriving centre-half at the same time. But he was nowhere up to speed on 46 minutes as Sims skinned his man on the outside, and put the ball low across to goal for Jeffrey Fordjour to score his tenth goal of the campaign with a simple finish into the back of the

By John Anderson

net.

Both Fordjour and Alex Colverd featured prominently, the same reason. The next goal would not come, as in the first 45 minutes.

Even the dismissal of the defender charged with the unenviable task of policing the lively Fordjour, failed to lead to further another goal.

Four more home substitutions were made, but there were only near misses and wasted opportunities again.

Three minutes from the end of normal time, a missed tackle on the edge of the Holmer area was not addressed positively despite plenty of personnel being back. No one took charge, and two passes later Melanarkitis found the bottom far corner with a crisp shot from 15 yards.

The Greens move back into eighth place, and are in a position to play catch up if they can continue to make chances as in this match.

But they will need to take a much bigger percentage of those opportunities to improve their league position further.

The Greens are scoring league goals at the rate of just over two goals per game this season, as opposed to less than one per game last campaign.



Holmer Green. Credit: James Richings

## HOCKEY

## Marlow men record pair of wins over Oxford

Marlow Hockey Club men's 1st team won their third match in a row and kept another clean sheet in beating Oxford University 2-0 at Pound Lane.

They were on top throughout the first half but failed to score from several good chances and the game was level at half time.

Marlow continued to dominate but the student's defence held firm.

On 56 minutes, Cameron Beazley-Clarke broke the deadlock with an opportunistic reverse stick volley and four minutes later young Henry May was in the right place to tap in a goal following a penalty corner.

This victory keeps Marlow on top of the table and are away to their nearest rivals Trojans at Southampton on Saturday.

The 2nd team played away to Oxford University 2nds and, inspired by the first team's performance earlier, recorded a 1-0 win.

There were chances at both ends with Ivor Crampsie in goal for Marlow making a couple of fine saves.

Marlow again had the upper hand in the second half with a lot of possession in the opposing half. With a man off on a green card, Marlow still pressed and forced yet another penalty corner.

An exchange of passes between Phil Cowell and James Luff was finished off with a volley by Theo Seymour. With only a few minutes to go Marlow held out until the final whistle to complete a notable double over the university teams.

Chris Brown at full-back was the deserved Man of the Match.

*The 3d team lost 2-0 away to Windsor 1sts, 4ths beat S. Berks 3s 3-1, 5ths lost 2-1 to Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead 2s, 6s had no game, 7s beat Newbury & Thatcham 6-1.*

\*Marlow Women 1sts headed to Reading 2nds knowing that they had a tough match and lost 1-0 but put in a battling display.

During the first quarter, Reading were dominant and forced the Marlow defence into errors.

Keeper Alys Ramm made some outstanding saves and the defensive penalty corner team worked tirelessly to keep the scores level.

Marlow fought back in the second quarter and had their own attacking chances.

Reading finally found the backboard with a scuffed shot at a penalty corner which deceived keeper Ramm and her defence.

On Saturday, they are at home to Lansdown at 3 pm.

The 2s were made to work hard for their three points in a 1-0 win over Aylesbury.

As the game approached a frantic finish, the umpire brandishing two cards, Marlow won a short corner. A miss-hit strike caused confusion leading to an Aylesbury defender knocking the ball over her own line.

*3rd team drew with Wallingford 2 1-1, 4s beat Maidenhead 3 2-0 away, 5s lost 5-0 to Staines 2 away, 6s lost 4-2 to Amersham and Chalfont 5 away, 7s lost 4-0 to Harlow High Wycombe's away.*

# Yeovil Town stand between Chesham and first round

FORMER Championship outfit Yeovil Town stand between Chesham United and a place in the FA Cup first round after a 4-0 win over Bishops Cleeve on Tuesday evening.

Having played the previous tie out to a 0-0 draw this was a much better performance for the home team where close to 600 spectators enjoyed a really solid 4-0 win for Chesham under lights. With first half goals for Jack Connors and Lewis Rolfe we went in at half time 2-0 and comfortable in the tie. Rolfe then bagged another on 59' and the game was put out of Bishops Cleeve's reach on 62' when T'Sharne Gallimore added a fourth.

The Glovers, who were in the second tier a decade ago, visit on Saturday for a place in the next round.

However, on Saturday Chesham went down to their fourth defeat in five home games and failed to score for the first time in the league, losing 1-0 against Bath City.

Chesham made six changes in all, with Ben Goode returning in goal and Lewis Rolfe, Jack Cawley, T'Sharne Gallimore, Omar Rowe and Mitchell Weiss all promoted from the bench.

Despite an outside chance for the visitors in the first minute, it was Chesham who had the better of the game in a lacklustre first half. Towards half-time Chesham began to find some fluency, and Lewis Rolfe headed over the bar from a Mitchell Weiss cross but the half finished 0-0



Chesham United penalty appeal waved away. Credit Neale Blackburn

with Chesham playing the better football. A Chesham penalty shout (photo) was also waved away by the referee despite looking a certain foul.

Early in the second half a rare Bath attack ended with Ben Goode tipping a powerful shot from Jordan

Alves over the bar. Latrell Humphrey-Ewers took the resulting corner and Alves stole in at the near post to head into the net for the game's only goal on 49'.

Despite lots of attacking intent the home side could never find any real fluency with Bath content to sit on

their lead.

Towards the end Devonte Aransibia again crossed from the right but Joe Grant could only head over the bar, before keeper Harvey Wiles-Richards was belatedly booked for persistent time-wasting. Chesham forced a couple of scrambles in the

opposition penalty area late on, but the visiting defence held out.

\* Chesham United's women are also in action this weekend in the Adobe Women's FA Cup against Montpellier Villa WFC on Sunday afternoon (October 13) at 2pm

## FOOTBALL

### Another draw for Rangers

RISBOROUGH Rangers recorded their fourth draw in five matches during a goalless affair with Wokingham Town.

The unavailability of top striker Lewis Toomey did little to help Risborough's cause and neither keeper were tested often at Lowther Road.

Captain Ben Sturgess came closest in the first half, seeing a header deflect wide after a succession of corners.

Wokingham hit the side netting in the second half and were a threat from set-pieces but Dave Saunders was rarely tested.

It took until 10 minutes from the end for the visitors to have their best chance, a free-kick was spilt by the keeper and fell kindly for Curtis Chapple but the defender could not find anyone with his cross and the chance came and went.

Defender Joe Fitzgerald won Man of the Match in a game dominated by the defences.

A fifth draw in 10 matches, Risborough sit 15th in Combined Counties Premier Division North.

On Saturday, Rangers are at home to high flying Holyport at the Kamtech Stadium. Kick off is 3pm.

## FOOTBALL

### Aylesbury net three

AYLESBURY United convincingly beat play-off chasing Ware 3-0 in Southern League Division One Central on Sunday.

Charley Tuttle opened the scoring with a deflected free-kick and Haziz Kone doubled the advantage just before half-time when converting Kwai Marsh-Brown's cross.

It took until four minutes from time for the match to be fully sewn up, with Jack Wood firing in after Ben Stallard had headed back across goal.

Climbing back to second in the table, three points behind Hadley, next up is a trip to Enfield on Saturday at Hertford Town.

## CONTACT US

### Get in touch

IF there are any stories you would like covered, contact BFP sport at: JAMES.RICHINGS@NEWSQUEST.CO.UK OR james.earnshaw@newsquest.co.uk

## FOOTBALL

### Windsor battle elements but exit the Cup

WINDSOR exited the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup on Tuesday, losing 3-0 to Berks County at Holloways Park, Beaconsfield.

One of the few local ties to not fall foul of the weather, many associated with the Jacks may have hoped it had done come the final whistle.

Windsor had much of the possession but Berks County were content to wait patiently for Windsor to concede possession before mounting effective counter attacks through alternating overloads down both flanks.

In the 24th minute, from the melee that followed a corner, the ball fell kindly to Berks County's Connor Suckling who clinically smashed the ball underneath the diving Cairo Richards to open the scoring.

Berks County doubled their lead nine minutes later from a well taken freekick by George Armstrong 25 yards out.

Richards' defensive wall was one man

short of effective and the well hit shot went round the wall before pitching cruelly on the uber-wet surface beyond the keeper's despairing dive into the corner of the net.

Windsor's Sam Healey replaced Ethan Kemp at the start of the second half as the Jacks sought to add additional bite to turn this game around.

Tactically they were much more effective, playing the ball in the opponents' half and consistently finding Avta Akhsishvili in the channels, whose exceptional pace caused problems throughout the half.

However they were never able to turn half-chances into goals, despite some neat, intelligent hold-up play and clever passing from Centre Forward Troy Williams.

Windsor left themselves exposed to counterattacks and somewhat against the run of play, Suckling scored his second in injury time following a neat move down the right.



Windsor FC exited the Senior Cup. Credit: Trophy Photography

## Sport

## WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1-0 CRAWLEY TOWN 'We will not take anything for granted'

DESPITE scoring the winner in Wycombe Wanderers' recent 1-0 victory over Crawley Town, winger Fred Onyedinma has admitted the team 'will be keeping their heads down' to 'try and get better'.

The Chairboys have had a brilliant start to the League One season, winning five of their opening nine league games, drawing twice.

The club are also unbeaten in their last seven in the division, following the two 3-2 defeats against

Birmingham City and Wrexham.

Wanderers' rise has seen boss Matt Bloomfield receive a Manager of the Month nomination, with Wycombe currently sitting in the play-off places.

But Onyedinma admitted that the team 'will not take anything for granted' as the season continues to take shape.

Speaking to the club, the Nigerian said: "I'm delighted for the boys as you can see what the gaffer and Dan [Rice, the chairman] are trying to do, so hopefully it's onwards

and upwards.

"These are good signs but we know there is still work we have to do.

"With the mentality that the manager and the boys have, we are not going to take anything for granted.

"We want to keep our heads down and try and be better."

Following the postponement of this week's match against Stockport County, Wycombe will next face Peterborough United at home on October 19.

The match will kick-off at 12.3pm.



Wycombe currently sit in the play-off places (PA)

## WANDERERS Super Fred on Crawley win at Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers winger Fred Onyedinma has reflected on his performance in the recent 1-0 home victory against Crawley Town.

The 27-year-old scored the only goal against the Red Devils as the Chairboys secured their fifth win of the season.

The victory has lifted them up to fifth, with his strike being his first for the club since May 2021, and his first at Adams Park since April of that year.

In fact, his last Chairboys home goal at HP12 in front of fans was over five years ago.

It was in Wanderers' dramatic 3-2 victory against Milton Keynes in August 2019.

He scored Wycombe's second two put them 2-1 up, before the North Bucks equalised.

David Wheeler, who had played for MK just three months earlier, scored Wanderers' winner in stoppage time.

Speaking on the performance, Onyedinma said: "It is a great start for me and we got the win as well.

"We want to keep that going, but for me, personally, it's good to come back and score a goal as well."

On his finish, he added: "A few were lining up [to take the shot]!"

"I saw Rich [Richard Kone], but I was lucky to be in front of him and GMac [Garath McCleary], does what he does, so it was an easy tap in for me.

"I'm grateful for the goal and he [McCleary] has been amazing.

"He's been amazing.

"He's a real uncle, we call him.

"I don't know how he does it, but, he's a really important player for us."

Finally, on his fourth return to the club, he concluded: "I didn't have a proper pre-season so it took a bit of time for me to get back into it, but the boys have been doing really well as well.

"It's not just about me, as I want to do my bit for the team too.

"We just have to focus on who we have next and make sure we get things right.

"It's been very hectic a few weeks, but I'm happy we have done well."

Onyedinma began his career with Millwall spending 11 years in South London.

During that period, he spent two separate seasons at Wycombe on loan in 2014/15 and 2018/19.

In the first year, he helped Wanderers reach the League Two play-off final, before helping the club avoid relegation four years later in League One.

He signed permanently that summer, spending two more years at Adams Park, before he departed in 2021 for Luton Town.

The popular figure in Bucks only played 60 times for the Hatters, which includes eight times in the Premier League, and after a brief stint at Rotherham United on loan, he is now back at Wycombe for a fourth time.

## CHAIRGIRLS SMASH LEAGUE OPPONENTS

# Fantastic five as Wycombe batter Badshot in thrashing

THE Chairgirls remain unbeaten in five as they put on a dominating performance over visitors Badshot Lea, defeating their opponents 5-0.

Five different names made their way to the scoresheet, with Bobby Lynch, Eman Kassem, Kayla Potter all getting in on the action in the opening 45, whilst Jess Watkins and Ellen Wardlaw contributed in the second half.

Wanderers came out strong in the opening portion of the game, with several threatening attacking runs being made by the Blues. Strength on both the left and right wings allowed for the Chairgirls to force their way past the visitors' defence as they looked to get ahead early in the game, but opportunities were denied by the Badshot goalkeeper.

Captain, Bobbie Lynch, was the first to convert for the hosts, as she made work of an in-swinging corner from the left, delivered by Beth Chapman, and tapped it in from close range, sending the Chairgirls 1-0 up in the 26th minute.

After asserting the lead with a strong performance in the opening half an hour, the Chairgirls made it two in 34 minutes, as Kassem hit the target. Play built up from the backline, with a stunning long-range ball from Lynch making its way to the head of Potter, whose slight flick positioned the ball perfectly in the path of Kassem. The following one-on-one battle with her marker saw Kassem get the better of the run as she skimmed the ball into the near post.

A quickfire turnaround from the Blues' second, saw Potter convert the Chairgirls' third only three minutes later. Molly Carter initiated the initial attacking move, as she laid the ball off to Potter, who had made a run down the left wing before crossing the ball into the box to set Kassem up for a shot at goal. Kassem's attempted hit was deflected back towards the byline and met by a sliding Potter, who guided the ball to the back of the net.

The first half ended with the Wander-

By Darcie Panayiotou

ers asserting a strong 3-0 lead over their visitors.

Looking to maintain and grow their lead in the second half, the Chairgirls continued to demonstrate their attacking threat as they orchestrated several chances to add to their tally but were denied by the visitors' defence.

Despite the chances which were missed, Wycombe continued to apply pressure to the Badshot defence and managed to tuck away their fourth in the 63rd minute. It was Watkins who quadrupled the deficit for the visitors, as she weaved past the Badshot keeper and struck home.

Player of the match, Ellen Wardlaw, capped off the goal tally for the battle against Badshot, with an incredibly executed strike in the 73rd minute. Finding herself on the end of a squared pass from Kassem, Wardlaw took one touch before turning her body and slicing the ball to send in a stunning looping hit from 25-yards out, beating the keeper and sending the Chairgirls 5-0 up, solidifying their dominating win.

A fantastic defensive performance from the hosts also saw them walk away with a clean sheet for their second game on the bounce, as well as the three points on the board.

Manager Carl Simon said: "The players did everything today that we asked them to do to a really high level, scored some really good goals and put on a really entertaining game for everybody."

Wycombe have a break in league action as they prepare to host Comets FC in the Third Round Qualifying of the Adobe Women's FA Cup, where a win will see the Chairgirls make their way to the First Round Proper of the competition. The game is due to take place at the 1878 Stadium in Burnham, on Sunday, October 13.



Wycombe smashed Badshot Lea 5-0 last weekend (PA)

## WYCOMBE'S GAME IS OFF

# Stockport trip postponed due to call ups



Wycombe's last visit to Stockport was in August 2010 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers' away match against Stockport County has been called off.

The fixture was due to be played on October 12 at Edgeley Park, but after the three of the Hatters' players received invites to play for their respected nations, the club requested that the match would be moved to a new date.

The two sides last played each other during the 2010/11 season.

The first fixture ended in a 0-0 draw whilst the second was a 2-0 win for the Chairboys.

That year, Wycombe were promoted into League One.

Speaking on the postponement, Bloomfield said: "I heard over the last couple of days there was a threat with in the fixture.

"We're disappointed that it's off as we wanted to play, but, it's understandable as Stockport have three players [being called up for international duty], so you can see why they want the game to be called off.

"We'll have to take stock of where we are as it has been a very busy few weeks, so we'll take this opportunity to work on the training ground and get ready for Peterborough in two weeks.

"We feel we are in a good flow, and we want to continue.

"But it is what it is.

"The lads have given us a lot in recent weeks and we've had a few games on the road, so every cloud has a silver lining."

The fixture against Peterborough will take place on October 19 and will kick-off at 12.30pm.

## WANDERERS

# Reaction to important home win

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield said he can 'never question' his side's desire as they defeated Crawley Town 1-0 at Adams Park.

Fred Onyedimma's goal on 25 minutes secured the Chairboys' fifth league win of the season, as they made it seven unbeaten in the league.

They now sit in fifth place, five minutes off the top spot.

Speaking on the victory over the Red Devils, Bloomfield said: "I'm so pleased.

"The boys have given us everything and I can never question them.

"It has been a very busy start to the season, especially the last three weeks as I think we played seven games.

"We limited Crawley and we're pleased about that, as I told the boys that I wanted a 1-0 win as I want a result to grind out.

"We need to show that side to us and I'm glad we did that, and it was a great to see Fred on the scoresheet.

"The lads have given me everything and there have been some really hard decisions to make recently in terms of leaving people out."

However, Crawley Town manager Rob Elliot admitted that he 'only had two days to get prepared' for the trip to Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday.

The former Newcastle United keeper was appointed the new man at the helm on October 1 after the sudden departure of Scott Lindsay to Milton Keynes at end of September.

The 38-year-old revealed that he only had Thursday and Friday with his new players ahead of their visit to Adams Park on October 5, which they lost 1-0 thanks to a first-half strike from Fred Onyedimma.

Speaking on the result, he said: "I said to the lads that if we keep up that work rate and energy, then we will be fine.

"Wycombe is always a tough place to come, it would have been nice to have created a little bit more, but it's all about moments as we hit the bar and got into good positions.

"Ideally, we wanted the perfect start with the perfect performance but that doesn't just happen as there is a lot of time to goes into that.

"What I will say is that in the last few days that I have been in, the players have been fantastic in terms of what I want to try and do.

"We only had two days to get prepared with the players so we couldn't do loads, but, they were excellent in what we tried to do."

Up next for Wycombe is a home match against Peterborough United after their away trip to Stockport County was postponed due to the international break.

Whilst for Crawley, they'll play AFC Wimbledon in the EFL Trophy.

## CHAIRBOYS HAVE STRONG START TO SEASON

# Wanderers to finish seventh according to supercomputer

A SUPERCOMPUTER has predicted where Wycombe Wanderers will finish in the league this season.

The Chairboys have started their 2024/25 campaign in fine form as they currently sit in fifth place with 17 points from their opening nine games.

Matt Bloomfield's side are unbeaten in their last seven in the league after losing their first two fixtures (against Birmingham City and Wrexham respectively), and have scored in every game so far.

Their last blank in the league came six months ago in a 0-0 draw versus Derby County.

They have also only lost four of their last 20 league games since March.

However, despite this brilliant start to the league season, Grosvenor Casinos has prophesied that the Chairboys will finish the campaign outside the play-off places.

Using their supercomputer, the casino, which has two outlets in neighbouring Reading,

believe the Adams Park side will finish in seventh position – one place and one point outside the play-offs.

Birmingham City and Huddersfield Town, who were relegated down to League One from the Championship in the summer, are forecasted to go up automatically, both on 91 points.

Making the play-offs are Lincoln City (third), Charlton Athletic (fourth), Bolton Wanderers (fifth), and Stockport County (sixth).

Peterborough United, who Wycombe play next, are predicted to finish in 17th, whilst Burton Albion (24th), Cambridge United (23rd) Shrewsbury Town (22nd) and Crawley Town (21st) are supposedly due to go down.

The supercomputer has based its calculations from all of the club's stats and results so far, but this doesn't have a bearing on where any of the 24 teams will actually finish this season.

For more information, go to <https://www.grosvenorcasinos.com/sport>.

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Birmingham City	46	26	13	7	74	44	30	91
2	Huddersfield	46	28	7	11	74	45	29	91
3	Lincoln City	46	25	13	8	75	47	28	88
4	Charlton Ath	46	26	8	12	67	45	22	86
5	Bolton	46	26	7	13	68	47	21	85
6	Stockport	46	24	9	13	63	46	17	81
7	Wycombe	46	24	8	14	74	54	20	80
8	Mansfield Town	46	24	6	16	70	62	8	78
9	Wrexham	46	20	15	11	72	56	16	75
10	Wigan Athletic	46	21	9	16	61	52	9	72
11	Barnsley	46	21	8	17	64	60	4	71
12	Exeter City	46	16	14	16	57	56	1	62
13	Reading	46	17	9	20	54	63	-9	60
14	Rotherham Utd	46	15	15	16	52	61	-9	60
15	Blackpool	46	16	11	19	62	65	-3	59
16	Leyton Orient	46	14	15	17	59	63	-4	57
17	P'borough Utd	46	16	9	21	57	67	-10	57

How Grosvenor Casinos think the season will end

# Chairboys into the play-offs with Crawley win

FRED Onyedimma's first-half tap-in gave Wycombe Wanderers a hard-fought 1-0 victory over struggling Crawley Town.

In what was the first meeting between the two sides since 2018, the Chairboys started the better and nearly took the lead inside five minutes, when Richard Kone's header just went wide of the target from a Dan Harvie cross.

But it wasn't long until Wanderers took the lead.

A brilliant bit of play on the right-hand side between Josh Scowen and Garath McCleary allowed the latter in, and his fizzing cross was converted by Onyedimma inside the six-yards box.

It was his first goal for Wycombe since scoring in the club's 3-0 away win over Middlesbrough three years ago.

His last strike at Adams Park was in the 1-0 victory against Blackburn Rovers in April 2021.

Both of these games were during Wanderers' stint in the Championship.

The first half petered out before Harry Forster smashed the crossbar in the latter stages from six yards.

The second period was a lacklustre affair with both sides cancelling each other out.

The best attempt for Wycombe was a Dan Udoh strike from 20-yards, but this was well saved by Jojo Wollacott.

Then, in the dying embers, substitutes Luke Leahy and Kieran Sadlier went close, with the former going wide and the latter having his shot saved.

Crawley began to throw the kitchen sink, but Ravizzoli was on hand to make some important stops, as Wanderers held on for their fifth league win of the season.

Wycombe move into fifth, whilst Crawley remain in the drop zone.

The victory also means the Chairboys had recorded the same amount of wins they achieved in 2023, with 22.

Up next at home is Peterborough United on October 19.

Attendance: 4,472 (408 away)

# SPORT



## Wanderers to find out FA Cup opponents next week



Wycombe reached the FA Cup semi-finals back in 2001 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers will find out who they will play in the first round of the FA Cup this month.

The draw will take place on Monday, October 14 at 7pm live on BBC Two. It will be conducted at Valley Parade, the home of League Two side Bradford City, who won the world's oldest football competition in 1911.

In all, 48 EFL clubs from League One and League Two will enter the competition at the First Round Proper stage, and join the 32 non-league teams remaining from the qualifying competition.

The fourth and final qualifying round will take place THIS weekend (October 12 and October 13), with three teams from the Thames Valley being in action this weekend.

Chesham United, who beat Bristol Rovers in the first round back in the 2015/16 season, will take Yeovil Town at home, whilst Maidenhead United have a very long away journey to Taunton Town.

Slough Town will also be in action, as they are away to Woking.

These are three of the 32 fixture that will take place this weekend, with

replays being planned for 10 days time in any draws occur.

The first round proper will commence between Friday, November 1 and Monday, November 4.

In previous years, Wycombe have struggled to progress from the early rounds of the competition.

In each of the last three seasons, the Chairboys, who reached the semi-finals in 2001, have been knocked out by League Two opposition at home without scoring a goal.

In the 2021/22 edition, Wanderers

lost 1-0 to Hartlepool United after a 2-2 draw at Victoria Park.

One year later, Gareth Ainsworth's last FA Cup match in charge of the club ended in a 2-0 loss to Walsall, and last year, it was the same scoreline but this time, against Morecambe.

Wycombe's last win in the FA Cup was a 4-1 thrashing against Preston North End in the third round in January 2021.

Wanderers had a bye into the third round as they were in the Championship.

# Bucks footballer dies suddenly aged just 31

By James Richings

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE-BASED footballer George Baldock has died at the age of just 31.

The former Milton Keynes and Oxford United man, who was born in Buckingham, was found unresponsive in a swimming pool at his home Glyfada, Greece on October 9.

While no official cause of death has been confirmed, the BBC has reported that the initial coroner's findings suggested that the right-back had drowned, and that there 'are no indications of foul play.'

Baldock had spent the last seven years at Sheffield United, three of which were in the Premier League.

He departed the club this summer to join the Greek side Panathinaikos where he played four times for The Shamrocks.

Despite being native to Buckinghamshire, he was capped 12 times by the Greek national team.

A family statement reads: "We can confirm that George has sadly passed away."

"As a family, we are in shock at this terrible loss."

"We ask please that the media respect our privacy at this time."

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire rivals to Wycombe Wanderers, also penned an emotional tribute to the late right-back.

Baldock began his professional career with the League Two team, playing 125 games and scoring twice.

He helped the club achieve promotion to the Championship in 2015, and played the full 90 minutes of their famous 4-0 League Cup win over Manchester United in August 2014.

This was against a Red Devils side that featured the likes of David

De Gea, Jonny Evans, Michael Keane, Javier Hernandez and Danny Welbeck.

The club said: "We are deeply devastated and saddened to learn about the shocking news of former Academy graduate and MK Dons player, George Baldock."

"George started his career at Stadium MK, where he worked his way through the youth ranks and made his senior career debut at the Club before reaching the heights of the Premier League in later years."

"Everyone affiliated with MK Dons shares a great love for George, Sam and the Baldock family, and we would like to share our sincerest condolences during these awful times."

"You will always be one of our own, George."

The EFL said: "The EFL is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of George Baldock, a player who made a lasting impact with spells across the League at Sheffield United, Oxford United, Northampton Town and MK Dons."

"Our thoughts are with his family, friends and former colleagues."

During his career, Baldock played twice against Wycombe, winning one and losing one.

Both games took place in 2015 at Adams Park.

The first, which was on Good Friday, resulted in a 3-2 win for Oxford United where he picked up a yellow card, whilst the second took place in December of that year, which the Chairboys won 2-1.



George Baldock, pictured playing for Sheffield United, has died aged 31. He was born in Buckingham (PA)

## Hanlan nears full recovery from injury

WYCOMBE Wanderers forward Brandon Hanlan has revealed he is in the 'final stages' of his recovery as he nears a return to first team action.

The ex-Bristol Rovers man suffered a serious ACL injury in the club's 1-0 home loss to Stevenage last November, following a tussle with Boro captain Carl Piergianni.

He had successful surgery on his knee 12 months ago, and it is hoped that the striker could make his first-team return by the end of this calendar year.

Speaking to Wanderers TV, he said: "I'm feeling good and am slowly getting back to it."

"I'm back training with the squad so it's nice to do something [in a group] rather than be by myself."

"I'm in the final stages [of my recovery] so I don't want to rush and get ahead of myself."

"There is an end date and hopefully I'll be back very soon."

Prior to his injury, Hanlan has scored three goals in 19 and was an 'important part' of Matt Bloomfield's plans last season.

His goals were against Peterborough United and Blackpool in the league, whilst he also bagged a strike against Milton Keynes in the League Cup.

In fact, from his 14 goals for the club, Wanderers have only lost on two occasions when Hanlan has scored.

These were in the 6-1 defeat against Manchester City in the League Cup (his strike put Wycombe ahead), in September 2021 and in a 2-1 loss versus MK in the EFL Trophy two weeks later.

Hanlan continued: "I can't wait to get back out there and play in front of the home fans."

"I have forgot the feeling! "I was in the gym for so long so I'm feeling stronger, and I can't wait to get back out there and play in front of the home fans."