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CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Bank holiday bin changes in Bucks

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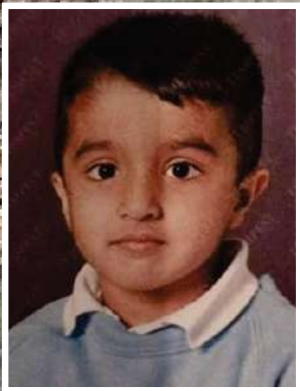


PLAYGROUND PLEDGE

Leisure sites to get a major makeover

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'The loss is great and nothing will replace him'



- Community rocked by tragic death of boy, 4, after bacterial virus
- Heartbroken family pay tribute to 'adventurous' and 'caring' youngster as school launches memorial fund-raiser: *More on page 3*

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SPORT

Mixed results for the C'girls

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women's first team suffered a 5-1 defeat against promotion chasing Ascot United last Sunday.

Prior to the match, the Chair-girls had key players withdraw after contracting Covid-19 and were forced to draft in several members of the Under 18s.

Having started the brighter of the two teams as Charlotte Hill hit the post with a fierce strike, this was as good as it got for Wycombe as they conceded three goals in the opening half to be 3-0 down by the break.

Hoping for a comeback, new signing Sofie Attfield pulled a goal back but two more strikes for Ascot made it a day to forget for Wanderers, as the Berkshire side ran riot.

Manager Carl Simon said: "Ascot we're better in both boxes today and this is the area that we continue to work on improving."

"We are disappointed with the result but ultimately we know that these aren't the games that will define our season.

"More likely these are the games where the players will learn the most and develop as players."

Despite the loss, Katie Ridington was named Woman of the Match.

This fixture allowed fans of the men's first team to attend the game for just £1, on the basis that they were a season ticket holder.

It was also a weekend to forget for the Under 18s, as they lost to the same opponents 7-1.

Manager Christian Price said: "Well played Ascot..

"We'll regroup and become a better side as a result of this performance"

However, the Wycombe Wanderers Women Reserve team defeated Thames Valley rivals S4K Berks County 3-2 away from home after being two goals down.

The Chairgirls were behind in the first 20 minutes but a brace from Shannon Read and a Naimh Creighton finished gave Wycombe all three points.

Rebecca Hesketh was named as the team's best player in the win.

The manager said on the brilliant win away in Berkshire: "The performance was about character building and developing a resilient mentality to continue our good run of performances across the season against strong opposition."

To read more about the women's fixtures and results, visit www.wafc.com.

Another festive home fixture?



Wycombe's home match against Oxford was due to be played on January 7, 2023, but it will now be moved (PA)



Wycombe Wanderers fans will appear on Soccer AM this Saturday, December 3 - One day before their match against Portsmouth (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has admitted that he is 'not too concerned' with the club's home fixture against Oxford United potentially being moved forward.

The Chairboys were to due take on their Thames Valley neighbours on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Adams Park, but the Kassam Stadium side will play Premier League leaders Arsenal in the third round of the FA Cup that weekend.

The match will now be moved and with Wanderers not having another midweek fixture until Thursday, December 29, there is a possibility that the M40 Derby could be moved to an earlier date.

However, Ainsworth stated that if the game were to be played this month, it would not be 'too much of a problem.'

In March, Wycombe's home match against Fleetwood was moved 11 days earlier, as the Cod Army had several players going away on international duty the weekend the two sides were due to play.

Speaking to the press ahead of the club's match against Portsmouth on December 4, he said: "We will see what the FA will come up with and we will make sure to make the right calls at the right time.

"But I'm not too concerned about that.

"Both us and Oxford are getting our players back now

By James Richings

from injury so I don't think it will be too much of a problem. "It's just a case of the analysis and the preparation but it's not something to worry about and in a way, it can be a positive.

"It will give us a few more extra days off [in January when the fixture was due to be played], and help a few more players get back fit."

Wycombe last played Oxford United at Adams Park in January this year, as goals from Curtis Thompson and Brandon Hanlan gave the Chairboys a 2-0 victory over their rivals.

The win put Wanderers on top of the League One table, however, the triumph was overshadowed due to a pitch invader striking Oxford's Mark Sykes, along with homophobic chanting coming from the away end.

The intruder was given a lifetime ban from Adams Park, whilst Thames Valley Police released statements on the incidents.

Wycombe's upcoming games:

Dec 4: Portsmouth (H)
Dec 10: Lincoln City (A)
Dec 17: Ipswich Town (H)
Dec 26: Bristol Rovers (H)
Dec 29: Plymouth Argyle (A)
Jan 1: P'borough United (A)
Jan 15: Sheffield Wed (H)
Jan 21: Bristol Rovers (A)
Jan 28: Fleetwood Town (H)

Six Wanderers fans to appear on Soccer AM

A popular Saturday morning football TV show are looking for six Wycombe Wanderers fans to appear on the programme this Saturday.

Soccer AM, which has been on air since 1995, are searching for the Chairboys supporters to take part in the Volley Challenge which will occur at the end of the show.

The aim of the game is for the Wanderers fans to score as many volleys as possible in the space of 60 seconds past a celebrity goalkeeper, with members of the Soccer AM crew then trying to beat their total in the same

timeframe.

The last time they appeared on the programme was in October 2020, when the Wanderers faithful scored three times inside a minute.

However, during the challenge, several attempts either hit the post, bar, or dustbin which are put in the corners of the goal.

If a volley was scored with the ball going and staying in the bin, it would have counted as double points.

If you are interested in taking part, email socceram@sky.uk with your name, age and contact number.



Kevin Betsy (pictured at Crawley Town) is now at Wigan Athletic as he is part of Kolo Toure's management staff at the DW Stadium (PA)

Betsy joins PL winner

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers striker Kevin Betsy has been appointed as a first-team coach at Wigan Athletic in the Championship.

The 44-year-old, who scored 25 goals across three separate spells with the Chairboys, moves up to the DW Stadium following Kolo Toure's appointment as manager of the Latics on November 29.

He, along with the rest of the Wigan management team, will fly out to Turkey to meet the rest of the staff and first-team squad, as they enjoy a mid-season trip due to the current Championship season being halted.

This is because of the World Cup currently being played in Qatar, with several of the league's players out in the Middle East.

Betsy had started the season as the manager of League Two Crawley Town, but after just 16 games in four months which resulted in three wins, he, along with assistant manager Dan Micciche, were deemed surplus to requirements.

Prior to his move into first-team management, Betsy had been part of the England youth setup between 2016 and 2021, before managing the Arsenal Under 23s for the 2021/22 season.

Alan Parry's previews: Pompey at Adams Park



Portsmouth are in town (PA)

THE next few weeks could make or break Wycombe's season as they face five of the leading promotion contenders in League One between now and New Year's Day, beginning with the visit of Portsmouth to Adams Park on Sunday, December 4.

The televised Pompey clash is the perfect opportunity to get their home form back on track, having failed to win any of the last four matches at Adams Park, drawing two and losing two.

Gareth Ainsworth has always stressed the importance of making their home ground a fortress, but the defences have been breached far too often this season.

They have already lost three home games in the league, only one fewer than the whole of last season.

Portsmouth were one of the teams to leave Buckinghamshire with all three points in the last campaign, Marcus Harness scoring the only goal of the game.

Wycombe have beaten Pompey just once in the last six meetings, home or away.

An Adebayo Akinfenwa penalty was enough to secure victory in September 2019, the season the Chairboys won promotion to the Championship.

It is 10 years since Pompey last played in the Championship, but they are one of the biggest clubs in the EFL, twice English champions and FA Cup winners in the past, and more recently members of the Premier League for seven seasons.

This is their sixth consecutive season in League One, but they have finally found stability under Danny Cowley after getting rid of six managers in the time Ainsworth has been in charge at Adams Park.

Four of their former bosses have Wycombe connections – John Gregory (1996/98) and Tony Adams (2003/04) managed Wanderers, while Guy Whittingham and Steve Claridge both played in the famous blue quarters.

Visit www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport for the latest Wanderers news.

Boss 'honoured' as TV history is made



Gareth Ainsworth spoke about the extra camera access for when Wycombe take on Portsmouth this Sunday

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has revealed he is 'honoured' that the club will be the first home team to allow behind-the-scenes access for a live fixture.

In a first for English football, the Chairboys' home League One match against Portsmouth on December 4 will see the Sky Sports crew broadcast both Ainsworth and Danny Cowley's pre-match and half-time team talks.

Coaches from both sides will also be interviewed during the contest, whilst players will be mic'd up with their in-game conversations being aired during the break.

Speaking on the innovative game between the two sides at Adams Park, Ainsworth said: "There will be plenty of footage and extra bits for the people watching, but, we just need to make sure that it doesn't go too far."

"Danny Cowley and I are quite open as managers and we're both young enough to accommodate the new age of constantly being around screens and seeing what's happening online."

"I won't go that far and make an Instagram or Twitter account and tell people what I had for breakfast or anything like that, but I will speak during the game and hopefully we can get a win."

"We should be honoured that this football club has been asked to do something like this be-

By James Richings

cause in years gone by, we have been ignored or were considered this small club.

"Now, people want to deal with Wycombe, and as it's against Portsmouth so it will be a big game."

When asked if this could add extra pressure to the Chairboys squad, who went into their two-week break with a defeat against Cheltenham Town, Ainsworth added: "The players will not make a big thing of it as the game is the game."

"The players are a lot younger than me and they are very much into this."

"They are all into their screens just like my children, so I think this is like water off a duck's back for them."

"We'll just focus on the game but with the way the game is going, I think this is something we can all expect moving forward."

"It's been popular in the States and if anyone of my players does get distracted, then it's my job to make sure they are doing their job properly."

The match on Sunday, December 4 at Adams Park will kick off at 12.30pm.

To read more of the latest Wycombe Wanderers news, along with the happenings of the Non League, visit www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport or follow James Richings on Twitter @James_BFP.

SPORT

0963-2336



Ollie Pendlebury is now at Farnborough in the Non League

Ollie scores a worldie as former Chairboy bags FA Cup screamer

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers midfielder Ollie Pendlebury scored a brilliant free-kick as his new club, Farnborough, lost 4-1 away at Wrexham.

The 20-year-old, who spent one season with the Chairboys during the 2021/22 campaign, netted in the equaliser against the Hollywood-owned

Welsh side in the FA Cup second round on November 26.

His goal at the Racecourse Ground was his second for the Hampshire club since joining the Non League side in September, as his strike made it 1-1 on the day.

However, a hat-trick from Paul Mullen and an

Elliot Lee goal knocked Farnborough out of the cup.

During his solitary year with Wanderers, Pendlebury signed after being released from Reading in July 2021 and featured in 10 matches across the course of the season, where he scored three goals.

He spent the latter part of that year on loan at Non League Woking, before departing the Adams Park side in the summer.

Following his release from Wycombe just over a year ago, he joined Farnborough in September this year and has so far played 11 times and has scored twice.

Television history for the Chairboys

TV cameras will broadcast dressing room chats and offer in-game interviews during Wycombe Wanderers' home match against Portsmouth.

The League One fixture, which will be shown live on Sky Sports on Sunday, December 4, will be the first of its kind in the UK as viewers will be able to witness both Gareth Ainsworth and Danny Cowley's team talks at Adams Park ahead of the game and at half-time.

Exclusively revealed by the Daily Mail on Monday, November 28, permission has also been given to 'record in-game audio of the players' on-field conversations to be broadcast at half-time and after the final whistle.'

The article published by the national outlet also disclosed that 'while the recordings will not be broadcast live due to the danger of bad language being televised in the early afternoon, the audio will be made available to pundits to enhance their half-time and full-time analysis.'

Additionally, both teams' coaching staff will also be interviewed during the contest.

EFL Chief Commercial Officer Ben Wright said: "Audience habits and the appetite for how we consume content is changing. This fixture provided an ideal opportunity to expand and enhance EFL coverage and in doing so explore broadcasting opportunities for what may be possible in the future."

Gary Hughes, Director of

By James Richings

Football, Sky Sports added: "Innovation has always been at the heart of everything Sky Sports does. We're constantly looking at ways to improve our coverage and bring our viewers closer to the action. Sunday's game will do just that as we go behind the scenes to give fans even more access and insight."

The innovative idea has been used in football fixtures before with matches in the USA and Australia taking part in the notion.

And whilst this will be a first for an official Football League or Premier League fixture, live in-game chats with players and coaching staff have been trialled in several of the early rounds of the FA Cup in previous seasons.

There's still time to get your tickets for our next home game against Portsmouth.

According to the Daily Mail article, 'the EFL is in the process of putting their TV rights from 2024 onwards on the market, and there is a growing acknowledgement that they have to offer more content to broadcasters, with Wycombe and Portsmouth happily signing up to the experiment.'

'The trial will be monitored closely by Premier League clubs, as they will come under pressure to open their doors if it is viewed as a success.'

The fixture at Adams Park will kick off at 12.30pm.



Extra cameras will be on show at Adams Park on December 4 (PA)



Wanderers' Adams Park (PA)

Chairboys fixture to be moved

WYCOMBE Wanderers' home match against Oxford United will be rescheduled to a new date.

The Chairboys were due to take on their Thames Valley rivals at Adams Park on Saturday, January 7, 2023, which would have been the club's first home match of the calendar year.

However, following the Us' 4-2 victory over Exeter City in the second round of the FA Cup on November 25, Oxford will take on their third round opponents between January 6 and January 9.

A new date for the M40 Derby will be confirmed in due course.

If the match had taken place on January 7, it would have been eight days before the one-year anniversary of when they last met at Adams Park.

Taking place on January 15, 2022, Wanderers defeated Oxford 2-0 in South Buckinghamshire with Curtis Thompson and Brandon Hanlan getting the goals.

The victory over the Kassam Stadium team put Wycombe top of the League One table at the time, but the fixture was overshadowed by several unsavoury incidents.

These included an invader running on the pitch and striking Oxford's Mark Sykes, along with homophobic chanting being heard from the away end.

The person who ran onto the field during the contest was given a ban by Wycombe, whilst both clubs condemned the offensive singing.