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SPORT

More pre-season friendlies



Aylesbury Vale Dynamos

AYLESBURY Vale Dynamos will play nine pre-season friendlies ahead of the 2022/23 campaign.

The Yellow and Blues, who finished 14th out of 20 in the Spartan South Midlands Football League Premier Division, will have just one of their fixture played at their Haywood Way stadium across July.

Their fixtures they will play are the following:

First team

Saturday, July 9: Holmer Green vs Aylesbury Vale Dynamos (to be confirmed)

Tuesday, July 12: Aylesbury Vale Dynamos vs AFC Dunstable

Saturday, July 16: Amersham Town vs Aylesbury Vale Dynamos

Tuesday, July 19: Flackwell Heath vs Aylesbury Vale Dynamos

Tuesday, July 26: Thame United vs Aylesbury Vale Dynamos

Saturday, July 30: Bovingdon vs Aylesbury Vale Dynamos

Development team

Tuesday, July 12: AFC Dunstable vs Aylesbury Vale Dynamos

Saturday, July 16: Aylesbury Vale Dynamos vs Berkhamsted Raiders

Bateman departs AVD FC

AYLESBURY Vale Dynamos have revealed that manager Steve Bateman has resigned from his role.

In his official statement, Bateman, who was in his second stint with the outfit, said: "It is with heavy heart that I have decided to step down from my role as first team manager at Aylesbury Vale Dynamos FC with immediate effect.

"I came back to the club to have a crack at getting the club back to Step 4 [in the Non League pyramid] this coming season but the past month has shown me I cannot convince the players I want to work with to commit to my vision.

"I have therefore decided to step aside and allow the club to appoint a management team who have the contacts for the Step 5 level to compete and the earlier I do that the better for the club."

Long away days for the Boys from Bucks

By James Richings

FOLLOWING Port Vale's 3-0 win over Mansfield Town in this year's League Two play-off final, all 24 teams for the 2022/23 League One season have now been confirmed.

We've broken down each league stadium that Wanderers will visit in alphabetical order:

Accrington Stanley: 205 miles

Last league visit: Accrington Stanley 3-2 Wycombe Wanderers (Feb 26, 2022)

Barnsley: 178 miles

Last league visit: Barnsley 2-1 Wycombe Wanderers (Dec 9, 2020)

Bolton Wanderers: 192 miles

Last league visit: Bolton Wanderers 0-2 Wycombe Wanderers (Jan 11, 2022)

Bristol Rovers: 102 miles

Last league visit: Bristol Rovers 0-0

Wycombe Wanderers (Aug 10, 2019)

Burton Albion: 117 miles

Last league visit: Burton Albion 1-2

Wycombe Wanderers (Apr 30, 2022)

Cambridge United: 83 miles

Last league visit: Cambridge United

1-4 Wycombe Wanderers (Apr 4, 2022)

Charlton Athletic: 85 miles

Last league visit: Charlton Athletic

0-1 Wycombe Wanderers (Jan 1, 2022)

Cheltenham Town: 65 miles

Last league visit: Cheltenham Town

1-3 Wycombe Wanderers (Aug 14, 2022)

Derby County: 130 miles

Last league visit: Derby County 1-1

Wycombe Wanderers (Nov 28, 2020)

Exeter City: 180 miles

Last league visit: Exeter City 1-1

Wycombe Wanderers (Feb 10, 2018)

Fleetwood Town: 221 miles

Last league visit: Fleetwood Town

3-3 Wycombe Wanderers (Oct 30, 2021)

Forest Green Rovers: 92 miles

Last league visit: Forest Green Rovers

1-2 Wycombe Wanderers (Jan 1, 2018)

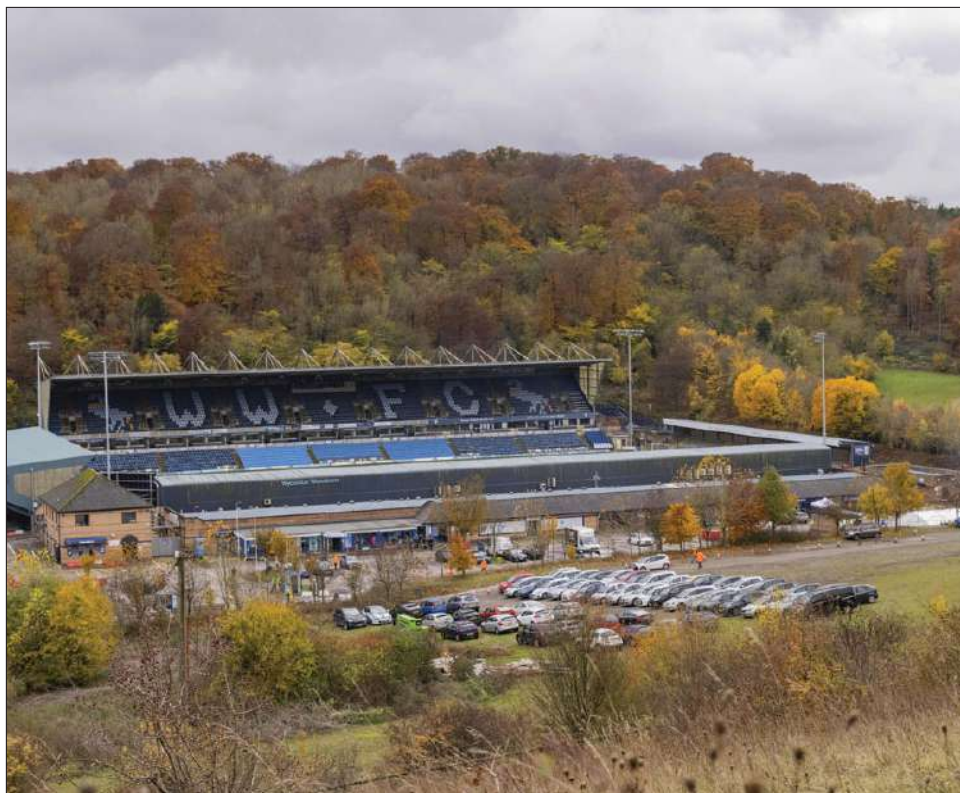
Ipswich Town: 114 miles

Last league visit: Ipswich Town 1-0

Wycombe Wanderers (Dec 29, 2021)

Lincoln City: 152 miles

Last league visit: Lincoln City 1-1



Wycombe will play seven different teams in League One next season and will have to travel a fair few miles to each of the stadiums. How many away games will you be attending in the 2022/23 campaign? (PA)

Wycombe Wanderers (Feb 12, 2022)

Milton Keynes: 35 miles

Last league visit: Milton Keynes 1-0

Wycombe Wanderers (September 25, 2021)

Morecambe: 226 miles

Last league visit: Morecambe 3-2

Wycombe Wanderers (Jan 22, 2022)

Oxford United: 26 miles

Last league visit: Oxford United 0-0

Wycombe Wanderers (Sep 11, 2021)

Peterborough United: 90 miles

Last league visit: Peterborough

United 4-0 Wycombe Wanderers (Jan

21, 2020)

Plymouth Argyle: 222 miles

Last league visit: Plymouth Argyle

0-3 Wycombe Wanderers (Nov 23, 2021)

Portsmouth: 84 miles

Last league visit: Portsmouth 0-0

Wycombe Wanderers (March 19, 2022)

Port Vale: 141 miles

Last league visit: Port Vale 2-3

Wycombe Wanderers (Aug 12, 2017)

Sheffield Wednesday: 171 miles

Last league visit: Sheffield Wednes-

day 2-2 Wycombe (Nov 27, 2021)

Shrewsbury Town: 136 miles

Last league visit: Shrewsbury Town

1-2 Wycombe Wanderers (Sept 28, 2021)



Chesham United will play eight pre-season friendlies this summer

Chesham United are on the road in July

CHESHAM United will play eight pre-season friendlies ahead of their 2022/23 campaign.

The Generals, who finished seventh in the Premier Division South just one point off the play-off places, will have six of their friendlies taking place away from home.

Played across 24 days between July and August, Chesham will face Egham Town, Bedfont Sports, Berkhamsted, Amersham Town, Risborough Rangers and Uxbridge on the road, before they host Hemel

Hempstead and Wycombe Wanderers at The Meadow.

The latter will take place one day before the League One season will start, but the Chairboys 11 will mainly consist of trialists and development players.

The fixtures will take place on the following dates:

• Saturday, July 9: Egham Town vs Chesham United

• Saturday, July 16: Bedfont Sports vs Chesham United

• Tuesday, July 19: Berkhamsted

vs Chesham United

• Saturday, July 23: Amersham

Town vs Chesham United (trialists)

• Saturday, July 23: Risborough

Rangers vs Chesham United

• Tuesday, July 26: Chesham

United vs Hemel Hempstead

• Friday, July 29: Chesham United

vs Wycombe Wanderers

• Tuesday, August 2: Uxbridge vs

Chesham United

For more information, visit the

club's website: www.cheshamunited.co.uk.



Wycombe will play three pre-season friendlies ahead of the new season

Friendlies confirmed

WYCOMBE Wanderers will take on Bracknell Town in a pre-season friendly next month.

The 2022 League One play-off final runners up will face the Berkshire outfit on Friday, July 8 at the Non League's Bottom Meadow Stadium in Sandhurst, with the Chairboys' squad consisting of trialists.

Bracknell won the Isthmian South Central Division with 96 points in 2021/22, achieving 31 wins from their 36 league matches.

Their promotion means they will partake in the Southern League Premier South for the 2022/23 campaign, and will therefore face clubs such as Beaconsfield Town and

Chesham United in the league.

The match against Wycombe will kick off at 7.30pm.

For ticket information, go to www.bracknelltownfc.com.

Gareth Ainsworth's men will then play Aylesbury United on Friday, July 22 and Chesham United seven days later on July 29.

Both matches will kick-off at 7.30pm, and they will both be played at Chesham's Meadow Stadium, which is ground shared by each outfit.

Wanderers faced the Generals and the Ducks in pre-season friendlies 12 months ago, with Wycombe drawing 1-1 with Chesham, before they defeated Aylesbury 3-1.

Former fan favourite is released as season ends



Nathan Tyson (centre) (PA)

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers striker Nathan Tyson has been released from fifth-tier Chesterfield after their play-off semi-final defeat.

The 40-year-old, who has had three separate spells with the Chairboys, played 141 times for the Bucks outfit and scored 53 goals.

During those spells, he was relegated with the club in 2004, before gaining promotion with Wycombe in 2018.

He began his career with the Reading and has formed a respectable career across the EFL.

Spending the majority of his career with recently promoted Nottingham Forest, the fan favourite at Wycombe also enjoyed two spells with the Spireites.

Paul Cook's Derbyshire outfit lost to Solihull Moors in the National League play-off semi-finals over the weekend, confirming a fifth straight season in the fifth tier of English football.

Nightmare in Romania comes to an end

Continued from left

Speaking about his time in Romania, he added: "You went out as if nothing had happened.

"All I wanted to do was leave and not play football.

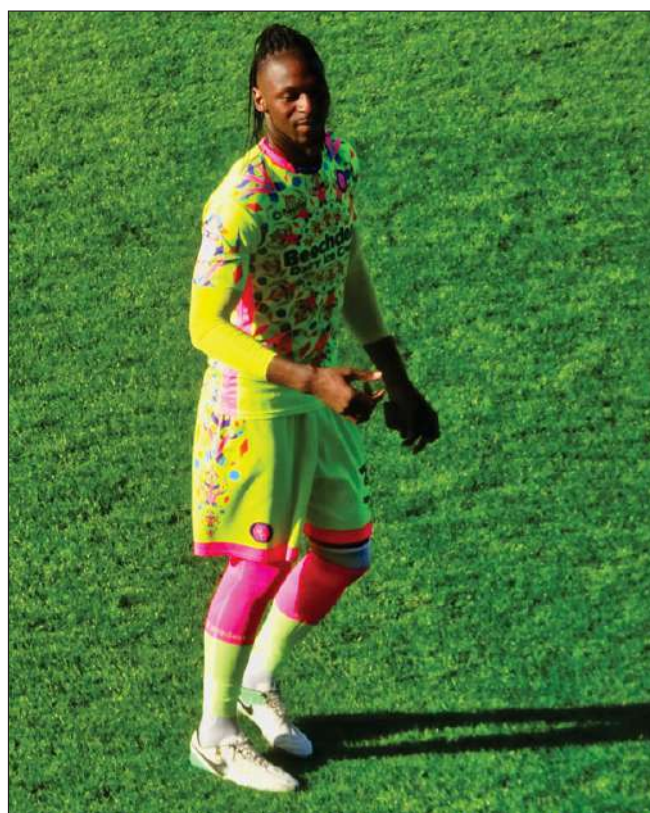
"Everyone acted normal."

Ma-Kalambay would be out of the game for two years before he joined Wycombe in the autumn of 2017.

He would leave the club in 2019, achieving promotion with the Chairboys in 2018, and despite leaving Wycombe three years ago, the goalkeeper still visits Adams Park to this day.

He was present at the club's 2-0 home win over Milton Keynes in the League One play-off semi-final first leg on May 5, where he posed for pictures, signed autographs, and had conversations with supporters.

Yves Ma-Kalambay on Romania ordeal



After leaving O elul Gala i in 2015, Ma-Kalambay spent two years out of the game before joining Wycombe in the autumn of 2017 (Carol Mason)

Continued from page 72

He would go on to make one more appearance before being dropped from the team.

Despite being an O elul Gala i player for just a few weeks, he no longer wanted to represent the club but kept this to himself.

And it was during this period that he witnessed a terrifying attack on one of his teammates.

The goalkeeper continued: "Four or five games later, they came back, and they asked one of the strikers to not score any goals, but

"The first-half went and our striker scored, but nobody celebrated on the pitch.

"We weren't the biggest of teams so a goal being scored is an occasion for the players to rejoice.

"At half-time, I remember being by the [changing room] door.

"I had the door smash into me because the same people, but this time there were six of them, went straight into the dressing room.

"The manager stopped talking, ran out, and locked the door.

"They went straight to the striker, and I could see that they were very, very angry.

"They had a massive argument with that player and next thing you know, you heard a gunshot.

"I never heard one in real life, and the noise could make you deaf.

"Worse than that was the scream which made it more intense. "There was blood, there

By James Richings

was screaming, and they [the team] went out and played the second half.

"The echoes were that a massive bet had been lost because of his goal and, that he didn't want to break the rules.

"They acted on their words and left."

Desperate to leave the club, the goalkeeper asked for his contract to be terminated without getting paid, but he was unable to do so as O elul Gala i entered administration.

The club had also kept hold of his passport when he first joined, making him unable to leave the country.

After it became known that Ma-Kalambay was planning to depart the club, he noticed outside the apartment he was staying in, a parked car with several people watching him in case he left the vicinity.

Ma-Kalambay contacted the authorities but to no avail, and after four weeks of uncertainty, the goalkeeper was able to retrieve his passport, along with his earnings but was advised by someone connected to the club to leave the country in a hurry.

He eventually fled to the United Kingdom from Romania via bus.

The keeper arrived in London before spending around £300 to £400 on a cab ride to an address he knew. *Continue bottom right*

SPORT

0963-2336



Goalkeeper recalls half-time shooting



Adams Park (PA)

Prices stay the same at Wycombe

WYCOMBE Wanderers' season ticket prices have been frozen for the up-and-coming season.

The Chairboys, who are preparing for their second-straight in League One following their play-off final defeat against Sunderland on May 21, confirmed the news on May 30 – exactly two months before the campaign starts.

The decision to freeze the season ticket prices comes after the club achieved its highest average attendance for close to 20 years, and its highest ever points tally in the third tier of English football.

Currently, existing season ticket holders will have their seats reserved for them until 10am on June 27.

All season tickets are available to buy online only in the first instance, with phone and in-person sales at Adams Park opening up from Monday June 6.

For all the information regarding season tickets for next season, visit the club's website, tickets.wwfc.com.

Blissett named in honours list

FORMER Chesham United player and manager Luther Blissett has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee birthday honours.

The 64-year-old, who is best known for his time at Watford, was given the honour for services to football and charity.

He joined the Generals in February 2006 as coach, and also made two substitute appearances for the south Bucks side before leaving the club in April 2007.

Speaking to the Watford Observer about his honour, he said: "My career as a footballer can be used by the charities to touch the lives, not just of football fans, but their families and the community as a whole is in itself a great honour."

"To receive an OBE not just for my achievements in football but for using that career for the good of others makes me immeasurably proud, even more so in this Platinum Jubilee year."

Blissett is currently Watford's highest appearance maker and goalscorer; he played for the Hornets 503 times and bagged 186 goals across three separate spells.



Yves Ma-Kalambay spoke about his terrible experience in Romania seven years ago which resulted in one of his teammates getting shot

By James Richings

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper Yves Ma-Kalambay has revealed the horrific scenes he experienced when playing for a club in Romania, which resulted in a teammate getting shot.

The Belgian and Congolese international was on the books at Oelul Gala i for the 2014/15 season, but only played two games for the outfit before he wanted to have his contract terminated due to the horrendous off-the-field tensions surrounding the club.

The 36-year-old, who played 11 times for the Chairboys between 2017 and 2019, explained that there was an 'influence' coming from outside of the team that dictated the outcome of matches for financial gain, and if

players were to go against these orders, they faced violent consequences.

He stated that the deal he was given to join Oelul Gala i was 'unbelievable', and that the first few weeks with the team, which saw them train in Antalya, Turkey, were 'amazing.'

However, the 6ft 6in keeper noticed that 'something was going on' at the club once they returned to Romania.

Speaking in a 16-minute video on the Athlete's Stance's YouTube channel which was published in December 2019, the ex-Chelsea keeper said: "Before a game, I saw four guys enter the dressing room.

"They didn't enter like they wanted signatures or people that came for a tour; they entered the changing room like they entered their own living room, with a lot of confidence, comfort, they took some fruit, some

drinks, and this was weird to me because I had not seen them before.

"They were shouting in Romanian, and I was not fluent in Romanian, so I just didn't really pay attention to what they were saying.

"I was just focusing on trying to get myself ready for the game, but after they finished shouting at the captain, they turned towards me and they said that I needed to concede three goals before half-time.

"We were playing a team that, and I'm not being disrespectful, probably could not score three goals before half-time, and I don't like to be told what to do, so I didn't really pay attention and I just went to play my half.

"We were winning 1-0 at half-time and they came back, entered the changing room, and went straight to me.

"They surrounded me, I was sitting in

my corner; they were shouting, stomping, making big gestures, and pointed their hands towards me.

"One of them grabbed my shoulders, I brushed him off as I'm not going to let anyone touch me, and then one of them went to the captain, and told him that they needed to tell me that I was not in my country anymore, that they owned me and that I needed to do what they were telling me to do.

"Otherwise, I might not go home."

"I got scared because I thought 'if they are capable of threatening me like that in front of people, if I'm on my own in the changing room, what if they came back?'"

Ma-Kalambay played the rest of the match but admitted that he was making errors as his mind 'wasn't right' following the incident during the interval. **Continue reading on page 71**