



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 5, 2023

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.50

CORONATION FEVER



**Parties, road closures
local events and nostalgia -
everything you need to know**
- Page 18



INSIDE • Property • Court listings • Planning roundup • Sport

Headteacher resigns as Ofsted inspector

**‘Working as a
school teacher
in the current
climate with the
lack of funding
and respect is just
impossible’**

Page 5



CRIME

**Salon owner
abused bikini
wax patients**



Page 3

WINNERS!

**Neighbours
scoop £30k
lottery prize**



Page 9

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



RAJ

**BRING YOUR
OWN ALCOHOL**

TUESDAY BANQUET NIGHT
\$14.95 per person
4 Course Meal

SUNDAY LUNCH
12PM-2PM

17 Penn Road, Hazlemere,
HP15 7LN
01494 715666
www.raj-hazlemere.com

FREE HOME DELIVERY WITHIN 4 MILES

Hazlemere Lighting

**HUGE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
SHOP ONLINE NOW!**

WINTER SALE UP TO 30% OFF

Please visit www.hazlemereighting.co.uk

01494 718427

Open Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm
4 Market Parade, Hazlemere Crossroads, High Wycombe HP15 7LQ
hazlemereighting@outlook.com

SPORT

All square in home draw

A WYCOMBE Wanderers XI drew 1-1 with the English Universities Sports team in a behind-close-doors friendly match at Adams Park.

The Chairboys led 1-0 at the break thanks to an Arnold Matshazi strike before the visitors equalised in the second period.

The Wycombe squad consisted of development players which included the likes of Jack Wakely, Jasper Pattenden, Luca Woodhouse, Jack Young, Adam Leathers, Antoine Makoli, and several trialists.

The friendly fixture was the club's 15th of the season and their seventh after the league campaign started back in July.

Overall, Wycombe have won five, drawn four, and lost six.

Here is a list of all of the club's non-competitive matches this season.

July 8: Bracknell Town 2-0 Wycombe Wanderers XI

July 9: Wycombe Wanderers 3-0 Fulham U23s

July 12: Wycombe Wanderers 0-0 Oxford City

July 16: Watford 4-1 Wycombe Wanderers

July 22: Bournemouth 0-2 Wycombe Wanderers

July 22: Aylesbury United 1-1 Wycombe Wanderers XI

July 23: Southampton B 1-3 Wycombe Wanderers XI

July 29: Chesham 4-2 Wycombe Wanderers XI

August 2: Worthing 5-1 Wycombe Wanderers XI

September 5: Wycombe Wanderers XI 1-1 Southend United XI

September 26: Wycombe Wanderers XI 2-1 Norwich City U21s

October 10: Wycombe Wanderers XI 1-2 Maidenhead United

October 25: Wycombe Wanderers 2-3 Bournemouth Development

January 27: Woking 0-4 Wycombe Wanderers

May 3: Wycombe Wanderers XI 1-1 English Universities Sports

The Chairboys will end their 2022/23 campaign this season against Portsmouth at Fratton Park, and fans heading to the south coast could potentially see some of the development players in the matchday squad.

Youngsters such as Christie Ward, Pattenden, Wakely, Young, Woodhouse and Makoli have all featured in first-team games this season.

On Pompey, Wycombe defeated the Blues in the return fixture back in December 2-0 at Adams Park.

Beaconsfield to play in cup final



The match took place on April 29 which Beaconsfield won 21-7
Image: Beaconsfield Rugby Club

BEACONSFIELD Rugby Club will appear in their first-ever Papa John's Community Cup final after they defeated Devizes 21-7 in the semi-finals.

In what was a one-sided affair, they will take on Dartfordians in the final on May 7 at the StoneX Stadium which is the home of Saracens.

The Windsor End side started very well and were unlucky not to score in the first two minutes of the match when Robbie Cartwright was held up over the line by a scrambling defence.

Undeterred, they continued to mix up their attack and began to gain dominance in the scrum.

A mix of forward and back interplay paved the way for Ryan Morgan to run an excellent line to score under the posts converted by Aled Lewis put them 7-0 up.

Anchored by the evergreen Tom French, Beaconsfield applied pressure to a Devizes scrum five metres out and won a penalty.

The team elected to scrum again and provided the platform for a strong carry from Matt Brown.

As the defenders flooded round the corner Aled Lewis spotted and sniped through a small gap to score our second try which he duly converted to make it 14-0, but things were made difficult for Beaconsfield as they lost two players to the sin bin in Cartwright and Alex

By James Richings

Marks.

But this didn't matter as Beaconsfield raced into a 21-0 lead, before the opponents scored several consolation points in the dying embers of the game.

This will take place against Dartfordians RFC on Sunday, May 7 at the StoneX Stadium.

The club's head coach, Simon Tattersall, said: "We were fuelled by an excellent prematch lunch (thank you to Mike and Jane Wood for organising with less than five days notice) or from the BBQ (well done Neil Hockin, Aimee Conway, and team).

"The club are working hard behind the scenes to secure buses for supporters as we aim to make it a huge club day out for all sections of the club.

"We would ask that you keep an eye out for all communications and respond in a timely manner.

"This is a great chance to showcase what a great club Beaconsfield RFC is on a national stage and your support will be vital as we attempt to make more history by securing a trophy to bring back to the club for the afterparty."

To read more about the latest news and sports in the area, go to the Bucks Free Press website (www.bucksfreepress.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Both are free of charge.



Chesham United play their games at The Meadow within the town, along with Aylesbury United

Former player returns on loan from L2 side

CHESHAM United have confirmed that centre back Matt Ridley has re-joined the club on loan until the end of the season.

The 22-year-old as penned a contract with the Generals from Sutton United, after he made 11 appearances for the Buckinghamshire outfit at the start of the campaign.

A native of the north east of England, he played for several clubs in the area before a spell playing university football in the USA, and on returning last season he joined Whitby Town, also signing for Consett on a dual registration basis, before joining Sutton over the

summer.

As it stands, Chesham are fifth in the Southern League Premier Division South, winning 23 matches, drawing 10 and losing nine.

Overall, they have scored 88 goals and have conceded 57.

To read more about the latest news and sport in the Buckinghamshire area, go to the Bucks Free Press website (www.bucksfreepress.co.uk) or you can follow us on either Facebook or Twitter.

You can even join our subscription service too.

Visit our website for more information.



Matt Bloomfield was not happy with his side's performance in the 3-0 loss to Cheltenham on April 29 Image: PA

Bloomfield on defeat

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield spoke about the rare positives in the club's 3-0 defeat against Cheltenham Town.

The loss, which was the club's 17th of the league season, was met with boos at both half and full-time in a game where the Chairboys were flat, passive, and tepid.

However, in a game of little highs, there were two positives that the 39-year-old wanted to bring to light.

He told the Free Press: "It was nice to see Christie Ward get some more minutes in his legs.

"He is a young lad who has got a lot of potential, and he will keep learning.

"It was also good to see Dominic Gape start a game after such a long time out as we wanted to see

where he is.

"We learnt a lot more about the players today [April 29]."

Finally, the loss saw goalkeeper Harvey Cartwright make his league debut for the club following his arrival from Hull City in January.

But the 20-year-old was at fault for Cheltenham's third after he dropped a routine long ball, which allowed Aidan Keena to score his second of the contest in the final minute of the game.

Bloomfield said: "Harvey has trained with us really well and I wanted to give him the opportunity to play.

"He is a goalkeeper that is highly thought of. He actually did OK during the game and it was an unfortunate error at the end."

Alan Parry's Previews: One last hurrah



Wycombe go to Pompey (PA)

WYCOMBE have one last chance to lay down a marker for next season when they visit Portsmouth for their final game of the 2022/23 campaign on Sunday, May 7.

It has been a disappointing end to the season with just four wins from their last 14 games since Matt Bloomfield replaced Gareth Ainsworth as manager in February.

Despite losing half of those games, Wanderers were still in contention for a play-off place only a fortnight ago, but successive home defeats against Lincoln City and Cheltenham Town put paid to any hopes of a top-six finish.

The Cheltenham setback led to the usual outpourings of negativity on social media with predictions of a relegation battle next season and calls for Bloomfield to be sacked.

That Bloomfield's position should even be up for discussion is ridiculous.

He was always going to find it difficult to follow a legend like Ainsworth, the club's longest-serving and most successful manager in the EFL era.

He has only been on the job for three months and has had to deal with the absence of key players whilst also trying to implement a different style of play.

The time to judge Bloomfield is the end of next season, not the end of this one.

Despite the uncalld-for gloom and doom, Wanderers will finish eighth in League One if they beat Portsmouth on Sunday, and that would be a worthy achievement.

Of the current top six clubs, all bar Plymouth Argyle have played in the Premier League and all six are vastly superior to Wycombe in terms of history, wealth, and support.

That also applies to Portsmouth. Despite average crowds of 18,000, it is 11 years since they last played in the Championship, something Wycombe achieved just two years ago.

The clubs met at Adams Park in December 2022, televised live on Sky Sports.

It finished 2-0 to the Chairboys with Anis Mehmeti and Garath McCleary on the scoresheet.

Wanderers have never won a league game at Fratton Park, so what an opportunity to end the season on a high and give their fans renewed hope that next season will end better than this one.

The mistakes that were made in 22/23



Rob Couhig spoke to the Free Press after the 3-0 defeat to Cheltenham Image: PA

WYCOMBE Wanderers owner Rob Couhig has admitted that he 'underestimated' the club's squad depth following the Chairboys' failure to reach the play-offs for the third time in four years.

The Adams Park side will finish outside the top six in League One this season, either securing an eighth or ninth place with one game of the year remaining.

It has been an eventful season both on and off the pitch for Wanderers, and the American businessman, who now owns 90 per cent of the club, exclusively admitted to the Free Press that he 'could have done things retrospectively' that could have helped the Chairboys' chances for promotion.

Speaking to the BFP after the 3-0 home loss against Cheltenham Town on April 29, Couhig said: "I have not got complaints with the players' efforts, and the gaffer did an extraordinary job coming in what were tough circumstances.

"At the start of the season, I said we had a shot for reaching the automatics, and most certainly the play-offs, but we didn't get there."

"And while technically it's a failure as we didn't compete as well as we could, it's my fault.

"There are certain things I could have done retrospectively that would have made us better, but that happens."

When asked what those

By James Richings

changes could have been, he explained: "It goes all the way back to the start of the season when we had seven to eight of our starting 11 out injured.

"Maybe, I should have forced more depth [into the squad] at that point by bringing in people earlier.

"We also didn't have our goalkeeper situation sorted out until after the season had started.

"We dug ourselves a hole and we did a pretty good job at trying to get out of the hole.

"There was a period in the middle of the season where we were right in the thick of it, but, at the end of it, I underestimated the depth that was necessary."

Wycombe will end the season away at Portsmouth next Sunday, May 7.

Wycombe's issues in 2022/23 broken down

THE first problem Wanderers had was not securing a goalkeeper until sixth game of the season, in which four league matches and one cup fixture had passed.

This was due to Nathan Bishop's move to Adams Park being blocked by Manchester United, his parent club, less than 48 hours before the season opener against Burton.

Numerous injuries have not helped, along with a managerial change mid-season.

SPORT



Rob Couhig is positive for the season ahead. Image: NQ

Couhig urges Wanderers fans to 'get excited' for next season

WYCOMBE Wanderers owner Rob Couhig has told the club's fans that next year 'will be more fun', in what has been a mixed campaign for the side.

The Chairboys will finish in the top 10 of League One for the third time in four years, but will miss out on a play-off place af-

ter an indifferent end to the campaign.

His reassurance to the supporters came after a flat and tepid home performance against mid-table Cheltenham Town, which saw the visitors win 3-0 at Adams Park.

Speaking after the loss, Couhig said: "I can be down about how we did

but the truth is, in the four years we've been here, the fans that we've spoken to are the greatest four years they've had in terms of fighting for promotion.

"What we have planned in terms of infrastructure improvements along with stabilization will bode well.

"My goal is to leave this club in an infinitely better shape than when I took it over.

"It always will be. "Getting the per cent seems small perhaps, but, it makes things a lot easier to get stuff done.

"Get excited for next year as it will be more fun."

Freeman: 'That's amazing to hear'

WYCOMBE Wanderers midfielder Nick Freeman has revealed his joy after hearing that he will finish the season as the club's highest appearance maker.

The 26-year-old has currently played 48 times for the Chairboys this campaign, featuring in all of the five competitions the Adams Park side have played in.

This includes 42 outings in League One, two in the League Cup, two in the Papa John's Trophy, one in the FA Cup, and one in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup, where he captained the side in the latter.

His tally of racking up nearly half a century of games in one season comes one year after he played just four times.

This was due to suffering a serious knee injury in August 2021, which ruled him out for nearly 12 months.

Speaking exclusively to the Free Press, he said: "That's amazing to hear.

"Last season I was out for about nine to 10 months where I only played four times.

"My aim was to really kick on this year, so to hear that I've played the most games in a season in my career is amazing.

"It shows the hard work the physios have done with me in order to help me get back to where I need to be and I'm really happy with that.

"At first when I got fit, it was just about playing and training again and I was really grateful as it had been so long and you miss being part of that.

"And as time went on, I felt good and ready to kick on and it just carried on.

Exclusive by James Richings

"I really needed a full pre-season under my belt and I was training at the back end of last season too so I had a head start with my fitness.

"After the full pre-season, I felt back to normal and as soon as I started games, got into a flow and got my confidence back, the injury was behind me."

His number of games this season will beat regular starters in Josh Scowen, Max Stryjek, and Joe Jacobson, with the 27-year-old admitting he was surprised with the number of outings he has made.

He continued: "I've never played that many games in a season before.

"I would come off the bench, start, then back on the bench, then start again, and it was a real rhythm of playing regular football.

"It's nice to be involved but I would not have expected me to be first in the appearances for this year."

His teammate, Jason McCarthy said: "I'm delighted for him.

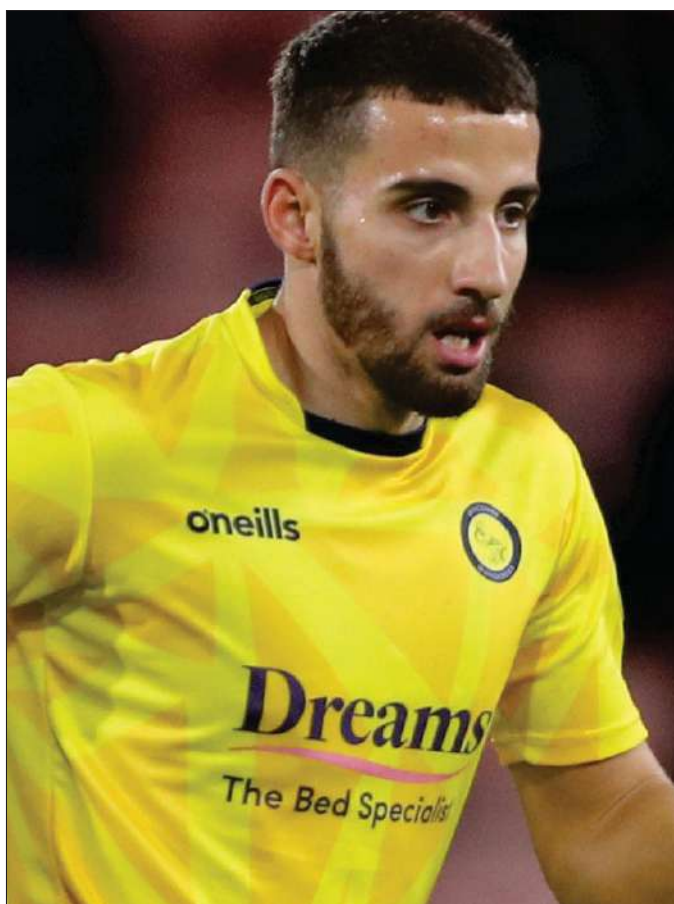
"I get to see what he can do every day with the ups and downs and we saw how hard he was working and the effort he was putting in.

"He was also really bubbly despite having all this happen to him, so, we couldn't be more happier for him.

"He has got the most appearances this season for us and he's been instrumental in that.

"It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy."

Wycombe will end their 2023 season at Portsmouth on May 7.



Nick Freeman (pictured in 2020) has spoken about his season (PA)



Wanderers lost at home again (PA)

Ending with a whimper

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has spoken openly about his side's 3-0 home defeat to Cheltenham Town.

A double from Aidan Keena and an Alfie May strike, which was the latter's sixth in three games against the Chairboys, made it a flat and tepid end to their season at Adams Park.

Five changes were also made to the side that lost seven days earlier to Lincoln City, and the 39-year-old was not happy with how the game panned out.

He told the press at full-time: "We started the game quite well as we got the ball up to Sam and got bodies around the ball, and we also posed a threat.

"But we came away from that, we gave the ball away cheaply a few times, and that gave Cheltenham the momentum to step up on us in the way that we did.

"We didn't follow the game plan. It was a really difficult day for us and we really need to improve.

"We didn't perform at all but we have to stick our chest out and get on with it so there is no problem in that.

"It's just so disappointing in the way the game went about and we have to face the fact we were not good enough today.

"All of these games are opportunities to learn about everyone and I learnt a lot today, and you learn a lot more about the people in the bad times than the good.

"And you learn about what you need to put right and this is something me and my staff are learning."