

Bucks Free Press

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**'RACISM' SIGN
TEACHER CLEARED**

Plan for 544 new homes is rejected

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Traffic concerns blamed for appeal dismissal

MAJOR plans to build 544 new homes in High Wycombe's Gomm Valley have been refused permission as Taylor Wimpey's appeal was dismissed.

Developer Taylor Wimpey appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against Buckinghamshire Council's failure to make a decision on its application within the necessary timeframe, due to what the unitary authority claimed was the developer's failure to give it the necessary information in time.

But planning inspector Matthew

By Charlie Smith

Woodward dismissed that appeal in a decision on Wednesday (September 11), bringing an end to a 10-month appeal process.

He said that due to traffic concerns, Taylor Wimpey's proposed development conflicted with High Wycombe's local plan, the 361-page document specifying how new homes can be built and where in the town they should be located.



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Sport

FOOTBALL

Chesham progress in FA Cup qualifying

CHESHAM United progressed to the third qualifying round of the FA Cup with a 2-0 away win at Cray Valley Paper Mills.

The hosts reached round one last season and took near-neighbours Charlton Athletic to a replay.

Sitting fourth in the Isthmian League Premier Division, Cray Valley matched Chesham in the first half although there was hardly any goalmouth action at either end. Just after the half-hour

mark the home side had their best moment of the game, when Michael Ademiluyi broke down the left and shot but Ben Goode produced a fine low save to turn the ball round the post. A niggly game reached half-time with no goals.

Chesham made a triple substitution at half-time, bringing on Joe Grant and Mitchell Weiss to support Nathan Minhas up front and the changes paid off. Chesham took the lead on 51' when Nathan Minhas set up Joe Grant

to run clear and lift the ball past the advancing keeper into the net. 15 minutes later (75') and Chesham wrapped up the win with a second goal for Grant who fired a shot from 30 yards that found the bottom corner evading Oliver Pain's right hand.

Chesham, now meet Bishop's Cleeve in the next round (Sunday, September 28) who defeated Torquay to reach this stage. The Mitres play at Step 4 in the Southern League Division 1 South.



Joe Grant celebrates his winner. Image: Neale Blackburn

BOXING

Holmer Green boxer set for title bout in Liverpool

A Holmer Green boxer will fight for the British and Commonwealth super lightweight titles in Liverpool next month.

Henry Turner, who hails from South Buckinghamshire, will take on Jack Rafferty of Oldham at the Liverpool Arena on October 5.

The ex-Holmer Green Senior School student began his career at High Wycombe ABC before moving onto Repton Boxing Club in Bethnal Green.

Turner is proud to be undefeated in his 13 professional bouts just as 'Demolition Man' Rafferty is in his 23. Turner's amateur record prior to joining the professional ranks in 2019 was seven wins out of nine.

Turner, who still lives in the small Buckinghamshire village with his parents, said: "I'm mentally and physically in excellent shape and determined and confident I'm going to win those British and Commonwealth titles.

"I've never wavered my commitment to boxing.

"I am determined to be the best which is why I now make a round trip of 150 miles to Kent up to six times a week, twice for strength and conditioning with coach Jordan Vine in Dartford and on four days for boxing coaching with Alan Smith at the Ibox gym in Bromley.

"I'm the only boxer in my family and my parents have been so supportive.

"They were fun fair showmen all over England and I worked with them as an amateur boxer.

"It was enjoyable and exciting growing up doing that.

"When I turned professional, they paused the funfairs to help me succeed in the paid game."

By James Bovington

With two belts on the line, Turner hopes he'll be able to get the better of Rafferty in what will be the former's first 12-round fight of his professional career.

The 24-year-old has had 22 fights since making his debut 10 years ago, achieving 20 wins in that time – five by knockout.

In fact, he has only suffered two defeats since his boxing bow in 2014, with both losses being back-to-back in 2017.

And he hopes he'll be able to bring the belt back to Bucks in October.

He continued: "I hope that my home county will offer strong support for my imminent bout as I'm hard-working and striving to do great things in professional boxing to put Buckinghamshire firmly on the boxing map.

"This is also my first 12-rounder.

"It's what every boxer wants, what I've worked for since I started boxing training as a slightly chubby boy of nine.

"Five of my professional fights have been 10-rounders but the 12-round fight is the ultimate. Those last two rounds will test both of us.

"It's a long fight and there's no denying it's dangerous exchanging powerful, repeated punches for up to 36 minutes.

"That's why I intend to get a stoppage, but not before I've shown everyone the boxing skills I possess."

New potential sponsors can contact me at Henry Turner on Facebook or @henryturner123 on Instagram or e-mail henryturnerboxing@gmail.com



Henry Turner will fight Jack Rafferty in Liverpool next month

ROUND-UP

Spurs are beaten in the FA WNL Plate

CHESHAM United Women women overcame a very organised Tottenham Hotspur Academy to progress in the FAWNL Plate, winning 3-2.

With two goals inside the first 10 minutes (Gemma Fraser and Kiyana Fryer) the home team were on top but after 50 minutes the visitors had scored two of their own courtesy of Persis Oteng to level the game up.

However, with a winner on 67 minutes from Gemma Fraser, Chesham march on to the next round.

They travel to last season's Division 1 South East Champions AFC Wimbledon on Sunday, September 29 in the next round.

Norwich City Women FC travel to The Meadow on Sunday, September 22 for a 2pm kick-off.

Rams held to draw by strugglers

BEACONSFIELD Town were held to a 2-2 draw at Holloways Park to Stotfold, and will feel unlucky not to have taken all three points, writes Arran White.

It was a quick start for the hosts, testing the Stotfold keeper twice within a few minutes of the star.

After all the pressure from the Rams, it seemed to be only a matter of time before they took the lead. However, Stotfold scored through Sellers-West with their opening shot on goal and 30 minutes on the clock.

The Rams continued to control the game and were given a chance to draw level when the referee pointed to the spot but Manu Oke – William's penalty was saved.

Beaconsfield levelled after 53 minutes when Joe Lawal tapped the ball home after Josh Marcon's shot was saved.

Feeling the game was up for grabs, the hosts brought on Eli Grant to replace Maidenhead United loanee Jamie Davies. Grant didn't have long to wait for his chance to give The Rams the lead, as he chested the ball down and smashed it into the net after a great run and pass from Marcon.

The Rams continued to dominate the closing stages and seemed on course for a deserved win until Meriai popped up to draw the visitors level with six minutes left to play and give Stotfold their first point of the season.

Beaconsfield now have a two week wait before they get a chance to get back on track, travelling to Leighton Town on Saturday, September 28.

HONDA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2024



Paul (centre) and Derek (second, right) have a long history with the club, going back to 1999 and 1996 respectively

Volunteers earn prestigious award for community hub transformation

TWO rugby volunteers from Aylesbury have won a prestigious national award for their brilliant work transforming their club's facilities and turning it into a hub for the community.

Paul Milham, 51, and Derek Spence, "older than that", are chairman and secretary respectively at Aylesbury RFC and claimed the Connecting the Community prize at the Honda Volunteer of the Year awards on Friday.

The Honda Volunteer of the Year awards are part of the Honda Volunteer Recognition Programme, which provides a platform to recognise the volunteers who make up such an integral part of the game and who have made a great contribution to their club and community – no matter what their role.

Derek and Paul have a long history with the club, going back to 1996 and 1999 respectively, and in recent years have masterminded a huge project to transform it into a community hub and to make the club bigger, better, and more financially secure than ever.

The pair were crowned winners at an awards ceremony hosted by RFU president Rob Udwin and presented by Alex Payne.

Paul said: "For me, it's about more than just Derek and I. It's a reflection on

Staff Reporter

the whole committee, the club, the volunteers. It means an awful lot in terms of recognition for us personally, but the club as well."

Derek, who has played rugby since the age of five, echoed that sentiment: "I'm proudest of the way people have pulled together to build what we've got. Over the years various committees have made good decisions and we've built on those. It's about getting people involved and we're really lucky to have so many people who are prepared to get involved and do stuff for rugby and the community."

The awards recognise the local heroes who have had a major impact in their clubs and communities and demonstrated their commitment to the game over the past 12 months. It brings the opportunity to thank those who have gone above and beyond this year for teams, clubs, referees' societies, and educational establishments.

Over 2,000 volunteers were nominated, with nominees being recognised at local level, before winners from these events were put forward as national finalists, with 46 nominees recognised at an awards ceremony at Allianz Stadium

last week.

Paul and Derek have presided over a huge extension project beginning in 2019 and seriously disrupted by the pandemic. Now, though, the club is home to a state-of-the-art gym – which opened the week the first lockdown began – as well as two function rooms, a kit shop, two classrooms, a balcony and a brand-new kitchen, all driven by the duo's hard work.

The rugby club has become a real community hub, beginning in the pandemic when the gym was opened when restrictions permitted, and an outdoor hut built to facilitate the "biggest pub garden in Aylesbury," as Derek said. "It kept people coming to the club and was a community asset as well. During Covid, we did a lot to keep the club alive, and it's paid off now, when we've probably got as many – probably more – members than before Covid."

The club also plays host to the local Muslim community for Eid celebrations post-Ramadan, charity functions and fundraisers, weddings, funerals, and festivities of all kinds. "All of that income helps us keep the membership low and give the members value for money," Paul added. "We don't want cost to be a barrier to being part of the rugby club or playing rugby."

There are plenty more projects in the pipeline, including a car park refurbishment and "making everything match the great facilities we've got at the heart of it."

Although Paul – who runs his own business as well as the club's operations – joked that, "Derek and I are going to re-

tire now, now that we've won this award! "It takes a lot of time, but it's very rewarding. I was down the club this Sunday and we had 500 kids running around in the sunshine with big smiles on their faces. You get a lot out of it."

Visit: www.englandrugby.com/run-club-management/volunteers



The ceremony was hosted by RFU president Rob Udwin (second, left)

Sport

SPORT: WANDERERS SECURE THREE POINTS

Bloomfield's reaction to away victory

WYCOMBE Wanderers' manager Matt Bloomfield believes it was 'key' that his side responded quickly after going a goal down in their 2-1 victory over Northampton Town.

The Chairboys found themselves behind after just three minutes when Sam Hoskins won and scored a penalty, after he was fouled in the box by captain Jack Grimmer.

But the Adams Park side did not find themselves behind for long as Dan Udoh equalised on 11 minutes following a brilliant move on the right involving

Garath McCleary.

Wanderers then won the encounter just after half-time, when a mistake at the back gave Richard Kone the opportunity to tap home from close-range.

Speaking on the performance, Bloomfield said: "On the balance of play with the chances and with the xG we created, we probably deserved the three goals.

"Of course, we're disappointed with how we conceded, but I'm really happy with the way the boys showed their character to bounce back

so quickly.

"I think bouncing back quite quickly was key.

"It was a great goal from Dan Udoh as it was a brilliant team effort, so I'm pleased with that and with the second goal, we got a bit of luck."

The result means Wycombe have won their last eight matches against Northampton in all competitions, with four of those victories being under the stewardship of Bloomfield.

Since last season, Wanderers have gained an aggregate score of 7-1.



Bloomfield has won his last four games vs Northampton (PA)

FOOTBALL: NORTHAMPTON 1-2 WYCOMBE

Wycombe's eighth win in a row against the Cobblers

WYCOMBE Wanderers secured their first away league win of the season as they came back from behind to defeat Northampton Town 2-1 at Sixfields.

The visitors started the better and nearly took the lead inside two minutes as Josh Scowen's volley went over the bar from a Garath McCleary cross.

However, just 60 seconds later, Wanderers found themselves a goal down.

After Scowen gave the ball away in the centre of the park, Northampton broke and Jack Grimmer's last-ditch challenge on Sam Hoskins resulted in a penalty for the Cobblers.

Hoskins picked himself up and converted the set piece, as he sent Franco Ravizzoli the wrong way.

But the lead didn't last long as Dan Udoh equalised on 11 minutes.

A brilliant move on the right saw Grimmer lay it off McCleary, and the latter's cross was slotted home by Wycombe's new number 11 from close-range.

It's his third goal of the season since his move from Shrewsbury Town.

The tempo of the first half was in full flow as both the Chairboys and the Cobblers attacked when the score was all square but to no avail in taking the lead.

For Wycombe, the creativity was coming from the right with McCleary and Grimmer, causing problems for the Northampton defence, which Cameron Humphreys controlled for the mid-field alongside Josh Scowen.

For the hosts, Callum Morton pulled the strings.

However, the opening 45 minutes' main talking point was a

By James Richings

clear penalty that was not given to Wanderers.

Midway through the first period, Grimmer found himself eight yards from goal after a long ball into the Northampton box.

As he got near the six-yard box, the Scotsman was clattered by Town keeper Lee Burge, with referee Adam Herczeg opting to award a drop-kick for the hosts.

There was a stunned silence around Sixfields as everyone expected a spot-kick, but nothing was given.

Into the second period, Humphreys forced Burge into a good stop before Dan Harvie also went close.

But seven minutes into the half, Richard Kone got himself on the scoresheet in fortuitous circumstances.

The Northampton defence did not deal with a cross from the right-hand side, and after a mix-up from goalkeeper Burge and centre back Jack Baldwin, Kone was on hand to tap in from close-range.

And just like Udoh, it was also his third of the season.

Northampton threw the kitchen sink but Wycombe held on valiantly to make it four games unbeaten in all competitions.

The result is also the first time that Wanderers have come back from behind to win since Matt Bloomfield took over in February 2023.

The last time Wycombe came back from a goal behind to win in the league was Boxing Day 2022 – a 2-1 victory over Bristol Rovers at Adams Park.



Richard Kone (pictured against Derby County in April) scored Wanderers' second against Northampton on September 14 (PA)

SPORT: FOOTBALL

When will everyone come back from injury?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has provided an injury update following his side's 2-1 away win at Northampton Town.

Whilst fans are already aware that players such as Nathan Bishop, Sam Vokes, Brandon Hanlan and Ryan Tafazolli are all long-term absentees, there is hope that a handful of names could return in the coming weeks.

This includes the likes of David Wheeler and Luke Leahy.

Speaking after the club's first away league win of the season on Saturday, Bloomfield said: "We have lost Gideon [Kodua] this week which is disappointing, but Luke Leahy is getting close, and David Wheeler played in a development match this week so he's also getting close.

"I think those two are the only ones that are imminent, and we're trying to get Fred [Onyedimma] as fit as possible safely.

"The issue with Fred is that he has missed a whole pre-season within a team and group environment.

"He's been doing bits and bobs on his own but we need to make sure he's fit and ready to go.

"He's a huge signing for us and we can't bring him and break him."

On long-term absentees, the manager added: "They are not imminent – the good news about Brandon [Hanlan] is that he has just started contact training.

"He started this on Friday [September 13], but he's not yet ready.

"He still needs time to get back to full fitness so he'll be a little while still."

"Bishop, Vokes and Taff are still in the gym and they will be out for a little while."

Bloomfield's injury update came after the Chairboys came back from behind to defeat Northampton Town, for the club's first away league win of the season.

It was also the first time Wycombe had won a game from going a goal down under Bloomfield's tenure since he joined in February 2023.

One of the most notable starters in the victory on Saturday lunchtime was the inclusion of 22-year-old left-back, Declan Skura.

The former Chelsea and Reading youngster impressed in his previous outings in recent cup matches and made his EFL bow in the 2-2 draw at Blackpool in August.

He started the fixture against the Cobblers but was replaced after 66 minutes by debutant, Caleb Taylor.

Bloomfield said: "Dec did great – we asked him to play with courage and character and he did that for us.

"We know how talented he is in and out of possession, he did great at Wimbledon and Swansea and at Blackpool, he came on and did great.

"I thought he deserved his chance to start in the league which is a bit harsh on Alex Hartridge as he's played to a level, but we want to give players the opportunity."

WANDERERS

Bloomfield's buzzing that Bez is back



Out of Bez Lubala's 16 games for Wycombe, 10 of them have been at Adams Park (Benji Walker)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager believes striker Bez Lubala will add 'pace and intensity' to the squad following his recent return from injury.

The 26-year-old forward played only his second game of the season in Tuesday night's 5-3 hammering of the Brighton & Hove Albion U21s in the EFL Trophy, where he bagged four goals.

This includes scoring a first-half hat-trick inside a 23 minute spell.

He is now in contention to start against Cambridge United on Saturday, as Wanderers look to make it three wins from four in League One.

Boss Matt Bloomfield said: "It's good to have Bez back.

"He's been great for us since we signed him back in January, and he led the line for us really well at the end of last

season.

"He's added pace, intensity and intelligence to the press and it's been disappointing that we've not been able to use him due to his hamstring injuries, but its good to have him back and scoring four goals on his return is very pleasing.

"Sam Vokes, Richard Kone and Dan Udoh have been very good for us this season, so to add Bez to that group is very pleasing."

Lubala joined Wycombe from Burton Albion in January for an undisclosed fee.

He has since played 16 times and scored six goals, with four of them coming on Tuesday night.

The Congolese forward also played under Matt Bloomfield during their time at Colchester United in the 2022/23 campaign.

WYCOMBE

Points are shared in thriller

THE Chairgirls secured their fourth point of the season, as they hosted league leaders, Ascot United, and held them to a 2-2 draw.

Goals from Jess Watkins, and debutant, Kayla Potter, took the Blues back level after falling behind twice.

In what was a high-intensity, and fast paced game, both sides had opportunity to go ahead early in the first half. High pressing from the Chairgirls offered scope to gain the opener; but the visitors' strong defensive line denied the attempts.

Despite the balanced effort in attack, it was the Yellowwomen who took the lead in the 16th minute, as a pressing run from the opposition saw a looping, long-range strike from 25-yards out, dip over Amber Taylor.

In retaliation to the Yella's opener, the Chairgirls maintained their attacking efforts as they sought after an equaliser. It took only 10 minutes before debutant, Potter, found herself in possession of the ball in the Blues' defensive half, sandwiched between two Ascot defenders. Quick-footed play allowed for Potter to weave herself out and into space, before committing to a fantastic run which took her into open space, away from all but the Ascot keeper, as she squared the ball to Jess Watkins who tucked it neatly away, drawing the Chairgirls level.

Late into the half, Eman Kassem inched close to giving Wycombe the advantage going into half-time, with some fantastic individual play taking her round various yellow shirts, before firing a shot from within the box, which drifted just wide of the far post. The missed opportunity maintained the square 1-1 scoreline going into the break.

Coming into the final 45, both sides were vying for the three points in a game which could've gone either way. The visitors struck home in the 59th minute, regaining their lead with a drilling hit after battling with the Chairgirls inside the final third.

Only four minutes later however, a quick-fire comeback from newly signed Potter saw her work her magic and level out the game.

A well-placed pass from player of the match, Ailish Carolan, set up Potter for a perfectly timed run, which she carried deep into the box, before slicing home from an acute angle.

The thrilling duel ended 2-2, with the Chairgirls pleased to have taken a point away from a strong Ascot side who are currently sitting top of the league.

Manager, Carl Simon, was happy with his side's performance, stating, "It was a real battle, which is what we were expecting against Ascot.

"Having said that, I thought we had good parts of the game, large parts of it we were in control and seemed the fitter team."

The Chairgirls host Milton United in the FA Cup on September 22.

WYCOMBE 5-3 BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION U21S

Lubala delighted by his form as Seagulls downed

WYCOMBE Wanderers forward Bez Lubala said he 'needed to be alert' as he fired home four goals in the club's recent 5-3 victory against the Brighton & Hove Albion U21s in the EFL Trophy.

The ex-Burton Albion started for the first time this season versus the Premier League 2 team where he scored a first-half hat-trick inside a 23 minute spell.

He then got his fourth with a terrific finish shortly after half-time, on what was his BSM Trophy debut for the Chairboys.

The forward is Wanderers' highest scorer this season, and he hopes to take this form into the next cluster of matches.

Speaking to the Free Press and BBC 3 Counties at full time, Lubala said: "We said before the game that we needed to press them [Brighton U21s] high and force them into mistakes, so I was alert to that.

"But credit to the team as we kept our shape as we wanted for the right moments and the chances presented themselves.

"You're always hoping to get on the scoresheet and it was a great night getting four goals, and taking my chances the way I did.

"Hopefully the goal-scoring can continue - I am just delighted to get on the scoresheet."

Lubala heroics at Adams Park came in only his second appearance of the season.

This comes after he suffered a hamstring injury just days before the start of the campaign after impressing in pre-season.

But he hopes his injury issues are now behind him.

He continued: "It's not ideal getting injured before the start of the season as I was doing well in pre-season.

"But I've worked hard to get back fit and we've been doing very well, as we're building momentum and we want to keep moving forward."

The forward became the first player to score four goals in a competitive match for Wycombe since January 2008, when Scott McGleish bagged a quadruple versus Mansfield Town in a 4-0 win.



Lubala has now scored six goals for Wycombe since his move to the club in January

WYCOMBE'S STARTING 11

19. GEORGE	28. MORLEY
5. HARTRIDGE	7. WHEELER
25. SKURA	23. SADLIER
31. P'TENDEN	30. LUBALA
37. TAYLOR	
8. BUTCHER	
20. H'PRHEYS	

Bez gets back to business with four goals

BEZ Lubala scored four goals which included a first-half hat-trick as Wycombe Wanderers thrashed the Brighton & Hove Albion U21s 5-3 in the EFL Trophy.

In what was the Chairboys' first home match in this competition since playing the young Seagulls in the quarter-finals in last season's edition, Matt Bloomfield's side were quick out of the traps.

Jasper Pattenden, Matt Butcher and David Wheeler all went close in the

opening 10 minutes, before Lubala got his first on 13 minutes.

A long ball over the top by Pattenden was missed by two Brighton defenders, and the ex-Birmingham City man was on hand to fire his shot into the goalkeeper's bottom left-hand corner.

It was a Wycombe onslaught as Brighton just couldn't contain the 2024 runners up, and not long after taking the lead, Wanderers got their second of the contest.

On 26 minutes, another error at the

back allowed Kieran Sadlier in, and he tucked away his attempt beyond Killian Cahill for his second of the season.

Moments later, it was three as Lubala bagged a brace with a well-taken finish past the young Albion keeper.

He then got his hat-trick with a tap-in from close range after a brilliant ball into the box by Pattenden.

It was the first treble of his career.

Brighton looked at sea but they did managed to get on the scoresheet on

the stroke of half-time, as Harry Howell tucked away a penalty, after Cameron Peupi was fouled by Pattenden.

The goals continued into the second period as Lubala smashed home his fourth and Wanderers' fifth moments after the restart before Howell scored his second penalty of the contest.

His second strike was sandwiched by a well-taken goal from Marcus Ifill.

Up next for the Chairboys is Cambridge United at home on September 21.

SPORT



Chairboys prepare for Cambridge's Chilterns visit



Monk was won two of his 19 games in charge of Cambridge

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has insisted that this weekend's encounter with Cambridge United will be a 'tough test' despite the latter's position in the table.

The Amber Army not won any of their eight competitive matches this season, losing six.

Their only point was gained in a very entertaining 4-4 draw against Blackpool in August (which was former Chairboys' defender Richard Keogh's first game as caretaker boss of the Tangerines).

The other fixture which they didn't 'lose' in 90 minutes was a recent EFL Trophy clash against Bromley which ended 3-3.

However, they would lose the resulting penalty shootout 5-4.

Speaking ahead of Cambridge's visit to Wycombe on September 21, Bloomfield said: "As always, I think it'll be a tough game.

"I think, by looking at their footage already, they're trying to develop their philosophy.

"Garry [Monk] is very much trying to set a style but we do know that

Cambridge have got some good players.

"We know they have injuries but without a doubt, we know it will be a tough game.

"The moment you get carried away [based on form and positions in the table], it'll come back to bite you."

Despite a long injury list, Wanderers will be boosted by the return of striker Bez Lubala.

The forward scored four times in the recent 5-3 victory against Brighton U21s in the EFL Trophy on Tuesday night, and might have

forced his way into the starting 11. Bloomfield continued: "Voksey isn't close to a return so having Bez as an option is very good for us.

"It's really important that we have options from our finishers because gone are the days where you can have 11 players who can play 90 minutes - it's not like that anymore.

"I use three, four and sometimes five subs as the game is that intense - especially in the forward areas as we want to press with bot of our wide players and with our number nine."

Bloomfield: 'We are far from finished product'

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has admitted he was 'disappointed' in the three goals his side conceded in the recent victory over the Brighton & Hove Albion U21s.

The Chairboys smashed the young Seagulls 5-3 in the EFL Trophy on Tuesday night, with striker Bez Lubala bagging four goals.

This includes securing a 23-minute first-half hat-trick, which is the first of his career.

However, two penalties from Harry Howell and a tap-in from Marcus Ifill gave Brighton some hope in the entertaining encounter in South Bucks.

The win means Wanderers need to beat Crawley Town in the final group match of the competition in November to progress.

Bloomfield said: "The second half became a bit disjointed as we had people playing in slightly different positions.

"We put Declan Skura in the midfield and Jason McCarthy came on as full-back and eventually went as a centre back.

"We made these changes to protect a few of the boys ahead of the weekend.

"I'm not pleased that we conceded three goals, but, we got that all-important win as we want to progress out of the group."

Wanderers dominated the contest at Adams Park by registering 17 shots compared to Brighton's five, but the visitors managed to get four on target which resulted in three goals.

Bloomfield hopes that 'a lot of learning' will come out of the win, as he believes Wycombe are far from the finished product.

By James Richings

He continued: "I am disappointed with the three goals.

"Of course, I want us to be entertaining so our fans look forward to coming to see us live, but I don't want to be conceding three.

"We need to have a balance.

"Their [second] goal was a bit too easy to down our end, so there is plenty of things to learn.

"We've had a few wins recently but we're still a team in progress as we've had a big turnover in players, both in arrivals and departures, so we're still learning about the group.

"There is a lot of learning and we want to keep improving.

"We're far from the finished product."

Wanderers were quick out of the traps as they forced Brighton into several errors early doors, which ultimately played a huge role in their performance.

Speaking on the tactics, Bloomfield added: "We looked through the footage from their game against Crawley and they went with a man-to-man press, but we felt in terms of keeping with our principles, we wanted to be solid with our mid-block and didn't give them any easy passes out.

"This forced key moments which we capitalised on.

"I want to win and get out of the group - we also have a competitive squad and it's important to give everyone as many minutes as possible.

"We wanted to win to put it back in our hands, so when we play Crawley, it's in our hands."

The match against Crawley is on November 12 at Adams Park.



Wycombe's win over Brighton in the EFL Trophy was their first in the competition this season

The next round of games for Wanderers

WYCOMBE have started the season strongly with five wins from the opening nine matches in all competitions.

The Chairboys have scored in every game so far this campaign bar one (the 1-0 loss away to AFC Wimbledon in the EFL Trophy), and have picked up seven points from their last nine available.

So who is up for Wanderers and when are they next playing?

FIXTURES:

September 21: Cambridge United (H) - League, 3pm

September 24: Aston Villa (H) - EFL Cup, 8pm

September 28: Bristol Rovers (A) - League, 3pm

October 1: Barnsley (A) - League, 7.45pm

October 5: Crawley Town (H) - League, 3pm

October 12: Stockport County (A) - League, 3pm

October 19: Peterborough (H) - League, 12.30pm

October 22: Burton Albion (A) - League, 7.45pm

October 26: Leyton Orient (H) - League, 3pm

November 2: FA Cup fixture to be confirmed

November 9: Wigan Athletic (A) - League, 3pm

November 16: Huddersfield Town (H) - League, 3pm

November 23: Lincoln City (A) - League, 3pm

November 30: FA Cup fixture to be confirmed

December 3: Exeter City (A) - League, 7.45pm

December 7: Reading (H) - League, 3pm

December 14: Shrewsbury Town (A) - 3pm

December 20: Bolton Wanderers (H) - 7.45pm

December 26: Stevenage (A) - 3pm

December 29: Charlton Athletic (A) - 12.30pm