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PRIMARK'S NEW LOCATION

Clothing giant will stay in High Wycombe and is moving to a huge new site - Page 6

PLANS FOR 72 NEW HOMES

Field under threat of development next to site earmarked for 400 homes

Page 11



NEWS

Arrests after woman dies in M40 crash



Page 5

CRIME

Met cop on rape charge



Page 4

Boy, 15, charged with plotting right-wing terror offences

Full story Page 4

INSIDE • In The Dock • Horoscopes • TV guide • Puzzles • Nostalgia • Notices

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SPORT

F1 suit auction to boost charity

A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE child who is suffering from brain cancer has inspired a Formula One team to help increase funds that could prove vital for future research.

Jude Upton, from Milton Keynes, was diagnosed with a brain tumour, later identified as a grade 4 medulloblastoma, following a trip to Specsavers in Silbury Arcade on his eighth birthday in March 2020.

The 11-year-old had been suffering from a loss of balance, sickness in the mornings, constant headaches, tiredness, a loss of appetite, and changes in his personality, including becoming more introverted and not wanting to play football.

Following his diagnosis, the youngster underwent a craniotomy followed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy and enjoyed months of stable scans before finding out his cancer had returned last year.

He is now undergoing further chemotherapy and is due to have his next scan at the beginning of June.

His story has led Aston Martin to donate an F1 race suit, signed by racing driver Lance Stroll, with the item coming with a certificate of authenticity.

The piece of memorabilia is currently available to purchase with the money raised going to Brain Tumour Research.

Jude's father, Danny, said: "Jude's doing really well, considering."

"He's eating better and is in school more regularly."

"Still, I find it hard to plan too far ahead, especially with Jude living with the effects of his treatment."

"His balance still isn't good, his overall learning is poor compared to other children his age, he's got cataracts and his growth has also been affected."

"It's not easy but every day he's doing well is another good day."

Charlie Allsebrook, community development manager for Brain Tumour Research, added: "Jude's story is a stark reminder of just how indiscriminate brain tumours are."

"They kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer yet just one per cent of the national spend on cancer research has been allocated to the disease since records began in 2002."

"We're determined to change this."

To make a bid for the F1 suit, go to <https://app.galabid.com/lancestrollracesuit>

Helping out an ex-rugby player



Ed Slater (pictured) retired in 2022 after being diagnosed with motor neurone disease (PA)



Ebe Eze (pictured in 2017) played 20 times for Wycombe (Anita Ross Marshall)

A BUSINESS in Buckinghamshire will offer their support to a former professional rugby player who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease.

George Davies Turf, which is based in Olney within the north of the county where they specialise in grass and turf laying, will cooperate with the ex-Nottingham, Leicester Tigers, and Gloucester player Ed Slater, following his retirement in July last year.

The 34-year-old has since moved into the media whilst battling his degenerative condition, by co-hosting the Rugby Inheritance Podcast along with rugby commentator, Sam Roberts.

On their show, the two speak to numerous current and former players within the sport, with each guest putting forward an item of personal memorabilia with the money raised going to '4ED' campaign.

The donations will go to support Ed's family and at the time of writing, £239,921 has been raised as part of their £444,000 goal.

Sam said: "We are thrilled to have George Davies Turf on board."

"We have been blown away by the success of The Rugby Inheritance Podcast so far, but George's support is going to give us a huge boost to make it even better."

By James Richings

"It is early days, but we are already hitting more than 500 listeners at a time which is just incredible."

"The stories shared by the players and coaches resonate with so many people, not just rugby fans. We cover fascinating topics about life lessons, resilience, personal challenges, mindset, fitness, and many other topics that anyone can relate to."

"There's usually a bit of humour mixed in too, along with some moving tales about how to overcome adversity, so there's something for everyone. What started as a platform for Ed to share his rugby tales has turned into so much more."

George added: "I know Sam Roberts from school, so when I learned he was looking for financial support for his new podcast, I immediately stepped up."

"It is for a cause that's very close to my heart and, as a rugby fan, it really made sense."

"The whole George Davies Turf team are behind this partnership, and we have some exciting plans to promote and encourage what Ed and Sam are doing to raise awareness of MND."

To donate to the cause, go to www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk/4ed.

Ex-Chairboy Eze to enjoy England experience

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers attacking midfielder Eberechi Eze has been called up to the England first team for the first time in his career.

The 24-year-old impressed current Three Lions boss Gareth Southgate in recent weeks, as he has scored six goals in his last eight matches for Crystal Palace in the Premier League.

This comes after only scoring four in his previous 31 matches in all competitions.

Despite only playing 20 times for the Chairboys during the 2017/18 season whilst on loan from Queens Park Rangers, Eze remains a popular

figure at Adams Park, as he played a huge role in the club's promotion to League One that campaign.

His five strikes included a brace away at Cambridge United in October 2017, with the goals being his first as a professional footballer. The inaugural strike also was nominated for the League Two' Goal of the Month award.

His positive displays in the fourth tier of English football saw him get recalled by QPR, and after two-and-a-half years as a regular first-team player at Loftus Road, he was sold to Crystal Palace for £17m.

He has gone on to feature 92 times and score 15 goals for the Eagles.

Golfers support memorial event for Joel & Lenus

A CHARITY golf day took place last week to remember two people from the same family who passed away during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Joel Bacchus's Memorial Charity Day, which was organised by his brothers, Elias and Lewis, was in memory of Joel and their father, Lenus.

Both Lenus and Joel died of strokes and Covid-related illnesses during 2020 and 2021, with the event, which took place on May 19 at Wycombe Heights, remembering the two relatives.

Additionally, all the funds raised went to Stroke Association and Cancer Research, as one of Elias' siblings is also battling with illness.

More than 25 people took part in the all-day event which saw

numerous prizes get won via raffle.

Items included a signed Wycombe Wanderers shirt and four tickets to a game next season, along with a signed Manchester United kit.

Elias said: "A huge thank you to all those who took part in the golfing event, and made it a very enjoyable day.

"The golfing was won by Marcel Oxlade, who drew with Clayton Mclean but won on count back.

"The day exceeded all expectations and raised a total amount of £1,520 which was split equally between the Stroke Association and Cancer Research UK/

"This memorial event will be repeated next year."



A Manchester United and Wycombe Wanderers shirt were won during the charity event on Friday. Image: Wycombe Heights

A year to remember for the Under 18s



2023 is Marlow Royals' year

AN under-18 football team in Marlow made it a season to remember as they won the league and cup double for the first time.

Marlow Royals defeated Thames Valley rivals Maidenhead United Junior Panthers Under 18s in the final 5-2 at the ASM Stadium, the home of Thame United in Wycombe and South Bucks Minor Football League Cup final victory, before claiming the league title a few days later.

They won the championship by defeating Marlow FC Juniors, their rivals, 10-0 at the Marlow Stadium.

Manager Julian Britton said: "Many of the boys have been playing for the team for 10 years now, and they have never won anything in that time, so this has been a special final season for them before they all go in different directions after the Summer.

"They are a great group of boys/young men who have always played football the right way (with respect), which, for me, makes their success this year even more special."

Why fans were given home seats last season

WYCOMBE Wanderers owner Rob Couhig has explained why he let opposition fans take up seats in areas of Adams Park that are usually dedicated to home spectators in a handful of fixtures last season.

He explained: "We did that because it was the safest and best way for us to maximise the stadium.

"It's infuriating to see empty seats when we know that they can be filled, and the players will tell you that they love the atmosphere when they are filled.

"They would of course prefer them being filled with our fans, but nonetheless, it's good to see fans filling them up.

Wycombe will start the 2023/24 season on August 5.

An inspiration to everyone in bowls



Craig Bowler is one of bowls' biggest names Image: Sportsbeat

CRAIG Bowler is still living the highs and lows of last summer's Commonwealth Games.

Competing at the spiritual home of the sport in Leamington Spa, the aptly-named Buckinghamshire bowls star and partner Kieran Rollings bagged a brilliant bronze medal in the men's pairs B6-8 classification.

Olney native Bowler, 44, is a triple amputee after attempting to take his own life 15 years ago and spending nearly two months in a coma.

He lost both his legs and an arm before he was 'nursed back to life' by his physiotherapist's assistant, Abby, with the two remarkably now married and having two children, Max and Tilly.

The Commonwealth Games was a summer like no other for Bowler, handing a taste of the tumultuous twists and turns that the very highest levels of sport can bring.

"The experience was mentally exhausting, the highs and the lows. We played absolutely brilliantly together, me and Kieran, and we only lost two games," said Bowler, who was speaking ahead of Bowls' Big Weekend on May 26-29.

"In the first match we lost to Scotland, so that was quite a disappointing start. Then we played Australia, and we beat them in the round robin, so we were quite confident. We kept winning and then we made the semi-final.

By Oli Dickson Jefford

"They moved us onto a different green and the Australians found it a lot quicker than we did, so we lost the gold and silver place which was absolutely gutting - especially when you've got to go through the media tent and put on a brave face.

"I went away for most of the day, and I think I slept for 12 hours. I was absolutely mentally exhausted. Then we came back out and there was no chance we were going to lose that bronze medal, and it showed.

"We ended up winning 13-4 in the end. We won the bronze and were on such a high, but then the para girls lost the bronze, so you're back down on that lowness again.

"It's a strange experience, but I loved it."

Bowls' Big Weekend is taking place between 26-29 May, with clubs across the country holding open days to encourage new players to give the sport a go.

The event gives the bowls community the great opportunity to come together and celebrate the sport, with clubs across the country opening their doors for free to enable new participants to discover everything that is great about the game.

If you have been affected by the article, please visit www.bucksmind.org.uk or www.samaritans.org.

They are there to help.

SPORT

0963-2336



The match will take place on May 28 at Twickenham (PA)

History for Bucks women as team prepare for their Twickenham bow

HISTORY will be made this weekend as Buckinghamshire Women will take part in their first County Championship final at Twickenham Stadium.

They will take on Lancashire, with the North West side being the overwhelming favourites to win the Gill Burns Division

1 trophy.

However, despite being the underdogs, Bucks were unbeaten during their respective 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons, and will go into the fixture on Sunday, May 28 full of confidence that they can take the cup to the Thames Valley.

The Bucks County Women's team is coached

by England legend, Rocky Clark, who is joined by a coaching team of Sarah McKenna, Mikey Clark, Nick Jones and Ronnie Speakman. They are supported by Team Manager, Vicky Boorman and Physio, Aisling Ni Bhrolchain.

The squad is made up of players from a number of

teams, Buckingham, Chesham, Old Albanian and Aylesbury.

To read more about the Women's success in this year's competition, look up Buckinghamshire RFU on Facebook.

If you would like to read more about the local sport in Bucks, go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport.

Testimonial is on the horizon

NEWS about Joe Jacobson's testimonial is set to be confirmed within 'the next couple of weeks' according to Wycombe Wanderers chairman, Rob Couhig.

The American was speaking to Wycombe Sound on Tuesday, May 23 in a live questions and answers session, where he spoke about numerous topics focusing on the future of the club.

One of the subjects focused on when the club captain's one-off match would be played, and he revealed that it's due to take place this summer.

Jacobson, who is now in his 10th year with the Chairboys, signed a contract extension at the back end of last season after he triggered an appearance clause in his previous deal.

Speaking live on Wycombe Sound, Couhig said: "I'm not supposed to answer it, but you might be excited about who we'll be playing and news about it should come out in the next couple of weeks or so."

"What a servant Joe has been to the club."

Rumours are suggesting that Jacobson's testimonial could be against his boyhood club, Cardiff City, but this is yet to be confirmed.

One thing that is certain is the match will be the only pre-season friendly to take place at Adams Park this summer.

Fans had been hoping for a couple of games at the Hill-

By James Richings

bottom Road venue ahead of the 2023/24 season, but the owner was quick to quash any idea of this taking place.

He explained: "Other than the potential testimonial, there won't be a friendly match at Adams Park this pre-season."

"This is because we are ripping up the grass next week and we want it to be in pretty much pristine condition for when the season starts in August."

"This is because we are ripping up the grass next week."

"There will be friendlies close by which people can get to in easy driving distance." #Chairboys

"So there will be no friendly games at home this summer."

"But, there will be friendlies close by which people can get to in easy driving distance."

Wycombe have not had a pre-season match at home in front of a crowd since July 2021, when they defeated then-FA Cup winners Leicester City.

Daryl Horgan scored the only goal of the contest in a 1-0 win for the Chairboys.

To read more about the latest news and sports within Buckinghamshire, go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk.

Or, if you're on social media, you can follow us by going to @bucksfreepress on Twitter, or you can follow James Richings at JamesBFP.



Joe Jacobson has played 389 games since moving to Wycombe back in



Programmes are no more (PA)

Couhig quashes return

WYCOMBE Wanderers owner Rob Couhig has admitted that matchday programmes will not be reinstated, but may be produced as 'one offs' for special occasions.

The club discontinued the souvenir in November 2021 following a decline in sales, but some supporters are eager for the tradition to return to Adams Park.

When asked if they would make a return for the season ahead on Wycombe Sound, he said: "No."

"Other than the 142 people on a matchday who get them for free or buy them as a souvenir for the day, the answer is no."

"Don't get me wrong, I miss them, and Matt Cecil [the club's media and marketing manager], would do a tremendous job spending 20 hours a week in putting it together."

"But we can use that time to focus on other things and to be fair, if you look at your phone, all of the information you want is there."

"Instead of just a static page, you can check your phone and you will get everything you need that would have been in the programme."

"Plus, a lot of it now is done in video form or in an interview."

"We may do one more programme of such, but I don't know where we are in terms of making this special announcement."

"Going forward, they will be one-offs, but very rare one offs."