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The man who thinks he can oust Steve Baker as new MP



Take tea in 1940s



CZECH MATES

HISTORY LESSONS:
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Festival cancelled

Shock as organisers pull the plug just weeks ahead of event

By Isabella Perrin

ORGANISERS have pulled the plug on Pennfest - just weeks before it was set to take place.

The Free Press can report this year's festival was cancelled due to low ticket sales. Speaking to this newspaper, organisers say they hope to be back bigger than ever in 2025.

Full story: Page 7



Paralympian cuts ribbon on new Aldi

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Sport

RUGBY

Beaconsfield play best rugby of season

BEACONSFIELD prepared well, and came out of the blocks fast against Daventry, although several early scoring opportunities were squandered under pressure.

This, and unfortunate early injuries to Tyson Evans-Peters and Harry Berryman, permitted the larger Daventry forwards to initially wrest control. Behind on the scoreboard through penalties, and under pressure, just before half-time wily veteran full-back Joe Thomas changed the course of the match. Playing his best game of the season, he won a vital turn-over, then galloped 70 metres upfield before unleashing younger, faster fly-half Alex Nagele to score and take the lead.

In the second half Henry Revill joined Ryan Morgan in the centre, both having great games and contributing massively to the go-forward, aided by Will Howells outside them.

Front rowers Tom Field and Will Maddox, and flanker Tom Rendell, were prominent in defence, repeatedly chopping down their opposite numbers. The home team's lineout also began to dominate, with lock Pat Kuenzle dominant in the air, and keeping his tackles pleasingly, uncharacteristically, low. Beaconsfield's confidence grew, and they returned to the expansive game plan that has been their hallmark this season, with skipper and number 8 Rhys Amos scoring

under the posts after a flowing move. Sam Mark and Will Howells had the clear beating of their opponents, and each soon also touched down. Alex Nagele continues to grow impressively into the game, and excellently controlled the tempo and shape as the backs cut loose.

This was a very tough game, and Beaconsfield rose to the higher level, playing their best rugby of the season to win 30-13.

Man Of The Match was Amos [pictured], who lead superbly, tackled to a standstill and carried like a ninja. Howells, Nagele, Mark and Rendell were also in the running.

Beaconsfield face Old Salfreians, in the West Midlands, away.



Rhys Amos. Pic by Geoff Watts

FOOTBALL

Chairgirls lose final home game

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women fell to a defeat in their final home game of the season, as Winchester City Flyers slotted four home, despite Amy Leach and Emani Kassem's attempts to nullify the visitor's advantage.

Kick-off signalled a lively start from both sides, with immediate attacking threat shown from one end to the other. It was the Chairgirls though that looked near to taking the edge first, with player of the match, Emani Kassem's beautiful footwork allowing her to dance her way through Winchester's defence before setting herself up on the centre edge of the box for a shot which skimmed inches over the bar.

Despite the early chance for the hosts, it was the City Flyers that struck the target first, as they took the lead in the 10th minute with a six-yard chip-in over Chairgirls keeper, Chelsea Coles, following an in-swinging corner from the right.

An unsavoury few minutes for the Chairgirls followed, as the visitors doubled their lead only five minutes after their opener, capitalising on an open goal as their striker rounded the Wycombe keeper, to slot it in down the centre.

In need of a way back into the game before the end of the first half, the Blues were unlucky to not find the target, with Bobby Lynch, Jessie Poulter, and Amy Leach all having their shots at goal blocked by the visitor's defence, in a scrappy attack from a corner in the 25th minute.

Having not capitalised from the various attempts moments earlier, Leach finally struck home in the 26th minute, as she found herself situated on the end of a cross into the box from Molly Carter, tapping it past Winchester's keeper from close range, and halving the two goal deficit the Chairgirls had sustained.

In spite of Leach's goal setting the Wanderers back on track, Winchester further established their advantage late into the half, as they found the back of the net directly from a free kick on the left wing in the 42nd minute, leading three goals to one going into half-time.

Following a disappointing first half, the Chairgirls hit back quick off the mark in the 49th minute, with Kassem striking home her first goal in light and dark blue quarters, with a stunning finish from the top left edge of the box netting into the top right corner, allowing Wycombe to close in on the City Flyers' advantage for the second time.

Winchester came back with an almost immediate rebuttal to the Chairgirls' second goal as they scored their fourth and final of the game in the 53rd minute.

The final 30 minutes which followed the visitors fourth, offered various opportunities for the Wanderers to get back into the game, with Lynch and, Erin Patterson coming close, but failing to beat Winchester's keeper before the full-time whistle, as the City Flyers secured all three points with their 4-2 win.

Aylesbury football supporter's charity challenge

Fundraiser Chris walks to every London EFL stadium

A man from Aylesbury embarked on a unique trek to raise vital funds for charity as he decided to do a task that not many people had done.

Chris Turton, 49, who works in Lane End, opted to walk to every single EFL club's stadium in London in support of Kit Aid, a British-based charity that sends surplus football shirts to the most impoverished areas of Africa.

He started his challenge on Wednesday, March 20 at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium before heading clockwise around the capital a task that was eventually completed in the late afternoon of Friday, March 22.

After starting at the home of his beloved Gunners', he headed over to their local neighbours and arch-rivals, Tottenham Hotspur, before walking several miles to Leyton Orient's Brisbane Road, West Ham United's London Stadium, Charlton Athletic's the Valley, and the Den, which is the home of Millwall.

The opening day saw the lightbulb salesman walk roughly 27 miles and produce nearly 59,000 steps.

He told the Free Press: "It's without doubt one of the hardest things I've ever done.

"At first, you don't think about it but after a while, you feel it physically and by the end of the second day, my feet were in a world of pain.

"It was tough but 100 per cent worthwhile.

"Kit Aid is a brilliant charity and the work they do to help kids and adults in Africa shouldn't be ignored.

"The smiles on their faces

James Richings

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

when they see a shirt come their way is brilliant."

The second day saw the Arsenal fan return to Millwall to then walk south towards Selhurst Park (Crystal Palace), then to Gander Green Lane (Sutton), Plough Lane (AFC Wimbledon) and Stamford Bridge (Chelsea).

It only might have been four stadiums to visit, but these were some of the longest walks of the challenge, with the trek between Palace and Sutton lasting nearly three hours.

However, upon finishing for the night in West London, Chris felt positive for the final day which saw him walk from Chelsea to Fulham (Craven Cottage), to Brentford (Community Stadium), to Queens Park Rangers (Loftus Road), before completing the walk at Wembley Stadium.

During this time, £1,292 was raised for the charity, beating the initial target of £1,000.

Chris added: "It's an experience I won't forget in a hurry.

"I saw so many things on the walk that I wouldn't have seen if I took a car or used the Underground.

"The strangers were brilliant, the sights from a distance were great, and the people who looked after us were fantastic.

"It was a brilliant experience and I'm glad I've done it."

To donate to the cause, go to www.justgiving.com/page/chris-turton-james-and-team1705612763068.



Chris Turton walked nearly 70 miles across three days in aid of charity. Image: Chris Turton

FOOTBALL

Westside 2 Amersham Town 4



Jake Tabor who scored all four goals

IN spite of six goals, all four for Amersham scored by Jake Tabor, this game had a slightly soporific end of season feel.

Certainly, the visitors, relaxing after their divisional winners celebrations, lacked their normal drive and commitment.

Town played some good football in the early stages and went ahead in the seventeenth minute. Louis Stead collected the ball in midfield and threaded a fine pass through the home defence, perfectly coinciding with Tabor's run who rifled a shot across Seb Hunt in the Westside goal.

Amersham then created a number of half chances without

seriously troubling Hunt. They were caught out, however, on thirty four minutes.

A long high ball from Westside was not cut out by the defence and, as Town keeper Ryan Lehane hesitated, Ezekiel Coker headed the ball over him and into the net. Town then restored their lead on the stroke of half time. A long free kick by Stead was nodded on by Sid Gueye to Daryl Brown. His drive hit the post but rebounded across goal where Tabor was well placed to knock it home.

The second half began with the goal of the game. After five minutes Adeymi Adewale

moved the ball down the right to Harley Sells, He controlled it expertly and lobbed a perfect cross for the onrushing Tabor to head into the net. Westside replied twelve minutes later with a well taken goal of their own. A pass out to the right was returned low into the six yard box where Adrian Francisco had got ahead of his marker to shoot past Lehane.

Town made the game safe with a minute of normal time remaining. Tabor slipped the ball down the left where Gueye was felled as he entered the box. Tabor hammered home the spot kick giving Hunt no chance to save.

AP'S PREVIEWS

Finishing the season on a high

AFTER two successive away wins in their crowded end-of-season schedule, Wycombe set off on their longest journey of the campaign for the 570 miles round trip to Carlisle on Saturday, April 20.

For the older generation of Chairboys fans, a trip to this northern outpost near the border with Scotland, will always conjure up memories of a special day in the club's history.

On August 14, 1993, after more than one hundred years as a non-league outfit, Wycombe finally joined the professional ranks when they stepped out at Carlisle's Brunton Park stadium for their first ever game in the Football League (EFL).

More than 1,500 Wanderers fans made the long journey to Cumbria to see Steve Guppy score the club's first ever goal in the old Division Three in a 2-2 draw.

The teams would meet again later that season in a play-off semi-final, Wycombe beating Carlisle over two legs to clinch a place at Wembley where they defeated Preston North End to win promotion in their first campaign in full time football.

Saturday's clash will be the twenty-third time the clubs have met since that historic first encounter, with Wanderers winning nine games to Carlisle's five, nine matches ending in a draw.

The Chairboys triumphed 2-0 when the clubs faced each other in the reverse fixture at Adams Park in September last year, and they have lost only two of the last twelve meetings.

This will be their first visit to Brunton Park for seven years where their record is W2 D5 L4, their last win on Cumbrian soil coming in 2015. It will also be their last league visit for at least a year, Carlisle having been relegated to League Two a fortnight ago.

The Cumbrians have won only seven of their forty-four games, a dismal record that includes just three wins in twenty-two home matches.

After beating Shrewsbury Town and Port Vale in the space of four days, Wanderers have shown that they are determined to finish the season on a high and another win on-the-road at Carlisle could lift them into the top half of the table.

Aces Wheelchair Basketball Club celebrates 40 years

ACES Wheelchair Basketball Club was established in 1984 and is based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium (the home of Paralympic Sport.)

We have big plans to celebrate our 40th Birthday in this the Paralympic Year.

During these 40 years the club has provided very many people with opportunities to train and play the exciting and challenging game of wheelchair basketball at many levels. The club is proud to say that many very successful Paralympians started their playing careers with Aces.

Currently we run 2 senior teams (National League Division 1 and 2), a Junior team (Under 18). All these teams are having a very successful season and are committed to training and competition.

We also run a thriving 'minis' group of about 12 players starting aged 5. We have such fun with them and see them developing skills as wheelchair basketball players but also grow-

ing in confidence and building lovely friendships. We are able to provide all of them with appropriate junior sports chairs as they start their wheelchair basketball journey.

We are launching our 40th Anniversary Celebrations on 26th April 2024 when the minis group will be taking part in a sponsorship event. These youngsters are all taking on individual challenges to achieve 40 either baskets, dribbles or passes. They are all very excited and enthusiastic about this and getting sponsorship from family and friends. The whole club will be supporting them.

On 30th June we plan a family fun day of celebrations at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. We are inviting many former Aces players and friends to join us. There will be a round robin wheelchair basketball competition where current players will be playing in teams with former players. As well as lots of opportunities to chat and reminisce with old and new friends.



Aces Wheelchair Basketball Club

Holmer Green 2 Eversley and California 2

THE Greens gained a point and stretched their unbeaten home run to five games with a good performance against a top five team which will surely reach the play-offs for promotion.

This sort of consistency and success being unimaginable just a few months ago.

From Saturday's winning team at Oxhey, Ruairidh Barnes was rested and there were returns to the squad for Ewan Philpot and James Saxby. Mason Scott was also missing from the line-up, but Ollie White returned on the bench.

Antony Tyson started at centre-back, alongside Sammy Hill who has impressed greatly of late.

The pitch had been subject to quite a lot of adverse weather during the day, and the evening was cold accompanied by a lovely sunset.

Holmer started well enough against their competent opponents, who featured Gary Lines in their team.

Fondly remembered at Watchet Lane for his 320 appearances in Holmer's green, many as captain and scorer of 22 goals.

On 12 minutes Ryan Hennessy had a good run on the right, but his cross was only partly met by Alex Rice who had made swift progress to join the attack. Three minutes later The Greens took the lead. Lloyd Majaya outflanked the opposition and sent over a pinpoint cross

from a tight angle, which evaded the 'keeper who had to backpedal across his goal area.

Hennessy arrived with perfect timing to net his third goal in four days, and signal "Game On" for this season's Golden Boot Award. Saxby still leads the field, along with Ollie White on just four. But Holmer's frailty at the back surfaced again and within four minutes Matt Gilbert was tested by Eversley for the second time in two minutes. This time he was unsuccessful in keeping the ball out and rescuing their defensive colleagues.

On 27 minutes the visitors again breached The Greens' defences to take the lead. Holmer however survived this setback and equalised on 35 minutes. A

Ben Hodges free-kick caused confusion in front of the Eversley goal, the attentions of Rice in particular causing the 'keeper to be distracted and beaten by the flight of the ball. HT 2-2.

The second half saw the play-off chasers up their efforts but they found Gilbert and his defence generally in solid and composed form. Even a leg injury to Holmer's 'keeper which required on-field treatment didn't dent Holmer's resolve.

The home team were also able to cause the visitors anxious moments of their own throughout the second period. Holmer very nearly snatched the game in stoppage time, when Rice and Ossie Raymond set up Pav Kotwica. But his first-time effort flew past the upright.

SPORT

0963-2336



Stryjek on his sudden loan move to Crewe Alexandra



Max Stryjek has played 82 times for Wycombe (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed goalkeeper Max Stryjek has joined Crewe Alexandra of League Two on a seven-day emergency loan.

The 27-year-old had played 38 times for the Chairboys this season as the club's number one shot-stopper.

However, following his red card in Wanderers' 1-0 defeat away at Stevenage at the end of February, the ex-Sunderland man has failed to return to the starting 11.

Instead, Argentine Franco

Ravizzoli has stepped up to replace Stryjek, playing the last 12 matches in all competitions.

This includes the EFL Trophy final against Peterborough United at Wembley Stadium, which Wycombe lost 2-1.

Following his demotion, Stryjek has moved up north to get game time in the colours of Crewe, but had a debut to forget as his new side lost 3-0 at home to Grimsby Town.

Stryjek was at fault for the first goal, but was helpless with the two,

one of which was scored by ex-Wycombe midfielder, Curtis Thompson.

Speaking on his move up north, he said: "I'm really happy to join.

"At Wycombe, I had a little wobble when I wasn't playing, and I asked the manager if I could go out and help someone get into the play-offs, it will be a good challenge and I'm happy to be here.

"I stopped playing for Wycombe when I got sent-off against Stevenage, before that, I was the Man of the Match in the [EFL

Trophy] semi-final [against Bradford], so I didn't see the reason to stop playing.

"But I think it might have something to do with the contract situation - I'm out of contract in the summer and suddenly I just playing.

"This opportunity came up so I thought, 'why not?'

"This is a good challenge and I thought it's better to play football than not play at all."

Across the last two seasons, Stryjek has played 82 times for Wycombe in all competitions.

Another win on the road for Wanderers

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers made it two wins from two following a 2-1 away victory at Port Vale.

Ethan Chislett cancelled out David Wheeler's opener for the visitors before Nigel Lonwijk scored a late winner, meaning Matt Bloomfield's team move up to 12th whilst the Valiants are three points from safety with two games of the season left.

Dale Taylor could have opened the scoring for Wycombe after just 40 seconds when he pounced on a defensive error and slid the ball wide from the edge of the area.

Wanderers were ahead just three minutes later, however, when Wheeler was in the right place to blast the ball home after Connor Ripley denied Sam Vokes.

The home side responded well after the early setback and would have been level in the ninth minute had Franco Ravizzoli not made a great save to push Chislett's effort over the bar.

It was Vale who started brightly after the break and were level just two minutes into the second half when Chislett found himself in space before slotting the ball past Ravizzoli.

The closing stages saw Vale going all out for the win with Jensen Weir coming close on a couple of occasions before Lonwijk sealed victory for Wanderers with only four minutes remaining.

Speaking on the contest, Bloomfield said: "I'm disappointed we weren't further ahead if I'm honest. We could have been three-up after 10 minutes and could and should have been out of sight.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game as Port Vale are

fighting for their lives and have got some really good players, so to find an early goal and a late winner, I'm delighted.

"We needed to start the game on the front foot and the game plan was coming off and it wasn't until the second half that they managed to break us down, but to find the character to go and get the winner was really pleasing.

"I stood on the touchline thinking this was a war of attrition and it was tough to get out at times, but we had fresh legs on the bench so I'm really pleased with the performance of the whole squad."

Vale boss Moore added: "I really felt like we were in the ascendancy and if we kept our concentration we could get a chance to win the game, but we fell to a really late goal that absolutely knocked the stuffing out of the boys.

"We gave ourselves a mountain to climb after conceding that early goal and got back into the game early in the second half through Chislett to really give ourselves momentum and hope.

"I still felt that a chance was going to drop our way but what I didn't envisage was our lapse of concentration at the back that has led to their goal."

Wycombe's remaining fixtures for the 2023/24 season will see them travel to Carlisle United on April 20, before having their final away day at Cambridge United three days later.

The campaign will conclude at home to Charlton Athletic on April 27.



Nigel Lonwijk, pictured against Derby County, scored the winner for Wycombe as the Chairboys defeated Port Vale 2-1 on April 16

Keeping the momentum going

WYCOMBE Wanderers secured only their sixth away league victory of the season as they defeated relegation-threatened Shrewsbury Town at Croud Meadow.

The host went close in a first half devoid of action after a mix-up between goalkeeper Franco Ravizzoli and Joe Low but Dan Udoh saw his effort blocked.

The first opportunity of the second period came when Tom Bloxham ran through on goal.

The forward found Udoh in the box but his strike was cleared for a corner by Ravizzoli.

Shrewsbury went down to 10 men with just over 20 minutes remaining when Tom Flanagan made a dangerous challenge on Low.

The Chairboys found the breakthrough through ex-Salopian captain Luke Leahy in the 83rd minute after he stroked home a superbly-worked free-kick from the edge of the box.

It was his 10th of the season in what was his 50th appearance for the club since moving to Wanderers from Shrewsbury in the summer.

He opted not to celebrate his strike out of respect for his former club, where he won two back-to-back Player of the Year awards in his two seasons in Shropshire.

Wycombe doubled their advantage in stoppage time after Garath McCleary teed up Kone to tap home and leave Shrewsbury six points above the bottom four.

Speaking on the win, Matt Bloomfield said: "It was a fairly scrappy game, the pitch was playing quite slow and it has been a long and emotional week for us.

"The sending-off happened and sparked the game into life a little bit.

"I thought we took the two goals extremely well and it's very fitting for Luke - it was always going to happen."