

# Bucks Free Press

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PROGRAMMES  
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## BUMPER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TV GUIDE



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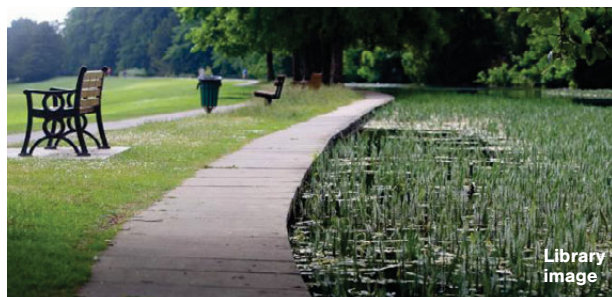
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HOW THE GRINCH STOLE  
LIMELIGHT AT CHRISTMAS

STARR'S SON IN CUSTODY OVER RAPE CHARGE: P5

# Man in court over park 'sex attacks'



Library image

### Police step up presence in area after 'two rapes'

A MAN has appeared in court in connection with two alleged rapes in a High Wycombe park.

The public was told to be vigilant as the suspect was accused of carrying out attacks on Monday evening. Luke Castle, 36, was remanded in custody by High Wycombe Mag-

By Timothy Edgley

istrates' Court over an incident in The Rye, near Bassetsbury Lane.

An increased police presence has been seen in the area in recent days.

Full story: Page 5

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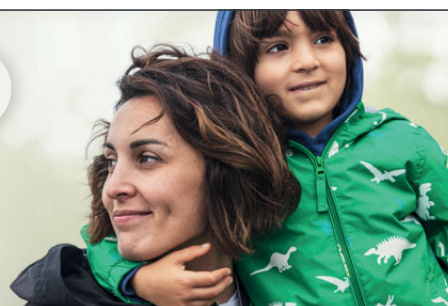
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## Sport

## FOOTBALL

# Manager departure at Risborough

RISBOROUGH Rangers have confirmed the exit of First-Team manager Mark Jones.

A club statement said: "In an honest review both Mark and the club came to the conclusion that the season had not gone to expectation and a change of direction was needed.

This decision was made in the best interests of the club as we look to achieve our long-term goals. Mark departs with our best wishes for his future endeavours, both

personally and professionally and he will always be welcome at the club."

This news comes despite Risborough winning their last match, beating Berks County 1-0 on Saturday.

Risborough sit 18th in the Premier Division North table, only one point above the relegation zone.

Ardley United visit Risborough on Saturday, with news on Mr Jones' replacement expected in the coming days.



Risborough Rangers. Picture: James Richings

## FOOTBALL

# Holmer power nine past Woodley United in big win

**H**OLMER Green welcomed Woodley United for this Combined Counties League fixture at a chilly but mercifully rain-free Watchet Lane and blew them away, winning 9-2.

After some accurate play out of defence and through midfield, Holbrook forced a corner. Tyler Sims floated a fine ball across and an unmarked Sammy Hill was unlucky to see his fine volley turned away by Simpson in goal.

Holmer Green's inability to defend corners has been a notable feature of their play over the past two seasons, and on 25 minutes we saw another fine example. A Woodley corner dropped onto the toes of Rose who poked the ball in from six yards for the opening goal.

Two minutes later, Holmer Green won a free kick just into their opponent's half. Hill delivered a beautifully flighted ball into the six-yard box where Holbrook tapped it past the keeper for the equalizer.

10 minutes later, a small blizzard of goals practically ended the game as a contest.

First Matt Wooster, seeing Philpot lurking on the shoulder of a defender, flicked the ball over the heads of the Woodley defence. Philpot ran into the space and shot past the keeper from close range. Next, a marvellous goal starting with Sam Bell and continuing via Wooster and Philpot exchanging passes in midfield, Aaron Bryan and Holbrook advancing down the left wing, back to Bryan who fired the ball across where Majaya drilled it past the keeper from 10 yards out.

Finally for the half, after some good work from Bryan, Sims received the ball near the corner flag on the left, got down to the by-line and crossed for Esplund-Evans who met the ball at the near post ahead of the Woodley keeper to score.

After the break, a straightforward cross from Sims got past a Woodley defender who failed to block it. The ball

By Richard Barnes

ran free to Esplund-Evans who prodded it towards goal where the Woodley keeper briefly detained it between his knees before the ball popped out again to a grateful Esplund-Evans who tapped in.

A minute later, we saw another excellent goal, this time from Woodley. Darboe played a long diagonal pass to Clark on the left near the corner flag. Clark advanced past Majaya to the corner of the penalty area and chipped the ball in just over Bell who was only a yard off his line.

Another fine goal followed four minutes later. Esplund-Evans played Sims through at the edge of the penalty area. Sims drove to the corner of the six-yard box where he fired the ball at an acute angle past the keeper for goal number six.

On 57 minutes, Holmer Green won a corner. Sims swung the ball across into the six-yard box where Saxby flicked it off the back of his head into the far corner of the goal.

As the match dribbled towards its conclusion with both teams playing untidy football, Holmer Green had a couple of further half-chances but nothing significant until a fluffed Woodley clearance was picked up by Saxby 12 yards out with plenty of goal to aim at. Unfortunately, he hooked his shot wide but was able to make amends a few minutes later when another corner was sent over by Sims and Saxby glanced it off his head into the far corner for a carbon copy of his first goal.

It just remained for Bryan to send over a speculative cross-come-shot in the 90th minute which evaded the entire Woodley defence and Holmer Green attack to end up in the bottom corner for Holmer Green's ninth and final goal.

Holmer are away to Chalfont St Peter on Saturday.



Holmer Green

## FOOTBALL

# Chesham suffer pair of defeats in league

CHESHAM United fell to a pair of defeats last week, losing 3-0 at Boreham Wood and 1-0 to Tonbridge Angels, in National League South, writes Andy Westlake.

First to Saturday and Chesham went down to their third successive defeat after another early red card.

After Jack Cawley was sent off for handball and Kwesi Appiah tucked away the penalty, this looked likely to be a long afternoon, and the home side killed the game as a contest by adding two more goals in the opening half-hour.

Dillon Addai made his debut in goal after joining the club in the week on a month's loan from Millwall. There were four other changes with Jack Cawley, Ashley Lodge, Omar Rowe and Nathan Minhas replacing Avan Jones, Bradley Clayton, Joe Grant and Karl Oliyiye.

The red card moment came in the ninth minute, when a scramble in the Chesham area ended with Cawley handling on the line as Appiah attempted to turn in a loose ball.

Cawley was sent off and Appiah tucked away the resulting penalty.

Chesham regrouped with Connor Roberts taking a more central role, but with goals on 20 minutes from Lee Ndlovu and 27 minutes from Appiah, the game was already out of reach for 10 man Chesham inside the first half an hour.

The home side looked comfortable in the second half. There were chances for Chesham most notably a Joe Grant header from a Lafleur free-kick and a great chance for Karl Oliyiye but the visitors couldn't get back into the game.

On to Tuesday night then and a game against a team with only three points separating the teams as Chesham travelled to Tonbridge Angels.

A positive start saw Chesham awarded an early penalty after Calum Adebiyi took a touch from a corner but was taken down in the box. However, the Tonbridge keeper got down to the ball struck low and left to keep the game at 0-0.

On 17 minutes, that situation changed as Trevan Robinson, Tonbridge's number nine, found the top corner with his second effort after his first strike was blocked.

Tonbridge missed a lovely chance to go two up before the break and Connor Stevens hit the bar from a corner for Chesham but the visitors went into the dressing room down but not out.

Chesham worked hard in the second half and in the words of James Duncan, the Chesham manager, they were missing that final bit of quality in the box to convert their chances.

Late in the game, Cawley was given a second yellow and saw red for the second time in two games, a habit that Chesham will be looking to break at home this weekend against Dorking Wanderers. Despite creating chances, the game ended 1-0 to Tonbridge so a week with no points added to Chesham's tally. Chesham are now in 14th in the table.

# Beaconsfield Town beaten by late Real Bedford strike

**B**EACONSFIELD Town were beaten by a late goal, losing 2-1 to Real Bedford at Holloways Park on Saturday afternoon, writes Arran White.

The opening exchanges saw both teams fighting to get on the front foot, with Beaconsfield going close in the 15th minute, when Akiel Raffie's superb free-kick was tipped wide by the Real Bedford goalkeeper, after it had looked destined for the top corner.

Beaconsfield will have felt they were well in the game against the league's 2nd placed team, as the game approached the interval. Beaconsfield again went close just prior to the break, with Eli Grant dribbling past defenders, before seeing his shot saved. The half time whistle saw the game finely poised at 0-0.

It was a fast start to the second half, with Beaconsfield once again going close, this time striker Manu Oke - Williams saw an effort sail just over the crossbar. Real Bedford began to create a number of chances. Josh Setchell gave the visitors the lead in the 58th minute, firing a curling shot across the goal which flew in off the far post. Beaconsfield made changes as they looked to find a way back into the game.

In form Beaconsfield striker Manu Oke - Williams scored his 4th goal in 3 games, when an inch perfect pass found him free on the edge of the 6-yard box. He made no mistake, firing the ball into the back of



Beaconsfield celebrate the equalising goal. Picture: Ben Cousin

the net. In yet another cruel late blow, Beaconsfield were denied a deserved point in the 86th minute of the game

when Real Bedford's Josh Setchell scored again.

Beaconsfield put in their performance of the season

and deserved to have added a point to their season's tally, but once again were denied by a late strike. They return

to action tomorrow when they face Kings Langley at Holloways Park in the final game before Christmas.

## FOOTBALL

# Heathens draw with Leverstock Green

**FLACKWELL** Heath took their recent strong form to Hertfordshire, but were forced to accept a 1-1 draw against a resolute Leverstock Green side.

On an afternoon where the Heathens threatened but failed to create as many clear cut opportunities as in recent weeks, the first goal of the game came courtesy of a free kick by The Greens' Ryan Carruthers, although Heathens keeper Carl Dennison may be disappointed that he was unable to keep the effort out. Flackwell battled hard, with efforts from the Ayres brothers -

Jamie and Matt - both unable to beat Greens' keeper Alfie Bonfield, and looked as though they were going to leave empty handed.

One identifying factor of a Chris Ayres side is that they do not give up, and this perseverance paid dividends as captain Callum Mapley stepped up in the 86th minute to rescue a point after an unintended aerial assist by a Leverstock player.

The Heathens can now enjoy a period of rest, with their next game on Boxing Day away to rivals Beaconsfield Town (12pm kick off).



Jamie Ayres battles for possession. Image: Glenn Alcock

## FOOTBALL

# Penn ease to win at Windsor

WINDSOR fell to a heavy 5-0 defeat at Penn & Tylers Green in Division One of Combined Counties League.

The Jacks went into the game on the back of two excellent wins against Holmer Green and Langley, but mistake-laden Windsor were on the wrong end of a hammering in Buckinghamshire.

Goal number one came from an in-swinging corner in the 11th minute that the normally dependable Cairo Richards flapped into his own net, while two came just two minutes later when Windsor centre half Austen Edwards under hit a back pass to his keeper, allowing Lennon Moore to nip in to add a second.

Windsor started the second half with more zest, Rashid Christian in particular taking the fight to the opposition.

However, Penn conjured up an excellent third goal on 59 minutes when Windsor looked the more likely to score. A great run down the left saw Dave Pearce put an impeccable cross into the six-yard line which Shaun Wyllie dispatched with aplomb.

Windsor continued to press as they had to but got undone on the counter-attack when Dave Pearce made the score four nil 11 minutes later.

And that should have been that save for deep into injury time, Penn scored a fifth from a corner which it would have been easier to clear.

## DARTS

# PRDDL results

**Knockout Cup (Sponsored By Penn Farm Honeybees)**

The Bull B 8-3 Bradmoor Farm Warriors  
New Zealand 8-3 The Bull A  
The Crown Royals 9-2 Chinnor Pavilion A

Chinnor Pavilion D 5-6 Chinnor Pavilion B  
Weavers 4-7 Thame Snooker Club  
Bledlow Village Cricket Club A 2-9 Rivets

Bradmoor Farm B 9-2 The Crown Jacks  
Bradmoor Farm A 6-5 Whiteleaf Cross B

**Knockout Plate Cup (Sponsored By Bradmoor Farm)**

Chinnor Pavilion C 1-10 The Black Horse A  
Aylesbury Vale FC 6-5 Bradmoor Farm D

The Bell 9-2 Golden Cross  
Wendover RBL 6-5 The Plough

## LET US KNOW

# Get in touch

DO you have a sports story to share with us? Send them to James Richings and James Earnshaw (james.richings@newsquest.co.uk/james.earnshaw@newsquest.co.uk).

## Sport

## SHREWSBURY TOWN 1-4 WYCOMBE WANDERERS

## Reflecting on another brilliant away victory

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has described his players' performance in the 4-1 away win at Shrewsbury Town as "professional."

Strikes from Bez Lubala, Caleb Taylor, Fred Onyedinma and Dan Udoh made it 17 league games unbeaten for the Chairboys as they sit one point clear of second-placed Birmingham City.

Wrexham had started the day in second, but their 2-2 draw with struggling Cambridge United has seen them drop to third, two points behind

Wycombe, having played a game more.

The encounter on Saturday afternoon at the New Meadow was also the first time that Bloomfield went up against his former teammate, manager, and predecessor, Gareth Ainsworth.

He said: "I'm very pleased with the performance as we had to be professional and robust in how we went about our business.

"I played under and worked with the gaffer [Gareth Ainsworth] for many years, so we knew the questions that were going

to be asked for our players.

"We were professional, we played some good stuff and created a lot of chances.

"We weren't as fluid but there were some mitigating circumstances towards that, but in terms of creating and executing changes, we were excellent.

"It was a strange feeling as I didn't know how I would feel standing on the touchline next to the gaffer [Gareth Ainsworth], but it was important for our players just to go about their business."



Matt Bloomfield has won 49 of his 101 games in charge (PA)

## CHAIRBOYS

## Smashing the Shrews to stay top of the table

MATT Bloomfield got the better of his former teammate and colleague Gareth Ainsworth as top-of-the-table Wycombe Wanderers defeated bottom-of-the-table Shrewsbury Town 4-1 at the New Meadow.

In what was the first occasion that the two Chairboys legends would face each other as opposing managers, it was the Bloomfield's boys that secured all three points.

The Shrews bossed the ball for the opening exchanges and looked dangerous with the Chairboys playing a high line, but Wanderers landed the first punch through their man on form.

Awful defending from the back allowed Cameron Humphreys to deliver a dangerous cross into the box, and Bez Lubala headed in from very close range.

He couldn't miss as he scored his ninth strike in 18 games this season.

It was also his fourth in his last five, with the header being the club's 100th this calendar year.

Shrewsbury were full of errors as Wanderers began to sniff blood.

Dan Harvie and Richard Kone tried their luck before one of the unlikeliest goal scores doubled Wycombe's lead on the stroke of half-time.

A Luke Leahy corner was flapped at by Toby Savin, and there was Caleb Taylor to swipe in his first goal for the club.

The centre back, who is on loan from West Bromwich Albion, has played 15 times for the Chairboys.

Wycombe continued the second half as they ended the first with an onslaught of attacks.

Kone, Aaron Morley and Fred Onyedinma all went close before the latter got himself on the scoresheet.

Another Leahy cross at his old stomping ground found the Nigerian's head on 70 minutes.

It was his sixth of the campaign, with four of his strikes coming away from home.

Shrewsbury did pull a goal back through a brilliant low free-kick from Jordan Shipley two minutes later, but a fantastic and well-hit rocket by Dan Udoh sealed the win.

Udoh's goal came moments after the Shrews' pulled one back, with Wycombe's number 11 having a muted celebration, as he left the New Meadow team for the Chairboys in the summer.

Despite his goal, he was serenaded by both sets of fans.

The victory means Matt Bloomfield's side remain top of the League One table on 43 points.

They also extend their unbeaten league run to 17 games, as well as scoring in 24 consecutive league outings.

Additionally, Wycombe have scored two goals or more in 14 of their 19 League One games this season.

Up next is Bolton Wanderers at home tonight.

## RUSSELL MARTIN SACKED BY SOUTHAMPTON

## Ex-Chairboy gets the boot after poor start to season

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers defender Russell Martin has been sacked as the manager of Southampton following their 5-0 home loss to Tottenham Hotspur.

The 38-year-old moved to St Mary's from Swansea last summer and oversaw a top-flight return at the first attempt thanks to their Championship play-off final win against Leeds United.

But he has struggled since the Saint's promotion, with Sunday's home humbling by Spurs the final straw for a side sat rock-bottom of the Premier League on five points after 16 matches.

A statement from the board of Southampton read: "We can confirm that we have taken the difficult decision to part ways with our Men's First Team Manager, Russell Martin.

"Going into the start of the season, we all knew the challenges that we would face this year as we readjusted to life in the top flight, competing in the best and most competitive league in the world.

"However, the reality of our situation is clear. The board have supported Russell and his staff and been open and transparent regarding our expectations.

"We have all been on the same page in recognising the urgency of needing results to improve.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank Russell and his staff for all the hard work and dedication they have given the club on and off the pitch over the last 18 months.

"Everyone connected with Southampton FC will always have fantastic memories of last season, especially the Play-Off Final win in May."

Saints confirmed that Under-21s manager Simon Rusk will step up on an interim basis as they select a

By James Richings

permanent replacement.

Martin had been rewarded with a new three-year contract in the summer after masterminding promotion but his focus on style over substance proved costly as Southampton repeatedly shot themselves in the foot.

Prior to his move down south, he had stints in charge of Wanderers' Buckinghamshire rivals Milton Keynes and Swansea City.

The statement continued: "Behind the scenes, we are encouraged by the continued development of talent coming through our academy.

"We are proud of the contributions our young players are making and are confident this will remain a source of strength and pride for everyone associated with the club.

"We are also deeply grateful for the continued support and positivity shown by our fans.

"We are witnessing first-hand the significant gap between the Championship and the Premier League, but your understanding and passion, even when results have not been what we all want, continue to drive our long-term commitment to the club."

Martin began his playing career at Non League Lewes before joining Wycombe in 2004.

He played 142 times for the Chairboys, scoring five times.

During his time at Adams Park, he helped Wycombe reach two play-off campaigns in 2006 and 2008, as well as a League Cup semi-final in 2007.

After leaving Wanderers, Martin had spells at Peterborough United, Norwich City, Rangers and Milton Keynes.



Russell Martin (pictured earlier this month) was sacked hours after Southampton's 5-0 home defeat to Spurs on December 15 (PA)

## LOVING AT ADAMS PARK

# Fan favourite Fred on being back at HP12



Fred Onyedima (right) has scored six goals since returning to Wycombe in September (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers winger Fred Onyedima has revealed he is 'more than delighted' to be back at the club, and that reaching the Premier League with the club 'would be the dream'.

The 28-year-old re-joined the Chairboys on for the fourth time in his career in September after he was released from Luton Town, ending a three-year stint in Bedfordshire.

He started last season on loan at struggling Championship side Rotherham, but after suffering an injury, he was recalled back to the Kenilworth Road club in January.

Onyedima seemed to be surplus from requirements but after an injury crisis, he was brought from the cold by manager Rob Edwards in the Spring, and played eight times in the

top-flight last season.

Speaking on his return to Adams Park, as well as Wycombe's terrific form which has seen them storm to the top of the League One table, he said: "As long as I am playing, that's all that matters as I want to enjoy my football.

"That's what I am doing now."

When asked about returning to the Premier League, but this time with the Chairboys, he continued: "The Premier League would be the dream, but it's my job is to do my bit for the team as we want to keep this run going.

"I am also so delighted to be back. "It's a new group but they have taken to me well, and I know what the culture of Wycombe is like so I have slotted in right well."

## WANDERERS

# Top of the tree on Xmas Day?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield wants his players to 'enjoy' being top of the table, as 'no one expected' to see the Chairboys as high as they are.

The Adams Park team have already picked up 43 points for the season and could sit first of the third tier on Christmas Day, if they avoid defeat against Bolton Wanderers on Friday evening.

At the time of writing, Wanderers are one point clear of second-place Birmingham City.

Speaking after the win over Shrewsbury on December 14, he said: "We know we have got a lot of goals in us at the top of the pitch as we did a lot of work in the summer on our recruitment.

"We need to keep creating chances and this isn't by accident.

"It's about the work the players put in as they demand a lot from each other to keep their standards high.

"To be where we are in December is above any expectation of anyone in the football world as no one expected us to be where we are.

"We have to enjoy it as the boys have been working hard."

## WANDERERS CONTINUE TO SHINE AT THE TOP OF THE LEAGUE ONE TABLE

# Terrific Taylor on his time with the Chairboys so far

WYCOMBE Wanderers defender Caleb Taylor has revealed he is 'enjoying' his time at the club.

The 21-year-old joined the Chairboys on a season-long loan from West Bromwich Albion on Transfer Deadline Day, where he has since started 14 of his 15 league appearances.

He got himself on the scoresheet in the recent 4-1 away victory at Shrewsbury Town which has cemented Wanderers at the top of the League One table, and the defender said he is 'happy' with not only his contribution on Saturday afternoon, but also with his spell in South Buckinghamshire so far.

Speaking after the match on December 14, he said: "I am enjoying playing.

"The lads are great and they are a very friendly group.

"They have made me feel welcome so I am enjoying my time here."

On his goal which put Wycombe 2-0 up on the stroke of half-time, he added: "It means

a lot to come here and get the win, especially after drawing the last two away games, so it feels good to win as well.

"I was thinking it would be a good time to score just before half-time to make things easier, and I was happy with the goal.

"I honestly didn't know too much about it - it hit me [from the resulting corner] and from there, I just realised it was in front of me, so I knew that I had to score and I'm so happy.

"There was a bit of pressure to score as Joe Low has got himself on the scoresheet a few times this season, so the lads have been asking when I was going to join in, so I'm happy to have scored.

"Everyone is getting on the scoresheet which is good to see."

Taylor's strike means he is now Wycombe's 15th different goal scorer so far this season in all competitions.

Up next for the Chairboys is one of his old clubs, Bolton Wanderers, on December 20.



Caleb Taylor (pictured playing for Cheltenham) scored his first Wycombe goal in the win at Shrewsbury (PA)

## WANDERERS

# A unique sight at the New Meadow with Wycombe

STRIKER Dan Udoh spent five successful years at Shrewsbury Town becoming a fan favourite before his move to Wycombe Wanderers in the summer.

He appeared off the bench to slam home the Chairboys' fourth in their 4-1 win over the Shrews on December, where he was cheered by both sets of fans.

Speaking on the incident, Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield said: "It's probably the first time I've been involved in a game where an away player has scored, and his name has been sung by the home fans.

"He doesn't only imprint you with his football, he imprints with his character and personality.

"He's an incredible guy and for him to have his moment here today was wonderful to see, as he is desperate to do well for us.

"Sometimes too desperate as I want him to relax and enjoy himself a bit, and I cannot speak highly enough of Dan Udoh as a person and his football is incredible, which is why we wanted to bring him to the club."

# Dan delighted with reception at old ground

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Dan Udoh has thanked the Shrewsbury fans for the reception he received following his return to the New Meadow on Saturday.

The Nigerian striker, who was signed by the Chairboys from the Shrews in the summer, scored 38 goals in just under 200 games for the Shropshire-based side in five seasons.

He has taken his shooting boots to South Buckinghamshire as the

28-year-old has bagged on five occasions for his new club, which includes netting in the 4-1 away victory against his former employers.

Upon scoring, he was serenaded by both sets of fans.

Speaking after the win, he said: "I want to thank the Shrewsbury fans for the reception they gave me - it was unbelievable, but we're professional footballers, I play for Wycombe Wanderers now and I need to do my job, which was to try and get

three points.

"It's been a while since I scored and I want to give the Glory to God for all of that.

"I kind of knew what reception I would get as it didn't end on bad terms, and it was emotional but I used that to help me today as my team are relying on me to score goals.

"It shows that the Shrewsbury fans and Wycombe fans are proper footballing people as they like play-

ers who have worked hard for them in the past.

"I made sure I gave everything for Shrewsbury, and I'm trying to do the same for Wycombe."

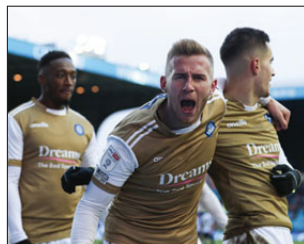
On his performance, he added: "I had a stinker on Tuesday [against Swindon Town in the EFL Trophy] and the gaffer told me that I was trying too hard - he told me to relax as he knows what I can do.

"We did some finishing during the week and it came off."

# SPORT



## Jason McCarthy departs Wanderers for a fourth time



McCarthy rejoined Wycombe Wanderers in 2020 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced the departure of right Jason McCarthy by mutual consent.

The 29-year-old, who was in his fourth spell with the Chairboys, has only played 18 times since the start of the 2023/24 season due to a series of injuries.

This has led the ex-Southampton man to fall down the pecking order at Adams Park, with club captain Jack Grimmer and Jasper Pattenden taking his place.

His last appearance was in the recent 2-1 home loss to Swindon

Town in the EFL Trophy on December 10.

Overall, he has featured 219 times since his first appearance for Wycombe in 2015.

He was also named the club's Player of the Season for the 2015/16 season.

Speaking on his departure, McCarthy said: "It's been a tough decision to come to, but I feel like it's the right time to leave.

"The club is in amazing hands and it's a really exciting time, but for me, it's time to step away and watch on as a fan.

"It's been an absolute joy to watch on and see what the gaffer, the team and the new ownership team are achieving.

"I've been so proud to be associated with it, and my game time has been limited but I have no qualms with it because the guys who've been playing have been amazing.

"I have nothing but admiration and respect for the group and I look forward to staying in touch with them.

"I've made friends for life and it's been a special time for me, but now it's right for me to look elsewhere.

"Thank you to the fans for how welcome you've made me and my young family.

"It's become a home for us and my children have grown up with this club.

"Now I can look forward to being a fan and seeing the club progress."

Manager Matt Bloomfield added: "Jason has been an outstanding professional for this club over four different spells, and it's been a pleasure to have worked with him throughout the past nine years, both as a team-mate and during my time as manager."

## Morley to be a 'huge miss' for Wycombe

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has stated that midfielder Aaron Morley will be a "huge miss" when the Chairboys face Bolton Wanderers on Friday night.

The 24-year-old joined the league leaders on a season-long loan in August and has played a pivotal role in the club's success so far this campaign.

He has featured 20 times in all competitions since making the move down south, starting on 16 occasions – 15 of them being in the league.

Additionally, he has yet to taste defeat in the division with Wycombe, with his only loss being in the recent EFL Trophy disappointment to Swindon Town last week.

Prior to his transfer to Wanderers, Morley had played 120 times for Bolton since signing from Rochdale in January 2022.

Speaking ahead of the Chairboys' final home game of 2024 on December 20, Bloomfield said: "He has been huge for us this season – fantastic.

"A lovely footballer who goes about his work on a daily basis with such intensity as he works so hard.

"He is a massive part of our group and we love having him here.

"We're pleased with the football he has been playing and with how he has integrated into the squad from the first day he walked through our doors.

"He is going to be a huge miss for us, but the reason why we put the squad together in the summer was for these moments in case we were missing a few.

"With Azza not being available, it's an opportunity for someone else to come in and perform

and that's what we demand of ourselves."

One person who will not replace Morley in the centre of the park is fan favourite Josh Scowen.

The 31-year-old suffered an injury in the 2-1 EFL Trophy victory against Crawley Town on November 12, which has made him miss the last seven games in all competitions.

The good news is that Scowen is close to a comeback, and could feature during the Christmas/New Year period, but Bolton could be 'too soon' for his return.

Going into the fixture, Wycombe are unbeaten in their last 17 games in the division and have scored the most goals in the league so far this season with 43.

Bloomfield added: "Friday night might be a bit too soon for Josh but he's not a million miles away.

"He's back on the grass which is good and we look forward to welcoming him back."

Here is Wycombe's all-time record against Bolton Wanderers: 2019/20: Wycombe 2-0 Bolton 2019/20: Bolton 0-2 Wycombe 2021/22: Wycombe 1-0 Bolton 2021/22: Bolton 0-2 Wycombe 2022/23: Bolton 3-0 Wycombe 2022/23: Wycombe 1-0 Bolton 2023/24: Wycombe 2-4 Bolton 2023/24: Bolton 2-1 Wycombe

The match against Bolton at Adams Park will kick-off at 7.45pm, and is expected to be one of the club's largest crowds of 2024.



Aaron Morley (right) will miss Wycombe's home match against Bolton on December 20 (PA)

## Admiration for under fire boss Ian Evatt

DESPITE Bolton's inconsistent opening third to the league season, Wycombe Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield was full of praise for his opposite number Ian Evatt.

The latter took over the Trotters in 2020 following their relegation to League Two after a financially stricken 2019/20 campaign.

A huge rebuild followed during the pandemic, but Evatt managed to achieve promotion at the first attempt.

Three consecutive top 10 finishes have since followed two back-to-back play-off campaigns in 2023 and 2024, but they have ended in disappointment.

Bolton lost the semi-finals to Barnsley two seasons ago, but lost in the Wembley showpiece to Oxford United in May.

They currently sit in 8th, winning nine of their opening 18 league games, but have suffered some poor defeats.

Most notably a 5-0 thumping away at Stockport, who were thrashed at the hands of Wycombe by the same score four days earlier, as well as losing 2-0 at home to struggling Wigan Athletic.

Speaking ahead of Friday's match, Bloomfield said: "When you come off losing a play-off final and you come back next season, you've had a shorter pre-season than everyone else, and there can be a hangover from that disappointment.

"From that, it's kind of natural that they had a slower start, but we know they have got a good squad, they have added to their group and they are evolving.

"They have also retained a few good players who have played under Ian for a good few years so they know his methods.

"They are a huge club with very good players and we played two very good games against them last season, and we're hoping for another on Friday night."

Bolton did the double over the Chairboys last season.