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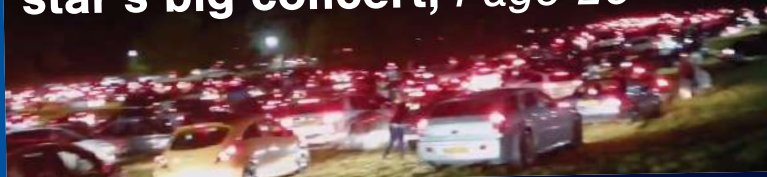
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Traffic chaos means some miss star's big concert, *Page 23*



## MUSIC FUN FOR YOUNG

Festival hits right tone with rock, pop & classics, *Page 12*

# Baker toys with running for PM

Wycombe MP in spotlight as he says he is seriously considering throwing his hat in the ring for the Tory leadership after Boris Johnson's forced resignation, *Page 9*



Steve Baker speaking to the media on College Green outside the Parliament after the resignation of Boris Johnson. Picture: Dominic Lipinski/PA Wire

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Lower speed along crash road nearer



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Asbestos bid 'collusion'



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# Car park homes plan approved

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## SPORT

## Mascot ranked in top-10 list



**Bodger in the 2014/15 season**

WYCOMBE Wanderers have made an appearance in a betting company's list of the most 'bizarre and hilarious' mascots around the footballing world.

Conducted by [www.betting.com](http://www.betting.com), the recognizable character is named after Tony 'Bodger' Horseman, the club's all-time record scorer with an incredible 416 goals in 749 games between 1961 and 1978.

The full list is as follows:

10. Yeovil Town, England - Jolly Green Giant
9. Wycombe Wanderers, England - Bodger
8. Manchester City, England - Moonchester
7. Criciuma, Brazil - Tiger
6. Schalke, Germany - Erwin
5. Arsenal, England - Gunnersaurus
4. 2006 World Cup, Germany - Goleo VI
3. West Ham United, England - Hammerhead
2. Holstein Kiel, Germany - Stolle
1. Partick Thistle, Scotland - Kingsley

## Award for Wanderers coverage

THREE Wycombe High School students have won a top sports award for their 'impressive' video highlights coverage of fixtures Wycombe Wanderers Women.

Year nine students in Daya Bhangoo, Amani Khan and Maryam Zaman were recruited to produce video highlights films on the Chairgirls' games last season.

Judges from the Football Association's Southern Region Women's Football League selected the Chairgirls' coverage as the winner for the 'Best Social Media Award' category after they were left in awe of the work that was produced.

Headteacher, Sharon Cromie, said: "It is wonderful to see all their hard work and creativity being recognised by such a prestigious award."

# Who is Wycombe's new signing Mellor?

By James Richings

WITH D'Mani Mellor now at Wycombe Wanderers, we're going to look at what the 21-year-old has achieved in his career so far and what he could bring to Adams Park.

Signed on a free transfer following his release from Manchester United this summer, Mellor has so far only played eight professional matches with four of them coming for the Old Trafford side.

Joining the Red Devils in the summer of 2017, Mellor was initially part of the youth squad but by 2020, he had made his first-team debut for the 20-time English league champions.

In his first season with the club's youth set up in the 2017/18 campaign, he scored five goals in 20 matches with 13 of those appearances coming from the bench.

A year later in 2018/19, Mellor would go on to score seven goals in 16 games which included a hat-trick against Everton on the final day of the youth league season.

His goals that campaign were scored across an eight-game spell.

After two years with the youth set up, he was promoted to the Under 18s where he continued to showcase his talent.

Goals galore in Premier League 2 matches followed and for his efforts, he was rewarded with a first-team debut for his hometown club.

"To be at Manchester United for so long proves his calibre. He's going to be a very exciting threat for us."

He came off the bench for the final 25 minutes of United's 2-1 away loss against Astana in that season's Europa League, where he replaced fellow youngster, Tahith Chong.

This appearance was his only involvement in a first-team squad that season, although he did play in the three Football League Trophy matches for the club's Under 23 side.

A serious injury prevented him from playing any games during the 2020/21 season, so after he regained full fitness, he was loaned out to Salford City in League Two to gain valuable first-team



**D'Mani Mellor (right) whilst playing for Salford City following a loan move to the League Two club in January this year from Manchester United. He played three games for the club which totalled up to 20 minutes (PA)**

experience in January this year (2022).

However, his loan spell only lasted three games where he played a total of just 20 minutes.

What he will bring to Wanderers

During his youth games at United, he developed a reputation for being a striker that would come off the bench and score a goal, which could be pivotal if Wycombe are needing to find a solution

from a substitute.

According to [www.footystats.org](http://www.footystats.org), the 21-year-old, who can play up top but can also deploy his skills on the flanks, has scored a goal every 143 minutes in his career so far, and with Gareth Ainsworth knowing how to get the best out of young players, this could be the perfect fit for him to develop.

With Connor Parsons, Ali Al-Hamadi,

and Tjay De Barr all returning from their respective loans, along with the experience of Brandon Hanlan, Sam Vokes, Anis Mehmeti, Garath McCleary, Sullay Kaikai, and Daryl Horgan on Wycombe's books, it is fair to say that Mellor will be surrounded by players who are not only talented, but have gained a reputation for their individuality, which could be crucial for him to succeed.



**Higher crowds are expected at Adams Park this season (Carol Mason)**

## Season ticket high before a ball is kicked

SEASON tickets for Wycombe Wanderers' 2022/23 season have already surpassed last year's total.

According to the club, the Chairboys could start the new campaign with close to 3,000 season ticket holders for the first time in nearly two decades.

In a brief statement, the Adams Park side also revealed: "For the first time, the club now has more subscribers paying

monthly (1,431) than supporters paying in one instalment in the traditional manner (1,197), taking the total well beyond the figure of 2,358 season ticket holders with which the club kicked off the 2021/22 campaign.

"With still more than three weeks to go before the new term gets underway, the club are hopeful of nearing 3,000 sales, with 350 season ticket holders from 2021/22 still yet

to renew their place.

"The central area of the Family Stand is now virtually full with season ticket holders, while there is only very limited availability in the central blocks of the Frank Adams Stand and North Stand."

The season will begin on July 30 at home to Burton Albion before playing four away games in August from their six fixtures that month which will include trips to Bolton and Exeter.

# Ex MUFC player joins

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of former Manchester United forward D'Mani Mellor.

The 21-year-old has joined the Adams Park club on a free transfer following his release from the 20-time English champions this summer.

The forward trained with Wycombe for a week towards the end of the campaign, and following the confirmation of his signature, he will join the rest of his new teammates at St George's Park.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth has said of his new signing: "He is a very exciting player. "He came in on trial for us

at the end of last season and it took some convincing from the club and from the agent, but D'Mani was up for it.

"He has come in and he really delivered.

"He is an exciting prospect but to be at Man United for so long show his calibre and shows what he is all about."

"He is going to be an exciting, attacking prospect for us."

Mellor is so far the club's second signing of the summer following Jasper Patten's move from Non League Worthing.

Mellor is hoping to be a member of the first team for the coming season.

# New squad numbers for seven Chairboys



Mehmeti will don no. 11 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced their new training kit and multiple squad number changes as pre-season preparations ramp up.

The kit, produced by O'Neils, is a light blue shirt with a dark blue outlined map of Wycombe on the top third.

The bottom third, containing sponsor Cherry Red Records, is plain light blue.

Gareth Ainsworth and his coaching staff will wear a shirt of matching design, but the colours are red and black.

Additionally, seven Chairboys have received new squad numbers.

Goalkeeper Tyla Dickinson has taken over David Stockdale's number 13 from his previous 30.

22-year-old Chris Forino has moved from number 38 to take over Anthony Stewart's five.

Lewis Wing has taken the previously number 10 which was worn by Matt Bloomfield, whilst Anis Mehmeti will from 19 to 11.

Jack Wakeley has inherited the 19 shirt while Connor Parsons takes 27 from 39, with new signing Jasper Patten will don number 31.

# Date confirmed for EFL cup tie

A DATE has been confirmed for Wycombe Wanderers' away match against Northampton Town in the first round of the League Cup.

The Chairboys will travel to the Sixfields Stadium on Tuesday, August 9 with the match kicking off at 7.45pm.

The cup tie between will only be the second time in the competition's history that the two sides would have played each other, with the first occasion being in the 2018/19 season.

That was also a first round fixture between the two sides which Wanderers won on penalties following a 1-1 draw at Adams Park.

This will be one of four away games Gareth Ainsworth's men will play in August.

For information on tickets, go to [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com).



D'Mani Mellor (not pictured) has joined Wycombe Wanderers on a free following his release from Manchester United this summer (PA)

# Why Wing wanted to stay with Wycombe



Lewis Wing was on loan at Sheffield Wednesday during the 2021/22 season before he joined Wycombe Wanderers (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers midfielder Lewis Wing has revealed that he is in a 'really good place' after signing a new contract with the club.

The 27-year-old joined the Chairboys during this year's January transfer window this year on a free from Middlesbrough, where he has since played 14 times for the Adams Park side, scoring two goals.

His initial contract for six months expired in June, but he has now penned a new deal with the club.

Prior to joining Wanderers, Wing was at Middlesbrough for four-and-a-half years but only spent two-and-a-half campaigns as a mainstay for the North East side.

In all, he played 92 games and scored 14 goals during that time, but had loan spells at Yeovil Town, Rotherham United and Sheffield Wednesday respectively.

On finding his feet at Wycombe, he told the Gazette Live: "I feel like I'm in a really good place now.

"I'm looking forward here now.

"I remember the first time I spoke to the gaffer here I just got this really warm feeling and it felt like the right fit for me.

"It was a new challenge and somewhere I felt I could get my confidence back and that would lead to my best football.

"That's why I signed again.

"I loved my six months here

By James Richings

and I just wanted to carry on.

"I had other offers but I'm sick of changing clubs now.

"You're constantly getting used to new team-mates and environments and never getting into a rhythm.

"Now, I'm coming back here knowing the lads, and knowing the manager and exactly what he expects of me.

"I just want to settle and enjoy my football again like I did in my early days at Middlesbrough."

Before he made his name in the Football League with Boro five years ago, Wing was a journeyman across the Non League pyramid in the north of England.

After being released by Darlington aged 14, he ended up representing Brandon United, Newton Aycliffe, Esh Winning, Tow Law Tow, Seaham Red Star, Darlington 1883 and Shildon.

During this time, he also had four separate spells Seaham Red Star and two at Newton Aycliffe.

Sine making his professional debut in 2017, he has gone onto play 151 league games for five different teams.

He has also scored 19 goals to date with two of them being for Wycombe.

Those strikes came in a 3-1 away win at Crewe Alexandra in March this year.

# SPORT

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## Wanderers to train at St George's Park



Three games will be played (PA)

### When will the games be played?

THE dates for Wycombe Wanderers' three Football League Trophy fixtures have been confirmed.

The Chairboys will take on League One rivals Peterborough United, Stevenage of League Two and the Tottenham Hotspur Under 21s in this year's competition.

Gareth Ainsworth's men will begin their campaign for the trophy on August 30 at home against the Premier League's development team, before travelling to the Lamex Stadium to face the Hertfordshire side on September 20.

The final group game will be at home against Peterborough United on October 18.

Tickets will be announced in due course.

Last season, Wanderers finished bottom of their group after losing all their games against the Aston Villa Under 21s, Milton Keynes and Burton Albion respectively.

The Adams Park side have never won the competition.

### An awards night for the Chairgirls

A PRESENTATION evening focusing on the Wycombe Wanderers Women will take place tomorrow night (Saturday, July 9).

Hosted by Phil Catchpole, the event at Adams Park will see the players and fans look back at the 2021/22 season for all the groups in the women's set up.

The main event will be located at the Woodlands Lounge in the stadium with it starting at 7pm.

One the day, awards such as the Players' Player and Coaches' Player will be announced.

At this present time, the club' are looking for new players to join their first, reserves and under 18 teams for the upcoming 2022/23 season which will begin very in the next few weeks.

The women's team are under new management, with former Watford coach Carl Simon being appointed this summer to take the place of the departing Dave Ward.

To apply, please fill out the application form on their website.



Wycombe Wanderers will spend some days at St George's Park in Burton-up-Trent, the venue where the England players train (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers will spend several days at St George's Park in Burton-up-Trent this month to use facilities used by the England National Football teams, which will include 14 outdoor pitches, a full-size indoor 3G pitch, a rehabilitation suite, an indoor futsal arena and a sports science department.

The Chairboys will travel up to Burton-up-Trent this month to use facilities used by the England National Football teams, which will include 14 outdoor pitches, a full-size indoor 3G pitch, a rehabilitation suite, an indoor futsal arena and a sports science department.

The squad's schedule includes footballing sessions alongside gym, swimming and other fitness activities, as well as team-building exercises.

Gareth Ainsworth said: "It's a great opportunity for us to get together as a group for five days, away from our usual routines at the training ground, and make use of the fantastic facilities at St George's Park to help us get in shape for the new season.

"It's not all about the footballing and fitness sessions because we want to dedicate good time to getting the right messages into the boys, discussing how we want to operate as a team, and developing the spirit here which we already know is incredibly tight-knit and hugely important in our achievements.

"We have high expectations for the coming season and it's

great that the club continues to provide us with the resources we'll need to meet those expectations.

"This experience will be a big help and we're looking forward to getting started at St. George's Park."

Wycombe's pre-season friendlies are as follows:

**First team:**

Saturday, July 9, 12pm: Wycombe Wanderers vs Fulham Under 23s (behind closed doors)

Tuesday, July 12, 6pm: Wycombe Wanderers vs Oxford City (behind closed doors)

Saturday, July 16, 1pm: Wycombe Wanderers vs Watford (behind closed doors)

Friday, July 22, 7.45pm: Bournemouth Development vs Wycombe

Wanderers (at Brockenhurst FC; supporters welcome)

Saturday, July 23, 3pm: Southampton B vs Wycombe Wanderers (at Staplewood training ground)

**Development team:**

Friday, July 8, 7.30pm: Bracknell Town vs Wycombe Wanderers XI

Friday, July 22, 7.30pm: Aylesbury United vs Wycombe Wanderers XI

Friday, July 29, 7.30pm: Chesham United vs Wycombe Wanderers XI

Tuesday, August 2, 7.45pm: Worthing vs Wycombe Wanderers XI

The Chairboys' season will begin on July 30 at home to Burton Albion at Adams Park.