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INSIDE Wanderers 'very close to signing new players' for next season, says boss Page 68

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SPORT

A good start for the Blues

BURNHAM began their pre-season with a 4-3 victory over Thames Valley rivals Slough Town last weekend, in what was the first friendly of the summer for both teams.

During a highly competitive and good spirited encounter, both sides used the opportunity to give new tri-athletes competitive time on the pitch.

Utilising the stadium's certified 3G artificial pitch, the squad were taken through their paces, last season's top goal scorer, Anas Igozouln, remained in the stands as he continues his recovery from a serious shoulder injury.

One of the faces that made a return for the Blues was goalkeeper Carl Dennison.

The shot stopper had recently represented the Three Lions at the recent six-a-side World Cup in Germany.

Full list of Burnham's friendlies throughout July:

July 8: Burnham FC v Uxbridge FC - 3pm (H)

July 15: Burnham FC v Sandhurst Town FC - 3pm (H)

July 18: Burnham FC v Ascot United - 7:30pm (H)

July 22: Bedfont Sports FC v Burnham FC - 3pm (A)

July 29: Burnham FC v Southall FC 3pm (H)

The season will start in August.

All smiles at charity golf day

A CHARITY golf day at Denham Golf Club has helped raise £12,000 for the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital.

Taking place on June 13 this year, the competition was won by The Holey Moleys, which included auctioneer Andrew Binstock, with runners-up Jamless Doughnuts in second place and Ground Cover Drivers in third place.

Money raised through the golf day will be used to make sure patients can benefit from leading-edge scanning equipment and further medical research into cancer and other conditions.

Paul Strickland Scanner Centre provides life-changing CT, MRI and PET/CT scans used to diagnose and monitor mainly cancer but also other serious conditions.

Caroline Wren, Paul Strickland Scanner Centre fundraiser, said: "We had another great turnout again this year; the sun was out, and the team at Denham Golf Club were brilliant hosts as usual."

Victory on the water for Bucks



The event took place on June 14 with Blaser Mills coming out on top in Berkshire

BLASER Mills Law in Buckinghamshire set the fastest time at this year's Jansons Rowing Cup competition, where they secured first place.

The team of rowers won the trophy by recording a time of one minute and 21 seconds, and followed one second behind by Ridge Consulting in the local competition on Wednesday, June 14.

Taking place on Dorney Lake in Berkshire, the Jansons Rowing Cup started in 2016 with just a handful of boats crewed by a several local business owners.

Seven years on, the event is now a sell-out, with 90 plus rowers working in law and architecture through to property and transport.

Andy Jansons, Managing Director of Jansons Property comments: "For the eighth year in a row this event has been a great success, bringing together the local business community to network and fundraise.

"This year all tickets sold out in advance, and I'm delighted to say that the money raised has gone to Myocarditis UK which reached a major fundraising milestone recently of £1,000,000.

"Thank you to everyone who attended and made it a fantastic event!"

With 13 teams of rowers taking part, only one could be crowned the winner: Blaser Mills Law declared victory with most improved team being Lewis & Partners.

The team securing last place is historically awarded with the Crabbed Oar; this year it was Flourish PR.

By James Richings

This year's entrants are from a variety of local and regional businesses including:

- Berkeley Group Plc
- Blaser Mills Law
- DAY Architectural Ltd
- Evoke Transport
- Flourish PR
- Haslams Chartered Surveyors
- i-Transport
- Lewis & Partners
- Lichfields UK
- Ridge Consulting
- Savills
- Savills Hotels
- Walsingham Planning

Hiren Gandhi, Partner at Blaser Mills Law, comments; "We've been taking part in Jansons Property Rowing Cup for 5 years. After winning once before four years ago, we're delighted to scoop the Jansons Cup again in 2023.

Winning the cup is a bonus as the main highlight for the team is being able to support Myocarditis UK, and their tireless efforts to raise money for the rare heart condition. Although we are now tired and drained, it has been well worth the effort."

All funds raised on the day are donated to Myocarditis UK – a charity dedicated to researching the causes, prevention, and cures of this life-threatening heart condition. To donate and to find out more about Myocarditis UK, please visit www.myocarditisuk.com where you can also discover the full events list for 2023.



The event saw hundreds of children from Buckinghamshire attend (Bucks Scouts)

A weekend to remember for Bucks' Scouts

OVER 350 Cub Scouts from across Buckinghamshire descended to the Midlands for two packed weekends of adventure.

The children, aged eight to 10, travelled to Derbyshire for a weekend to remember as they visited Conkers an area in the National Forest.

Various activities such as a campfire, train ride, barefoot trail, film screening and an adventure playground were just some of the activities on offer.

Emma King, lead volunteer for Cub Scouts in Buckinghamshire said: "These types of events are very beneficial for the children.

"They get to meet and interact with

lots of other children, and they can try a host of activities they may not have done before."

"It was great to see the children on the barefoot trail. They walked on wood, bark, coal, pebbles, clay, mud, grass and in water.

"All of them thoroughly enjoyed the different feelings on their feet."

Cub Scout, Sophie Forde, added: "My favourite activity was trying the circus skills.

"We were given the opportunity to spin plates, walk on stilts, juggle, go on balance boards, and use diabolas."

For more information on the Scouts, go to www.scouts.org.uk/join.

Stockport and Spain?

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers midfielder Dominic Gape is reportedly training with League Two Stockport County.

The 28-year-old has become a free agent following his departure from the Chairboys this summer, where he played 204 games and scored four times across a seven-year period.

However, persistent injuries saw the ex-Southampton man make just 48 appearances across the last three seasons.

He is expected to sign a deal with the Hatters as he has joined Paul Cook's side on a pre-season tour in Spain.

Stockport narrowly missed out on promotion to League One in the previous campaign, as they

were defeated by Carlisle United in the League Two play-off final on penalties.

This comes after playing just 48 times since September 2020 due to persistent injuries.

Another former Chairboy that is hoping to secure a permanent move is Jordan Ibe.

The 27-year-old, who made his Wycombe debut at the age of 15 back in August 2011, has been a free agent since leaving Turkish side Adanaspor in the summer of 2022.

The ex-Liverpool and Derby County man was seen training with Chesterfield of the National League in recent weeks, but it has since been confirmed he will not be joining them.

Dates set for EFL Trophy fixtures



It will begin in September (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers' Papa John's Trophy fixtures have been confirmed for next season.

Last month, it was revealed that the Chairboys would face Stevenage, AFC Wimbledon and the Crystal Palace U21s respectively.

The dates for the games are as follows:

Tuesday, September 19: Wycombe Wanderers v Crystal Palace U21 - 7pm KO

Tuesday, October 10: Stevenage v Wycombe Wanderers - 7pm KO

Tuesday 21st November: Wycombe Wanderers v AFC Wimbledon - 7pm KO

It'll be the first time in the competition's history that they will play the Eagles, along with the original Dons.

But it'll be the fourth time in five years that Stevenage will play the Chairboys in a cup competition.

Matt Bloomfield's side have not progressed out of the group stage of the competition since reaching the semi-finals in the 2016/17 season, where they lost to eventual winners, Coventry City.

Payne arrives in Bucks for Beaconsfield

BEACONSFIELD Town have announced the signing of the former Wycombe Wanderers and West Ham United midfielder Josh Payne on a free transfer.

The 33-year-old, who played three times and scored once for the Chairboys during the 2009/10 season, joins the Rams after recently leaving Maidenhead Cosmos.

His career has seen him feature for Cheltenham Town, Colchester United, Doncaster Rovers, Oxford United, Aldershot Town and Crawley Town respectively in the EFL.

He has also made appearances for Ebbsfleet United, Hayes & Yeading United, Woking, Eastleigh and Barnet in the Non League.

The one-time Wanderer also made two appearances in the Premier League for West Ham.



Dom Gape (pictured celebrating Wycombe's play-off win over MK in May 2022) left the club this summer (PA)

Matt Bloomfield on signing a 'real leader'



Richard Keogh (pictured for MK) spent one month with Wycombe during the 2005/06 season where he played three times (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has described new signing Richard Keogh as a 'real leader', following the 36-year-old's move to Adams Park.

The centre back, who once had a brief spell with the Chairboys back in 2005, is the first official transfer under the Matt Bloomfield era as he joins on a free transfer from Ipswich Town.

He is best known for his seven-year stint at Derby County where he played 355 times and scored 12 goals.

During his time at Pride Park, he helped the Rams reach two Championship finals in 2014 and 2019, but they would go onto lose both showpieces against Queens Park Rangers and Aston Villa respectively.

After leaving Derby in the autumn of 2019, he would go onto have spells with Wycombe's county rivals in Milton Keynes, before moving to Huddersfield Town and Blackpool.

Upon his return to Adams Park, Bloomfield said of the centre back: "Richard's someone I've known for nearly 20 years and he's had a fantastic career at a higher level, as well as playing in a European Championship for Ireland.

"He's a real leader and exactly the type of character you want in your changing room, alongside his undoubted ability on the pitch.

"I know how highly regarded he was at Ipswich last season,

By James Richings

even when he wasn't in the team, because of the help and guidance he was able to give to his team-mates.

"He's still got that hunger to extend his career and to achieve more success, and I think it's a really important signing for us to make, giving us another strong option at the back, with more signings to come in the near future."

Along with a stellar club career, which has seen him win Player of the Year awards at Carlisle United, Coventry City and Derby County respectively, he also played 26 times for the Republic of Ireland national team.

This led to the defender being selected to represent the Boys in Green at Euro 2016, where they reached the round of 16, losing 2-1 against France, who were the host nation.

He will wear the number 16 shirt for Wanderers, which was last worn by Jordan Willis who was released this summer.

To read more about the latest Wycombe Wanderers, go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport or follow James Richings on Twitter by looking up @James_BFP. Alternatively, you can subscribe to our newspaper and see daily content get sent to you.

Visit the website for more information on how you can sign up.

SPORT

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Jordan Obita played 95 times for Wycombe

Obita reveals why he opted to leave South Bucks for Scotland

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers left-back has explained why he left the club for Scottish side Hibernian.

The 30-year-old departed the Chairboys after two-and-a-half years at Adams Park after declining the opportunity to sign a new contract.

In all, he played 95 times

for the club and scored five goals all of those strikes came during the 2021/22 season.

When asked why he opted to move north of the border, he told the club's media channels: "First, it was the league.

"There are some quality teams here along with being able to play in Europe.

"It's also a chance for me to test myself in another country.

"When I had the opportunity to come up here, I wanted to test myself against some quality players.

"The team have been good as they've helped me settle in, and the staff have been really good as well.

"I'm looking forward to the season."

His move to Scotland has seen him reunited with former Reading striker Adam Le Fondre and ex-Royals boss, Brian McDermott.

The three of them spent some time at the Berkshire-based team between 2009 and 2017.

Bloomfield gives transfer update

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed the club are 'very close' to signing more players ahead of the new season.

This comes after the Chairboys confirmed the acquisition of free agent Richard Keogh at the start of the week following the centre back's departure from Ipswich Town.

And with the season starting in less than a month's time, the 39-year-old is feeling confident that several new faces will be walking through the Adams Park doors.

But he did state that whilst the club are closing in on several additions, he didn't 'want to get ahead of themselves' 'in case anything changes.'

This happened to the club 12 months ago when Wycombe were on the verge of signing goalkeeper Nathan Bishop on loan from Manchester United, following David Stockdale's departure to Sheffield Wednesday.

The shot-stopper had trained with the Chairboys and was due to be unveiled as their number one for the 2022/23 season, before the Premier League side changed their mind just days before the campaign began.

When asked if more players will be joining the club, he told the Free Press: "We hope so and we're very close to a few.

"We've got some agreements going on in the back-

Exclusive by James Richings

ground and we're just waiting for those to land.

"It's been an enjoyable experience this summer in trying to get things done.

"And I do think there is a fine line and balance between getting your business done early but not panicking into the wrong deals.

"We're trying to be as calculated as we possibly can by trying to use the budget as wisely as we can.

"It's really important for a club our size to think about every pound we spend and every signing we make."

In terms of the positions he aims to strengthen, the manager added: "We only want to make signings which we truly believe they're going to make us better.

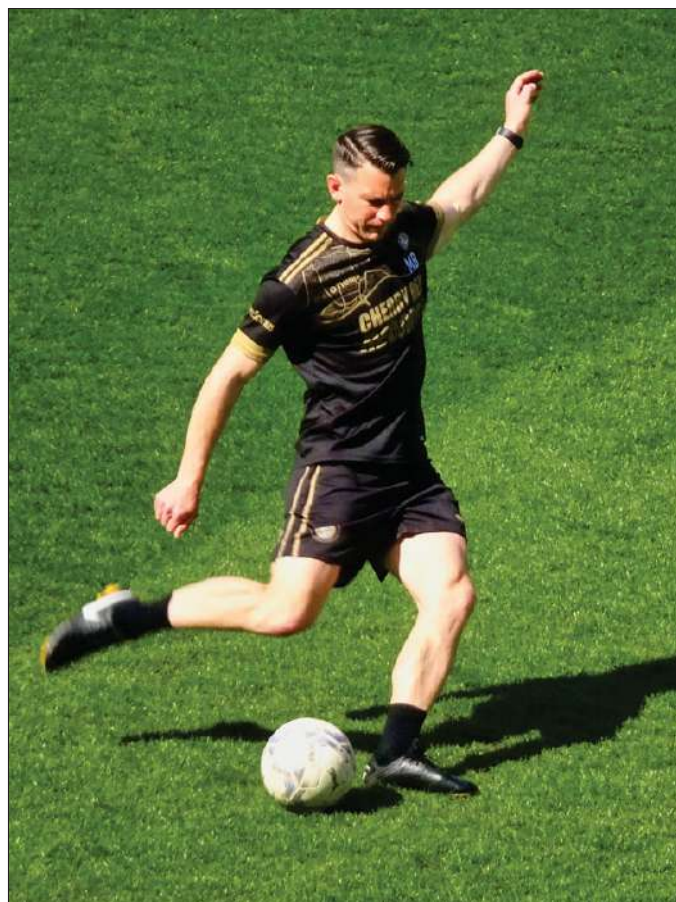
"With Jordan Obita leaving, we need to try and pay some attention to the left-hand side.

"The midfield areas we're also looking at with Nick Freeman, Dom Gape and Curtis Thompson as I do believe that is a place we need to strengthen.

"I do believe that we've had a very specific aim for the summer and we're hoping that aim will be fulfilled in the not to distance future."

Wycombe will kick-off their pre-season with a friendly away at Hanwell Town on July 14.

The league season will start on August 5.



Bloomfield provided a transfer update for the season ahead (Carol Mason)



Sido Jombati (pictured in 2019)

Sido signs for Salisbury

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers defender Sido Jombati has signed for Non League Salisbury on a one-year deal.

The 35-year-old, who can play at either right back or centre back, joins the Wiltshire-based team following his departure from Ebbsfleet United.

He spent six seasons with the Chairboys between 2014 and 2020, where he won two promotions in 2018 and 2020.

The Portuguese national was also part of the squad that lost the 2015 League Two play-off final against Southend United.

Manager Brian Dutton said: "I'm absolutely delighted to get Sido over the line.

"He's a real marquee signing and a real show of intent from the Chairman on how much he's wanting all the fans to have an exciting season this year.

"Sido was a former teammate of mine when we were both in our early 20s and I'm not surprised to see him have the career he's had, churning out many games in the Football League.

"He has lots of ability but his mindset and mentality is his strongest asset and I'm hoping he can impart lots of his qualities on our younger players in the group to help them try and create a similar path as Sido has."