

Reaches 75% of adults in High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Marlow each month

*E Telmer Oct 2021 (4 weeks in print & online)

Bucks Free Press

Friday, August 18, 2023

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.50

EMPTY SHOPS CRISIS

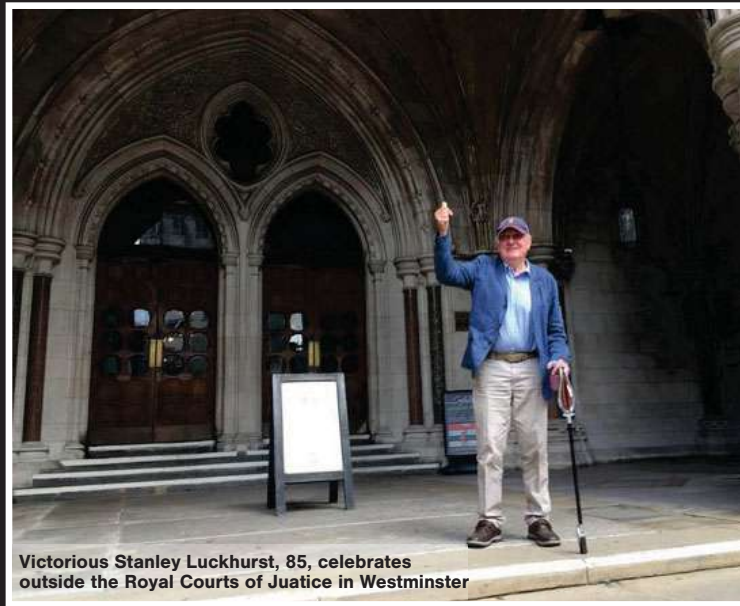


Plagued by vacant units – what’s happened to our town? Page 4



Pensioner fights back over parking charge

‘Extortionate’ parking fee overturned at the Royal Courts of Justice – and enforcement firm must pay costs: Page 17



Victorious Stanley Luckhurst, 85, celebrates outside the Royal Courts of Justice in Westminster

WE QUIZ THE PM OVER HEALTH FIGURES



PAGE 16

‘COMPULSORY’ WATER METERS



PAGE 17

Divorce, separation, finances & child arrangements.

Contact our family team today to arrange a free consultation.

Call 01753 709262 or visit kiddrapinet.co.uk



Download our free GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING DIVORCE kiddrapinet.co.uk/divorce/separation

kiddrapinet SOLICITORS

Briants Fencing Supplies LAP PANELS

Autumn/Winter can be a great time to replace broken and damaged fence panels. Once the shrubs and borders have been cut back it's far easier to access those awkward areas.



Opening Hours - Weekdays 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 1:45 - 5:00 PM Collection OR Local Delivery (Within approx 20miles of HP27 9SG) Order instore, online or call 01844 343663. www.briantsltd.co.uk

New Ash

AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE IN GREAT MISSENDEN

Free Delivery within 3 miles

Banquet Night Every Tuesday Evening 5.30pm-10.30pm

Please visit our website to view menu

56 High Street, Great Missenden, HP16 0AU Tel: 01494 886 953 Email: info@newakash.com



SPORT

Getting ready for Suffolk

BUCKS need just six points from their National Counties Championship Eastern Division 1 match against Suffolk at Copdock, starting this Sunday, to top the table.

Main rivals Staffordshire could only draw their rain-affected match against Lincolnshire and finished their group matches with 62 points, while Suffolk can still reach 63 points if they beat Bucks with maximum points.

However Bucks, with 58 points from three games, still hold the whip hand, needing only a draw with two bonus points to challenge for the overall Championship title next month.

For the important game against Suffolk, Bucks give a Championship debut to 17-year-old wicket-keeper George Harvey, replacing Ross Richardson, who is unavailable.

Harvey, who came up through the Bucks pathway, plays for Middlesex club Eastcote and is the son of former Lancashire player Mark Harvey.

The three-day game at Copdock starts at 11am on Sunday.

Bucks squad: T Hampton (High Wycombe) capt, A Woodland (High Wycombe), E Cox (Buckingham), C Marrow (Gerrards Cross), A Kervezee (Halesowen), M Payne (Amersham), E Bragg (Halesowen), G Harvey (Eastcote), C Parsons (High Wycombe), Haddow (High Wycombe), T Fleming (Gerrards Cross), T Weymes (Tring).

A day to forget for Holmer

HOLMER Green lost once more as they were smashed 6-0 by Berks County.

The Greens were 3-0 down by half-time as every attack seemed to cause trouble for the beleaguered defenders.

Mistakes were punished for all three of Berks County's three first half goals which their forwards were efficient in exploiting.

The issues continued in the second period with one of County's strikers scored all six goals.

One issue for the Watchet Lane team was that they had four yellow cards whilst their opponents had none.

The ill discipline is proving expensive with another 4 yellow cards tonight, the opposition had none.

Holmer finished 16th in the Spartan South Midlands League Division One but have since transferred to the Combined Counties League.

Bright future for this young star



Isabella Buhrkohl hopes to win a Wimbledon championship when she is an adult (imagecomms)

BEACONSFIELD'S Isabella Buhrkohl may not have lifted silverware this week on the manicured lawns of Wimbledon – but she still enjoyed an unforgettable experience at SW19.

Buhrkohl, 11, who will begin her studies at Claires Court School in September and lives in Beaconsfield, featured in the national finals at the Play Your Way to Wimbledon event, powered by Vodafone – the largest individual mass participation tennis competition in the UK.

Thousands of fourteen and under and eighteen and under players took part in the qualifying stages this year, leading to county and regional finals in June and July, with the winners progressing to the national finals on Wimbledon's Aorangi Courts last week.

Buhrkohl, who cites Novak Djokovic as her tennis idol, failed to reach the latter stages but was still thrilled to attend Wimbledon and revealed it was an experience she will never forget.

She said: "It's amazing to play in such a good environment against all these amazing girls. I've learnt that even when you're losing to never give up and try and to always try your best.

"It was a stressful playing in whites as we didn't have much stuff at home so we had to go out and buy stuff.

"It was weird playing on grass because the ball doesn't really bounce much so you have to adjust how you're moving.

"I'm hoping to come here one day and play on centre court."

Amersham's Oliver Osborn, who won one match in the boys' under-14s event, added: "It's been fun. I haven't played on grass much, so it's been a

By Ben Hart

new experience.

"Friends and family are pretty happy for me that I've made it here. It's a good confidence boost to have made it this far."

The competition looks to inspire the next generation of tennis talent; allowing junior players to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and compete for a chance to play on Wimbledon's iconic courts.

Formerly known as the Road to Wimbledon, the competition launched in March and is delivered in partnership by the LTA, The All England Lawn Tennis Club, and Vodafone.

This year's tournament will deliver over 10,000 playing opportunities across singles and doubles competitions in 800 venues.

From 2023, the LTA and The All England Lawn Tennis Club are planning for the competition to expand further; through the introduction of additional age groups and disability categories, which Vodafone is proud to support, whilst helping to encourage more kids to pick up a tennis racket.

Former British No.1 Laura Robson was in attendance to cheer on the youngsters at SW19 and offer her experience and advice.

She said: "It's just so cool to get the chance to play on these courts at Wimbledon. I still get a buzz every time I walk out there, so I can't imagine how they're feeling.

"I played Road to Wimbledon when I was much younger and I'm still friends with some of the people that I played against."



England's Lucy Bronze celebrates after the semi-final match in Sydney (Zac Goodwin/PA)

Lionesses' success inspiring next generation

GRASSROOTS teams say the Lionesses' success is continuing to inspire the next generation of women's footballers.

It comes after England's triumphant 3-1 over World Cup hosts Australia in Sydney.

The Free Press is shining a light on women's football, as clubs like Marlow Town Women's football team and Marlow Youth U18 are giving young girls a chance to become the "next Lionesses".

Marlow FC Girls said: "Hoping that one day we might have our own Lionesses from Marlow FC Girls!"

The local clubs are still on the lookout for young talent and are

actively recruiting girls across all age groups to join football.

The club said: "We are still actively recruiting girls across all age groups.

"So if you have a daughter that's curious about football, inspired by the World Cup, and wants to give it a try then get in touch. We welcome all abilities and offer a fun, friendly environment for your daughter to shine!"

The Lionesses very own Leah Williamson wants more to be done to inspire the next generation too.

Thanks to her activism, schools in England will be required to offer everyone equal access to sports and a minimum of two hours of PE a week.

Another new face?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has provided a transfer update on the Ivorian striker, Richard Kone.

The forward has been spotted playing for the Chairboys in several pre-season games this summer and notably scored in the club's 2-1 away win at Aldershot Town on July 22.

His strike came just seconds after coming on as a second-half substitute.

He has continued to train with the club whilst playing for his current side, Athletic Newham in the Essex Senior League, as Wycombe aim to secure the young forward's services.

Speaking on his potential

arrival, Bloomfield told the Free Press: "It's one we're working on.

"That's more Sam Grace's domain with the development boys, but Richard has been in with us for most of pre-season and played games as a trialist.

"He's been training with us and we're in talks about getting different bits and pieces sorted as it's something we're trying to do.

"But at this moment in time, I don't have any other news apart from the fact that we'd like to sign him so we'll see how far we can get."

Kone also spent some time with Colchester United in the summer of 2021.

Alan Parry's Previews: Burton at home



Can Wycombe win again (PA)

WYCOMBE fans are used to their team doing things the hard way, so it was no surprise that their first win of the new league season saw a nail-biting finish as 10-man Leyton Orient almost snatched a draw at Adams Park in midweek.

Wanderers had led 3-1 and looked to be on their way to a comfortable victory to get their first points on the board, but a second Orient goal led to a nervy finish as the visitors pressed hard for an equaliser.

However, a combination of brilliant goalkeeping by Max Stryjek and great support from the home fans saw Wanderers over the line.

The win was crucial to relieve the pressure after defeats in their first two league games prompted a hysterical outburst by a minority of fans on social media calling for manager Matt Bloomfield to be sacked.

Those fans have short memories as the Chairboys also made a poor start last season despite a 3-0 victory on the opening day against Burton Albion, who are Wycombe's next opponents at Adams Park on Saturday, August 19.

Wanderers lost the next three matches, conceding eight goals in the process, and managed only three wins in their first 11 league games.

The doom-mongers were out in force again with predictions of a looming relegation battle.

As it turned out, Wycombe's form improved and although it tailed off again towards the end of the campaign including a 2-1 defeat at Burton in March - they were still in contention for a play-off place until the final two weeks of the season.

Saturday's game gives Wanderers the chance to silence their critics once again as they take on Burton, who have lost their last four league visits to Adams Park.

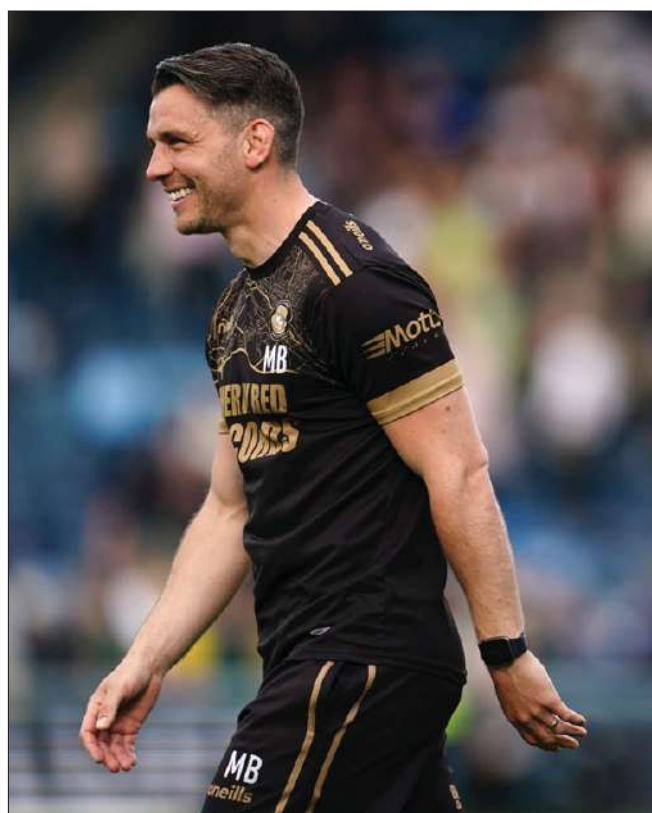
The Brewers have made an even worse start to the new campaign, losing all four games in league and cup, scoring their only goal deep into stoppage time in their midweek defeat at Shrewsbury, and conceding nine goals.

The clubs have met seventeen times in all competitions with Burton winning nine to Wycombe's eight, not a single match being drawn.



The forward has played in several of the Chairboys' pre-season friendlies and has been training with the club for most of the summer (PA)

Smiles all round after first victory



The win was Matt Bloomfield's sixth as a Wycombe Wanderers manager

MATT Bloomfield has reacted to the Chairboys' 3-2 victory over Leyton Orient at Adams Park.

The home side took the lead inside 15 minutes thanks to Joe Low's first goal for the club before Ruel Sotiriou equalised 10 minutes before the break.

The East London side then found themselves down to 10 men in the early stages of the second period after Dan Happe was shown a straight red card for pulling down Dale Taylor, with the sending-off putting Wanderers in the ascendency.

Low got his second with a diving header not long after the dismissal before Dale Taylor scored his first Wanderers goal.

Orient didn't give in as Sotiriou got his second of the contest moments later, with Wycombe relying on Max Stryjek to make three important saves to keep the score intact.

He said: "I'm lost for words as the game had everything.

"Goal mouth incidents, late drama, red cards, you name it.

"It was a bit nervy near the end and I think the last couple of weeks may have played into that, but it was so important to get that first win on the board.

"At 3-1, you think you can see the game out but they get one back within two minutes so it changed the dynamic of the night.

"I was really pleased with the way the lads stuck together as everyone expects 11 to beat 10 but that's not the case at all.

"Orient played with real freedom when they went a man down as they had nothing to lose and they played really well.

"Tonight saw two teams both desper-

By James Richings

ate for a result and I'm just glad we're hung on at the end."

The victory was much needed after two poor 3-0 defeats against Exeter City and Lincoln City respectively, which saw Wanderers sit second bottom in the league table.

The manager spoke about how the manner of the losses was 'not acceptable' and that he needed his players to be more 'resilient' when defending.

It also ended a run of five games without a win in the league.

He continued: "We had more fighting spirit.

"After Lincoln, we had lengthy meetings and watched numerous footage to try and figure out how we can see out games and be more resilient.

"We needed to react as losing 3-0 in the first two league games is not good in any way.

"The supporters deserved better and I know the boys can do much better.

"It's also worth noting that the last two league games didn't alter my thoughts on the players, along with my belief and my contentment towards the group.

"I love the group and I love the characters in there.

"The young boys will go on to have great careers and the experience lads want to have a high end to their careers.

"We've got a great group here."

Finally, on the performance of Max Stryjek, he added: "He was brilliant.

"I think his distribution has got better as we've done a lot of work with him with his options and with his kicking."

SPORT

0963-2336



Matt Bloomfield has signed 10 players this summer (PA)

Could Wycombe Wanderers be signing more players this summer?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has hinted that the club's transfer activity may not be over.

The Chairboys have signed 10 new players this summer and aim to bring in several more faces ahead of the deadline on September 1.

Athletic Newham striker Richard Kone has been training with the club and has appeared

in several friendly matches, but no contract has been signed.

When asked if Wanderers are still hoping to recruit, he said: "Maybe.

"We're really pleased with the recruitment we've done.

"Whilst we are not looking to change anybody, you never know what could happen.

"There could be some chaos in the final few stages which you

need to be ready for.

"We're happy with the squad we've got but if the opportunity came along to sign someone, we need to be ready as after this month, it'll be a long time before we can sign some players."

His update on the transfer activity came after Wanderers' 3-2 win against Leyton Orient which was the Chairboys' first in the league this season and

their first in the division since April.

He continued: "We've got a new group and a big chunk from this group did miss pre-season whilst others joined on loan from other clubs after the season started.

"A lot of them are still trying to playing catch up as an ideal world, everyone would have been together for six weeks to

Grimmer opens up on results

WYCOMBE Wanderers right-back Jack Grimmer has admitted his side needed to defend 'as if our lives depended on it' in the recent 3-2 win over Leyton Orient.

The 29-year-old Scotsman also spoke about the performances in the recent defeats against Exeter City and Lincoln City respectively, in which he described the defending in the latter as 'inexcusable'.

However, following the Chairboys' victory against the East London side on August 15 which has lifted them up to 17th, Grimmer wants Wanderers 'to be first to the tackle' for when they take on Burton Albion this weekend.

The Brewers come to Adams Park with four defeats from their last four games this season, in which they have scored just one goal.

Speaking to the press, he said: "We had lost our first two and we played against Leyton Orient as if our lives depended on it.

"The way we defended is something that I take heavily on my shoulders as I'm one of the most experienced guys in the team and wearing the armband in Joe [Jacobson's] absence, it falls on me to make sure people are switched on.

"We have discussed it as the Exeter one was very strange as it was so early into the game, but Lincoln was inexcusable for the way we folded where we eventually conceded three.

"Soft is not a word that I

By James Richings

would have attributed to Wycombe but after hearing it get used a few times recently, and rightly so, we did question having that bit between our teeth after the first two games.

"That's why the win over Leyton Orient was such a relief and we'll try and give it our all on Saturday.

"I think we'll certainly go all guns blazing against Burton, but this league is very unforgiving in terms of making mistakes.

"They [Burton] were one of the inform teams at the back end of last season and have got some very good players so it's surprising to see how they have started.

"So, we just need to be switched on."

Finally, the former Fulham spoke about taking the captain's armband for several of the opening games this season.

He has led out the side against Milton Keynes in the League Cup, along with the league fixtures against Lincoln City and Leyton Orient respectively.

He concluded: "I'm loving it.

"Of course, I would wish that Joe [Jacobson] would be alongside us but I'm very close to Joe so it's bittersweet but to have the armband is something I feel very fortunate for.

"That's why I am desperate to play my best in what could hopefully be a successful season."



Jack Grimmer playing against Middlesbrough in January 2021 (PA)



Ryan Tafazolli (left) (PA)

Another injury blow?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed Ryan Tafazolli picked up a hamstring injury in the club's 3-2 win over Leyton Orient.

The 31-year-old centre back started the victory against the Os but was substituted in the 60th minute for Richard Keogh with the scores at 2-1 to the Chairboys.

His departure is the latest injury for the former Peterborough United man who was making his first league start at Adams Park since April.

When asked if Tafazolli was taken off for tactical or for injury reasons, Bloomfield said: "He picked up an injury so we need to see how he is.

"We were told that he couldn't continue so he had to come off which is very disappointing.

"He had been checking it all day so he might be alright but he might not.

"He gets these knocks here and there and we just need to see how he is."

Since joining the Chairboys back in September 2020, Tafazolli has played 80 times in the league, starting 75 of those games.

Last season, he played in 26 games and scored twice for club with both of his goals being away from home against Peterborough and Cambridge respectively.