

Bucks Free Press

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Sport

GOLF

Berks, Bucks and Oxford lift the trophy

CASTLE Royle overturned a one-shot deficit on a rain-affected final day to secure the English Men's Champion Club at Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Club.

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire representative, shot a combined one over par to leapfrog overnight leader The South Staffordshire to win by two strokes.

Heavy overnight rain and a poor weather forecast led to the final round being reduced to nine holes.

And with only The South Staffordshire and Castle

Royle in red numbers, it became a final day shootout in tricky conditions.

Castle Royle's Tim Shin (35), Nick Scrutton (38), and Tom Wilde (36) shot five birdies, alongside four bogeys and a double bogey, resulting in a gross score of -3, to put them two strokes ahead of the leaders.

Unbeknown to them at the time, the par-5 ninth and their final hole of the round became pivotal, with all three players making birdie.

South Staffordshire

maintained level par through five holes but faltered with two bogeys and two double bogeys on the last four holes, finishing three over par and dropping to second place.

Letchworth (Hertfordshire) finished third, scoring two under par, for a total gross score of +2, whilst Kibworth (Leicestershire & Rutland) finished fourth, ahead of North Hants (Hampshire).

Jack Edwards of Shifnal Golf Club (Shropshire) had the best round of the day, shooting a 32, including an eagle and three birdies.



Castle Royle lifted the cup. Credit: Leaderboard Photography

WANDERERS

13 unlucky for some but not Chairgirls

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women secured a spot in Third Qualifying Round of the FA Cup with a dominant 13-1 home win over Milton United.

An action-packed first half saw the Blues set up a stunning 9-1 lead going into the break, with the magic player of the match, Kayla Potter, netting five and assisting two. Emani Kassem also bagged a brace in the opening 45, as Jess Watkins and Latifa Mammeri each added one to the tally.

The final 45 saw Watkins, Ellen Wardlaw, and Sophia Attfield all net one early into the half, before a late own goal from the Milton defence claimed the Chairgirls' 13th of the game.

The Wanderers were quick off the mark with Potter opening the scoreline in only the sixth minute while a stunning second was netted by Kassem in the 18th minute.

Both Potter and Kassem bagged their braces in short succession of one another, Potter, claiming hers first in the 21st minute. Assisted by a Milanna Cadore throw on from the left flank, Potter carried the ball effortlessly past the Milton bodies in defence, before chipping it through the legs of the visitor's keeper, and into the far corner.

Only a minute later, Kassem made it four in 22 minutes, as she made light work of a corner delivered by Danielle Puddefoot, flicked off the head of Cadore, and headed straight home to quadruple the Chairgirls' advantage.

The visitors did claim one back from the hosts as a well-delivered looping shot was sent past Taylor between the sticks, making it 4-1 in the 28th minute.

A fast retaliation however saw Potter work her magic again with two quick-fire goals in the 32nd and 33rd minutes.

Watkins secured her first of two in the 36th minute, as she was perfectly positioned in front of an open goal when she received the cross through from Potter to make it 7-1.

Latifa Mammeri clinched her first of the season in a rapid turnaround from the Chairgirls' seventh goal, making it 8-1 in 38 minutes.

Potter sent home her fifth and final of the game late into the half with a hurling header off the back of a magnificent assist from Puddefoot.

A swinging start to the second half saw the Chairgirls claim their next three within 10 minutes of returning from the break. Watkins netted her second of the game with a stunning shot.

Wardlaw struck home the 11th of the game as she made a fantastic run down the middle from the defensive half.

The 12th for the Chairgirls came from a wonderful run down the right wing from Attfield, who carried the ball away from the three Milton bodies behind her. Her strike slid past visitor's keeper, growing the Blues' impressive advantage in the 56th minute.

It was an unlucky 13th goal for the visitors as one of their own defenders attempted clearance rolled into the back of their own net.

They now set their sights on league action as they head to Sholing.

CYCLING

Milton Keynes midwife cycles to Bruges for charity

ALMOST a dozen cyclists pedalled with purpose from England to Belgium in memory of a friend who died of brain cancer.

Led by event organiser Melanie Smith, 44 from Thornton, Milton Keynes, the team completed 280km (174miles) over two days, cycling from Greenwich Park in London, through France, finishing up in Bruges, Belgium on Saturday (14 September).

Their effort has raised almost £11,000 for the charity Brain Tumour Research in memory of friend, Emma Elliott who died of a glioblastoma (GBM) in October 2023 aged 49.

Emma from Bedford, who worked as a midwife and health visitor at Bedford Hospital, was diagnosed in 2021 after developing vertigo and tinnitus. She left behind her husband John, son, Harry and daughter Beth, and grandchildren Elsie and Freddie.

Melanie works as a midwife at Milton Keynes General Hospital She knew of Emma through a mutual friend and colleague.

Melanie said: "Although I never met Emma, I followed her diagnosis closely and felt compelled to do something to show my support for her. Her strength, positivity and courage touched me and resonated so deeply. We finished in Bruges with her family and friends holding up a banner and cheering for us which was a very emotional reunion."

A team of 11 set off alongside Melanie, including: Matt Bassano, Damien Wiffin, Tristan Whates, Martyn Morris, Rob Kersey, Alex Romaine, Louisa Ashby, Becky Hobbs, Dan Hobbs, and Louie Dickson.

They covered 5,000ft of elevation as they reached the first check point in Dover. Shortly before, one rider, Louise, was forced to pull out of the cycle after a loose horse collided with her causing her to break her back in three places.

By Staff Reporter

In 2008, Melanie overcame Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She added: "There are some things we didn't plan for and never expected to finish with one less rider. Louise is resting and recovering at home, and I think that made us even more determined to finish the challenge."

The ride was also in memory of Nat Hobbs who died of bowel cancer just six months ago.

Mel added: "I'm in no way a cyclist and only got on the bike to train for this event. It was very tough at times as I have reduced lung function due to the chemotherapy, I received for my Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Some people in the group were avid riders and when we struggled, these people would appear by your side, spurring you on with words of encouragement. It was the best team effort and couldn't have done it without them."

"It's something that we would like to do annually for Brain Tumour Research as Emma felt passionately about the work of the charity and her family."

Charlie Allsebrook, community development manager at Brain Tumour Research, said: "Emma's story is a stark reminder that brain tumours are indiscriminate; they can affect anyone at any age. Mel has done a brilliant job in organising the event and £11,000 is a huge amount of money that will contribute towards researching kinder treatments and eventually a cure for all types of brain tumours. A huge thanks to Melanie and all the riders and we would like to wish Louise all the best in her recovery."

To donate to Brain Tumour Research via Mel's London to Bruges cycle ride, please visit: www.justgiving.com/page/melanie-smith-1717688084418



Melanie Smith from Milton Keynes cycled to Bruges in memory of a friend who died of brain cancer.

Pair of four goal thrillers for Chesham United sides



Joe Grant scored a 96th minute equaliser for Chesham. Photo Neale Blackburn.

CHESHAM United scored a late equaliser to preserve their unbeaten away record in National League South this season, drawing 2-2 at Maidstone United., writes *Andy Westlake*.

After a quiet first half in which Chesham took the lead, the game opened up in the second period.

The first half was even with chances at either end. Home keeper Alexis Andre Jr was called into action early on keeping out Nathan Minhas' shot from

wide on the left.

Maidstone's best effort of the half came when Temi Eweka headed a Charlie Seaman free kick over the bar, but a goal was looking unlikely until Chesham were gifted the lead on 39 minutes. Andre and George Fowler hesitated over a through ball, Minhas nipped in and rolled the ball into the unguarded net from just inside the area.

A tight second half changed on 70 minutes when Maidstone made a double substitution that had an immediate effect.

On 72 minutes, Aaron Blair broke down the home left, cut inside and shot across Ben Goode into the far corner to level the scores. 13 minutes later and Higgs and Blair combined on the right and set up Coulthirst who shot left-footed into the bottom corner of the net from the edge of the area. 2-1 and work to do.

Chesham were chasing an equaliser, and the fourth official announced five minutes of stoppage time. In the fifth Chesham won a free kick 30 yards out. Sub

Ryan Upward crossed to the far post, Callum Adebiyi drilled the ball back across goal and Joe Grant stuck out a leg and deflected it into the net to give Chesham a well-deserved point.

At The Meadow on Sunday Chesham United FC Women met table topping Norwich City Women FC, the second 2-2 draw for Chesham of the weekend.

Norwich came to this fixture undefeated this season and at half-time it was 0-0 with the home team providing lots of attacking threat.

In the second half Gemma Fraser got Chesham's noses ahead but Norwich's Ella Powell got the score back to 1-1 with a great strike from range. Chesham responded on 85' with another beautiful goal from Fraser but Norwich denied the home team a brilliant victory with a goal from Ceri Flye.

Chesham United FC travel to Bishop's Cleeve in the FA Cup this Saturday (3pm ko) and CUFC Women are away at AFC Wimbledon in the FAWN Plate (2pm ko).

FOOTBALL Another win for Wanderers

WYCOMBE Wanderers made it six games unbeaten in all competitions as they defeated Cambridge United 2-1 thanks to a late winner from Cameron Humphreys.

In the first meeting between the two sides on a Saturday since 2018, the Chairboys began the stronger and took the lead in eight minutes.

Aaron Morley's long ball beat the United offside trap, allowing the former Jamaican international to run through on Vincente Reyes' goal.

He could have squared it to Dan Udoh who was poised for the pass, but McCleary took the shot on and with the help of the right-hand post, Wanderers went a goal up.

It was his second of the season and his first at Adams Park since January.

Wanderers looked strong but were handed a real sucker punch midway through the half, as Dan Nlundulu equalised for the visitors.

His strike on 22 minutes was a real smash-and-grab as it was Cambridge's first attack of the game.

The second period was a one-way affair as the Chairboys dominated the proceedings and with five minutes remaining, Humphreys' well-taken strike flew past Reyes for his second of the season.

The result means the Chairboys move into ninth place whilst Cambridge sit bottom of the League One table.

Attendance: 4,189 (421 away).

FOOTBALL Praise for opponents

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield believes Cambridge United's league position is 'false' following his side's 2-1 win over the Amber Army.

The Us remain bottom of the League One table following their latest defeat, leaving them with just one point from six games played.

Speaking at full-time, Bloomfield said: "Their league position is false because all the chances they have created in previous games should mean they are halfway up the league.

"Don't let their league position get away from the fact that they are a good team and a tough opponent."

CONTACT US Get in touch

If there are any stories you would like covered, contact BFP sport at: JAMES.RICHINGS@NEWSQUEST.CO.UK OR james.earnshaw@newsquest.co.uk

FOOTBALL

Windsor record pair of big away wins

ON Saturday, Windsor were away to Rising Ballers Kensington in the league and picked up three points in an impressive 4 - 1 win, writes Kevin Stott.

On Tuesday evening they proceeded into the next round of the CCL League Cup with an equally impressive win at mid table Molesey, with the same scoreline.

The Ballers game proved to be a more routine affair. The breakthrough goal came from Sam Healey in the 38th minute when he neatly dispatched a fine through ball from Juan Pablo Gonzalez - Velasco low into the right-hand corner of the net.

Further goals from Teghan Souyana in the 50th minute and a spectacular brace from the Avta Akhsisavhill in the 69th and 90th minutes, put paid to any Ballers' resistance, with their consolation goal coming in the 89th minute.

If Saturday's game felt somehow routine, then Tuesday's game felt more like a riot!

Windsor were fast out of the blocks and found themselves 2 nil up in the first 10 minutes with goals from a Rashid Christian header and Avta Akhsisavhill's spectacular solo effort from the edge of the area.

Molesey pulled one back in the 38th minute through Everett Monty to set up a second half which would run fans through a riot of emotions.

Rashid Christian was sent off for a second yellow and then Nathan Green was sent off for a second yellow in the 89th minute.

The referee played 10 minutes of added time so it was 9 v 11 in a crazy finale. 90 + 5 - a corner to Molesey, the ball breaks to Troy Williams who rides his luck to pass the ball into the empty net to prompt wild celebrations. Molesey 1 - Windsor 3.

90 + 8 - we thought it was all over, but it wasn't! Molesey continued to pile on the pressure but two minutes later, Windsor scored a fourth with a Williams header.



Windsor enjoyed a remarkable win at Molesey

SPORT

Champions League quality at HP12

By James Richings

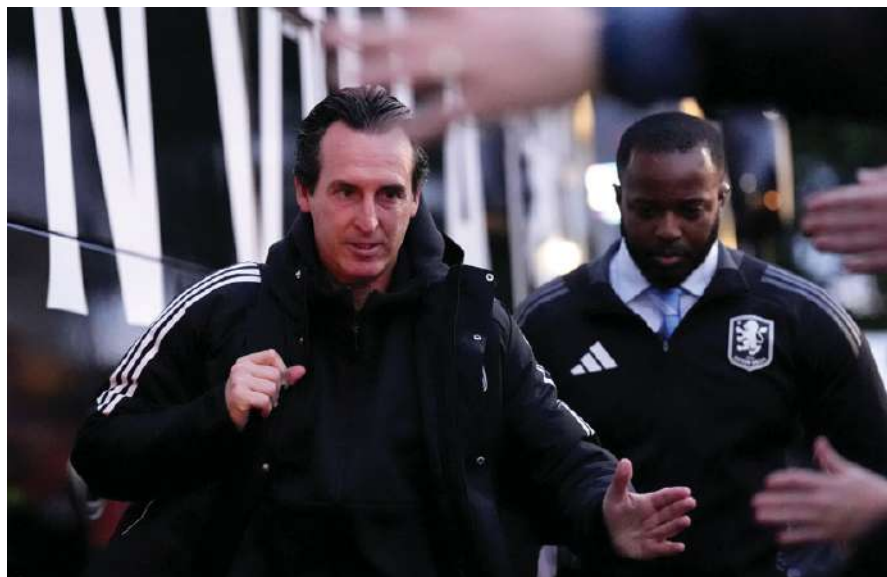
IT'S not everyday you get a side competing in Europe take on Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park, let alone a team that is battling it out in the Champions League.

But that is what happened on Tuesday night as the Chairboys hosted Aston Villa in the third round of the EFL Cup.

Although it wasn't meant to be on the night, as Matt Bloomfield's side narrowly lost 2-1 in a very tight game which saw Wanderers have the better opportunities.

In all, 8,158 people descended to Adams Park to watch the fixture, with this being the first time the club had broken the 8k barrier for two-and-a-half years.

The previous occasion was in January 2023, when 8,302 people purchased tickets for Wycombe's League One fixture against Sheffield Wednesday.



Aston Villa boss Unai Emery (centre) is greeted by many supporters of both the Villans and of Wycombe outside Adams Park. It was his first visit to the stadium in his career. Images: PA



Amadou Onana takes in his surroundings on Tuesday night in South Bucks



The former Arsenal and PSG manager made 10 changes to his side for their trip to Wycombe



Despite the rotation, several of the Villa players have played in the Champions League this season



A handshake between Emery (left) and Matt Bloomfield (right) ahead of kick-off. Both were in very good spirits.



It was the fourth time Bloomfield had faced Villa in his career. Three as a player (2005 and twice in 2016) and one as boss (2024)



Bez Lubala, who began his career at Villa's Midland rivals, Birmingham, had two chances to score in the first half



Jasper Pattenen made his fifth start of the season – each of his starts have come in the EFL Trophy and EFL Cup



David Wheeler made his presence known in what was a very good first-half for the Chairboys

as Wanderers took on Aston Villa

Wanderers started the better of the two teams but fell behind early in the second half thanks to an Emi Buendia header, Jhon Duran's penalty made it 2-0 with five minutes left, before Richard Kone slammed home a consolation for Wycombe in the last few seconds.

Bloomfield said: "I have mixed emotions but I think the main one is pride due to the performance of our players.

"We knew that we were going to have limited amounts of the ball due to the calibre of the opposition, but the way we played and the identity of the team was still there and out of possession, we did well to press

"We had to be tactically sound to nullify their talents but we have got decent players ourselves.

"Aston Villa are an elite level opposition with an elite manager, but we played the game the right way and we conducted ourselves the way I wanted to."



Franco Ravizzoli sorts his wall out as Villa are given a free-kick. He has now established himself as Wycombe's number one goalkeeper after initially being signed as back up in September 2023.



Declan Skura started the match. He was MOTM in the second round at Swansea.



Many fans believe Alex Hartridge has his best game for Wycombe at left-back



Buendia's header gives Villa the lead. It was his third of the season. He missed the whole of last season with injury.



Buendia celebrates his goal in front of the Villa fans as his header gave the Premier League side the lead in the early stages of the second half.



Jhon Duran dove in the final five minutes to win Villa a penalty, which he scored. It was his fifth goal in seven games this season.



A young Villa fan is escorted off the Adams Park turf. He'll have a story to tell when he's older .



Joe Low makes his thoughts known. He played his 50th game of Wycombe in the cup defeat



Josh Scowen (right) made his 500th career appearance in the match, with 234 being for Wycombe

SPORT



Duran's 'dive' leaves Wanderers feeling aggrieved



Jhon Duran scored a penalty in the closing stages. Image: PA

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield admits he feels 'aggrieved' after a controversial penalty against Aston Villa eliminated the Chairboys from the EFL Cup.

With the Adams Park side trailing 1-0 with five minutes remaining, Villa forward Jhon Duran won a spot-kick following a coming together with Wanderers goalkeeper, Franco Ravizzoli.

However, replays show that the Columbian forward was already heading to the turf before being approached by the Argentine shot-

stopper. He had also manipulated contact, if any.

Regardless, referee John Busby, who has officiated Wycombe on 11 occasions ahead of Tuesday night's cup tie, pointed to the spot.

Duran stepped up and scored the resulting penalty, which was his fifth goal in seven matches this season.

Villa would win the match 2-1.

Speaking on the incident, Bloomfield said: "It's just frustrating as we had lots of good moments, a lot of good opportunities, yet ultimately, the goal that decided the game is

disappointing. I've watched it back and I think social media is full of everyone's opinions so I won't go too deep into it.

"Overall, it is tough for the referees to make these decisions but we feel slightly aggrieved.

"I don't think it's right how managers speak about referees at times - I'll give my opinion and I'll speak to John [Busby, the referee] in the correct manner, but I feel any manager would feel aggrieved.

"If you look at it the other way, he's been given a decision to make in that

moment. It's tough for referees."

Bloomfield continued: "The game was always going to be controlled in the first half, and we needed to do that.

"We needed to control our play, shape and structure but as the game went on, emotion was part of it as we were attacking the terrace and our fans were full of voice.

"We made some substitutions to add that extra pace to our attack, and we had several opportunities, especially at 1-0 and who knows where it could have gone from there."

Valiant Chairboys are knocked out by Villa

WYCOMBE Wanderers' EFL Cup run has come to an end as they narrowly lost 2-1 at home to Aston Villa.

The Chairboys were the better side for most of the contest, but Villa's quality proved to be too strong, despite Matt Bloomfield's side defending well and having many chances of their own.

Inside the opening 40 seconds, the visitors nearly took a lead through their man on form, Jhon Duran.

The Columbian, who has scored four in his opening six games this season, was put through on goal by Leon Bailey.

Everyone was expecting the next to bulge, but he incredibly bent his attempt past Franco Ravizzoli but beyond the right-hand post.

This was as good as it got for Unai Emery's men, as Wycombe would end up being the better of the two sides in the opening 45 minutes.

On four minutes, Bez Lubala, who began his career at Villa's arch-rivals, Birmingham City, fired his tame shot from distance at Joe Gauci, before he tried his luck again.

Moments later, David Wheeler's cross was brilliantly controlled by the Congolese forward, with his acrobatic attempt being parried away by the Australian shot-stopper.

Wanderers controlled the first half as they didn't give Villa a moment's rest.

Amadou Onana, Ross Barkley and Emi Buendia were all rushed off the ball as Wycombe were in the ascendancy.

Wheeler, Josh Scowen on his 500th career appearance, and Matt Butcher all tried their luck, but to no avail.

And at half-time, you could argue that the Chairboys were unlucky to not be a goal up, as Villa only

By James Richings

mustered up several half-chances.

However, the second period began with a real sucker punch as Kaden Young's cross was headed in by Buendia.

It was the Argentine's third of the season after his brace against Fleetwood Town in the EFL Trophy, but his first for Villa's first team since March 2023.

Wycombe continued to show bottle as Richard Kone and Garath McCleary on two occasions went close, but to no avail.

Then, in the final moments of the contest, Duran, who nearly opened the scoring in the opening made it five goals in seven games from the penalty spot.

He was judged to have been brought down by Ravizzoli, and the 20-year-old was on hand to pick himself up and convert the spot kick.

However, replays showed that the forward clearly looked for the penalty as there was minimal, if any, contact with Wycombe's number one.

It seemed Villa were going to keep the clean sheet but in the final few seconds, Richard Kone smashed home his fourth of the campaign.

A valiant effort but no appearance in round four for the Chairboys,

Up next for Wycombe is Bristol Rovers away on Saturday afternoon.

Wycombe Wanderers last tasted defeat at the Memorial Stadium in December 2015, picking up 10 points from their last 12 available in the West Country (2018/19 win, 2019/20 draw, 2022/23 win, 2023/24 win).



Wycombe Wanderers' David Wheeler, (left) battle for the ball with Aston Villa's Ian Maatsen at Adams Park (PA)

Looking ahead to the West Country

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield believes Bristol Rovers are 'one of the biggest' football clubs in League One, as his side prepare to travel to the West Country this weekend.

The Chairboys go into the contest off the back of the recent 2-1 EFL Cup loss to Aston Villa, but haven't lost in the league since the second game of the season.

Following the 3-2 defeat at home to Birmingham City on August 17, Wanderers are unbeaten in their last four league matches, picking up 10 points from the last 12 available.

They have also scored in every league match so far this campaign.

Speaking ahead of their trip to the Memorial Stadium, Bloomfield said: "Going to Bristol Rovers is never an easy game.

"There is always a tough atmosphere and it's a tough ground to go to try and get a result.

"We know they are a big football club in our league, they have recruited well and have spent a good amount of money on transfer fees.

"They have recruited very well. "Matt [Taylor] is a manager that knows League Two, League One and the Championship, so we know it will be a tough game for us."

Rovers have had a somewhat inconsistent start to the campaign with two wins, one draw and four defeats from their opening seven matches.

They sit one place above the relegation zone at this very early stage, with the Gasheads losing four of their last five in the division.

Wycombe have had a relatively good record against the Pirates in recent years, with the Chairboys being unbeaten in their last seven.

Their last defeat at the hands of Bristol Rovers came in August 2018, as the West Country team won 2-1 at Adams Park.