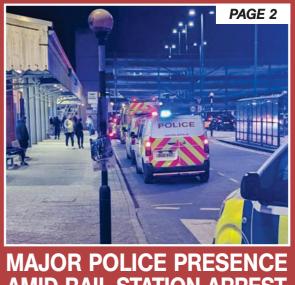
Bucks Free Press

Friday, March 7, 2025

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856





WOMAN DROWNS ON CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY: PAGE

Two stabbed and another hit by car



Residents voice concerns for area following fracas

TWO people have been stabbed and one run over by a car after a fight broke out in High Wycombe, police said.

Officers were sent out to an altercation on Rutland Avenue and Spearing Road at 5.20pm on Saturday

By James Richings

Eight people are alleged to have been involved, with three left requiring hospital treatment for serious injuries

Full story: Page 5



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WORLD & UK SPORT

Mings makes up for Bruges blunder



Villa one foot in a Champions League quarter-final

TYRONE Mings says it has been impossible to forget his Bruges blunder, but was happy to earn redemption as he helped Aston Villa put one foot in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Mings was part of the Villa side that beat Club Brugge 3-1 in the first leg of the last 16 tie on Tuesday

the last-16 tie on Tuesday.
It was just 118 days since the centre-back's embarrassing error—inexplicably picking up a goal kick in the penalty area—sent the Premier League side crashing to a 1-0 defeat in November's league phase match.

But he atoned for it in style, setting up Leon Bailey's third-minute opener before producing a brilliant goal line clearance when the game was finely poised at 1-1.

"I think both times here have been a night to remember for different reasons," he said.

"How much was it on my mind? It's impossible for it not to be because everybody keeps bringing it up all the

"When we saw the draw and knew we were coming here, I was fully aware people were going to talk about it again, as they should because I think that game had 0-0 written all over it

"Unfortunately because of the penalty we came away losing last time, so it was nice to come out on the right side of the big moments tonight."

The England international's sublime intervention to divert Hans Vanaken's goal-bound header proved pivotal as Brandon Mechele's 82nd-minute own goal followed by Marco Asensio's penalty six minutes later saw Villa grab the tie with both hands.

McIlroy assesses run-up to Masters

RORY McIlroy is still to decide how many tournaments to play in the build-up to the Masters.

The world number two will make his latest attempt to complete a career grand slam when he heads to Augusta next month.

He is competing at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill this week and then heads to Sawgrass for the Players Championship.

He then has a gap in his schedule before the first major begins on April 16 and is weighing up how best to fill it

The Northern Irishman has tried numerous approaches in his quest to add Masters success to his collection, with the last of his four major successes coming in 2014.

"I'm still making a bit of a decision," McIlroy told reporters at a press conference. "I'm going to play these next two weeks then I'll sort of reassess.

"I don't like the idea of having three weeks off going into the Masters, so I may add one event, but I'm still between what event that may be.

"It just depends on whether it's Houston or San Antonio."

McIlroy also intends to visit Augusta prior to Masters week.

He said: "I think it does help because you can spend as much time as you want around there. You're not under any pressure from a time constraint.

"I think being able to take your time away from the tournament and doing it is a nice thing."



Rory McIlroy is still to finalise his schedule ahead of the Masters

Slot praises Alisson after a 'lucky' win

LIVERPOOL head coach Arne Slot admits his side were lucky in their late 1-0 victory over Paris St Germain in the French capital on Wednesday, having been dominated for almost all of their Champions League last 16 first leg. And he credited man-of-the-

"the best

match Alisson Becker – goalkeeper in the world" – for keeping them in contention long enough for substitute Harvey Elliott to score in the 87th minute with their only shot on

The Liverpool boss said: "We're the lucky ones, that's clear for everyone. I think they were the much better team today, especially in the first half (when they

By PA sport reporter

Press Association

had) three or four big, big chances.
"In the second half, they were still the better team, still had a lot of shots on target but they were mainly from outside the

box.

"That's why Alisson still had to make a lot of big saves. I have had some very good players as a manager but never the best goalkeeper in the world until now."

Alisson made nine saves from 27 shots against a side who had not been beaten since November and had scored 40 goals in winning their last 10 matches in a row. The Brazil international told *TNT Sports* it was "probably the performance of my life" as he broke Pepe

Reina's club record with his 22nd Champions League clean sheet.

His nine saves were also the most on record (since 2003) by a Liverpool goalkeeper in a Champions League match.

Liverpool were fortunate VAR ruled out Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's first-half goal for offside and also decided Ibrahima Konate's shoulder barge on Bradley Barcola did not warrant a red card.

"We were lucky with the first half that the goal was fractionally offside," added Slot.

Slot also enjoyed great fortune with his substitutions, with one – Darwin Nunez – teeing up Elliott to score with his first touch after replacing Salah late in the game.

"A big moment for him. He's sometimes frustrated about the playing time he gets, because he's a good player," Slot said of Elliott. "He has to do it with limited playing time but he just keeps on going. I have to give him big compliments for that."

Borthwick's match plan for Smith



ENGLAND coach Steve Borthwick is looking forward to "unleashing" Marcus Smith once opponents Italy are fatigued, after dropping him to the bench for Sunday's meeting at the Allianz Stadium.

Smith has been involved in all 10 of England's Tests since the last Six Nations but now finds himself watching on as cover.

himself watching on as cover.

"I think we've got a lot of talented players, a lot of talented backs with attacking ability," said Borthwick.

"Marcus has done so many things we want.

"The exciting thing I'm

"The exciting thing I'm looking forward to is unleashing him when there's a bit of fatigue on the pitch, there's a bit of space, he comes on with his freshness. I think the Allianz Stadium will be excited to see him come onto the pitch in the second half."

Joint bid for World Cup



THE UK is preparing to launch a joint bid to host the 2035 Women's World Cup.

England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland's Football Associations will submit an expression of interest to co-host the competition.

An announcement at Wednesday's FIFA council revealed the timeline for the bidding processes of the 2031 and 2035 tournaments and members of CAF and UEFA are invited to bid for the 2035 edition.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer is backing the bid, adding that a World Cup in the UK would be a "monumental moment".

HOCKEY

Marlow Men 1st hit Henley for six in win



Oliver Blundy

MARLOW Hockey Club men's 1st team beat Henley 6-0, but the game was much closer than the scoreline suggested.

Henley had lots of chances and penalty corners, and they were unlucky not to score, but Marlow defended well, with Henry Saxby having a good game in goal.

Marlow were very clinical in front of goal and had some moments of real quality on the ball. Josh Covus scored the first- on his 18th birthday- from a well-worked move, and then Sam North scored two more from corners to be 3-0 up at half-time.

North scored another corner after some prolonged pressure from Henley.

Then, Oliver Blundy scored an amazing goal. An aerial came over

from Ollie Deasy, Blundy trapped it on his reverse stick, well over his head and then lobbed the keeper, who was rushing out.

The last goal was even more brilliant. Matt Ashton won the ball back in the D, Sam North played a one-two with Ollie Blundy, gave the ball to Owen Heale, who passed to Blundy, to Louis Cadinouche, who dribbled past the goalkeeper and dropped it back for Henry May to

Marlow are now eight points clear with four matches to go in the South Central Premier League.

*Other results:-3rd team beat Oxford Hawks 2-1, 4s beat Henley2 2-1, 5s lost 4-2 to Windsor2 Away, 6s drew with Sonning4 1-1, 7s match postponed.

FOOTBALL

Aylesbury confirm fun day

AYLESBURY United's annual Community Day will take place on Saturday, March 22 March (Non League Day) when we welcome Kidlington FC to The Meadow (Amy Lane, Chesham, HP5 1NE) for our Pitching In Southern League Division One Central match

tral match.

There will be free entry for those who complete the registration form on our website by midnight on March 18

The Community Day was first proposed by supporters' trust 21st Century Ducks (21CD) as a way of strengthening the club's position within the community, and encouraging the growing population of the town to support the club, even when the men's first team continues to play outside Aylesbury.

Andy Martin, Chair of 21CD and director at Aylesbury United, said: "Last season we attracted almost 500 supporters to our Community Day, and as it falls on Non League Day with no competition from Premier League or Championship matches, it'd be fantastic if we could beat that number this season to reach our biggest home attendance for many years."

FOOTBALL

Holmer Green and Langley play out a score draw

HOLMER Green and Langley played out a 1-1 draw in Combined Counties Division One.

Holmer were generally on top, but were frustrated by a very competent Sweeper/Keeper who dealt with regular through balls. Jeffrey Fordjour was having his third successive start for The Greens after his sojourn at Step Four, and just needs a piece of luck in front of goal to get his Holmer season going again. This day wasn't to be that day! Martin Lancaster could not keep the ball down when the best opening of the half came, one of few chances created.

Fordjour did have the ball

Fordjour did have the ball in the Langley net within the first ten minutes after the break, but the offside flag was already up. The visitors soon reminded Holmer that they were in the game, but the header was off target. Deen Mirza came on for Matt Wooster, and the new threat from the home right flank was immediately apparent. After Fordjour had been thwarted by the 'keeper's

legs, a left-wing corner by Ty-ler Sims created confusion at a crowded near post. Harrison Holbrook was on hand to force the ball over the line on 59 minutes. But the visitors were coming more into the match, and the longer it went on the less likely Holmer looked to be getting only what would have been their fourth clean sheet of the season and first in over three months. The visitors found a tactic that had Holmer struggling to clear. But The Greens survived initially and Fordjour was again denied by the Langley 'keeper with 15 minutes officially remaining.

The lack of a second home goal eventually cost the home side two points. A poor decision just inside their own penalty area, brought an injudicious tackle on a visitor heading way from goal on 90 minutes. The penalty awarded by a well-placed Referee was converted successfully. The points were therefore shared, in what had become a very close match.



Marlow Women fall to a heavy defeat MARLOW Women's 1st team made numerous excellent saves least one goal but were unable to the line and a fierce Jazzy Elsden

MARLOW Women's 1st team welcomed Cheltenham to sunny Pound Lane. Both teams started with determination and the game was fiercely contested in the midfield. Cheltenham scored their first goal in the 13th minute with a well-placed strike to beat keeper Ramm.

Martha Goodridge came close to equalizing moments later but the Cheltenham keeper tipped the ball over the bar. Alys Ramm to keep the score to 1-0 at half time. Marlow earned numerous attacking penalty corners but could not link up to find a way past the Cheltenham keeper. With 20 minutes to go, lapses in defensive concentration and clinical attacking play from Cheltenham scoring 3 goals in seven minutes to ensure all three noints

Marlow still tried to find at

least one goal but were unable to leaving the final score at a disappointing 4-0.

The 2nd team retained top spot, having played out a goalless draw with second-placed Oxford 2s.

Plenty of good hockey was on display, but the defences were on top in a game of few chances.

Player of the match Rosa Cook, led the way with well-timed tackles and confidently carrying the ball. The Reds saw one saved on the line and a fierce Jazzy Elsden strike narrowly wide. At the other end, Ruby Duncan made a fine short corner save and a diving stick clearance. The draw gives Marlow 1 point advantage with 4

games remaining.
Other results:- 3rd team beat
S.Berkshire2 1-0 Away, 4s beat
S.Berkshire3 3-1, 5s lost Newbury & Thatcham3 5-0 Away
6s beat Wycombe4 1-0 away, 7s
Lost 3-1 to Phoenix Reading 3.

HOCKEY

Marlow men 2nds win the crunch clash with Oxford

MARLOW Hockey Men's 2nd team had an important match against Oxford Hawks 3 at Pound Lane. Both teams needed a win or they would be at serious risk of relega-

Joe Hoggan opened the scoring for Marlow with a great strike, blazing it into the roof of the net in the top right corner and sending the crowd wild.

This was shortly followed by a clinical drag flick from Phil Cowell to make it 2-0.

The lead was stretched further with a goal from Ollie Green, and Marlow were 3-0 up at half time. The second half was very end-to-end, and Hawks managed to claw one back.

Despite this, Marlow were dominant throughout the game, and the final scoreline of 3-1 was a fair result. 70 Friday, March 7, 2025

Sport

BOWLS

Gerrards Cross named the Champions

THE prestigious Bowls England awards evening proved to be an historic one for Gerrards Cross bowls club.

Last season was the most successful in the 108 year history of the club with the Club winning just about every competition it entered. From local, and county through to the National Championships the club collected silverware across the board.

The highlight was the men's team that won not one but two National Finals last summer and at

the recent awards ceremony, the men's team performance was recognised by their peers and the squad was crowned as the best team in England

This is an amazing achievement and demonstrates the strength in depth of the Gerrards Cross club that were able to consistently field incredibly strong teams.

Pictured with some of the winning men is Club President Terri Keen, who commented: "This is such an amazing achievement for the club and a very proud moment for me. To be recognised by the governing body of bowls as the best team in England is very special."

The evening started with a surprise for Gerrards Cross bowler John McGuinness who was awarded an honorary membership of Bowls England in recognition for his services to the sport.

McGuinness, a silver commonwealth games medallist, was delighted with the award that reflects his contribution to the game over many years.



Gerrards Cross picking up prestigious bowls award

FOOTBALL

Chesham suffer a heavy home defeat to Truro

WO games this week as Chesham United welcomed Truro to The Meadow on Saturday while the women's first team travelled to AFC Sudbury on Sunday.

First to Saturday and Chesham went down tamely to a 4-1 defeat against high-flying Truro.

This game was effectively over after the visitors scored twice from set pieces in the opening fifteen minutes and then successfully defended their lead.

Chesham got off to a poor start with a goal in the third minute, when Connor Riley-Lowe headed in Christian Oxlade-Chamberlain's corner at the far post.

The visitors dominated the opening stages, and on ten minutes Tyler Harvey crossed low from the left to Jaze Kabia who prodded the ball wide of the near nost

Three minutes later Riley-Lowe took a free kick on the left touchline and Tyler Harvey rose unmarked to head in the second. Chesham attempted to get back in the game and Nathan Minhas headed against the bar from a Connor Roberts corner, but that was as good as it got in the opening half.

On 42 minutes a long throw from Oxlade-Chamberlain ran loose in the Chesham area and sub Dom Johnson-Fisher poked the ball over the line from a couple of yards out.

With the game effectively over as a contest the second half lacked drama.

Chesham pushed forward but without looking likely to get back in the game, and on 66 minutes were caught on the break as Johnson-Fisher centred for Luke Jephcott to roll the ball into the

By Andy Westlake

empty net for Truro's fourth.

The visitors eased off after that and only had one further effort on goal but Zac Bell's shot was off target.

Chesham put some pressure on late in the game, and Mitchell Weiss set up Ryan Upward whose shot was deflected and just cleared the bar. Chesham did manage a conso-

Chesnam (id manage a consolation on 87 minutes when Omar Rowe crossed from the right and Mitchell Weiss netted with a header at the far post.

To AFC Sudbury on Sunday then and Chesham's women travelled to Suffolk looking to open up a bigger gap over the bottom two.

a bigger gap over the bottom two. However, despite a sold first half where Chesham squandered a number of chances, the game was still even at half-time with neither team breaking the deadlock

The second half started fast with AFC Sudbury scoring first but Gemma Fraser almost immediately got Chesham level with her 250th goal for the club!

After that however Sudbury found another gear and ran away with it with the tie finishing 5-1. Elsewhere Chesham United's U18 team defeated Marlow FC in the Berks & Bucks FA U18 Midweek Cup semi-final and will face

Beaconsfield in the final. Chesham's U15 girls are also in Cup Final action on Saturday against Reading FC.

against Reading F.C.
Next up Chesham United FC
travel to 2nd placed Worthing
on Saturday and CUFC Women
welcome Dulwich Hamlet to The
Meadow on Sunday (3pm).



Mitchell Weiss with a consolation for Chesham. Photo Neale Blackburn.

FOOTBALL

Haddenham receive £1,000 sponsorship from builder

A local housebuilder has helped a Haddenham football team kick off the year in style – with a £1,000 sponsorship.

Redrow South Midlands, currently building at The Maltings, on Churchway, has shown its support for a local grassroots football team by donating £1,000 to the Haddenham Youth Football Club's (HYFC) annual Festival of Football

The club is run by volunteers and encourages children across Haddenham, aged five to eighteen, to be active, supporting them to enjoy the team building sport in a safe community environment. HYFC is home to 400 registered players across twenty-two teams and is the most popular sports club in the village. It also runs senior, ladies, walking and veteran's teams and the club is supported by more than 80 volunteer coaches and administrators.

The housebuilder has donated £1,000 to the club's annual fundraising festival, which hosts 100 local teams at Haddenham Airfield for a football tournament. 1,000 young players from Thame, Marlow, Aylesbury and Maidenhead participate in the friendly event and are joined by coaches and families from across the region.

Alex Wagstaff, Chairman of Haddenham Youth FC, said: "We're delighted to have Redrow South Midlands show their support by sponsoring our fantastic Festival of Foothall

"Our club is focused on developing grassroots football, regardless of ability, and providing the younger generation in Haddenham with opportunities to thrive. As volunteers, we rely heavily on the support of local organisations – and on behalf of the whole team, we would like to say a big thank you and we look forward to welcoming the Redrow South Midlands team to come and watch our teams play soon."

Andrew Newman, Sales Director for Redrow South Midlands, said: "Haddenham Youth FC is a well-established organisation and an invaluable part of community life in Haddenham, so we are proud to have supported the club at the Festival of Football as part of our commitment to creating thriving communities.

"Playing sport is a great way to support physical and mental wellbeing and to bring people together through a love for the game. Grassroots football is more than just a hobby, it's a space where children can learn a new sport while developing important life skills, from teambuilding to communicating effectively, that will serve them in good stead throughout their lives.

"The club's dedication to encourage and empower children as young as five to get active and play footbal is fantastic. It's great to see the team thriving, and we hope they can continue to develop and give more local children an opportunity to try something new. We will be following them throughout the season and wish them luck in their next matches!"

The sponsorship forms part of Redrow's ongoing commitment to promote health and wellbeing in the community

Ten-man Wanderers defeated at table-topping Birmingham

WYCOMBE Wanderers lost for only the fifth time in the league this season as they were defeated by top-of-table Birmingham City 1-0 at St Andrew's. In the first meeting be-

In the first meeting between the two clubs in the Second City for five years, the league leaders went into the match nine points clear with a game in hand over the Chairboys, who sit second.

The Blues had not lost at home in the league all season, suffering just one defeat on their own patch in all competitions, and they used this to their advantage as the ex-Premier League outfit bossed the opening period.

opening period.

First, Alfie May, who has scored eight goals in 10 matches against the Chairboys in his career, forced Will Norris into a good save, whilst Japanese international Tomoki Iwata fired his volley wide.

Birmingham continued to show their dominance as Ethan Laird was causing Wanderers numerous problems, whilst Alex Cochrane, Paik Seung-Ho, Kieran Dowell and Willum Willumson all went close.

Willumson all went close. The Chairboys defended their lives.

More problems than occurred for Mike Dodds' men as left-back Dan Harvie suffered a serious-looking leg injury inside the opening 10 minutes, and a few moments later, a Norris mistake gave the Blues the lead.

On 20 minutes, a long ball from goalkeeper Ryan



Birmingham City's Taylor Gardner-Hickman scores during the Sky Bet League One match

Allsop completely evaded the Wanderers midfield and defence.

It found Taylor Gardner-Hickman who took one touch before striking a volley straight at the Wycombe keeper.

It should have been a routine stop, but Norris parried it over his own body which allowed the ball to trickle over the line.

Wanderers offered very little in the opening 45 minutes but did conjure up two glorious chances.

The first fell to Josh
Scowen who smashed his

shot over, whilst Fred Onyedimna fired wide. This was as good as it got as Wycombe's afternoon was made increasingly difficult on the stroke of

half-time.
Laird ran towards the
Wycombe goal where he
was fouled by Yayier Si-

was fouled by Xavier Simons.

His challenge was too

His challenge was too dangerous for the referee's liking, who showed him a straight red card.

The second period was the polar opposite as the Chairboys were a lot more controlled in possession.

Cameron Humphreys, Garath McCleary, Dan Udoh and Jack Grimmer all went close but to no avail.

Richard Kone came on as a second-half substitute as Dodds' side threw the kitchen sink, but the day belonged to Birmingham. The defeat was only Wanderers' 10th in all competitions this season (five in the league, one in the FA Cup, one in the League Cup, two in the EFL Trophy and one in the Berks & Bucks Cup) and it was only the fifth time Wycombe had failed to score in the league this season.

The other occasions were against Bolton, Huddersfield, Wigan and Northampton respectively.

Attendance: 27,522.

FOOTBALL Dodds angry over conceding key goal

WYCOMBE Wanderers Mike Dodds admitted his 'blood was boiling' at how the Chairboys conceded the only goal in their 1-0 away loss to league leaders Birmingham City.

His side went to St Andrew's second in the table, nine points behind the Blues who have a game in hand.

The visitors started the encounter slowly and on 21 minutes, Taylor Gardner-Hickman scored the fixture's decisive strike.

His volley came directly from a clearance by former Wanderers keeper Ryan Allsop, and after taking one touch, he fired his volley towards goal.

Will Norris got a huge hand to it, but parried the attempt over the goal line.

Dodds said: "I didn't like the first half of the first half and until I watch it back, I can't tell if Birmingham were good or if we didn't do the things we wanted to execute.

"Eventually, things started to settle down and we got into the game, but the goal was so poor and I told the players about it.

"You can't allow the keeper to have one ball over the top and it finds its way into the back of the net at any level, especially for a club that is trying to get out of this league.

"I'll be blunt – it's a c**p goal to concede and I'm frustrated by it.

"You do all the work during the week to try and nullify their threats

"So to concede a goal like that with such ease is frustrating it's a poor goal to give away and I don't want this club to be associated with stuff like that.

"I don't want to say it won't happen again, but it is certainly something we will try to avoid. "From my point, I have had five

"From my point, I have had five games now and for the first four of them, we were really solid so [conceding a goal like that] boils my blood.

"You do all your work during the week to be organised and diligent and then you let in an easy goal"

The first half also saw left-back Dan Harvie suffer a serious injury inside the opening 10 minutes, whilst midfielder Xavier Simons received a red card on the stroke of half-time.

Sonny Bradley came on for Fred Onyedinma at the break which helped Wanderers at the back, as they began to look in control.

Jack Grimmer, Dan Udoh and Joe Low went close, but it wasn't meant to be.

Dodds added: "The red card happens and that completely changes the complexity of the game so we had to shift a few things about.
"But I thought we were very

"But I thought we were very good in the second half as we stopped Birmingham from getting near our goal and they are a ton team"

FOOTBALL

Wycombe take advantage of own goal

A CALAMITOUS own goal from Jack Armer gave Wycombe Wanderers all three points as they defeated struggling Burton Albion 2-0 at Adams Park.

The away side started the better as JJ McKiernan's close-range but unmarked header was blocked, whilst Charlie Webster's long-range strike was saved by Will Norris.

This was as good as it got for the Brewers in the opening 45 minutes as the Chairboys began to take control.

Luke Leahy and Cameron Humphreys were pulling the strings in the centre of the park as their through balls found Dan Udoh and Richard Kone.

Both were thwarted by a stubborn Burton backline, but a terrific strike by Udoh on 15 minutes gave Wanderers the lead. He was assisted by his strike partner, with the Nigerian arrowing his shot from 14 -yards beyond Max Crocombe for his eighth of the season.

The second period saw Wycombe continue to boss the ball as Crocombe denied Kone in quick succession, but a moment of madness sealed Mike Dodds' side all three points

On the hour mark, miscommunication between Crocombe and Jack Armer saw the latter place the ball beyond his own keeper in comical fashion.

Jack Grimmer hit the post hit the

post whilst Norris brilliantly denied McKiernan's long-range attempt. Wycombe stay second on 67 points whilst Burton remain in the drop zone.

Attendance: 3.456 (114 away).



Dan Udoh scored his eighth of the season

SPORT

Dodds' honest assessment as Wycombe beat Burton

bucksfreepress.co.uk



Mike Dodds has won two of his six games in charge.

A 'pleasing watch' was how Mike Dodds described Wycombe Wanderers' 2-0 home win against Burton Albion

The Chairboys took the lead inside the opening 15 minutes through Dan Udoh's eighth goal of the season and on the hour mark, a calamitous own goal from Jack Armer put the Adams Park side two goals to the

A misunderstanding between him and goalkeeper Max Crocombe saw the defender pass the ball passed the New Zealand shot-stopper.

The victory means they stay second but move onto 67 points two more points than what they got for the whole of last season

They are two points ahead of Wrexham who won at Huddersfield Town, and nine points behind Birmingham City who are top, following their defeat at Bolton

Speaking on the victory, Dodds said: "We have only conceded two goals in six games which is great but I was really pleased with our in-possession stuff.

"That was excellent, as you can see the work we have been working

"It was very pleasing watching that in the first half.

"We had three big chances so I thought the game should have been done at half-time, so the longer the game goes on, it gives them hope, similar to the Wigan game recently.

"Take nothing away from Gary - he has done a brilliant job as Burton are fighting for their lives as there is no easy game in this league.

"But overall, a 2-0 win and a clean

sheet is good and I really liked the in-possession stuff we played which is an evolving piece.

"We will enjoy this moment before we go to Peterborough on Saturday.

"We just have to stay consistent

and balance and we'll be fine.' For Burton, they went into the game losing just two of their last 12 league matches, picking up 20 points in that time.

But Wycombe looked too strong for them, as they have now gone over a decade since their last league triumph at Adams Park.

Four of new signings catch the eye in victory

James Richings

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has praised the performances of four of the club's new signings in January.

Westergaard, Magnus Westergaard, Adam Reach, Will Norris and Alex Lowry all featured in the Chairboys' 2-0 midweek victory against Burton Albion, as they remain second in the League One table.

Dan Udoh gave Wanderers the lead

before a comical own goal from Jack Armer on 60 minutes wrapped up the victory.

Reach and Norris played the whole 90 minutes and looked assured at the back, whilst Westergaard and Lowry came on in the final 10 minutes.

Westergaard shone with his work ethic whilst Lowry produced a couple of tricks and turns which wowed the crowd.

Speaking on Westergaard, who is Wycombe's record signing following his move from Viborg in January, Dodds said: "I've been impressed

with Mags.
"He is a big signing for this football

"The issue was that he was coming to the end of what would have been his pre-season in Scandinavia.

"Ĥe's been playing catch up, so it's hard to play game after game and not have the normal pre-season sessions you would get.

"It has taken him a bit of time but you can see how good he is.

"It was a professional performance from him.

On Alex Lowry, who joined from Rangers, Dodds added: "We can all see he has got quality.
"My responsibility as a coach and



From left: Adam Reach, Will Norris, Alex Lowry and Magnus Westergaard all played in the 2-0 win over Burton. Image: PA

developer of Alex is for him to not always do the flicks and tricks which the crowd like, as there are other important elements to the game.

"That will be my responsibility as our relationship grows, and if can marry up those two elements, he is going to be a very good player."

Goalkeeper Norris also impressed Wanderers' head coach in the victory against the Brewers.

He has played in all of Dodds' six games in charge of the Chairboys, keeping four clean sheets in that

And despite being at fault for Birmingham City's winner in the 1-0 loss on Saturday Norris made a handful of important saves to keep

Burton at bay.

He added: "Will is an excellent goalkeeper at this level.

"He won promotion out of this league with Portsmouth last season and I know how critical he is of himself about the [Birmingham] goal [over the weekend], but sometimes, it's easier for people from the outside to go 'he should have done bet-

ter'.
"But if you look at it, Gardner-Hickman has taken the shot so quickly, to caught him by surprise a little bit.

"He has very high standards so of course, he was naturally disap-

"Overall, he is a very good keeper." Finally, left-winger Adam Reach shone in the victory, in what was his full league debut for Wycombe. He concluded: "Reach is a very

good player and I have enjoyed working with him so far.

"He has got quality from the level above and you can see he has got experience from that level too.

"He's a good player but I honestly don't see him as a left-back but it shows how good he is as he can slot into that role?

Wycombe 'full of confidence' for weekend

THE Chairboys will go into their away match against Peterborough United match this weekend 'full of confidence', according to head coach Mike Dodds.

Wycombe are two points ahead of third-place Wrexham and nine points behind Birmingham City, who sit top.

They will face the Posh at London Road who have had a disappointing league campaign, as they have lost 16 of their 34 matches so far.

This includes a 3-1 away loss against Wanderers back in October, which saw Richard Kone score a hat-trick nine minutes after coming on as a substitute.

Despite this, Peterborough, who are 17th, have a trip to Wembley to look forward to this Spring, as they will take on Birmingham City in the EFL Trophy Final.

It is the second time in two years they will partake in the showpiece, 12 months after they defeated Wycombe 2-1 in the same competition.

Speaking ahead of their trip to Cambridgeshire, Dodds said: "They play a nice brand of football and have good players at that level so we know it will be a difficult afternoon.

"It will be different to the Burton game in midweek so we'll have to prepare for it slightly differently, but this is a game we will go into with full confi-

"[As they are preparing for Wembley], you'll have a dressing room of players that will want to play in that game.

"They will want to give a reason to the manager as to why they should be playing, and it could give them an extra 10 to 15 per cent. "The league table doesn't lie to a de-

gree, but with Peterborough, they have got players who are beyond where they are in the league.

"They have got some top-end league one players so we know it will be hard, so we will be thorough and professional when we go there.

The match will kick-off at 3pm.