

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, April 7, 2023

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.50



Shock as family dairy firm suddenly closes after 100 years - Page 3

FURY AS ULEZ EXPANDS TO BUCKS BORDER

- Drivers will be charged £12.50 a day from August
- MP slams expansion as 'money grab' by London mayor

See Page 11



HAPPY EASTER FROM ALL OF US AT THE BUCKS FREE PRESS!

NEWS

Bride rips off ring finger before big day



Page 4

CRIME

Drug dealer behind bars



Page 5

INSIDE

• Courts roundup

• Letters

• Property

• Freetime

• Sport

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 20 miles of HP27 9SG)
Order instore, online or call 01844 343663. www.briantsltd.co.uk

Exchange and Mart

www.exchangeandmart.co.uk

Let us get your leaky roof fixed.

Visit our local website and click on 'Local Listings'.

LOCALIQ

SPORT



How did the ladies do last week in their three matches?

Mixed bag for the women

HERE is how the Chairgirls did last week in their respective matches.

Stonesfield West 3-1 Wycombe Wanderers Reserves

The first goal eventually arrived when Stonesfield took advantage of a stray pass out of defence which deflected back into the area and set up for the Stonesfield striker to turn and shoot.

The equaliser came for Wycombe when Amy Norfolk played a low pass into the area which went past the keeper and into the net and ended the half all square.

The home side would then go onto score twice in the final few moments of the match to win for Stonesfield.

Player of the Match: Charlotte Webber

XL Dartford Kent 2-0 Wycombe U18s

With a depleted squad, due to injury and exams, the mood was buoyant.

With an attacking formation the objective was to add pressure from the get-go and to get an early goal. The ball was worked well into the wide areas, but the XL defence snuffed out any real opportunities of the ball getting into their box.

However, on the half hour they broke the deadlock by pouncing on a defensive mistake. This led to a slight wobble and a couple of minutes later XL were two ahead.

Player of the Match - Georgia Price

Wycombe 0-3 Ascot

With the senior season over, the first team with a mix of Under 18s keen to stake a claim for next season, faced League cup finalist Ascot.

Despite the 3-0 defeat, the Chairgirls hit the woodwork four times, most notable captain Kara Hoves contributing two of those efforts.

For more information, keep an eye on the Wycombe Wanderers Women Twitter account for more post season match announcements.

Rams refuse new payment changes



Beaconsfield Town will not follow the new rules, and will continue to pay their players as normal (Newsquest)



Richard Bennett will fly to Australia to take part in the Games in April (Jasmine Bennett)

A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE football club has stated that they 'disagree' with a set of proposed changes that could see Non League players not receive full pay when injured.

Beaconsfield Town, who play in the Southern League Premier Division South, confirmed on March 30 that they will 'continue to pay players according to the contract terms as agreed', regardless of their fitness levels.

This comes after the Football Association [FA] revealed key changes to Non League contracts, which are due to be activated on July 1 this year.

Among a range of alterations to a standard contract, there are two changes that players will view as most important concerning their situation if they are injured.

In these proposed contract changes, injured Vanarama National players will receive their full wages for 12 weeks before then reverting to Statutory Sick Pay of £99.35p a week.

Full wage payments drop down to six weeks for injured players at clubs below the top Non League division.

The potential changes have angered several teams, with Beaconsfield Town confirming they will not adhere to the new rulings.

In a statement that was put out on Twitter on March 30, they said: "Beaconsfield Town FC disagrees with the proposed changes to player payments for those on contract, specifically where injuries occur; training or playing in matches on behalf of the club."

Additionally, under the new ruling, clubs will be able to terminate contracts of players with three months'

By Hannah Peart

notice, as long as a medical professional confirms that they were likely to be injured for at least four months.

As a result, it is easier for clubs to reduce a player's wages or cancel deals with a player who is suffering from a long-term injury.

There has been a series of backlash against the FA, with the National League captains writing to the FA last week requesting the changes to be reversed.

Following the news, the Professional Footballers' Association [PFA] has been working with players and clubs to ensure that their voice is heard.

In a statement, they said: "The PFA does not have an agreement in place with the FA or the League to represent National League players as their recognised trade union."

"However, our figures show that almost 80 per cent of National League players are former PFA members, having at one point been professionals or professional scholars with EFL or Premier League clubs."

The PFA is concerned over new non-league player contracts from next season.

They say contracts will affect the rights and salaries of players who are ill or injured, and the ability of clubs to terminate contracts if a player suffers a long-term injury.

"Unfortunately, we believe that the new Non League contract represents a reduction in player rights and so it is important that players understand these changes and what they might mean for their rights from next season."

Travelling to the Transplant Games in Australia

A man from High Wycombe will fly over to Australia to take part in the 24th Transplant Games.

Richard Bennett, 47, who had two separate kidney transplants over a decade ago, is travelling to Perth to not only compete but to also raise awareness for organ donation.

He was diagnosed with Alport Syndrome, a rare genetic disease that causes hearing loss and kidney failure at birth.

And after three transplants, he will be running in the 400m and 800m to help those who are also in a similar predicament.

His Just Giving page reads: "My

kidney failure happened gradually throughout childhood, and I had my first transplant that was donated by my father when I was 21.

"A few years later, that kidney failed after a series of complications and illnesses and I ended up on dialysis."

"My mother went through tests and was found to be an excellent match. "She donated her kidney to me in November 2004."

"I am very lucky and often remind myself how lucky I am to have had three chances to live."

To donate, go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lifegoeson76.



The draw on April 1 was the first between the two sides since March 2012. It was also only the second 2-2 draw for Wycombe this season (PA)

Two points dropped

WYCOMBE Wanderers and Milton Keynes shared the spoils in a feisty Buckinghamshire Derby which ended 2-2 at Adams Park.

In a frantic opening 10 minutes that saw both teams have two shots on goal each, it was the hosts who took the lead.

A counter-attack down the left saw MK get in behind the Wanderers defence, and after a scramble in the six-yard box, Daniel Harvie was on hand to tuck home his third of the season.

This kicked Wycombe into life as they started to get into the contest despite going a goal down.

And after Chem Campbell was fouled, Joe Jacobson's free-kick was headed in by David Wheeler from six-yards.

The strike was his fifth of the season, which means this is now the 32-year-old's best goalscoring campaign for the club.

Wycombe ended the half the stronger, and continued this in the second period, as Wanderers went ahead on 55 minutes.

After De Barr produced an air kick on the touchline, his quick thinking saw him lift the ball into the box, and the former MK man smashed home with a left-foot volley.

However, Milton Keynes responded with 19 minutes remaining.

Wycombe failed to clear their lines on at least two occasions, which allowed Jonathan Leko to bend in his third goal in five matches.

Attendance: 6,149 (893 away).

Alan Parry's Previews: Ipswich and FGR



The two games this weekend

ALTHOUGH Wycombe remain within touching distance of the play-offs, the need to rediscover the form that saw them beat promotion contenders Sheffield Wednesday, Bolton Wanderers, Peterborough United and Derby County earlier in the season has now become urgent.

Including the visit to Ipswich Town on Good Friday, April 7, Wanderers had just seven games to secure a place in the top six of League One for what would be a remarkable third time in four seasons.

Their form under new boss Matt Bloomfield has been patchy with a record before Easter of two wins, three draws and three defeats, totalling nine points from a possible twenty-four. If that were replicated over the final weeks of the season, the Chairboys would almost certainly miss out on the play-offs.

With such fierce competition for places in the top six, they may need to win all their remaining games beginning with the trip to high flying Ipswich – a daunting task.

Before the Good Friday clash at Portman Road - where Bloomfield began his career in professional football - the Suffolk team had won seven games in-a-row without conceding a single goal.

The clubs had met five times before with Wycombe's only win coming in the reverse fixture at Adams Park in December; Brandon Hanlan scoring the only goal.

Because of the continued absence of last season's leading scorer Sam Vokes, Hanlan has recently been forced to play in the unfamiliar role of attacking spearhead, and with Garath McCleary also out injured, Bloomfield's options up front have been limited.

It is hoped that at least one of the injured duo could return in time for the visit of Forest Green Rovers to Adams Park on Easter Monday, April 10.

Wanderers have won all four previous meetings with FGR, but they will be tricky opponents this time. Now managed by former Everton striker Duncan Ferguson, the Gloucestershire club are bottom of the table and fighting to avoid relegation.

The Chairboys beat them 2-0 earlier this season with David Wheeler and McCleary on the scoresheet, and a similar outcome on Monday would keep Wanderers' flickering play-off hopes alive.

Both managers reflect on Bucks derby draw



Matt Bloomfield had mixed feelings on Wycombe's 2-2 draw against MK on April 1 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has stated that the club 'can't rely on favours' in order to get into the play-offs.

The Chairboys are now two points off the top six despite a 2-2 draw against Buckinghamshire rivals Milton Keynes on Saturday [April 1].

The result at Adams Park was helped with Derby County's 2-0 home defeat against Ipswich Town on the same day, which was the Rams' fourth loss in seven games.

However, the 39-year-old insisted that Wycombe should only 'focus on themselves.'

He said: "We are pleased with what we've done in the time we've been here, but there are improvements we want to make.

"It feels like those moments are going against us, but I am not trying to be down as this is still a good point for us to gain, as this is a good Milton Keynes team.

"MK have had three straight 1-0 wins, three keep clean sheets, so they are high on confidence.

"Yes, it's disappointing to not see it out, but we can't begrudge the point."

On now being closer to the play-offs despite the draw, Bloomfield added: "We can't rely on favours.

"I don't look elsewhere because you can only focus on yourself.

"We need to make sure we can take the results to help us move forward.

"It's a point in the right direction and it's another point to-

By James Richings

wards our total.

"We need to be balanced in our opinions in how we look at the game, and at 1-0 down, we showed brilliant character to get back into."

MK manager Mark Jackson believes the result was 'fair' at Adams Park, whilst describing Wycombe as a 'top' team.

He told the MK Citizen: "It was a competitive game, there were periods where both teams dominated so overall it was a fair result.

"I think it was fair.

"If you can't win games, don't get beaten.

"We want to win every game, that's our approach.

"But when you're 2-1 down at a top team like Wycombe, to come from behind we'll definitely take a point.

"We knew Wycombe would put us under pressure from set plays, and both of their games came from them.

"All in all though we defended well, and showed great character to come back from behind, which is really hard to do here.

"We're happy with a point."

Incredibly, 10 of the 18 matches between Wycombe and MK have taken place since 2019 with the two teams meeting five times last season.

MK won four, but Wycombe's only victory sent them to Wembley.

SPORT

0963-2336



Sam Vokes [pictured scoring against MK in May last year],

Both Vokes and McCleary are 'close' to returning from injury

WYCOMBE boss Matt Bloomfield hopes to have Sam Vokes, Garath McCleary, Curtis Thompson, Dominic Gape, and Jordan Obita back before the season is over.

The five have collectively missed large chunks of the campaign due to injury.

However, the 39-year-old confirmed that both Vokes and McCleary are 'very, very close', to

returning to the first team.

It is not known if they will be in the squad to face Bloomfield's former club, Ipswich Town, on Good Friday, but he is confident they will play a part in Wanderers' play-off push.

The club sit in eighth but are now only two points off the top six.

"They are going to be back at some point - they are not far

away.

"They are in the gym working their socks off to get back as they are big players at this club.

"We're looking forward to having them back, but at the moment, Brandon [Hanlan] did well again along with Tjay [De Barr].

"Jordan Obita, Dom Gape, Garath McCleary, Sam Vokes and Curtis Thompson are big

players for this club.

"Sadly, they haven't been able to play much football recently so we're looking forward to having them back soon.

Had the pleasure of spending an evening with Sam Vokes earlier this week.

"However, we cannot overlook the way that the players who are playing have done for us."

Should I stay or should I go?

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has hinted that more players are due to sign contract extensions with the club.

In the last week, captain Joe Jacobson, fan favourite Josh Scowen, utility player David Wheeler, and right-back Jack Grimmer, have all penned new deals to stay at the Adams Park side until the end of next season.

It is also expected that a handful of other Chairboys players are due to remain for at least an extra year, but those names have not yet been confirmed.

Speaking to the press ahead of his side's away trip to Ipswich on Good Friday [April 7], Bloomfield said: "This is huge news for us and it's great for this football club.

"Josh's news came out yesterday [April 5] and it's a huge contract for him to stay with us, along with David Wheeler and Jack Grimmer too.

"They have played their part in what the club has achieved in the last few years, and we need to keep the continuity of this group moving forward.

"Whilst we are focusing on what we could achieve, we need to keep one eye on the future and keep players of their calibre with us.

"And we have one or two more announcements to come too."

The players who are out of contract at the end of the season include:

- Ryan Tafazolli
- Curtis Thompson
- Sam Vokes
- Garath McCleary
- Jack Young
- Daryl Horgan* (Out on loan at Stevenage)

By James Richings

- Brandon Hanlan
- Jack Wakely
- Lewis Wing
- Nick Freeman
- Jordan Obita
- Adam Leathers* (Out on loan at Maidenhead United)
- Jason McCarthy
- Tjay De Barr
- Tyla Dickinson* (Out on loan at Sutton United)
- Chris Forino

Bloomfield confirmed to the press about the contract extensions two days before he takes Wycombe to Ipswich Town on Good Friday.

The 39-year-old began his career with the Tractor Boys, making one appearance in 2003 before joining Wanderers several months later.

On his beginnings at Portman Road, he said: "It's no secret that Ipswich is a club that's close to my heart.

"I was a fan of the club growing up, I only live 20 minutes away and my grandad used to take me many games at Portman Road, and they had a huge influence on my life from those early experiences.

"I used to watch the team before being accepted into the Centre of Excellence which was later turned into the Academy before I worked my way up through the system.

"I started when I was 12 in 1996 and left seven years later in 2003 when I was 19.

"I made some great friends there, people who I am still in contact with."



Several other Wycombe players are expected to sign new contracts (PA)



Good news for Wycombe (PA)

Fab four are staying put at AP

WYCOMBE Wanderers midfielder Josh Scowen will be remaining at Adam Park for an additional season.

The 29-year-old fan favourite, who has played 28 times for the club this season, scoring twice, has penned a new deal to stay with the Chairboys until the end of the 2023/24 campaign.

The news was broken first to existing season ticket holders and subscribers at the launch of season ticket information for the new campaign, where prices are frozen until May 5.

Since returning to Wycombe in the summer of 2021 from Sunderland, Scowen has featured in 71 games for the club, starting 67 of them.

He won the Supporters' Player of the Year award in his first year back at Wanderers.

The announcement was made just days after club captain Joe Jacobson announced he will also be remaining at Adams Park.

The 36-year-old triggered his extension by meeting an appearances clause in his contract, and will therefore be given a testimonial next year.

Additionally, Josh Scowen and David Wheeler will also be staying with Wycombe.

The duo confirmed their commitment to the club by penning new deals two days before the club's away match against Ipswich on Good Friday.