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PAGE 54



Students in F1 test

Barber, 81, hangs up scissors



PAGE 3

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PAGE 8

Parents' fury at £400k film fees for shut school used by Netflix

Campaigners say secondary should be open

Heartstopper.
Image:
Netflix/
Samuel Dore



A COUNCIL has defended the £400,000 it made from filming at a closed school used for Netflix series Heartstopper.

Three production companies have paid Buckinghamshire Council a total of £434,494 to film at Burnham Park Academy, in Opendale Road, since 2021/22.

The council, which revealed the figure under a Freedom of Information Act request, insisted that the income was used to pay maintenance and se-

By Charlie Smith

curity costs at the secondary, with no profit being made from filming.

But parents and campaigners in Burnham have criticised the filming and the continued closure of Burnham Park, which shut in 2019 after it was rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted.

Full report: Page 6



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Sport

RUGBY MATCH REPORT

Beaconsfield RFC win against Newbury

BEACONSFIELD Rugby Club 2nd XV welcomed Newbury to Windsor End on Saturday, January 27, writes Richard Gomme.

In an absolute thriller in the welcome winter sunshine, the hosts ultimately seized victory from the jaws of defeat, emerging victorious right at the death, 43 – 39.

The platform was set by a dominant display by the experienced front row of Martin Field, Alex Watson and evergreen Kwong Lin (pictured).

Dans Wilson and Scriven marshalled the backs

expertly from scrum-half and fly-half respectively, soon unleashing the Captain, mercurial centre Joe Brawn, to score under the posts. Great work from the second and back rows then lead to another try, for rampaging man-mountain Max Bunce. Bunce [pictured] also shortly afterwards set up a try for supporting centre Harvey Hewson.

Half time score 19 - 17. Newbury were always in the game, and indeed dominated the second half, going into a 10 point lead. But the home team were

not to be denied, with patience from the old heads and pressure from the youngsters creating further tries for the elusive Dan Scriven, the bullocking Martin Field and new winger Brogan Lawson, to save the day and claim the win.

An excellent performance, and an impressive debut for newcomer Connor Davison. Beaconsfield loaned several players to their guests when they ran out of substitutes. This Saturday, February 3, the 1st XV host Grove, 2pm kick off.



Evergreen prop Kwong Lin, supported by scrum-half Dan Wilson,

RUGBY NEWS

High Wycombe 'riding high'

HIGH Wycombe Rugby Club is currently riding high on the back of a 14 game winning streak, which sees them sit at the top of the Bucks/Berks & Oxon Counties League 2, 20 points ahead of their nearest rivals, Oxford.

Alongside their on-field success, the Kingsmead Road club has been busy refurbishing their clubhouse and bar, and adding an impressive new balcony overlooking the river and main pitch.

The local community club, whose motto is 'Rugby for All', plays host to adult rugby on Saturdays and runs a thriving youth section on Sundays, alongside an emergent girls' and women's section. The clubhouse is open to the public during the summer, serving teas, coffees and snacks, and is available to book for private functions throughout the year.

This half term, Wycombe will be running rugby camps at Kingsmead from Monday to Friday 12 - 16 February, for 5-16 year boys and girls looking to let off some steam. Options start at a one-day session for £30 or all five days for £120.

ROWING: OLYMPICS PREP FOR MARLOVIAN

Preparing for Paris 2024 as the countdown continues

DAME Katherine Grainger believes Rory Gibbs helping British Rowing get back on track sheds new light on a tumultuous Tokyo Games – with a potentially golden Parisian summer in store.

Britain's rowers registered their worst Olympic performance for 49 years in the Japanese capital, falling from first in the medal table in Rio to 14th and prompting a prolonged inquest.

But GB have since finished first and second in the World Championship standings – including men's eight gold for Marlow star Gibbs, 29, in Belgrade – and Grainger believes those results help contextualise what went before.

"There were a ridiculous number of fourth place finishes in Tokyo, so if any of those had been converted, they would have been on the podium and there might have been quite a different story," said the 48-year-old Glaswegian.

"I never felt it was the beginning of the end for one of our popular sports, it more felt there was a natural turning of the wheel.

"There were a lot of new, younger members of the team who came in post-Tokyo, so I think they kicked very quickly on to a resurgent team now.

"They had a fantastic World Championships last year and I think that really ignited the flame again to see what will happen come Olympic time.

"The Paralympic team has always been at the top of the game, so I think that's continuous. I think the Olympic team is back where they want to be."

The departure of legendary coach Jurgen Grobler, as well as a large athlete churn, contributed to the disappointments of Tokyo.

But under the stewardship of Louise Kingsley – the first woman to lead

By Ben Hart, Sportsbeat

British Rowing's elite programme – results have transformed and Grainger feels the pain of Tokyo combined with some fresh impetus has fuelled the rapid resurgence.

"Clearly the Tokyo results, from what we are very used to seeing from a British Rowing team, seemed to be disappointing," said Grainger, speaking at the 2023 Youth Sport Trust Young Changemaker Awards.

"I think there's some experience there now, but there's some new athletes as well and that blend has always worked really well in British Rowing.

"We had a lot of younger members of the team who hadn't experienced that level, so actually a Games experience will help.

"Having people who have been there and know how to perform and then an incredible injection of energy and desire from new athletes, I think that blend has come back through again.

"If I had been a competitor in another country, you'd be thinking this is our time, GB have dropped back. Suddenly you think, no, they're back where they want to be."

That said, Grainger feels the pandemic will have disrupted rival squads' preparations, so what they have to offer may only become apparent come the Olympic final.

"There will still be some countries probably not at full strength since the pandemic," she added.

"Some took longer for different reasons, longer lockdowns, other restrictions, so I still think it won't be until this summer where we'll see all countries at full strength.

"But I do think if you're in a British team right now, you're really feeling good."



Rory Gibbs (pictured at the front) is from Marlow (PA)

SQUASH STARS

Children scheme launches

THE Olympic Games' most recent addition, squash, has made a commitment towards promoting an active lifestyle in the young people of Buckinghamshire.

The 2023 Active Lives survey conducted by Sport England reports less than half of the youths in the UK are attaining the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity.

England Squash, in response, seeks to bolster the youth's physical activity levels through Squash Stars, its primary youth engagement programme.

This initiative includes providing necessary equipment, coaching and facilitating a conducive environment for youths aged between five to nine to learn squash, increasing their zeal for fitness ahead of the Olympic summer.

This move follows the landmark announcement of the induction of squash into the 2028 Olympics.

Squash Stars has registered four intakes for its programme since its inception in 2022 and the fifth intake is slated to begin in the early months of 2024.

Squash Stars will commence from March at the Wycombe Squash and Racketball Club, Beaconsfield Squash Club and Chesham 1879 Tennis & Squash Club.

Visit: www.squashstars.co.uk

RUGBY ROUND-UP

HWRUFC senior men's team 'unbeaten'



High Wycombe Rugby Club 2nd XV match v Reading Abbey II

OUR senior men's teams had an unbeaten January with 2 wins from 2 for our 1st XV leaving them 20 points clear at the top of the Counties 2 Tribute Berks, Bucks and Oxon North of S-W Division, they are unbeaten so far this season, writes Natalie Lacon.

Our 2nd XV had 3 wins in January, including the last one against top of the table Reading Abbey II leaving them 3rd in their league.

The mighty Vets - Bodgers - have also won their match in January with a splendid win over Beaconsfield.

Our newly promoted women's team have had a more difficult January but they are battling hard to stay up. They are looking forward to their match against local rivals Marlow in February.

Youth: The Colts are in a very competitive

league and they had a tough time against a strong Banbury side this January. Given this is an U17s team, their future looks very rosy.

The U14 boys won their match against Beaconsfield 45-14 and are looking forward to playing A&C in the Bucks Cup SF in February.

Our Girls' teams, another unbeaten January:

The U18s had a great win v Didcot and similarly, the U14s against Reading Abbey. Strong performances all around.

The Mini section is thriving and have played Chesham and Amersham & Chiltern in January and are looking forward to the second half of the season for festivals, matches and Tour.

February sees more exciting rugby both on the 'Mead and with the 6 Nations on the big screens. Watch this space!

SPORT: HOCKEY

The weekly hockey round up

HOW did the the hockey teams from Marlow do this week?

Women's results
Marlow's 1st team visited local club Wycombe, aiming to put in another great performance following the previous two weeks. Marlow started well with Lauren Hilditch putting the ball past the Wycombe keeper in the opening minutes of the game.

Hilditch scored her second with a mid-air cricket shot following a bouncing pass in from Beth Halbard. Wycombe still looked dangerous on the break and Marlow keeper Alys Ramm made some vital double saves in the 25th minute.

Vic Allen scored her first of the game in open play, after being instrumental in the build-up to many of the previous goals. Martha Goodridge snuck in Marlow's fourth goal seconds before the halftime whistle blew.

Marlow continued to dominate the second half, with some incredible pace and passing which Wycombe could do little about. Hilditch scored her third goal in the 40th minute and fourth in the 60th minute, her pace was just too much for the home side.

Allen scored her second of the game in the final few minutes to leave the final score 7-0 to the Reds.

This result keeps Marlow's promotion hopes firmly in sight with a 6-point lead at the top of the table.

The 2nd team had two fixtures over the weekend against teams above them in the league.

Defences were on top in both matches which both ended in 0-0 draws as they hosted Havant 1 on Saturday and Basingstoke 2 on Sunday.

Marlow held their structure and press throughout both games, Transferred across the back line and used the width but found it difficult to break through, particularly versus Havant. Against Basingstoke, the forwards worked hard to fashion chances but the opposition keeper was in form to keep the clean sheet.

Player of the match performances from Sophie Appletree, Katie Jarvis and Emma Buxton for driving the team forward.

Other women's results 3rd team, beat Sonning 1-0, 4s lost 6-0 to Amersham & Chalfont 3,

5s and 6s played each other in a league match and drew 0-0, 7s lost 2-0 away to S.Berks 5

FOOTBALL: CHAIRGIRLS LEAVE IT LATE

Through to the next round after dramatic shootout

THE Chairgirls secured a spot in the quarter-finals of the League Cup after they defeated Eastleigh 4-3 on penalties, following a 1-1 draw.

A late equaliser from Katie Riddington, and two standout penalty stops from Chelsea Coles, is what made the difference as Wycombe progressed.

Despite the hosts controlling the majority of play, the visitors were handed a golden opportunity to go one up as they were awarded a penalty in the 25th

minute but a confident Chelsea Coles perfectly read the spot kick and denied their attempt down the bottom left of the goal.

Looking to retaliate to Eastleigh's closest chance, both Kine Andersen and Krystal Follett went close, as the former's shot went over the bar, whilst the latter's went wide.

Moments later, Follett found herself on the end of a cross with her header at goal flicking off the right post to maintain the even scoreline into half time.

Although the Blues displayed a dominating first 45, Eastleigh took the lead just seconds into the second period.

It looked like the Chairgirls were going to be eliminated, but Riddington's long-range effort from 35-yards with 10 minutes to go made the game level.

And they thought they won it in the dying embers, but Shannon Read's shot smashed the bar.

Wycombe led the penalty shootout with Riddington hitting the target once again. Coles was next to stand strong in goal, as she denied Eastleigh from levelling the penalty tally with their first kick. Read, Emma Kern, and Follett continued to slot it home for the Chairgirls, though Eastleigh denied one of the hosts spot kicks.

Wycombe stood at four scored and one miss, with Eastleigh having three scored and one miss, and finishing with the deciding penalty. It was the visitor's goalie who stepped up to the spot, but her hit was sent high over the post, securing Wycombe's win.



The Chairgirls won via a penalty shootout to defeat Eastleigh in the League Cup

SPORT: A DAY TO REMEMBER

The dramatic win sees the Chairgirls advance to the quarter-finals of the League Cup, where they are set to take on Bournemouth Sports away from home on February 11.

On loan midfielder leaves for Scottish side

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the departure of box-to-box midfielder Killian Phillips.

The 21-year-old joined the Chairboys in the summer on loan from Crystal Palace, where he featured in 30 competitive games for the club.

During his brief stint at Adams Park, the Republic of Ireland youth player started on 21 occasions and scored twice.

His first goal was in the 2-1 vic-

tory against Bradford City in the FA Cup, whilst his only league strike came in the 2-1 home defeat versus Reading.

His exit from Buckinghamshire has seen Phillips join Scottish Premier League side Aberdeen.

A brief statement from Wanderers said: "Killian Phillips' loan deal with the Chairboys has come to an end, with the Crystal Palace youngster embarking on a new loan with Aberdeen.

"We thank KP for all his efforts in light and dark blue."

Despite his departure, manager Matt Bloomfield believes Wycombe will sign 'a couple of players' before the end of the transfer window on Thursday evening.

Richard Kone
Gideon Kodua (loan)
Chem Campbell (loan)
Matt Butcher

Bez Lubala
Wycombe's January exits

Lyle Taylor
Richard Keogh
Harry Boyes
Kian Breckin
Tjay De Barr

To read more of the latest news about Wanderers transfer activity, go to James Richings' X profile (formally known as Twitter).

SPORT

0963-2336



Alan Parry's Previews as Wycombe head to the west



Alan Parry has had his say on Wycombe's trip to Cheltenham

WYCOMBE go into their next game at Cheltenham Town on Saturday, February 3 just four points above the relegation places after winning only one win of their last seventeen games in League One.

The position would have been even worse had they not fought back to salvage a point in their last encounter, a 2-2 draw at home to bottom club Fleetwood Town.

The Chairboys first half performance was woeful and they were two goals down before the visitors had a man sent off, allowing

Wanderers the opportunity to score twice themselves and avoid another damaging defeat.

The pressure is back on for the trip to Cheltenham, the first of two matches against the Gloucestershire club in less than a month.

Although Cheltenham won both fixtures last season, 1-0 at home and 3-0 at Adams Park - with Wycombe's nemesis Alfie May scoring in both games - they were their only victories against Wanderers in the last eleven meetings.

The Chairboys record at

Cheltenham's colourfully named Completely-Suzuki Stadium is even more impressive. Their last six visits have produced four wins, a draw and just one defeat.

Games between the clubs have been high scoring affairs, especially at Adams Park where the last three encounters saw a staggering 25 goals scored, an average of more than eight per game!

The Robins spent most of the last decade in League Two and even dropped down to the National League in 2016, and they are

struggling against the threat of relegation this season despite a recent upturn in form.

Manager Darrell Clarke, who took charge in October after the sacking of Wade Elliott, has guided them to impressive home wins against promotion contenders Portsmouth and Oxford United.

Clarke was manager of Bristol Rovers when they were relegated to the National League on the final day of the 2013/14 season, Wycombe famously staying up at their expense after winning at Torquay United.

One win away from a day out at Wembley

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers have progressed to the semi-finals of the EFL Trophy for the first time in seven years, as they comfortably defeated the Brighton & Hove Albion U21s 4-1 at Adams Park.

The Chairboys cruised into the final four with three first-half strikes in the space of five minutes, thanks to a Kieran Sadlier brace and an own goal from Leigh Kavanagh.

Before the goals, the match ebbed and flowed in Wanderers' favour, and they were unfortunate not to take the lead inside 15 minutes when Chris Forino, who later went off injured, hit the inside of the post from close range.

Kane Vincent-Young was also causing the young PL2 side a lot of issues down the left-hand side as his cross was brilliant by Sadlier who fired wide, whilst Richard Kone's effort was saved by Tom McGill.

It looked like the development team were going to go into the break all square, but after Dale Taylor hit the post, he teed up Sadlier who smashed it beyond the goalkeeper.

Two minutes later, a Luke Leahy free-kick was glanced into his own net by Leigh Kavanagh before Sadlier got a third which pretty much confirmed their last four place.

Jason McCarthy, who was making his first start of the season following an injury-hit campaign, fired an excellent low cross that was dummied by Taylor, before the ex-Leyton Orient man fired home his second.

It was his fourth since joining the club in the autumn and his third in five matches in this

competition.

Things went from bad to worse for Brighton as Jamie Mullins was shown a straight red card for a late tackle on Freddie Potts, before the visitors got themselves on the scoresheet through a well-taken goal by Luca Barrington.

The Wycombe will be a welcome distraction for the Chairboys following their terrible league form with one victory in 17, but Wanderers are now a solitary win from a day out at Wembley.

The Adams Park side could face League One rivals in Peterborough United, Blackpool, or League Two Bradford.

The Chairboys defeated the latter in the FA Cup at Valley Parade back in November.

The draw will take place on February 2.

On the victory, Bloomfield said: "I'm so glad to reach this far of the competition.

"It adds to the excitement to the group as the lads have been looking forward to this game for a couple of weeks, but we need to put this to bed, enjoy the draw on Friday night and look ahead to Cheltenham.

"There's been a lot of noise and talk about this group in the last few weeks that so I'm glad they managed to get through.

"They played really well, had a goal threat, passed the ball brilliantly and we could have got a few more.

"To get through to a semi-final with a nice big home win is a great feeling."



Wycombe will face either Peterborough United, Bradford City or Blackpool in the semi-finals

Aiming for a day out in the capital come spring

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has admitted 'there's been a lot of noise and talk' in recent weeks following the club's poor league form.

The Chairboys have won one in 17 league outings, but are through to the semi-finals of the EFL Trophy following a resounding 4-1 home victory against the Brighton & Hove Albion U21s on January 31.

It's the first time the Adams Park side have reached the final four of the competition since 2017, where they will play either Peterborough United, Bradford City or Blackpool.

He said: "I'm so glad to have reached this far in the competition.

"It adds to the excitement of the group as the lads have been looking forward to this game for a couple of weeks, but we need to put this to bed, enjoy the draw on Friday night and look ahead to Cheltenham.

"There's been a lot of noise and talk about this group in the last few weeks so I'm glad they managed to get through.

"They played well, had a goal threat, passed the ball brilliantly and we could have got a few more.

"To get through to a semi-final with a nice big home win is a great feeling.

"To score those three goals at the end of the first-half in the way that we did set us up nicely and I'm so excited to be in the semi-final.

"I'm pleased for these boys as they've got something to look forward to.

"We could have had a few more wins in the league but we don't, so I'm so happy for the players, our supporters and all around, it's been a great day."

The fixture will take place on either February 20 or February 21.