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90p

MAN HELD OVER TOWN-CENTRE STABBINGS



See page 4

'Radical' plans to re-open historic waterway

By Stephanie Wareham

A £2 million idea to re-open a river through High Wycombe in a bid to boost tourism is being explored.

The River Wye flows for around

10-and-a-half miles from West Wycombe down to the River Thames in Bourne End, but much of the river in High Wycombe town centre is underground, with the likes of the Abbey Way flyover built

over the top. However, a new task and finish group - chaired by Cllr Hugh McCarthy - will be set up to look at the possibility of re-opening the river through to town. It would be similar to the way the

Kennet flows through Reading, Berkshire, and would improve the environment for wildlife, it is claimed.

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'No dangerous cladding in Bucks'



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Donkey Derby picture special



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O'Nien wants league title



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WANDERERS: Playmaker has a ball with cricketing superstar Saunders' summertime sees him play golf with West Indian legend

By Nicholas Tunney



Sam Saunders had a summer he will never forget after playing golf with Brian Lara in St Lucia. The playmaker is now looking forward to getting back amongst it during pre-season

CHAIRBOYS playmaker Sam Saunders has had an eventful summer away from football, including being invited to play golf with one of the greatest ever cricketers.

Saunders returned to pre-season today with the rest of the squad, but the midfielder described the "surreal" experience he had last week in the Caribbean playing golf with West Indian great, Brian Lara.

The 33-year-old said: "It was a bit of a random morning. I went to breakfast with my Mrs in St Lucia and got talking to a couple of ex-professional footballers and they told me how they were going to play golf with Brian Lara and the Prime Minister of St Lucia that day.

"They asked if I fancied going, and I said yeah of course, and I left the Mrs at the hotel whilst I went and played golf all day and it was blinding.

"It was a bit surreal just sitting there and then having lunch afterwards with them but it was just a really enjoyable day and one of many good days over the holidays."

Turning his attention to the season ahead, Saunders had a chance to look at the fixtures and early on he feels the very first game of the season at home to Lincoln will be the toughest.

He added: "I think the Lincoln will be the hardest game of the first few fixtures.

"Being promoted from the Conference before, I know how some of those lads who have never played at this level before will feel so it will be big test for us."

BLUES: Gaffer highlights importance of pre-season programme

Ainsworth has pre-season plans in place



GARETH Ainsworth is looking forward to another pre-season at the helm of Wycombe Wanderers.

With the summer now over, the manager has his ideas in place to make sure the squad are ready for that first game on August 5 against Lincoln.

He said: "It isn't all about the old school of running the players. They need to be fit but with the modern-day players you need to ease them back into it. We don't want any injuries and we will be relying on the

medical side to get them tip-top in the next couple of weeks.

"We also want to get tactics into the players early on as well. We felt that last season we started slowly because of injuries and we didn't have the right way to play nailed down as quickly as we would have liked.

"This season, we will learn again but pre-season will be intense and you need to be fit to be able to do it."

In terms of signings and departures, one player who has left Adams Park this week was winger Myles

Weston who joined Ebbsfleet.

Ainsworth said that it was the right decision for Weston to leave and thanked him for his contribution to the cause.

He added: "Myles is a big loss and he was part of our plans. He had a tough year with a bad injury but he was excellent towards the end of the season.

"It was the right thing to do having spoken to him to enable him to be close to his family and we wish him well."

SPORT

Tennis

All the action from the
Boodles Challenge
- pages 59-61



O'Nien: Winning league is my goal of new season

FOOTBALL: Midfielder's promotion dream

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE WANDERERS midfielder Luke O'Nien is determined to make this season a memorable one for the Chairboys by revealing that winning the league has been at the forefront of his mind during the summer break.

O'Nien, who was instrumental last season as the Blues came so close to a playoff place, has re-charged the batteries and cannot wait to get going again.

He said: "I am really excited and I have been looking forward to getting back and it is really good to see everybody again."

"I have had a nice catch-up with everyone and seeing what they

have been up to and I am really excited to be back."

Over the summer break, O'Nien went to Spain to do a bit of coaching at his friend's academy as well as watching a bit of Spanish football.

He is also a keen tennis player and golfer and although the midfielder enjoyed his time off, he is championing at the bit to get going again and after coming so close last season, the 22-year-old has one main target on his mind.

O'Nien added: "Promotion is certainly on my mind. It has been on my mind all the way through the off-season and I would be lying if I said otherwise."

"I want to get promoted and I want to win the league and that

is my kind of target. The league is very open this coming season. There are a lot of teams you look at who could challenge."

"We have kept the nucleus of the squad and that is very important. Last year we had quite a few new players which was great but it takes a while to bond so we didn't start the season in the best manner."

"How the last two seasons have been, you do learn a lot and I think that puts us in a better place at the start of this season."

Although the likes of Doncaster were promoted last season, O'Nien is under no illusion how difficult the season ahead will be.

He commented: "We have to take every new season as it is, and it is very open."



O'Nien is absolutely determined to gain promotion after narrowly missing the playoffs last term. Photo: ARM Images

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