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'REST IN PEACE, BEAUTIFUL SOUL'

Tributes flood in for mum 'knifed to death in horror attack' as murder probe continues

Full story and reaction: page 2



High Wycombe woman Samantha Clarke (above) died from stab wounds

NEWS

Pothole hell as cyclist badly hurt



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POLITICS

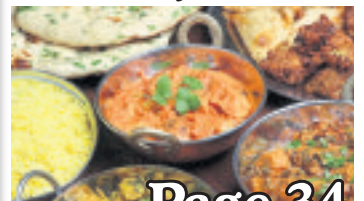
Legal fight forces centre U-turn



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COMPETITION

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LOCAL SPORT

MICHAEL GRAHAM

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Marlow lose thriller to Oxford

BOWLS

IT was a stunning day last Saturday as Marlow entertained Oxford City & County Bowls Club in perfect conditions on a warm and windless day at Pound Lane and the bowling was nip and tuck throughout though the visitors were the victors on the day the men winning 97-87 and the ladies 39-35.

Clive Brown's rink of Dawson Whitman, Mike Miller and George Malster were 2-5 down after six ends but went on a shot fest winning 12 consecutive ends to take a 27-5 lead and eventually took the match 27-10 and the top rink award for Marlow.

Marlow's only other winning rink, skipped by Paul Simmons, was Denis Bloomfield, Roger Cantell and Alan Steptoe who were 6-10 down going into the tea break but came out firing and pulled away for a 19-13 win.

Of the three remaining men's rinks, fortune was not favouring the home team. Dave White's rink took a 7-0 lead but within 4 ends had relinquished their position to fall behind 7-9, went 15-11 ahead after 15 ends but faded at the death to lose 16-20. Clive Brooks and Bill Pocock both lost out whilst the two ladies rinks had a very close tussle.

Suzanne Bell's rink were looking in good shape but got caught on the line to draw 15-15 and Pam Butler's foursome who did take an early 8-0 lead but just got pipped 20-24.

Marlow's second home match also resulted in defeat.

Slater saunters

EQUESTRIANISM

WYCOMBE'S Emma Jo Slater dominated the KBIS Insurance Senior British Novice Second Round at Rectory Farm

Under glorious blue skies, Slater dominated the event, taking first and second place against a strong field of 57 starters.

Competitors gathered to battle it out for a place in the KBIS Insurance Senior British Novice Championship Final which is to be held at the British Showjumping National Championships in August. All starters were aiming to achieve a sought after treble clear as this would secure their qualification place.

Jumping three immaculate rounds on board Mick Fortune's six-year-old bay gelding Cosmic Jaxx, Slater took first place in fine style. As one of 19 riders to make it through to the final jump-off, time was of the essence as this combination crossed the finish line in 42.58 seconds.

FOOTBALL: Rangers slump to a tough final defeat
Brave Risborough beaten by brilliant Broadfields



Griggs scored his 38th goal of the season against Broadfields. Photo: Laurie Turner

By Nicholas Tunney
Risborough Rangers 1-3 Broadfields

RISBOROUGH Rangers ended the season on a low note, losing 3-1 to Broadfields in the South Midlands Football League Challenge Trophy final.

It was always going to be a tough game against an in-form Broadfields United and Rangers weren't helped when first choice goal-keeper Jack Brooker pulled out during the warm up with a shoulder injury.

Stand-in development team keeper Norbert Stanszewski was pressed

into action and he wasn't helped by a static Rangers defence as early as the fourth minute when Broadfields broke down Rangers' left and opened the scoring with a free header from eight yards, giving the young keeper no chance.

Broadfields doubled their lead on eight minutes as they made the most of a fortunate ricochet. The ball deflected kindly from a Rangers challenge and dropped to a Broadfields player on the edge of the box. If the deflection was fortunate the finish was far from it, as he volleyed the ball into the top corner.

Rangers bought on Kevin Mealor

and Asher Yearwood at the break in an attempt to change things and it almost paid off in the first minute when Griggs was through on goal but the normally reliable striker was denied when the keeper made a point blank save. It was to prove a costly miss.

Three minutes later and Mealor shot wide after a good move as Rangers started brightly. Broadfields defended well in those opening minutes and it was clear that they had no intention of giving up their lead. 15 minutes into the half and Stanszewski had to be quick off his line to deflect a chance as United hit on the

break at a rapid pace.

Yearwood headed over from a corner following a freak bounce but then with 72 minutes gone, Rangers were given some hope when Griggs smashed a low shot into the bottom corner to score his 38th goal of the season.

Broadfields looked nervous now but that was to last for only six minutes however when a fluke goal extended Broadfields lead again.

Griggs almost pulled one back in the dying minutes following a great free kick but Broadfields held on for a deserved victory and lifted the trophy in some style.

WANDERERS RECAP

MICHAEL GRAHAM

Bucks Free Press Sport is sponsored by

Ainsworth delighted with final victory at Adams Park



Tyson gave Stevenage problems all game with his pace and directness



The squad celebrate Bloomfield's goal

By Nicholas Tunney

Wycombe 1-0 Stevenage

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth was thrilled to sign off the season in style as Wanderers beat Stevenage 1-0 at Adams Park in front of nearly 9,000 supporters.

Matt Bloomfield scored the only goal of the game on 18 minutes, but in truth, the Blues were in complete control throughout.

Ainsworth was jubilant at the final whistle as the win rounded off a hugely successful season for the Chairboys, with promotion to League One confirmed.

He said: "What a way to sign off the season.

"Historically this club has been guilty of going out with a whimper and creeping over the line but it was far from that here.

"I told the boys that I wanted them to show why they have been promoted and it is so apt that Matty Bloomfield scored.

"I think he is playing the football of his life. We knew it would be tough. The boys deserve all the credit.

"They have done what I have asked them to do and that makes my job a lot easier.

"It is fantastic that we are in League One."

Ainsworth reflected how far the club have come under his tenure and praised some of the unsung heroes at Wanderers.

He added: "Andrew Howard came in as chairman and on the financial side he has saved the club.

"We are a trust-owned club and we have financial problems and this goes a long way towards it.

"We want to make a noise in League

One. I don't want to predict. But lets make sure everyone knows Wycombe are in League One next year and that's the aim."

With seven weeks now until pre-season resumes, Ainsworth - who is also an amateur musician - added: "I am definitely going to have a short holiday now, maybe a couple of gigs thrown in too.

"It will then be back to the grindstone. There has got to be players added to the squad. I will be sitting down with the board and finding out what we can do.

"The infrastructure is getting better but at the moment I wouldn't swap these players for anyone.

"This is the biggest total of points we have had and I am so pleased to have got promoted."

Paris Cowan-Hall came so close to doubling the lead on 55 minutes when his deflected volley came back off the crossbar before he followed up and saw his header cleared off the line.

Wycombe, although just a goal ahead, were firmly in control and Marcus Bean was urged to shoot by the Blues faithful on 70-minutes but his long-range effort dribbled wide.

Adebayo Akinfenwa was bought on in front of raucous home support on 77 minutes, needing one more goal to better his career best tally for a single season.

Stevenage had a rare chance a minute later when Ben Kennedy hit a shot from distance that Yves Ma-Kalambay saved well.

The final whistle then blew as Wycombe look forward to the summer ahead of a League One campaign.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Brown (sub: Ma-Kalambay, 65), Harriman, Jombati, El-Abd, Jacobson, O'Nien, Gape, Bloomfield (sub: Bean, 57), Tyson, Williams (sub: Akinfenwa, 77), Cowan-Hall.



Ainsworth was pleased that Wycombe won their final game of the season

Player ratings:

- WANDERERS v Stevenage
- SCOTT Brown:** 7 - Little to do, deserved his standing ovation
- MICHAEL Harriman:** 7 - Worked well down the right and another good display
- ADAM El-Abd:** 7 - Comfortable afternoon for the skipper
- SIDO Jombati:** 7 - Usual calm and confident performance at the back
- JOE Jacobson:** 7 - Very assured and cruised through the game
- DOMINIC Gape:** 7 - Another excellent afternoon for the midfielder
- LUKE O'Nien:** 7 - Superb range of passing and energy
- MATT Bloomfield:** 8 - BFP STAR MAN- Deserved goal and top display
- NATHAN Tyson:** 7 - Pace caused panic amongst Stevenage defence
- PARIS Cowan-Hall:** 8 - Caused no end of problems for the visitors
- RANDELL Williams:** 6 - Worked extremely hard and speed gave full-back issues.

WANDERERS: Club skipper basks in amazing day Captain Fantastic hails team-mates

WYCOMBE legend Matt Bloomfield hailed an 'incredible' day as he scored the only goal of the game against Stevenage at Adams Park on Saturday.

Bloomfield seized upon a loose ball, drove towards goal and calmly slotted past Joe Fryer in a game the Blues had control of.

After the game, Bloomfield was full of admiration for what the squad had achieved over the course of the season.

He said: "It has been incredible. To equal the record points for a Wycombe team in the league, to celebrate with my family and all the supporters and to score the only goal of the game is incredible.

"Paris was brilliant all game, the ball fell to me and I thought I might

as well have a go and luckily it went in."

Bloomfield received a standing ovation when substituted in the second half and was overwhelmed with the support he received.

He added: "It was amazing. I knew I was going to come off and it was great for Beany to come on as he has been amazing this season.

"To score the goal, you couldn't have written it any better and it was just an incredible moment.

"You have tough times in football but it is all worth it for days like this.

"It was incredible to lift the silver salver. Adam El-Abd has been an incredible captain for us and he wanted to lift it together.

"As club captain, I was more than



Bloomfield scored the only goal against Stevenage

proud to do that at the end.

"The spirit has really carried us through.

"We have had some tough times but we have bounced back so well and the boys deserve a lot of accolades for what they have done this season."

WANDERERS: Akinfenwa praises the whole squad Brilliant Bayo named player of the season for second time

By Nicholas Tunney

Player of the Season

WYCOMBE forward Adebayo Akinfenwa has been named Supporters' Player and Players' Player of the Season for the second year running after another magnificent campaign.

Akinfenwa, 35, scored 18 goals and provided 12 assists as Wycombe clinched promotion to League One.

Once again, 'The Beast' terrorised defences up and down League Two, playing some of the best football of his career.

He picked up the gongs at Sunday's awards dinner at Adams Park and, modest as ever, praised his teammates for their help throughout the campaign.

He said: "I believe as you get older you start realising it isn't just you and you get help in other areas.

"It has been a season where I have been given more help and I have managed to get my goals.

"I am disappointed the injury came which put me out and I am pleased to contribute with my assists.

"Above all, the aim was to get promoted and we have done that and I look back at this season with nothing but admiration, pride and blessings."

At the age of 35, Akinfenwa has missed just four matchday squads this season and claims he is feeling fitter than he ever has done in his career.

He added: "That is testament to the way the gaffer manages me.

"I still have that drive to push my body and to push myself.

"As long as I am enjoying the game,



Akinfenwa with Gareth Ainsworth celebrating against Stevenage

I will put my body through what it needs to go through.

"People that follow me on social media know that I am at it 24/7 but that's because I enjoy putting my body through the regime.

"I enjoy going to the gym and coming to training so as long as I have that desire, I will keep driving.

"I am feeling fitter than ever and am enjoying my football more than

I ever have done."

In terms of promotion to League One, Akinfenwa hailed it as the best one yet to date.

He added: "I say it is better as I am older as I can appreciate it more.

"That is two promotions in three years and that isn't a bad stat. I have been told I am the king of promotions but I don't know about that.

"Some people say your first one is

the best but I think as you get older it is because it could be your last one.

"God forbid it's not but it could be the last one so you savour it.

"This changing room has become my family and it means so much more when I am getting the recognition that I have done this season. It is testament to the changing room that I am with and it feels so much better. This is the best one."

Gape looks ahead to League 1

Young Player of the Season

CHAIRBOYS midfielder Dominic Gape won the Young Player of the Season after a series of superb displays for the Chairboys this term.

Gape scored the crucial winner at Chesterfield, his only goal of the campaign, to seal promotion to League One.

The former Southampton midfielder also performed brilliantly in central midfield, with his energy and drive playing a key role for the Blues.

He also filled in at right-back and did a sterling job whilst Michael Harriman was injured before the turn of the year.

Gape was delighted to win the award and joked: "When they were saying about Young Player of the Year, I was thinking they should do Old Player of the Year as well.

"As the gaffer said we have loads of good young players and loads of good old players as well. Maybe they should think about that as an award for next season.

"I think centre midfield is my best position but I enjoyed filling in at right-back."

Next season, Gape is relishing the chance to have a go a League One. He added: "We have players that have played League One before that I am looking to learn from.

"We have Akinfenwa, Saunders, Bloomfield, Mackail-Smith, Tyson and all these players that have played League One and above and done great things."

Harriman humbled

Community Player of the Season

WANDERERS defender Michael Harriman was named Community Player of the Season following his exploits off the field, helping those in need.

Harriman has become an ambassador for the Wycombe Homeless Connection since a serious injury curtailed his campaign back in October.

He said: "I am glad to have got this award.

"Obviously from a playing side there wasn't many trophies I could win.

"For the six months I was out, helping people really kept me going. I was going out and helping with soccer academies and busy at the night shelter.

"I am really happy and it has been a great end to the season.

"Going to the night shelter was such a humbling experience.

"It put everything into perspective how little our problems are and how much we take things for granted."

WANDERERS: Midfielder's goal leaves memories Bean lauds a very 'special moment'

Goal of the Season

BLUES midfielder Marcus Bean won Wycombe Wanderers' Goal of the Season award thanks to his amazing winner against Carlisle.

Down to 10-men and 3-2 behind, Paris Cowan-Hall equalised against Carlisle in the 91st minute back in February before Bean's winner sent Adams Park into meltdown in the 96th minute.

Bean scored with virtually the last kick of the game, smashing home a brilliant volley past Carlisle keeper Jack Bonham to send the Wycombe faithful into a frenzy.

Just two minutes earlier, Cowan-Hall got the scores level with an excellent header in second half injury time after a brilliant cross from

Craig Mackail-Smith.

Arguably one of the most incredible moments of a magnificent season, Bean explained the memories were still vivid from his goal that February afternoon.

He said: "It was one of those special moments.

"When you wait that long, they normally are important goals for whatever reason and fortunately that one was.

"It has been hard to get away from it and pops up on my newsfeed on social media a lot.

"I normally have a terrible memory and I can't remember many things in the game but that is one that sticks in my mind.

"I can remember that one like it was yesterday.

"It was part of a good run. In that game we were dead and buried and we were down and out.

"Obviously Paris drew us level and me getting the winner was a pivotal moment of the campaign."

With the season done and dusted, Bean admitted he was very much he was still on cloud nine after gaining promotion against Chesterfield 13 days ago at the Proact Stadium.

He said: "Every time I have won promotion the summer afterwards has been amazing.

"It does so much for your whole mood and I am just going to enjoy it all. I have told the young boys that some players I know have gone their whole careers without getting a promotion so to get one so young is brilliant for their careers and can hope-

fully propel them to bigger and better things.

"I am looking forward to a break. The first two or three weeks I just switch off and try and take my mind completely off football.

"Being a footballer is a real roller-coaster of emotions and you have to have that downtime where you just don't think about it."

T-shirts to commemorate the occasion of Bean's goal were sold the following week with a line printed on it saying 'I was there when Beany scored'.

Bean followed up his goal of the season, his first for the club in 104 games, to score a vital equaliser at promotion rivals Exeter City in the very next game with Bean's goals sealing three crucial points in two games.

Wycombe celebrate their



Adebayo Akinfenwa signs autographs



Supporters flocked for miles around for the final game



Gareth Ainsworth with his children and the promotion flag



Bloomfield wheels away in delight



It was a carnival atmosphere inside Adams Park

promotion in the sunshine



Flags were waved to commemorate a wonderful season



Fans made it a capacity crowd at Adams Park



Bill Turnbull addresses the crowd



Some of the Blues' heroes with the silver salver



Akinfenwa high-fives the fans



Dominic Gape and Scott Kashket with their medals



Ainsworth makes a speech to the supporters

SPORT

Cricket

Hales lights up the IPL for Sunrisers
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WANDER-FUL PROMOTION



Akinfenwa
scoops top
award as
Blues cap off
League 2 triumph
Pictures and reaction inside