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Friday, July 6, 2018

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End of the road?

Repairs planned
despite flooding

Page 6



NHS at 70

Special supplement
celebrates landmark

Pull-out



INSIDE 32 pages of Property • 12 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 6 pages of Sport

DEVASTATING INFERNO



Picture by Chris Bailey

100 firefighters tackle monster blaze - Page 4&5

Bus lane fine farce revealed

By Stephanie Wareham

DEVIOUS drivers who flout road laws by using a controversial bus lane on a congested town centre road during restricted hours are getting away scot-free - with police failing to fine a single motorist since 2012, a Bucks Free Press in-

vestigation can reveal.

A Freedom of Information request to Thames Valley Police found not one single fixed penalty notice has been handed out to drivers who disobeyed the time restrictions on the Loudwater to High Wycombe bus lane in the last six years.

Drivers are not permitted to use

the bus lane, which runs along the heavily congested London Road, between 7am and 10am and 4pm and 6.30pm on weekdays - but our photographer spotted dozens of vehicles breaking the rules during a one-hour period yesterday morning.

Thames Valley Police confirmed

they had no records of any fixed penalty notices being issued during the years specified - and are legally required to keep records of all fines issued. It comes after a Bucks Free Press investigation in late 2011 found the controversial measures were not being enforced.

Continued on page 8



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ANALYSIS

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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

IT is definitely a far cry from the usual English summers at the moment.

The weather is sunny and hot which means we are getting a full quota of cricket fixtures being played and incredibly, it isn't long until the so-called winter sports are back in action.

Football is back and with the country backing the national side, it is crazy to think that the new season is just four weeks away now.

It was great to catch up with Gareth this week and new signing Darius Charles. Gaz definitely looks refreshed and ready for the challenge of League One and it is a brilliant coup by the club to extend his deal until 2023.

He is definitely one of the best young managers in England and his brilliant work at Adams Park definitely won't have gone unnoticed but

with him at the helm, they really could surprise so many sides this season, despite them having one of the lowest budgets in the division.

Interviewing Darius was like interviewing any one of the playing squad; very personable, eloquent and am sure will fit in seamlessly to the set up.

It was interesting to read the views of the AFC Wimbledon regarding his defensive attributes with them and pretty much all of them were sad to see him go, with many describing him as a top League One defender.

To keep the nucleus of the squad is imperative and Gareth and his team have done a great job in keeping those guys who contributed massively to the success of last season and I do believe a lot of sides won't enjoy going to Adams Park this coming campaign.

Gareth clearly knows the players he wants and has a very clear idea of how he wants his team to play and when you have plans like that, it makes it easier for his side to implement those and I am sure pre-

season will be done to perfection.

The pre-season fixtures are almost upon us and the Blues certainly have some exciting games ahead with the likes of West Ham and Brentford making the trip to south Bucks later this month.

Cricket is still very much in the forefront of my working week and there were some very exciting games in the past week, including the county's dramatic victory over

Beds at Tring Park.

High Wycombe's very own Tom Hampton is the new county captain and he was over the moon at seeing his side prevail with just four balls to spare, mainly thanks to a sparking bowling performance from Chesham's Matt Rance.

As ever, thanks for reading these pages and I am sure I will continue to report on more south Bucks sporting success next week.



Howard and Ainsworth.

SIX OF THE BEST

Tring Park v High
Wycombe- Saturday, July
7

HIGH Wycombe need to bounce back and quickly after their narrow loss to Slough at the weekend saw them drop further off the title pace.

The majority of the batsmen made decent starts to their innings but only passed 50, which won't win many games.



The bowling, as ever, was excellent and the team hunted in packs but they fell just short of what would have been a crucial win.

This weekend, they travel to their conquerors from the opening match of the season, Tring

Park, for what should be a fantastic match between two very good sides.

The Tring defeat at the beginning of the campaign led to Nathan Hawkes' men go on a wonderful winning streak which saw them top the table.

A victory over their Herts rivals would see them back in the title picture and it would be the perfect time to breathe life back into their season.

Amersham v Datchet-
Saturday, July 7

AMERSHAM'S form in the past few weeks has been truly remarkable. From staring down the barrel of a relegation dogfight, they now have real aspirations of challenging at the right end of the league and with the talent at their disposal, they have a real opportunity of another win this weekend.

The draw at Wokingham was very creditable and Amersham were the better side but Wokingham clung on doggedly. Once again, Madhuka Liyanapathirana took another wonderful five-wicket haul to give the Shardeloes a chance but they fell just short.

More Madhuka magic against Datchet could see another win and edge closer to the promotion race.

Stoke Green v Gerrards
Cross- Saturday, July 7

GERRARDS Cross have had an up-and-down season but had a very high-scoring draw with Henley last weekend to show their batting to be formidable once again when they click, with aggressive players throughout the order.

Richard Knudsen's men have still got a decent shot at promotion but Stoke Green could prove a tricky match for them.

Northumberland v
Bucks- July 8 to July 10

TOM Hampton's first game of charge of the county could not have gone any better or be anymore exciting as they beat rivals Beds with

four balls to spare.

Their side featured the likes of Teddie Casterton, Garry Park and Matt Rance who are all match-winners on their day and the team have a wonderful blend of youth, experience and real talent who could prove formidable as they season continues apace.

They set off for a long journey to Northumberland this weekend as they play their second three-day game at the picturesque Jesmond ground.

If Bucks can replicate that Beds display, it could be a really good benchmark for the rest of the season.

England v India- Sunday,
July 8

AT the time of going to press, we are not sure if the three-match series is deadlocked at 1-1 or one team has already swept to victory.

India will definitely provide a tougher test in the ODIs and T20s than Australia did but England are riding the crest of a wave at the moment and look in amazing form.

Virat Kohli's men will know all about the power of Alex Hales, who played for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL earlier this year and Hales had a brilliant series against Australia.

He is one of the biggest hitters in world cricket on his day and could take India's attack to the cleaners when in the mood.

Wingate & Finchley v
Beaconsfield- Saturday,
July 7

THE football season is slowly entering people's thoughts once again and pre-season is upon most teams as they strive to enter the season in the best shape possible.

Beaconsfield's quest for a top campaign begins in north London on Saturday, starting a string of friendlies before that all-important first game in a new league.



SPORT

School Sport
Burnham get
new initiative
- Page 65



Cricket
Bucks secure
last-gasp win
- Page 69



Ainsworth: The loan market is vital for us

Chairboys manager wants to bolster squad



By Nicholas Tunney

WITH pre-season back in full swing, Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth was in a buoyant mood ahead of their League One campaign, which begins in just under four weeks time.

Ainsworth led the Blues to a historic promotion last season and has already been busy this summer, drafting in two new signings as well as securing his own future at Adams Park until 2023.

Although the hard work is well

underway ahead of August 4, Ainsworth is already plotting some more potential signings to bolster his squad and admitted the loan market is likely going to be the best way to go.

He said: "There have to be more signings.

"Potentially we will have loan players coming in with what we can afford. We have done well in the loan market in recent years with the likes of Ebere Eze, Alfie Mawson and Jamal Blackman and I am hoping we can utilise that

loan market again.

"Bigger clubs want to loan to League One clubs more so than they do to League Two clubs and that is to our advantage.

"We want to get the right players at the right time for the right price and that is how it has always been here.

"We ask for patience but hopefully we can bolster the squad."

With Darius Charles and Ryan Allsop already signed, Ainsworth said it was vital to get players who could integrate quickly with the squad and acknowledged that it was easy

for Allsop and Charles to do that.

He added: "It was a big plus to get those guys in and they could integrate so quickly.

"The group is so that anyone could integrate into the group and that is the culture we have here.

"Those guys know what they are coming into and that helped get them in the building in the first place but it is seamless and they know what's asked and you work and run until you drop here and we work hard and we are humble and we keep that core value."

Charles champing at the bit

Wanderers

BLUES new boy Darius Charles admits he can't wait to get going at Adams Park after joining from AFC Wimbledon recently.

Charles has been admired for quite some time by Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth and the boss admitted his delight at securing the defender's signature.

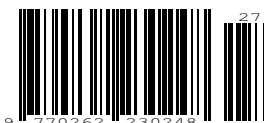
After having his first taste of a pre-season in south Bucks, Charles explained that he is raring to go and knows he has a fight on his hands to make a starting berth at the back his own.

He said: "Competition is good for everyone and if everyone is pushing each other, as an individual you will get better and we will also get better as a team which is the most important thing for us."

Charles was a team-mate of Adebayo Akinfenwa's at AFC Wimbledon and praised the quality of the forwards in the Chairboys squad.

He added: "Genuinely, we have incredible strikers here and that makes me a better player."

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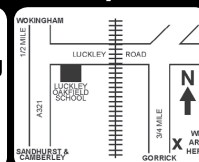


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