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Bucks Free Press

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Our new campaign calling on public to report flashers to police before their sick crimes escalate

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INSIDE • Property • Court listings • Nostalgia • Planning roundup • Sport

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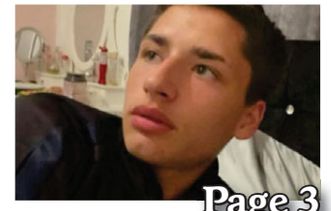
Three men expose themselves to women in separate incidents in Bucks as Coronation attacker remains at large - we say enough is enough

Special report: 4&5

CRIME

Mum's plea for help to find her son's killer



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IN PICTURES

Enjoying the best bike ride of their lives!

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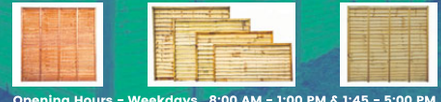
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Rookie called up to squad

4BUCKS have called up young Gerrards Cross spinner Teddy Flemming into the squad for their third National Counties Trophy group match against Staffordshire at the rearranged venue of Moddershall & Oulton CC near Stone on Sunday.

Bucks who have lost their first two Group 4 matches, must win to retain their slim hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Great Brickhill all-rounder Jack Rodnight also returns to the squad of 12 for the 50-overs match that starts at 11am.

Bucks squad: T Hampton (High Wycombe) capt, A Woodland (High Wycombe), E Cox (Buckingham), C Marrow (Gerrards Cross), A Kervezee (Halesowen), R Richardson (Blackheath), M Payne (Amersham), E Bragg (Halesowen), J Rodnight (Great Brickhill), S Croft (Harefield), T Flemming (Gerrards Cross), T Weymes (Tring Park).

To send in your sports stories, visit www.bucksfreepress.co.uk and go to the 'send us your news option'. It's free to do and there are no limits.

All for a good cause

NEARLY £2,000 was raised for the British Heart Foundation after a charity football match took place in Chinnor.

Organised by Chris Turton and Rod Bousfield, the event took place on Sunday, June 4 at the Chinnor Recreation Ground with the fixture ending 7-3 to Team Chris.

In total, 34 former Chinnor Athletic players took part in the cause with numerous prizes being won in a raffle.

One of the rewards were tickets to a Wycombe Wanderers match for the upcoming season.

Both Chris and Rod thanked everyone who attended and took part in the contest, and there are plans for it to take place in 12 months' time.

To donate to the British Heart Foundation, go to www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate/my-donation/get-started.

Improving for the home fans

The Hour Glass is the closest pub to Adams Park with it being a 15-minute walk (Facebook)

By James Richings

THE closest pub to Wycombe Wanderers' Adams Park stadium has insisted that their 'rough reputation' is a thing of the past and that the bar will allow both home and away fans next season.

The Hour Glass, which is a 15-minute walk away from the Hillbottom Road venue, had gathered a status associated with violence and disorder in previous years.

And with the establishment mainly being used by visiting spectators getting behind the Chairboys' opponents, the hostility amongst fans grew to the point that anyone wearing Wycombe's colours were not allowed in on matchdays to avoid conflicts.

However, the pub's new landlord, Luke Gregory, has stated that he aims to have both sets of supporters in the establishment come August, and that the bar will be decorated in light and dark blue.

He told the Free Press: "It's not rough anymore.

"We've had a lot of different characters in the past that may have given the pub that 'rough' reputation, but it's not like that and we don't have many issues.

"I've had the pub for about 11 months now and it has always been mainly used for the away fans, but we want to make this for home fans too.

"That's the aim.

"Of course, we won't want to turn away any away fans, but, we're in the process of trying to get a few Wanderers items up on the wall such as photos, scarves, framed shirts etc.

"We want to have flags, history pieces, and pictures up and around the place to make it Wycombe-friendly.

"We've redecorated the back garden and the interior, and we're trying to get as many Wanderers bits up and around the pub.

"I don't want to say we're specifically for Wycombe fans only, but it'll be the Wycombe home pub with the away fans being welcome."

The landlord also spoke about the importance of visiting pubs within the local community, after official government figures stated that more than 150 across England and Wales have shut in 2023.

This number has since risen and will continue to increase.

He continued: "The pub does alright on its own, but when the football is on, it really does help us out a lot, as that extra income can actually help us do things.

"So many pubs have shut in the town, and you can tell which ones and struggling, and which ones are not.

"The town centre or high street has not been the same since Covid, and I don't think it will be the same for a long time, if ever.

"Pubs that are staying around are paying their bills and are still doing what they need to do, but it won't be the same as it was."

The pub is looking for anyone who would like to donate any surplus Wycombe Wanderers items to put up on their wall as décor.

If you have any memorabilia that you would like to give to the Hour Glass pub, call 07951 415654 or email james.richings@newsquest.co.uk.

Jesse Chraniuk in action earlier this year in Italy (Sam Chraniuk)

Judo prodigy to star for Team GB this summer

A MEMBER from High Wycombe Judo Centre will represent Team GB at two separate tournaments this summer.

Jesse Chraniuk will take part in this year's Cadet European Championships in Odivelas, Portugal from between June 22 and 25.

He will also show off his skills at the European Youth Olympic Festival in Maribor, Slovenia between July 23 and 29.

After being ranked 62nd best in the world in December, Jesse is now number one in the British Cadet rankings and 14th in the World Cadet rankings.

This comes after he won two bronze medals at a tournament in Italy earlier this year.

British Judo Head of Performance Pathway, Matt Divall, said: "These championships provide judoka with a valuable learning opportunity and exposure to a championships at a young age, which will only aid their development and experience as they progress towards the Junior age group and hopefully future Senior performance at World Championships and Olympic Games."

The retained list of players for the women's team has been released (PA)

Who will be staying?

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women can confirm its retained list following the conclusion of the 2022/23 campaign.

Esmee Sword is leaving the club due to relocating having finished university, her most memorable moment whilst at Wycombe was scoring the winner in the quarter final of the League Cup against Bournemouth Spots.

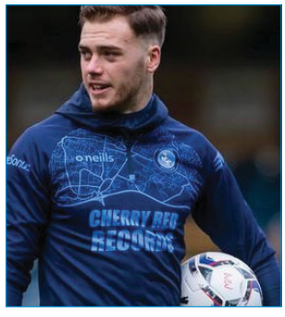
Sally Grimm is also leaving as she is going to University; having progressed through the development system at Wycombe she made her mark this year with a number of quality performances in the first team, as well as a hattrick against Abingdon United.

Both have been key members of the Carl Simon's side this season and the club wishes them all the best for the future.

The full retained list as follows:
Kara Howes
Gemma Dunn
Chante Inniss
Emily Strange
Emma Kern
Katie Riddington
Bobby Lynch
Kine Andersen
Emily McCartney
Emma Newberry
Sophie Attfield
Amy Leach
Honor Cantrell
Freya Harris
Amaya Navarro

Wycombe Wanderers would like to thank the departing players for their efforts during the 2022/23 season.

Ex-GK Anderson on new office job



Curtis Anderson (PA)

A FORMER Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper has forged a new career in finance just 18 months after departing the Chairboys.

Curtis Anderson, who spent a season-and-a-half with the club without making a first-team appearance, admitted that he 'sometimes struggled with football life', and that his new office role has given him 'stability.'

This new venture comes just six years after the 22-year-old had been England's first-choice keeper at the FIFA Under 17 World Cup in India, which the Three Lions won.

Speaking on his new job, Anderson, who also plays for Non League Bootle on a part time basis, told the Times: "My interest in finance came from being at City, signing a pro [contract] and then two years later having no money left.

"When I look back, I wonder what I spent my money on.

"I got an apartment, a car, and bought a Rolex thinking that's the worst thing I could have bought and it's been the best thing I bought.

"That's the only thing I could sell now for more than I bought it for."

His life now involves working at Markland Hill Wealth in Liverpool, crunching numbers and helping people with their monetary issues.

But despite having a stable life that doesn't involve numerous travelling, Anderson admitted there was a sense of what could have been when watching last year's FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

He explained: "I really struggled [watching the World Cup] because I was seeing so many of my old teammates and people I had spent a lot of time with.

"Then there's me, sat at home watching it on TV, thinking, 'how has this ended up happening?'

"I have struggled sometimes with my football life.

"You could look at it and say it's quite sad, up and down, it's not great.

"But at the same time, whether you put it down to luck or not, I grew up with Phil Foden, who's won the Premier League five times he's the same age as me."

"Whether it's unlucky, unfortunate, wrong decisions here or there, people not helping, whatever you want to call it, it's not great.

"I sometimes struggle with how I feel about it."

The place for away fans to visit in HW

The Flint Cottage is opposite High Wycombe Train Station and are hoping to house away fans during the 2023/24 season (FB)

By James Richings

A High Wycombe pub is hoping to become an official away day boozer for when the new League One season starts in August.

The Flint Cottage, which is situated directly opposite Wycombe Train Station, is encouraging travelling football fans to come to the Amersham Hill establishments when their respective side take on Wycombe Wanderers.

Clive Grace, who has been the pub's holding general manager since March, revealed exclusively to the Free Press that due to the public house's prime location where travelling spectators will be present, now is the right time to 'promote the pub' as much as possible.

This comes after several bars have shut all across Buckinghamshire due to the cost of food produce and the lack of customers.

Official government figures have revealed that more than 150 pubs in England and Wales shut down in the first three months of this year.

Clive told the Free Press: "I thought about this coming up to the end of last season.

"The previous manager didn't really push it but now that I'm in charge, I really want to push this.

"I recently joined the League One Facebook page, expressed my plan and I've had a lot of good feedback from fans all over the division.

"When the football season is up and running, pubs are the heart and soul of any team, especially like us who are close to the train station where there will be many fans.

"It will be a great way to get involved in the football.

"I thought it would be a nice way to promote the pub for when the away fans come to the town."

Clive also explained that even though he aims to have the pub primarily for away supporters, the bar will still be useable for any fan regardless of allegiance and that he could even open up the establishment as early as 9am.

And with several teams in the division next season being relatively close to Wycombe geographically, such as Reading, Oxford, Leyton Orient, Northampton Town and Stevenage, he hopes his project can take off.

He continued: "I know that Wycombe is a football town but some pubs here don't let people in that wear a football shirt, where I have no problem with that.

"It's all about being safe and having a good environment, and we are an LGBTQ+ friendly pub, and we won't tolerate any rude behaviour or comments from punters.

"With the local teams, Wycombe's main rival [now that MK went down], is Oxford, and last season, even though I wasn't here for the game, I remember being told it was very busy."

The first batch of away fans to visit Adams Park next season will be Cardiff City for Joe Jacobson's testimonial on July 29.

SPORT

Wycombe have got four friendlies this summer (PA)

The teams Wanderers will play ahead of the new campaign in pre-season

TWO more friendly matches involving Wycombe Wanderers have been confirmed for this summer.

After confirming encounters with National League Aldershot Town and Cardiff City respectively, the Chairboys will also face Wealdstone and Hanwell Town in the non-competitive fixtures.

The pre-season against Wealdstone will be played behind closed doors on Tuesday, July 25, whilst the clash versus Hanwell Town is open to the public.

That fixture will be played on Friday, July 14, and it is believed the squad will consist of trialists.

The Chairboys did take on the London Geordies in a friendly back in the summer of 2021, where they won 3-1.

Wanderers' friendlies for the summer (so far) are as follows:

Friday, July 14: Hanwell Town (A)

Saturday, July 22: Aldershot Town (A)

Tuesday, July 25: Wealdstone (A)*

Saturday, July 29: Cardiff City (H)

*Behind closed doors

More friendlies are set to be announced in due course ahead of the EFL's fixture release day on Thursday, June 22.

The new season starts on Saturday, August 5.

JJ's testimonial is confirmed

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play Cardiff City in Joe Jacobson's testimonial match this summer.

The 36-year-old will be celebrated at Adams Park during the fixture on July 29, as he enters his 10th year at the club, after he penned a new one-year deal earlier this year.

This was down to triggering an appearance clause in his previous contract.

"I'm a Cardiff boy, born and bred, and it was a source of huge pride for me and my family to play for the club right at the start of my career.

"I've loved every minute of my time at Wycombe so far and to bring my two favourite clubs together for this game will be an incredible occasion that I'll always cherish.

"I'd like to thank the board and everyone at Wycombe Wanderers for granting me this testimonial game, and Cardiff City for agreeing to provide the opposition."

Jacobson began his career with his boyhood club, playing twice across the 2005/06 and 2006/07 seasons, before having loan spells at Accrington Stanley and Bristol Rovers respectively.

After winning promotion into League One with the latter in May 2007 in the League Two play-off final, he signed for the Pirates permanently, before departing for Oldham Athletic in 2009.

He would play just 16 times across two seasons, before moving back to Accrington on loan for the rest of the 2010/11 campaign.

Three successful years followed at Shrewsbury Town where he once again won promotion in 2012 from the fourth tier into the third, but after being released in 2014, he would move south to Adams Park.

Jacobson has since gone to feature 377 times for the Chairboys and has been part of three play-off campaigns (2015, 2020 and 2022), has won promotion twice (2018 and 2020), and scored the winning goal that secured Wanderers' place in the Championship for the first time in their history.

Chairman Rob Couhig added: "Joe has been an outstanding professional for Wycombe Wanderers, not just on the pitch with his undoubted talent and countless significant contributions, but also off the pitch as our captain, a leader, a general and someone who our supporters and the whole town rightly holds in the highest regard.

"When we knew he would be with us for his tenth season, we had no hesitation in granting him a testimonial game."

Wycombe last played Cardiff at Adams Park in December 2020, where they defeated the Bluebirds 2-1 thanks to Ryan Tafazolli's first goal for the club, along with a David Wheeler header.

The match was played behind closed doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ticket information is available on the Wycombe Wanderers website.

Joe Jacobson will have his testimonial played on July 29 versus Cardiff (PA)

The new shirts are up for sale (PA)

Shirt is a hot topic with fans

WYCOMBE Wanderers' new home kit for the 2023/24 season has been released, and it's been met with critical acclaim.

The strip is the first to be produced by the Danish sports manufacturers, Hummel, with Origin Doors and Windows being the shirt's main sponsor.

They replace the outgoing O'Neill's, who had designed the Chairboys' kits for the past seven years, and Dreams, who had been the face of Wanderers' shirts since 2020.

The club said: "The shirt has all the hallmarks of a classic Hummel kit, with beautiful detail and the iconic Hummel chevrons.

"It's made from 100 per cent polyester, with micro mesh shoulder panels, 1×1 rib collar and neckline with contrast tipping, official authentication badge, woven chest badge and Hummel printed back neck tape."

Many fans took to Twitter to share their thoughts.

Dan Clark said: "Can you hear the tills ringing?

"Seriously though, expecting a lot more shirts in the stands next season.

"Can only be a good thing."

Joe North added: "Take my money immediately."

Jack Henderson added: "A less busy effort than the O'Neill's designs and all the better for it."

To order the shirt, visit the club's website.

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