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WALKING PROJECT COMES OF AGE

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Picnic blanket & food vouchers

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Water firm slammed over sewage leak

And village's pub angry that unfixed sinkhole is causing foul smell of waste to waft in

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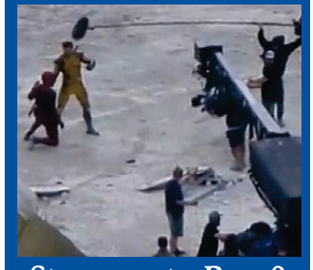
SPOTTED: DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE



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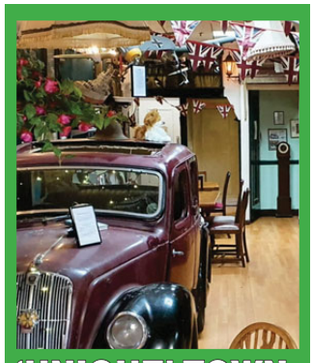

'UNIQUE' TOWN CENTRE BAR IS TO CLOSE

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INSIDE Body pulled from Grand Union Canal waters after emergency services alert Page 7

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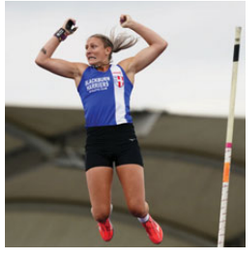
Bradshaw accepting of big call by Aussies



HOLLY Bradshaw in action in Manchester this month.

POLE vault star Holly Bradshaw understands why Victoria has pulled out of hosting the Commonwealth Games.

The 31-year-old, who won bronze at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago, knows countries have decisions to make during tough economic times.

Australia's Victoria state has withdrawn as host of the 2026 Games due to the spiralling costs.

England's Bradshaw finished fourth when Australia's Gold Coast hosted the event in 2018 and is disappointed with the call but remains philosophical.

She said: "Unfortunately in the Commonwealth Games, the UK and Australia are the biggest countries. It's a lot of resources, it's a lot of money.

"It's unfortunate because athletes get a lot out of it but the amount of pressure we're under with the cost of living crisis, I can see why countries don't want to put it on.

"There are people who can't pay their mortgages out there yet it's potentially costing billions of pounds.

"So as much as it is unfortunate and devastating - if I never had gone to a Commonwealth Games that would be really upsetting - but I can really understand why some of these countries don't want to host it and put it on.

"It's disappointing because I've always had really good experiences at the Commonwealth Games.

"Not only from an athletics perspective but it gives lots of people, potentially developmental athletes as well, an opportunity to go to a multi-sport Champs.

"So when they do go onto the Olympics it's not the first time they're thrust into that environment."

IT has been a special year for the newly-promoted Leigh Leopards, second in the league and in a Challenge Cup semi.

Leigh star felt 'something special'

LEIGH captain John Asiata insists he always believed his side could do "something special" as they prepare for their Challenge Cup semi-final against St Helens.

The loose forward has been part of the team which have shocked Super League, winning 12 of their last 13 games in all competitions and in with a chance of their first Challenge Cup final since 1971.

The former NRL star brings lots of experience to the Leopards, having won the NRL grand final and the World Club Challenge.

Now, the Australian has a different task at hand as he aims to continue Leigh's stunning run with a Wembley appearance at stake.

Asiata told the PA news agency: "I said it at the start of the year that I trust this group and we are going to do something special.

"We are doing that and now we have to just keep going. Coming here, I did not understand why I was coming here but it was a door that God opened for me and since I've been here it's been nothing but great things so I'm very happy.

"This year is all about making history and this is another opportunity to do that."

Fleetwood aims to win Open for mum

By **Andy Hampson**
Press Association Sport

TOMMY Fleetwood hopes to produce a special performance in memory of his late mother as he targets Open victory in his native north west this week.

It is a year this week since the Southport player's mother Sue died, and Fleetwood wants to mark the anniversary with a strong showing in front of family and friends at Royal Liverpool.

The 32-year-old will begin his latest Open campaign at 9.47am today, playing alongside world number one Scottie Scheffler and Adam Scott in the opening round in Hoylake.

"It'll be different," said Fleetwood, who is currently ranked 21st in the world, at a press conference. "It'll be a year on Friday.

"We know that that's coming up. It would be nice to think she's watching over.

TOMMY Fleetwood dreams of glory.

"It'll be a special event. I would love to play well and I would love to give myself a chance come Saturday and Sunday and have something to aim for in that sense.

"Everybody is doing really well - I have a great family and a lot of support, and my dad is out here.

"I think the best thing is seeing how well he's doing and obviously giving him something to enjoy watching this week."

Fleetwood made his Open debut at Hoylake in 2014 but has never won the event, though he has managed second and fourth.

Fleetwood said: "Winning a major is a dream, or winning The Open is a huge, huge dream.

"No matter where that is, that's always something I've visualised and always thought about but, having the opportunity to do it so close to where you grew up, is something unique and special.

"For sure I've pictured it a lot and visualised it a lot. I just haven't done it yet in person, so that's hopefully the next thing."

Fleetwood believes his grouping for the opening two rounds will help bring the best out of him.

He said: "The first thing you do is look at the draw, and I was very happy with the guys that I'm playing with - great golfers, both good at winning tournaments.

"It's always good to be around those people that are at the top of the game and make sure you're trying to keep pace with them."

Broad hits 600 as Pope has surgery

STUART Broad became just the fifth bowler to get to 600 Test wickets, reaching a prestigious milestone by dismissing Travis Head on the opening day of the fourth Ashes match.

Broad's opening bowling partner James Anderson is the only other seamer to hit the landmark, alongside spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble.

He started yesterday morning on 598, with opener Usman Khawaja his 599th victim.

Meanwhile, Ollie Pope has undergone surgery on the dislocated right shoulder that ruled the England vice-captain out of the rest of the summer.

Pope did the damage fielding in the second Ashes Test and exacerbated the problem later in the match amid some miscommunication between England and the match officials.

Quins seal Smith deal

ENGLAND fly-half Marcus Smith has signed a contract extension with Gallagher Premiership side Harlequins.

The 24-year-old is currently part of Steve Borthwick's training squad preparing for the World Cup in France, which takes place this autumn.

Smith, who helped Quins to the Premiership title in 2021, made his debut during the 2017/18 season and has gone on to score over 1,000 points in the league.

While the length of Smith's extension has not been confirmed, the club announcement said it will keep him at the Stoop beyond next season.

The Wycombe first-team defeated the Arsenal U21s 1-0 a team of trialists lost away at Hanwell (PA)

Friendlies are back

IT was a mixed day for Wycombe Wanderers as the Chairboys were on the end of two conflicting pre-season results.

The first team travelled to London Colney in the afternoon of July 14 to take on the Arsenal Under 21s, where they defeated the Gunners 1-0 thanks to a D'Mani Mellor header from a Jasper Pattenden cross.

It was the first non-competitive fixture of the summer for Matt Bloomfield's men, and it was also the first time that he was able to see new signings in Richard Keogh, Kian Breckin, Luke Leahy, Harry Boyes and Kane Vincent-Young in action.

Several hours later, a team of trialists took on Hanwell Town of the Southern League Premier Division South (two leagues before the National League), where they lost 7-0.

The trialists had only had three training sessions as a collective before taking on the Toon Army in Perivale, and despite the defeat, it is believed that some are expected to sign with Wycombe in the coming weeks.

They also lost 2-1 to Dagenham & Redbridge on July 18.

The upcoming friendlies for the Chairboys are against Aldershot Town, Wealdstone and Cardiff City, before starting the season against Exeter in August

More faces expected to sign this summer

Wycombe will begin the season at home to Exeter City on August 5 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers are aiming to sign a further 11 players this transfer window.

The Chairboys, who have already secured the services of five new faces, are hoping to attract an additional five first-team players.

It is also hoped that six new faces will also join the development squad.

The positions in question are in goal due to Max Stryjek being the only first-team shot-stopper, along with reinforcements in attack.

Two of the players that Wanderers are keeping close tabs on include centre back Joe Low, who is thought to have featured in the Chairboys' 1-0 away win over the Arsenal U21s on July 14, and forward, Gabriel Kamavuako.

The latter, who was previously on the books at Portsmouth, was a trialist in Wycombe's 7-0 away defeat against Hanwell Town on the same day as their victory over the Gunners.

The Chairboys had also been in the hunt to sign former Manchester United academy product Sam Smith, with the striker becoming a free agent after leaving Cambridge United this summer.

However, despite interest, the forward as opted to re-join his former club, Reading, with the deal being confirmed by the Royals and the player this week.

Wanderers' transfer business so far has seen the club sign Richard Keogh and Kane Vincent-Young from Ipswich Town, Kian Breckin on loan from Manchester City, Luke Leahy from Shrewsbury Town, and Harry Boyes from Sheffield United on a season-long loan respectively.

By James Richings

It has also been reported that the atmosphere at the Marlow Road Training Ground is 'incredibly vibrant, energised and positive', with there being a 'feel good factor and buzz' within the vicinity.

One player that Wanderers will more than likely not sign is Jamie Ayres.

The Bucks-born footballer is currently on the books at Flackwell Heath but has recently accepted a trial at Wycombe's League One rivals, Bolton Wanderers.

If successful, he will sign a professional contract with the former Premier League side.

Upon his recent move to the North West to try and capture a landmark contract, Flackwell Heath, who plays in the Combined Counties League Premier Division North, said: "Everyone at Flackwell Heath FC would like to wish the very best of luck to Jamie Ayres who is on trial with League 1 Bolton Wanderers this week.

Jamie is a former Flackwell Heath Minors FC, Flackwell Heath FC Youth player and a current member of our First Team."

The news came three days before they took one fellow Buckinghamshire side Holmer Green in a pre-season friendly, which they would go on to win 13-1.

Bolton have had three separate spells in the Premier League, with their last stint being from 2001 to 2012.

The new league season will start on August 5 with Wycombe taking on Exeter City at Adams Park.

One-time Wanderer signs for the Rams

He spent a year at AP (PA)

A former Wycombe Wanderers player who failed to make a single league appearance for the club has found a new team.

Jacob Gardiner-Smith, who spent the 2019/20 season with the Chairboys, has penned a deal to join Beaconsfield Town for the upcoming campaign.

Prior to his move to the Rams, the 26-year-old spent some time at Hanwell Town, Kings Langley, Cheshunt, Hemel Hempstead Town, St Albans City and Hendon.

We are pleased to announce the signing of midfielder Jacob Gardiner-Smith.

He was also on the books at CSKA Moscow and Zenit Saint Petersburg during his academy days between 2015 and 2018.

Finally, although he never made a league appearance for Wycombe during their successful season in 2020, he did feature in all of the club's three Football League Trophy fixtures against Stevenage, the Fulham U21s and Milton Keynes respectively.

He ended his time with a play-off winners medal following the Chairboys' promotion to the Championship.

Another move for former Chairboy

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper Adam Przybek has joined his fourth club in just over 12 months.

The 23-year-old, who spent a solitary year with the Chairboys during the 2021/22 season, has signed for the Polish third tier side, Stal Stalowa Wola on a free transfer.

He joins them after being released by Stevenage, with Wola being the 12th club of his career.

His new team play in the Polish third-tier having recently earned promotion.

After signing for the Chairboys from Ipswich Town in the summer of 2021, he played six times and kept one clean sheet which came against Ascot United in the Berks & Bucks Cup.

SPORT

Joe Low is Wycombe's sixth summer signing (PA)

Another new face as Low lands Wanderers deal from Bristol City

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of centre back Joe Low from Bristol City for an undisclosed fee.

The 21-year-old joins the Chairboys following a successful trial with the Chairboys, in which he played an integral part in the club's 1-0 away win against the Arsenal U21s on July 14.

He becomes the sixth new face to join Wycombe following the arrivals of Richard Keogh, Kane Vincent-Young, Harry Boyes, Luke Leahy and Kian Breckin.

Wycombe manager Matt Bloomfield said: "Joe's a player with a lot of potential and he's done really well during his time with us this summer, so I'm really pleased to bring him here on a permanent deal to add more strength and competition to our defence.

"He's someone we've looked at for a while and I was really impressed with him at Walsall last season.

"He comes here with good experience of first-team football, as well as being part of the Wales squad in the summer, and he's settled in really well here already."

Low, who played two first-team games for Bristol City, was transfer-listed this summer with Robins boss Nigel Pearson excluding the centre back from the club's pre-season tour of Austria earlier this month.

It is also understood that Bloomfield tried to sign Low whilst he was in charge of Colchester United in January, only for the defender to join Walsall instead.

Forino set for QPR transfer

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers centre back Chris Forino is expected to sign for Queens Park Rangers.

There has been speculation surrounding the defender's future since the start of the transfer window, but it was suggested at the end of June that 'there was no validity' in the links.

As it stands, there is 'no validity' in the *current* rumours surrounding Chris Forino's future at Wycombe.

However, it seems that QPR, who are managed by former Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth, have upped their interest in the former Colchester United and Brentford academy product.

Forino has been revealed as Rangers' 'number one transfer target', and is set to join the former Premier League team for a fee to be around £350,000 plus add-ons.

Another ex-Chairboy that is anticipated to join QPR is Lewis Wing.

The 28-year-old had been offered a new contract by Wycombe at the end of the 2022/23 season, but declined the chance to extend his stay at Adams Park, making him a free agent.

In a recent interview with BBC 3 Counties, Wycombe owner Rob Couhig admitted that he'll listen to offers 'that are good for Forino and the club.'

He told the radio station on July 17: "With our development squad, these guys supplement our budget like Anis Mehmeti who bought us in money.

"Some other guys are on the cusp of bringing in money, but we're bringing in around five, six to seven young guys who can play for us.

When asked about Forino's future, Couhig added: "I don't know if he'll go this transfer window.

"We've managed to fend off competition for Chris, but he won't go cheap.

"The good news with Wycombe today is that we don't need to sell anyone to survive.

"So if someone comes in with an offer that's good for Chris, it'll mean he'll play at a higher level and it'll be good for us to get our value.

"But both things have to come true and I don't know what will happen to Chris at this stage."

Forino joined Wycombe in April 2021 after impressing both Ainsworth and development manager Sam Grace following a short-term trial.

He eventually signed for the club and has since featured in 53 competitive games for Wanderers, scoring five times.

The Saint Lucian's current contract at Wanderers is due to expire in 2024.

To read more about the latest news on Wycombe Wanderers, follow James Richings on Twitter (James_BFP).

Chris Forino has played 53 times for Wycombe since 2021 (PA)

The old home of Tetek (PA)

Signing number seven?

WYCOMBE Wanderers are set to complete the signing of the former Reading midfielder, Dejan Tetek.

The 20-year-old is currently on trial with the Chairboys following his exit from the Royals this summer and would provide competition with Kian Breckin, Luke Leahy, Josh Scowen and Jack Young in the centre of midfield.

The Oxford-born Serbian Under 21 international would also be the sixth new face to arrive at Adams Park this transfer window.

However, he did miss the entirety of the 2022/23 season with injury, with his last competitive appearance coming in January 2022.

A graduate of the Reading academy, he played 21 times for the club after making his professional debut at the age of 17 in October 2020.

He was also an unused substitute when Wycombe last played the Royals which was in February 2021 at Adams Park.

The match, which was played behind-closed-doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ended 1-0 in Wanderers' favour thanks to a Fred Onyedinma goal.

The game also saw Ryan Tafazolli receive a straight red card, with Lucas Joao and Uche Ikpeazu missing a penalty each.

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