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TOMORROW'S STARS SHINE FOR HOSPICE

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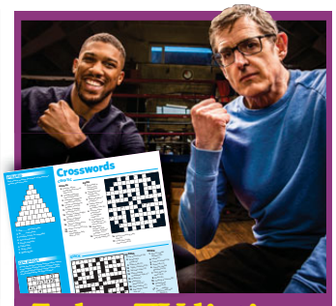

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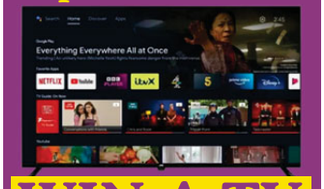

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Call to drop speed limits to 20mph

Councillor campaigns for more slow streets in quest for safer routes

Councillor Julia Wassell

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ANNUAL SHOW ON THE RYE

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New kit for local club

A carer's brainwave has led to three under-11s football teams getting new kit this year.

Following sponsorship from High Wycombe-based home care provider Walfinch, Downley Dynamos' 47 players will be sporting the home care's logo on their latest strip thanks to football mum, Sian Dewing.

Sian's son Bobby, 10, plays for the Dynamos, and when Dan Baskerville, Head Coach of this season's under-11 squad, appealed for sponsorship ideas, she introduced him to her boss, Greg Renk, who is the managing director of the of Walfinch Mid and South Buckinghamshire.

Greg said: "I was happy to sponsor them.

"I'm a fan of grassroots football, and I've been a touchline dad myself so I know that it costs a lot of money to cover expenses such as kit, pitch hire and communications.

"We're glad to be able to help fund community activities and the publicity may help attract new clients and people looking for a career in our care team."

"Sian, the Care and Compliance Supervisor and a senior carer in Greg's care team, added: "It struck me that a home care provider would make an unusual and eye-catching sponsor, so now we will see the name Walfinch on the Dynamos' shirts.

"It means the players have new kit, and the many mums and dads who go to Dynamos games will know the name of local home care provider Walfinch - useful if they are ever looking for a care service."

The three under-11 teams play games in separate divisions, so the kit will be seen by parents and relatives of the Dynamos and three opposing teams each week across Buckinghamshire, plus their coaches.

Dan said: "This sponsorship helps ensure that the players can have new shirts so that all three teams look smart. Each player will have their own number on their shirt, which gives them pride in their place as a player and in their team. "We're delighted to have a home care service as a sponsor.

"Usually we are sponsored by local trades companies such as electricians and builders, which is great, but this is a real change, and Walfinch care services will be relevant to many spectators."

Walfinch will be the main logo on players' shirts, so it will be seen in local media photos each week, and on the Downley Dynamos website.

The sponsorship is for two years, but kits are sometimes passed down to the next age group coming through, so the Walfinch logo will potentially get exposure for longer than two seasons.

A busy weekend of mixed hockey

Sam North in action for Marlow in what was a busy weekend of hockey

By David Wiltshire

MARLOW'S 1st team had an emphatic 7-1 win away against Henley 1sts. On the attack from the start, they forced a succession of penalty corners none of which were converted thanks to hitting the post and some good saves by the home goalkeeper.

Finally, in the 14th minute, Cameron Beazley-Clarke was in the right place to open Marlow's account and another goal followed in a rather similar manner 2 minutes later by Josh Morgans. Marlow continued to control the game and went 3 up with another goal by Josh.

In the second half, Marlow played some of their best hockey of the season, pressing Henley back into defence and winning the ball back when Henley threatened an attack. Josh completed his hatrick before Sam North converted a penalty corner superbly. At the next corner, Cameron was able to deflect the ball into the net making it 6-0.

Marlow's final goal was quite amazing. Team Captain Sam North ran from full-back right through the Henley defence to tip the ball past the advancing goalkeeper. It was a goal that showed great resolve and commitment. After that Henley did manage one breakaway goal to deny Marlow their clean sheet.

The men's 2nds away to Eastcote's 1st team started slowly but mounted some attacks which came to nothing before Eastcote opened the scoring after 20 minutes following a penalty corner initially well saved by Ivor Crampsie in goal. Despite more Marlow chances, Eastcote doubled their score before halftime.

After the interval with Dave Harding in outstanding form Marlow played with more purpose and created multiple chances with no reward.

Although losing 2-0 there were plenty of positives to carry forward to Saturday's local derby with Wycombe 1 at Pound Lane at 3 pm.

Other Men's results The 3rd team lost 3-2 away to Oxford University3, the 4ths lost 3-2 to Abingdon2,5s drew 1-1 away with Wallingford, 6s drew 2-2 away with Slough Swifts, 7s lost 3-2 to Slough Despondents

Women's results

Marlow women's 1st team were at home to Salisbury and it turned out to be the proverbial game of two halves. Marlow won 4-0 but what was unusual was that all the goals came in a 10-minute period in the first half, starting with Vic Allen in the 16th minute and another three minutes later, There followed two more goals by Lauren Hilditch and Martha Goodridge. After that goals dried up with both defences on top.

Marlow maintained their unbeaten record and remained top of the league on goal difference. Their nearest rivals Oxford Hawks 2, are level on points and are due to meet Marlow on November 16th.

The 2nd team earned their first 3 points of the season with a 2-0 win over New Forest.

Other women's results. 3rd team lost 5-1 to Witney2, 4ths lost 5-2 away to Oxford University3 away, 5ths beat Sonning4 9-0, 6s drew 1-1 away with Windsor 3, 7s drew 1-1 with Amersham & Chalfont 6

Gareth Ainsworth has been fired from his job as the manager of QPR, just eight months into the role (PA)

Club legend is fired after just eight months

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has been sacked as the head coach at Queens Park Rangers.

The 50-year-old departed the Adams Park side in February this year to take over at Loftus Road, following the departure of Neil Critchley.

However, after a run of just five wins in his 28 games in charge, which has also resulted in 19 defeats, Ainsworth was relieved of his duties just three hours after QPR's 2-1 home defeat to top-of-the-table, Leicester City.

It leaves the former Premier League team second bottom in the Championship table, with eight points from their 14 matches this season.

QPR CEO Lee Hoos said: "Making a call such as this is never easy, and it is even more difficult when you have such respect on both a personal and professional level for the individuals concerned - which we all do for Gareth and Richard.

"Many supporters have told me in recent months that they have never wanted someone to succeed more than Gareth, which is an indication of the fondness everyone associated with QPR has for him.

"Unfortunately, results this season haven't gone the way we all wanted and we feel a change is necessary.

"Gareth has been a pleasure to work."

The draw is only Wanderers' third in the league this season and only the eighth since he has taken over as manager back in February (PA)

Sharing the spoils

WYCOMBE Wanderers are now winless in four games following a goalless home draw against Cambridge United.

In a passive first period which saw the home side boss the ball, Wanderers had the game's first chance when Dale Taylor fired over from 20 yards midway through the first-half.

Garath McCleary headed over, Jack Stevens was forced into a decent save by Sam Vokes and Brandon Hanlan fluffed his lines with an air kick.

But it was Cambridge who nearly took the lead, as Danny Andrew's brilliant cross from the right-hand side was expertly headed towards goal by Ryan Bennet, but the centre back's header crashed against the bar, then off the base of the post.

The start of the second period was a continuation of how the first ended, as Cambridge put pressure on the Chairboys.

Just two minutes in, Fejiri Okenabirhie fired over from a Saikou Jannneh cross.

For Wanderers, David Wheeler hooked a volley wide, Luke Leahy had a free-kick go over the bar, whilst McCleary forced Stevens into a decent save.

However, the game was nearly won in the final moments of the contest.

Liam Bennett's hash of a clearance from 60-yards flew towards his own goal and bounced over the crossbar.

Another point on the board for Wyc

Wycombe have not won in their last four games but have not played badly in that time. They have drawn three and lost one (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has reflected on his side's 0-0 home draw against Cambridge United.

The Chairboys bossed the ball but were left frustrated after four of their 12 shots on goal hit the target.

Additionally, whilst it's no wins in four, the Adams Park team dominated play but lacked that cutting edge up top.

This means that the club have picked up three points from the last 12 available.

However, a first clean sheet in six league outings pleased Bloomfield, who was content with a point.

He said: "We've got a few injuries and have had a few injuries so we had to shuffle the pack for today [October 31].

"I thought we started off fast and I'm pleased with the way we had the ball, the tempo and the way we passed it around.

"We probed and tried to find that opportunity but Cambridge defended well.

"Apart from that one really good save from Max, I thought we were pushing for the winner and I thought we played well.

"We had lots of nearly moments where he got into the final third but we didn't have that final touch to finish it off.

"So we're slightly frustrated with that but their keeper made a couple of good saves, Garath McCleary nearly went close as did Luke Leahy and David Wheeler.

"We'll look to work on that."

On the defensive unit, which saw Luke Leahy play at left-back and Ryan Tafazolli come in for his first league start since August, Bloomfield added: "We only had one day's training working on a new shape and I thought the boys did well.

"Taff did really well as he's been missing for a while with his injury and hasn't been in the team in recent weeks.

"Richard Keogh also did well along with Jasper and Luke on the flanks too."

Up next is Bradford City in the FA Cup on November 4.

Wycombe's next few fixtures
Nov 4: Bradford (A)
Nov 11: Stevenage (H)
Nov 18: Wigan (A)*
Nov 21: Wimbledon (H)
Nov 25: Reading (H)
Nov 28: Barnsley (A)
Dec 9: Shrewsbury (H)
Dec 16: Derby (A)
Dec 23: Port Vale (H)
Dec 26: Exeter (A)
Dec 29: Leyton Orient (A)
Jan 1: Bristol R (H)
Jan 6: Burton (A)
Jan 13: Lincoln (H)
Jan 20: Port Vale (A)
Jan 27: Fleetwood (H)
Feb 3: Cheltenham (A)
Feb 13: Bolton (A)
Feb 17: Oxford (H)
Feb 24: Stevenage (H)

Please note that Wanderers' away trip to Wigan could be postponed due to the international break.

All square in an eventful M40 derby

Another draw for Wanderers

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has stated that recent performances show that his squad are a 'good team'.

The Chairboys are winless in three but have played three of the top five, with two of those fixtures away from home.

In that time, the Adams Park side have picked up two points but have put in admirable displays against Peterborough United (2-2 draw), Bolton Wanderers (4-2 loss), and Oxford United (2-2 draw), respectively.

Bloomfield said: "Even though it's three games without a win, we have been very close to winning all three.

"I think we've played a lot better in the second half than in the first.

"I need to see why that is, but we need to remember that we've been away at two teams who have started the season strongly and, I expect, to be in the promotion places.

"The way we have performed in those three games shows we are a good team and I can only speak of how proud I am of this team.

"From the way we played we took the game to Oxford.

Regular routine for new boy Leahy

WYCOMBE Wanderers defender Luke Leahy has revealed his 'practice had paid off' when it comes to taking penalties.

Three of the six goals that the 31-year-old has scored this season have come from 12-yards, which includes bagging two spot-kicks in the recent 2-2 draw against Oxford United.

Additionally, he scored 10 times from the spot during his two years at Shrewsbury, and he believes it's down to routine.

Speaking after the draw against Wanderers' Thames Valley rivals, he said: "It is something that I practise a lot and that has paid off, and I just knew what the keeper was going to do when I stuttered.

"I'm very proud to have scored two penalties but am disappointed to not got the win."

SPORT

Josh Scowen will remain at Wycombe (PA)

Scowen extends Wanderers deal beyond the end of this season

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the news that Josh Scowen has penned a new deal to stay with the club.

The 30-year-old, who is in his second spell at Adams Park following his return to Buckinghamshire back in July 2011, had signed a new contract in April which would have kept him at the club until the end of this season.

But his latest contract extension means he'll be remaining with Wanderers beyond the 2023/24 season.

Manager Matt Bloomfield said: "Extending Josh's contract is a real sign of our ambition and our desire to make this squad as strong as it can be.

"Josh is such an important member of this team, not just on the pitch with his performances, but he's worn the captain's armband in recent games and led by example in how he conducts himself.

"I know he's an extremely popular player with the fans and we love him just as much around the place.

"This is his club and he's here to stay."

Scowen has been named Wycombe's supporters' Player of the Year in each of his last two seasons.

He has also racked up 194 appearances since making his debut back in 2011.

After he departed in January 2015 to Barnsley, he has since represented Queens Park Rangers and Sunderland.

He also had a brief loan spell at Eastbourne Borough during his initial stint at Wycombe.

Bloomfield on new contract

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed he is 'settled' and at 'home' after he has agreed to extend his contract by a further year.

The 39-year-old, who has only been in charge of the Chairboys since February following the departure of Gareth Ainsworth to Queens Park Rangers, has gone onto win 13 of his 34 games in charge, drawing nine and losing 13.

And what was a shaky start to his time in the Adams Park dugout, results and performances have gradually improved.

This led the former Colchester United boss to be nominated for the Manager of the Month award in September following three wins in four games.

Speaking on his new deal, he said "I'm delighted.

"As everyone knows, there has been a lot of change in my life in the last year.

"Went into coaching, then went to Colchester, now back here again, but I feel like I'm at home.

"I feel really settled in the work that we're trying to do, in terms of what we're trying to build at Wycombe Wanderers, and I'm grateful for the trust Rob and Pete have put in me.

"Firstly, in offering me the job and then in terms of extending my contract.

"The faith they have in me and my staff is brilliant and I'm happy for this opportunity.

"I just want to keep working hard and build as there are lots to do to try and improve on.

"There have been so many changes at the club this year, but we're wanting to get better.

"We're constantly looking to see how and what we can do to improve as it's part of the evolution and journey we're on.

"Rob spoke to me beforehand about the new contract as he's been really pleased with the work we're doing and the recruitment we've done over the summer.

"I'm really touched that he wanted me to do this, and I think a huge amount of what the Couhigs have done for Wycombe over four years is just incredible.

"I can assure you that the negotiations didn't take that long as I was only going to accept.

"I'm pleased to be here."

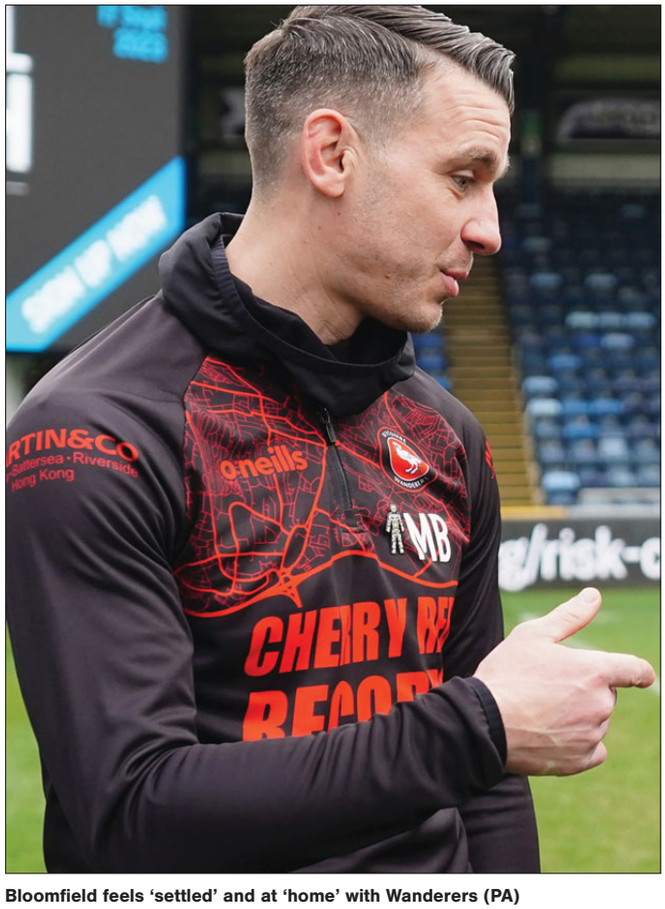
The news came a few days before the Chairboys head up to West Yorkshire to take on Bradford City in the FA Cup.

It'll be the first meeting between the two sides in six seasons, and the first in the competition since 1996/97.

He continued: "The FA Cup is an incredible competition to be part of.

"When I was a player, I loved it and this is my first experience as a manager.

"We want to win."



Bloomfield feels 'settled' and at 'home' with Wanderers (PA)

Ref Seb Stockbridge (PA)

Ref was 'centre of attention'

LUKE Leahy has criticised the performance of referee Seb Stockbridge following Wycombe Wanderers' 2-2 away draw against Oxford United.

The former Shrewsbury Town and Bristol Rovers man scored a brace of penalties in the second half of the contest to put the Chairboys 2-1 up, but in seven of nine added on minutes, he was judged to have fouled United's Mark Harris in the box.

Stockbridge immediately blew for a spot-kick which was duly dispatched by Cameron Brannagan.

However, replays showed that there was minimal contact, if any.

Speaking to the press at full time, Leahy said: "The game was good for 97 minutes and I can just tell that the referee was waiting to give it [a penalty].

"You could just tell he was waiting to give it and I've given him the opportunity to, but my leg is planted and he [Mark Harris] has kicked it.

"It's one of them that we'll learn from and we'll go again on Tuesday, but you couldn't speak to the referee at all.

"Even if you wanted to ask why something was given, you just couldn't speak to him for whatever reason.

"He was having none of it.

"I think he wanted to be centre of attention and I think he was."

"We're really disappointed to leave here with just a point, but they are a team in the automatic places and at the end of the season, we'll look back at this as a good point on the road."

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