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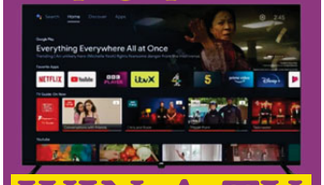

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MPs freebies revealed

Politicians defend accepting more than £30,000 worth of hospitality

Bucks MP Ben Everitt was among the MPs who bagged freebies last year

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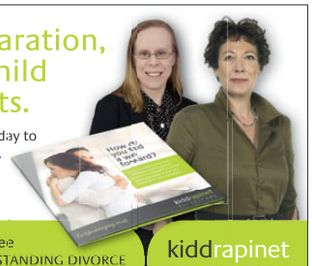

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Happy smiles at the snooker

SEVERAL local snooker players received awards and prizes at a recent presentation night in South Buckinghamshire.

The Presentation and Singles Finals night was held at the on Thursday, November 8 at the Wooburn Working Men's Club, where it was first time members were able to take part in competitive snooker for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic.

In all, those who took part were praised for their performances.

Alex Lorenz was the singles winner, whilst Pete Hales was the runner up.

Lee Carlton also received an award for achieving the highest break.

In terms of the team winners, Rob Page and Ian Durrat were crowd champions whilst the runners up were Pete Hale, Don Rackstraw and Alex Lorenz.

A statement from the snooker club, which is based along the Green in the village, said: "A happy story in these dark times, a huge congratulations to all the winners and those who took part.

"We look forward to the upcoming Winter League."

The club also thanked Rob Thwaite for organising the league and providing the trophies for the presentation evening, and Matt Wilson for presenting the trophies.

A short journey across the M4

READING FC have confirmed that they have sold out their allotted ticket allocation for this month's fixture away at Wycombe Wanderers.

The Chairboys will host the Royals on November 25 in what will be the first encounter between the two sides in three seasons.

It will also be the first time since February 2002 that the Berkshire outfit will visit the Hillbottom Road venue with spectators for a league game.

The two sides last met during the 2020/21 season, but both games were played behind closed doors due to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Additionally, the last time Reading travelled to Adams Park with supporters was in August 2019, when the ex-Premier League side took on the Chairboys in the first round of the EFL Cup.

The fixture would finish 1-1 after extra time with Alex Samuel scoring for Wanderers and George Puscas netting for the Royals, before the way team won the fixture via a penalty shootout.

In all, 1,948 away supporters will make the short trip to Buckinghamshire at the end of the month.

A mixed bag for Marlow Hockey

Lauren Hilditch, in action for the Marlow 1st team, was named the Woman of the Match last weekend (Muddy Shots Photography)

By David Wiltshire

HOW did the Marlow Hockey teams do last weekend?

Men's team: Marlow's 1st team were at home to Bournemouth and having started brightly and going two goals up in seven minutes before being pegged back to 2-2 by half-time.

The second half was much the same with Marlow keeping possession and pressing hard but unable to create clear-cut chances. Bournemouth mounted some attacks from which they went ahead and directly afterwards were awarded a penalty stroke which Max Chawner-Davies in goal did well to save. After that Marlow continued to press hard against a massed defence to no avail. It was not to be and a frustrating game ended 3-2 to the visitors.

Marlow 2s were away to Witney 1st for what promised to be a close game, with both teams separated by just a point ahead of the match. Witney took the lead inside the first minute but Marlow bounced back almost immediately with a goal from captain Dan Field. Unfortunately, Marlow couldn't keep Witney out at the other end and only a matter of minutes after equalising Witney scored again. Then Marlow began to take control of the game and created several good opportunities. Eventually, one of these was taken, with a lovely first-time reverse from Lloyd Francis after some neat passing, cutting through the Witney back line. The remainder of the first half was controlled by Marlow,

The second half was largely similar to the first, with Marlow dominating possession throughout and with only a few minutes remaining, an aerial out from the Witney defence saw Witney scoring what looked to be the winner.

Other men's results: 3rd team lost away 4-3 to Bicester 1, 4th team beat Amersham & Chalfont 4 4-3, 5s lost 3-1 away to Wycombe 3, 6s beat Eastcote 6 5-2, 7s beat Wallingford5 7-0 away

Women's team: Marlow 1sts welcomed local rivals Henley to Pound Lane and started aggressively, winning a penalty corner in the opening minutes but were unable to convert, before captain Beth Halbard broke the deadlock for Marlow after just four minutes. The lead was doubled by Lauren Hilditch before Kiera Allen scored a reverse stick rocket from a tight angle after, leaving the score 3-0 at halftime.

Marlow continued to play some incredible hockey, keeping the pressure on the Henley defence. Ellie Lane scored her first goal of the season and quickly scored her second five minutes later. Halbard secured her second brace in two weeks in the 52nd minute. Lauren Hilditch earned her 'Player of the Match' status by scoring her second of the game in the 65th minute. This was Marlow's best performance of the season and a 7-0 scoreline reflects how relentlessly the women worked.

The 2nd team were away to Chichester1s and a brace from Helena Kennedy and player of match performance in goal from Ruby Duncan helped secure a fantastic 4-2 win

Other women's results: 3rds lost 4-1 away to Staines 1, 4ths lost 4-0 away to Leighton Buzzard2, 5s beat Windsor 2 5-0, 6s lost 6-2 away to Yately 2, 7s beat Harlow High Wycombe 2-0.

Luke Leahy was down for around 20 minutes after colliding with Josh Scown when clearing a Stevenage cross (NA)

Fans slammed as Leahy suffers head injury

STEVENAGE'S fans have been criticised for their behaviour following the club's 1-0 away win over Wycombe Wanderers.

The fixture at Adams Park was overshadowed by two serious injuries to Chairboys forward Brandon Hanlan and defensive midfielder Luke Leahy, which resulted in nearly 30 minutes of stoppage time being added over the course of the match.

First, the striker was grappled to the ground by Boro captain Carl Piregianni and sustained a horrific shoulder injury just before half-time.

Incredibly, a free-kick was given against Wanderers.

Then, in the second period, Leahy suffered a head injury which resulted in the ex-Shrewsbury man needing attention.

The play was stopped for nearly 20 minutes as he was treated to, in which the Stevenage supporters were seen and heard aiming abuse at the stricken Wanderers player.

On X, formerly known as Twitter, one Wycombe fan said: "No place for it.

"Really disappointing behaviour."

Another said: "Absolute disgrace. Been booing injuries from the first minute."

One person said: "Awful behaviour.

"So, so poor from the Stevenage lot."

Five Wycombe players will miss the AFC Wimbledon clash on Saturday to play for their respective nations (PA)

International Wanderers

FIVE Wycombe Wanderers players have been called up to their respective nation's fixtures for the upcoming international break.

Joe Low (Wales U21), Dale Taylor (Northern Ireland), Tjay De Barr (Gibraltar), Killian Phillips (Republic of Ireland) and Chris Forino (Saint Lucia), will represent their countries in the impending Euro 2024 Qualifiers and Concacaf Nation League fixtures.

Their overseas involvement has meant the Chairboys' away league match against Wigan Athletic this weekend has been postponed.

However, Wycombe will now take on AFC Wimbledon in the Football League Trophy, with the fixture originally being pencilled in for November 21.

Here are the fixtures the five Chairboys will be part of over the next few days:

Joe Low - Wales U21
vs Iceland, November 16
vs Denmark, November 20

Killian Phillips - Republic of Ireland U21
vs Norway, November 17
vs Italy, November 21

Tjay De Barr - Gibraltar
vs France, November 18
vs Netherlands, November 21

Chris Forino - St Lucia
vs St Kitts & Nevis, 16th November
vs Sint Maarten, 19th November

Dale Taylor - Northern Ireland
vs Finland, November 17
vs Denmark, November 20

Hanlan to miss the rest of the season

Brandon Hanlan (pictured in March 2023) was injured in the 1-0 home loss against

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Brandon Hanlan has confirmed he will miss the reminder of the season with an ACL injury.

The 26-year-old was stretchered off during the Chairboys' 1-0 home loss against Stevenage on November 11 after being fouled by Boro captain, Carl Piergianni.

Incredibly, referee Ben Speedie decided to award the visitors a free-kick.

In all, Hanlan as treated for roughly 10 minutes and was given oxygen as he left the Adams Park pitch.

This same fixture also saw Wanderers' defensive midfielder Luke Leahy suffer a serious head injury, where he was treated for nearly 20 minutes.

Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, Hanlan said: "After being stretchered off on the weekend due to an injury to my ACL, I will miss out on the rest of this season

"It's hard to take right now and a long road to recovery but I will be back stronger.

"I want to thank the fans and everyone for all the messages and support."

The former Bristol Rovers man, who was on the verge of joining Wrexham at the end of the previous transfer window, has scored 14 goals in 98 appearances for the Chairboys, which includes netting three times in 19 fixtures this season.

His absence means Wycombe are only left with Dale Taylor, Tjay De Barr and Kieran Sadlier as their only fit strikers.

However, David Wheeler and Garath McCleary can play up top if needed.

Wanderers' next match is against AFC Wimbledon in the EFL Trophy on November 18 at Adams Park.

Bad blood following Stevenage defeat

Matt Bloomfield was not happy following Wycombe's loss at home to Stevenage on November 11 (PA)

By James Richings

STEVENAGE'S 1-0 win over Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park was overshadowed due to two serious injurious suffered by two Chairboys players.

The opening period was a quiet affair with both teams not offering a lot, with the first main talking point coming in the 30th minute.

An aerial challenge between Boro captain Carl Piergianni and Wanderers forward Brandon Hanlan resulted in the latter being stretchered off with a serious shoulder injury.

This resulted in the ex-Bristol Rovers requiring oxygen with a total of 14 minutes additional time being added.

During that stoppage period, Wanderers hit the bar after a Luke Leahy free-kick was flicked onto his own goal by Piergianni, whilst Max Stryjek was forced into a low save from an Alex MacDonald attempt.

But in final minute of added time, Kane Hemmings' low cross was stabbed home Jamie Reid for his 13th of the season, and his fourth in as many games.

Wycombe huffed and puffed to find their equaliser as Tjay De Barr headed wide whilst David Wheeler smashed the crossbar with a first-time drive.

And with 10 minutes to go, the game was paused for roughly 20 minutes as Luke Leahy suffered a serious head injury following an aerial collision.

This led to the away fans hurling abuse at the stricken defensive midfielder as he receiving treatment.

Additionally, there were doubts about whether the game would continue due to the severity of the injury.

Speaking on the match, Bloomfield said: "I'm angry and disgusted by what has happened.

""Brandon gets some rugby tackle, WWE slam move into the ground and does his knee but just before that, were we at our best? No.

"We knew what type of game it would be and it's hard to be your best when you stop start all the "time.

"We tried to conduct ourselves in the right manner as a football club by keeping our dignity and class, and I feel that's an important thing to have.

"We had to protect Luke [Leahy] from the chants behind the goal.

"We had to build a barrier between him and the fans…I had to retire because of concussion but none of them was as serious as what we saw.

"Then I'm being accused [by Stevenage] of trying to get the game abandoned which is 100 per cent not true – I just wanted to know the welfare of my players.

"I was learning about the severity of what was going on.

"I'm the manager of this football club and I need to protect us because it's my responsibility.

"We will conduct ourselves in the best possible way we can.

"I'm just so sad and upset by what I witnessed."

SPORT

Ex-Forest man joins Wycombe Wanderers

Lyle Taylor (pictured playing for Nottingham Forest against Wycombe in November 2020) is now a Chairboy (Image: PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of former Birmingham City, Charlton Athletic and Nottingham Forest striker, Lyle Taylor.

The 33-year-old has penned a deal until the end of the season and could be in line to make his Chairboys bow against his former team, AFC Wimbledon, in this weekend's Football League Trophy fixture at Adams Park.

His arrival to South Buckinghamshire comes after he was released by Forest this summer, where he failed to make a single appearance for the Premier League club last season.

Speaking on the Montserrat international's entrance at Adams Park, manager Matt Bloomfield said: "I'm really pleased to have him on board.

"I've been speaking to Lyle for a couple of months since the end of the summer transfer window.

"We were looking to see if Lyle was able to come in at that point, but he had attention from clubs higher up the food chain.

"He wanted to see if anything came to fruition and unfortunately for him, it didn't but fortunately for us, he was still available.

"After the weekend, I spoke to him and following our conversations, he is so hungry to prove what he can do.

"He can score goals with his feet, he's a player with great calibre that has played at a very high level.

"This could work for us and I like him a lot.

"He's got a point to prove and we know he's got that goal scoring ability.

"Got a lot of experience so we're looking forward to welcoming him in."

Prior to joining Wycombe, Taylor had played against the Chairboys on seven occasions in which he never appeared on the losing side.

He enjoyed six victories and one draw when facing Wanderers, scoring five times.

This includes bagging a brace for Nottingham Forest against the Chairboys in November 2020, when both sides were in the Championship.

Bloomfield added: "Lyle is a very good goal scorer and he is someone who has been a pain when playing against Wycombe.

"During the Wimbledon days when it was him and B [Adebayo Akinfenwa] up top, they caused us so many problems.

"He's got a lot of quality and we're hoping to provide him with a platform to get himself going again.

"He's got a load of football left in his legs still and hopefully he'll come good for us."

Finally, despite Taylor's last competitive club appearance coming in May 2022, Bloomfield stated he has no issues with to what the Montserrat forward can bring at Adams Park.

He concluded: "Wycombe has been a home for people over the last few years who have one last point to prove.

"Look at Bayo when he joined us from Wimbledon, he had six of the best years of his career with us.

"Other players in their 30s have gone onto play some of their best football, and I'll be honest, I've really warmed to Lyle due to our conversations.

"He's very honest as he tells you the truth behind the situation and I admire that."

Wanderers lost 1-0 (PA)

Leahy speaks out after head injury

WYCOMBE Wanderers defensive midfielder Luke Leahy has thanked the club's fans following his head injury in the recent 1-0 loss against Stevenage.

The defeat at Adams Park was overshadowed by two serious incidents involving the ex-Bristol Rovers man, and striker Brandon Hanlan, who both left the fixture via a stretcher.

Leahy, who has only been at the club since July, collided with teammate Josh Scowen when clearing a Boro cross in the 82nd minute of the fixture, where he suffered a concussion.

It has since been confirmed he was 'unresponsive' for several seconds before regaining consciousness by then he left the stadium, where he was taken straight to Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

He, along with Hanlan who sustained a nasty knee injury, were observed by medics overnight before being discharged on Sunday.

Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, Leahy said: "Thank you to everyone that has messaged over the last couple of days, I appreciate every single one of them.

"Thank you to everyone associated with the club, the way you looked after me and especially my family is something we won't forget.

"Thank you to my teammates for quickly realising and getting the attention of physios and doctors, and lastly, thank you to the members of staff at South Central Ambulance Service and the staff at Stoke Mandeville Hospital."

Wycombe's next competitive fixture is against AFC Wimbledon on November 18 in the Football League Trophy.

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