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*E Telmer Oct 2021 (4 weeks in print & online)

Bucks Free Press

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Royal recognition for foodbank

'Amazing contributions': Bucks charity receives equivalent of MBE for volunteer work
Image: One Can Trust
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'Bomb' teen in court

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Fight is now on to save woodland

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No end of a mistake

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Mixed results in the hockey

HERE is how the Marlow Women's Hockey teams did last weekend.

Marlow women's 1s travelled to play Oxford Hawks 2 in a top-of-the-table clash with both teams having won all seven of their previous games.

Lauren Hilditch showed her skill in the 23rd minute with a superb interception and captain Rachel Goodwin fired the ball past the Hawks keeper for the visitors to take the lead.

Hawks changed their formation in the second half to try to respond, but the Marlow defence held firm with some exceptional tackling from Mabel Daw and numerous saves from keeper Alys Ramm.

Marlow also had their chances and earned a penalty corner.

The delivery from Milly Conibear was deflected through the keeper's legs by Vic Allen to double Marlow's lead.

The final whistle ensured that Marlow earned the three points and went clear at the top of the league.

The women's 2nds were edged out 2-1 by a strong South Berkshire 1st.

After a shaky opening 10 minutes littered with errors, Marlow grew into the game.

The opposition went ahead slightly fortuitously early in the second half as a shot deflected off a Marlow stick and in.

Marlow stuck at their task and Emma Buxton was rewarded for her performance in midfield with an equaliser when she smartly lifted over the keeper at a corner.

The away team retook the lead with a fierce backhand shot from the top of the D, which proved enough to take the three points.

Other results.

The 3rd team lost 5-1 away to Oxford3, 4s lost 1-0 away to Wycombe2. 5s wont3-0 away to Wallingford4, 6s beat Reading Phoenix 2. 2-1, 7s lost 3-0 away to Reading Phoenix 3.

Marlow men's 1st had a day to forget as they lost 4-0 to Staines.

Although Marlow were on top for much of the first period, they conceded two goals in quick succession, before letting two more strikes in during the second period.

The 2nd team smashed Oxford Hawks 3 6-1 at home, with Lloyd Francis bagging a hat-trick.

Dave Harding, Jonny Mee and Ollie Green also got on the scoresheet.

Other results.3rd team lost 2-0 to Sonning2, 4s drew with Yateley2 2-2 away, 5s beat Stoke Green1 3-2, 6s lost 5-2 away to Reading Phoenix 3, 7s lost 3-0 away to Reading Phoenix 3.

Cup run comes to a premature end

Wycombe lost the cup tie 2-1 to Abingdon last weekend, in which they were eliminated from the Berks & Bucks Cup (PA)

By Darcie Panayiotou

WYCOMBE Wanderers' Women's run in the Berks and Bucks Cup came to an end as they lost 2-1 at home to Abingdon.

A tough first-half saw both sides unable to convert an opener, despite Abingdon applying pressure to the Chairgirls with heavy pressing into their final third. Wycombe goalkeeper, Chelsea Coles, remained calm and collected with her control over the visitor's attempts on goal, as she brought down eight on-target shots in the opening 45 minutes to keep the scoreline even.

Though the half ended goalless, Wycombe did have opportunity to convert in the 25th minute following a beautiful through-ball from Katie Riddington finding the feet of Amy Leach whose strike was sent inches over the crossbar.

Wycombe's defence put on an impressive performance in the first half, with Emma Newberry making a vital move to prevent Abingdon from taking the lead in the 30th minute. Following a strong run from the visitors allowing them to get past Coles and strike on target from the right of the box, Newberry slid in with her left leg stopping the ball on the edge of the goal line, before hitting it out of danger.

With the final 45 proving all to play for, the Chairgirls came out strong in attack, as Molly Carter's 50th minute goal breaking the deadlock. With play leading to the goal building up from Coles in goal, it was an impressive team effort. Ashleigh Harte's pass to Captain, Bobby Lynch, allowed her to send it down the right line to find a darting Katie Riddington, who's cross into the box met the feet of Molly Carter in the middle, tapping it in to send Wycombe 1-0 up.

Building on the momentum of the goal, Wycombe looked promising to double their lead with opportunity for Emma Kern to convert in the 62nd minute. As Giulia Livi's run down the left of the pitch and subsequent shot was deflected off of the visitor's keeper, it fell to the feet of Kern in the middle of the box, with her shot flicking just over the cross bar.

A late flurry of goals in the 82nd and 84th minutes saw Abingdon take the lead and progress to the semi-finals, despite the impressive performance and determination showcased by the Chairgirls.

Wycombe manager, Carl Simon stated that despite the defeat to the tier 4 side, he was "really proud of the girls today, they played excellently, they did everything we asked them to do […] we just couldn't get the extra goal to kill the game off."

Although Wycombe's run in the Berks and Bucks Cup has come to an end, they return to league action on Sunday, November 26 away to Bournemouth Sports.

The fixture will kick-off at 2pm.

Harewood Downs Golf Club hosted the event last month which raised more than £3,000 for charity

All smiles at charity golf day in Chalfont St Giles

A CHARITY golf day has helped raise over £3,000 that will support family dementia carers in Buckinghamshire.

Dementia Carers' Respite, which officially launched in March this year, hosted a Golf Day and Presentation Fundraiser last month at the Harewood Downs Golf Club in Chalfont St Giles.

Antiquarian and television personality Eric Knowles was the guest of honour at the event, following both of his parents' passing from dementia.

There was also a presentation dinner.

Chairman of Dementia Carers' Respite, Walid Marzouk, said: "The charity was overwhelmed by the generosity of attendees, having raised £3,118 in profit which will all go towards funding respite at home for dementia family carers.

"The proceedings comprised a perfect combination of serious and fun activities and the quality of the food, prizes and auction items certainly contributed towards its success.

"Even the staff said that this was the best event they had seen for a long time, with next year's event taking place on October 10 next year."

Stevenage manager Steve Evans was not happy with Matt Bloomfield's comments following the fixture between the two clubs on November 11

Steve Evans hits back

STEVENAGE manager has hit back at Wycombe Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield following last weekend's match at at Adams Park.

A Jamie Reid goal just before the break gave the Boro a 1-0 victory over the Chairboys since 2011, but the fixture was overshadowed by two serious injuries suffered by Brandon Hanlan and Luke Leahy.

They both received lengthy treatment and it's since been confirmed that Hanlan picked up an ACL injury, whilst Leahy was on the end of a concussion.

Evans told the club's media channels ahead of their 1-0 victory over Lincoln City: "My knowledge is that Matty Bloomfield has said that Stevenage haven't enquired about the welfare of Luke Leahy or Brandon Hanlan.

"What young Matty needs to do is take some advice from his older generation and speak to the players rather than media channels, as I spoke to Brandon Hanlan and Luke Leahy via WhatsApp this week regarding their welfare.

"Particularly Luke who had the head knock and Brandon as he played for me (at Gillingham), and they are great lads.

"I'll draw a line under this now.

"Matty, speak to your players, not just your chairman or the media.

"The media don't care about trying to win games...you were outfought, outplayed and we got the three points.

"End of story about Wycombe."

New man on 'being wanted' at Wycombe

Lyle Taylor (in action for Nottingham Forest) joined Wycombe last week on a free transfer (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Lyle Taylor has revealed that he is 'happy to feel like a footballer again' following his move to the Adams Park side.

The 33-year-old joined the Chairboys after his release from Nottingham Forest in the summer, where he failed to make a single appearance for the Premier League club last season.

He would go on to make his debut for the club in the 1-0 victory over AFC Wimbledon in the EFL Trophy, which was his first competitive club appearance in any capacity since May 2022.

Speaking on his debut, Taylor told the Free Press: "It was good to be back and I'm so glad to be here with a manager who wants me.

"I came through the game completely unscathed and we'll now build to face Reading."

On his move to Wycombe, he added: "Being wanted is the biggest thing in football.

"You get to an age where being wanted is the most important thing and that outweighs everything.

"That's where I'm at now.

"I want to play for a club that wants me, and I want to play for a club that wants me to play for them.

Wycombe Wanderers have signed striker Lyle Taylor on a short term deal

The 33 year old has signed on a free transfer after leaving Nottingham Forest

"I'm glad I'm here."

Talks about a transfer to Wycombe had been on the cards since the end of August following regular dialogue between himself and manager, Matt Bloomfield.

However, these chats took place between a trial at Sheffield Wednesday in the Championship where no move materialised, along with a brief stint at Gillingham where a transfer failed to take place.

No officially a Wanderer, Taylor, who has scored six goals in seven matches against the Chairboys, is hoping to get the ball moving when the domestic league action returns on November 25.

He explained: "A few things happened that were out of my control and the manager's control, which left us both in a sticky situation.

"However, the conversation was open all summer.

"We were in a place where I called him and explained that I was sorry that certain things happened in the way that they happened, and I said to the gaffer that I hope he didn't feel I was disrespecting him or the club as I didn't mean that.

"He said that he didn't feel that way and he said he appreciated the call to explain that.

"I don't think that happens much in football as everyone speaks through intermediaries, so a player rarely speaks to a manager that he doesn't play for."

Finally, on making his debut against AFC Wimbledon, a club where he scored 55 goals in 150 matches, he concluded: "I love that club.

"When Bayo [Akinfenwa] says that Wycombe are his club, Wimbledon are my club.

"But you need to put that to one side when you play against them."

Alan Parry's Previews: The arrival of Reading

A clash during Covid (PA)

WANDERERS return to League One action after a two-week break when they host near neighbours Reading before a near capacity crowd at Adams Park on Saturday, November 25.

With five players away on international duty, last week's scheduled visit to Wigan Athletic was postponed, and the Chairboys hastily rearranged a EFL Trophy tie with AFC Wimbledon to fill the gap.

A much-changed Wycombe team won 1-0 to top their group in the competition, and the game saw the return from injury of Josh Scowen, Joe Jacobson and Jack Grimmer plus the debut of latest signing Lyle Taylor.

However, Matt Bloomfield's squad is still short on numbers with Jason McCarthy, Kane Vincent-Young, Freddie Potts, Luke Leahy, Sam Vokes and Brandan Hanlan among those out of action.

Hanlan will miss the rest of the season after injuring his knee in a bad-tempered clash with Stevenage in the last league game which also saw Leahy suffer a serious head injury.

The events led to a war of words between Bloomfield and visiting manager Steve Evans, Bloomfield acting with his usual class and dignity whilst Evans predictably displayed neither quality.

Now attention turns to the highly anticipated visit of Reading, a Premier League club a decade ago but now in disarray on and off the field.

They are bottom of the table, face crippling debts and there have been protests by disillusioned fans at recent matches.

Their last visit to Adams Park was for a Championship fixture in February 2021 when a goal by Fred Onyedinma gave Wanderers a rare victory over their Berkshire rivals. It was only the third time they have beaten Reading in fourteen previous meetings in all competitions.

The most memorable clash came at Adams Park in 1999 when Wycombe won 5-3 with Sean Devine grabbing a hat trick and Chairboys legends Davie Carroll and Keith Ryan were also on the scoresheet.

This latest encounter provides the perfect opportunity for Wanderers to return to winning ways in League One after collecting only four points from their last seven games, albeit most of them against the top teams in the division.

SPORT

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Fred Onyedinma (pictured left centre in blue) scored the winning goal when Wycombe last played Reading in February 2021. It finished 1-0 to Wanderers at Adams Park. The fixture also saw both teams miss a penalty whilst Ryan Tafazolli was shown a straight red card (PA)

L1: WYCOMBE WANDERERS VS READING

Reading's visit to Adams Park is 'just another game'

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield believes this weekend's league encounter against Reading is 'just another game', in what is the first domestic fixture between the two sides in three seasons.

Despite being situated 25 miles apart along the M4 and A404, the two sides have rarely met in their long histories, with the Chairboys and the Royals facing each other 15 times since 1899 in competitive matches.

In that time, Wanderers have won on three occasions and each triumph has come at Adams Park.

And with Wycombe not winning in their last five league games, whilst Reading are pointless on the road since April, Bloomfield believes Saturday's clash will be a 'tough test'.

Speaking ahead of the fixture, he said: "Reading are a big football club that have been able to pay good money in investing in their players.

"We lost Wingy [Lewis Wing] to them in the summer and we enquired about several other names who would later be some of their signings.

"We couldn't get anywhere near what they wanted.

"But they are club with some big players and even though they are where they are [bottom of the table], we will respect the way they play.

"We've been looking at Reading as a team that didn't have a points deduction and having a such huge following present at Adams Park will give them a boost.

"We've watched them a few times and they've got a real attacking threat.

"They also have a good squad so I'm looking forward to it.

"We know we're in for a tough game."

Saturday's match will be the first time since February 2002 that Reading will visit Adams Park 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.

Bloomfield continued: "We know that Reading have got some very good young players who I believe will have very good careers, and they have other players who have been in the League One and know how to handle it.

"But it's just another game as we want to put in another good performance that will make our supporters proud.

"That's the thing that drives me.

"We want to give everyone a team to be proud of."

Bloomfield in action for against the Royals in 2020 (PA)

Wycombe are through to the next round in the EFL Trophy (PA)

100 per cent record in the EFL Trophy group stages

WYCOMBE Wanderers have topped their EFL Trophy group after they defeated AFC Wimbledon 1-0 at Adams Park.

The initial fixture was due to take place on November 21, but with the Chairboys and the original Dons having their respective league fixtures postponed due to the international break, it was agreed that the cup match would be brought forward by three days.

The home started off the better of the two sides and nearly took the lead inside the opening 30 seconds, but Kieran Sadlier's low shot from 20-yards was pushed away by Nik Tzanev.

Sadlier, who was only making his fourth start since joining the club in September, then went close again after 15 minutes, as his chip from just outside the box flew wide of the target.

The fixture was primarily played in the midfield with both sides enjoying large spells of possession, before the real Dons were awarded a spot-kick just before the break.

Charlie Lakin's free-kick was lofted in the box and after it was flicked near the six-yard box, the loose ball struck a Wycombe hand.

Referee Aji Ajibola had no doubt to penalise David Wheeler and point to the spot, but Josh Davidson's attempt from 12-yards was pushed away by the ex-MK keeper, Franco Ravizzoli.

In the dying embers of the opening period, Jack Grimmer beat four players on a mazy run before unleashing his shot at Tzanev who made a comfortable save.

The second half lacked any real threat from either side, with both teams already qualifying to the next round.

And on 82 minutes, the deadlock was broken after Sadlier scored his first goal for Wycombe since joining the club in the summer.

Harry Boyes' shot took a deflection into the path of the ex-Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United man, who brilliantly flicked it beyond Tzanev.

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