

Bucks Free Press

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'Use us or lose us'

Shop owner opens up on recent struggles

'School gives kids just five minutes for their lunch'

FULL STORY: PAGE 6

Pupils left with 'head and stomach aches' - parent



A PARENT at a primary school in High Wycombe says children are being left with 'head and stomach aches' after allegedly getting just five minutes to eat their lunch.

The parent, who wanted to remain anonymous, has a child in year six at St Michael's Catholic School in Wycombe and says a number of parents across the year group have raised concerns over the short lunchtime window since the autumn term began last month.

By Eleanor Burleigh

chael's Catholic School in Wycombe and says a number of parents across the year group have raised concerns over the short lunchtime window since the autumn term began last month.

She was alerted to the problem herself when her daughter began complaining about not having long enough to eat her packed lunch at the beginning of October - with a growing concern stoked by five or six similar testimonies in a year six parents' group chat.



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4 years jail for fraudster who conned uni students

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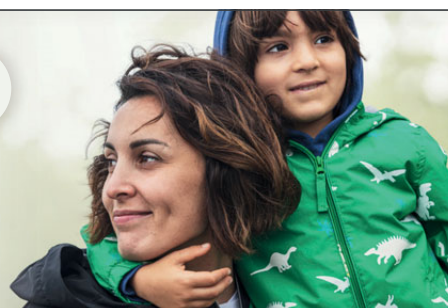
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Sport

HOCKEY

Marlow women earn first win of season

Marlow Hockey Club Women's First's gained their first win since promotion, beating Lansdown 2-0 at Pound Lane.

Marlow started well with players such as Indie Gomersall putting in some incredible tackles in the midfield.

Lansdown were quick to tackle Marlow in possession so the reds had to move the ball quickly to retain possession.

Marlow's breakthrough came in the second quarter after the Lansdown keeper made a great double save

but was unable to deny Ellie Yeomans to put the home side 1-0 ahead.

Shortly after half time, Martha Goodridge scored an unbelievable goal with a cracking first time strike at a penalty corner.

Lansdown upped the pressure in the final ten minutes of the game but Marlow remained composed and saw out the game to earn their first win of the season.

Two goals in each half secured a 4-0 home win for the women's 2nd team against Windsor 1s.

Marlow started brightly and

a quickly taken free hit received by Jazzy Elsdon resulted in the opposition keeper having to make a smart save, Holly McAlpine quickly followed up to flick the rebound over the floored goalie.

The midfield combined skill and physical effort to dominate and Eloise Hillebrand deservedly doubled Marlow's advantage going into the break.

Megan Fulton's accurate strike found the bottom corner before Julia Westnedge converted a corner to make it four.



Martha Goodridge

FOOTBALL

Holmer Green earn big a league win on the road

HOLMER Green battled difficult conditions to thrash Langley 4-1 in Combined Counties Football League, Division One on Saturday.

The monsoon ceased 30 minutes before kick-off, but the lively plastic pitch did not appear to be to the visitors' liking.

As early as the second minute, Holmer had played themselves into trouble, and Sammy Hill picked up a caution in preventing a chance developing 20 yards out.

Just a couple of minutes later, The Greens should have gone ahead. Jeffrey Fordjour won the ball out on the right and set up Oskar Esplund-Evans with the space for a cross. The centred ball was perfect for Tyler Sims coming in fast at the far post, but the firm effort with his head flew over the crossbar.

On 10 minutes, the home 'keeper actually spilled the ball goalwards, but the super-fast surface took the ball wide of the goal before Alex Colverd could profit. The same player was denied with a super defensive block two minutes later, when he really thumped a loose ball on target.

The breakthrough came on 33 minutes. A regulation cross from the Langley left was not taken cleanly by Jensen Ellis and Raposo was better placed than the covering Aaron Bryan, placing the loose ball comfortably into the goal. Chances started to come at the other end, as The Greens finally got their act together, but various players took too long or mistimed their efforts, or slipped at the vital moment.

Langley quickly started time-wasting after the interval, but Holmer did not immediately look much better than before half-time. On 51 minutes Theo Alexander did well to get the ball across from the right. Fordjour first, then Colverd with another blockbuster attempted efforts. When the ball broke back to Lloyd Majaya fifteen yards out, he sent the ball screaming past the 'keeper for the level-

By John Anderson

ler.

Two minutes later, at the expense of a very sore shin for Hill, the game really swung The Greens' way.

On the half-way line right in front of the referee, Raposo tried to make up for his loose first touch which had been well read by the Holmer defender. Being late, his tackle was over the top of the ball and the referee instantly brandished the red card from his back pocket.

The momentum had definitely swung the visitors' way now, as the home side were visibly tiring.

On 74 minutes, James Saxby won a good tackle 25 yards from the Langley goal, which Fordjour was onto in a flash. The 'keeper came out and made a good block. The ball came back to Saxby who took one touch before passing the ball into the net. The Greens were ahead at last and seemed to have sealed the win two minutes later.

After a long passage of Holmer possession, Saxby played Esplund-Evans in on goal and his low shot was just deflected wide of the far post by the 'keeper. Sims arrived and cut the ball back for Fordjour to tap in but the goal was controversially ruled out as the ball had deemed to be out.

The reprieve for the home side was brief. Sim's corner to the near post was accurate enough for Fordjour to arrive and head unchallenged into the goal. The fourth Holmer goal also coming in some confusion on 85 minutes, Esplund-Evans got a good near post cross in, Fordjour was wiped out by the advancing 'keeper and the ball ended up with Sims. With Langley hoping for another reprieve, the referee allowed play to continue and Sims scored his third of the season.

Holmer host Hillingdon on Saturday (3pm ko).



Holmer Green. Credit: James Richings

FOOTBALL

Rangers edge out the Greens in cup tie

Risborough Rangers and Holmer Green played out a competitive 1-0 win for the hosts in the second round of the Cherry Red Records Premier Challenge Cup on Tuesday.

The visitors had the best of the opening opportunities, but were caught with a sucker punch on 19 minutes. Losing possession on the half-way line, a good through ball inside the full back position caught Holmer off guard. A simple accurate square ball inside was slotted past Will Hamm, using the speed of the wet turf right into the bottom corner. Rangers definitely had the better of the exchanges until the break, but that goal was still the only counter of the first half.

Risborough carried on dominating after the interval.

On 64 minutes, Ethan Hutcheson on his Holmer debut had the best opportunity. But after being set up by Tyler Sims and Lancaster, his composure let him down at the vital moment and the ball flew over the bar from a similar position to that which produced the only goal of the game.

The next best chance for The Greens came with a Lancaster corner on 72 minutes. The kick evaded the huddle of players in front of the 'keeper and bounced off the far post. Jeffrey Fordjour retrieved the ball and sent it back in to where Lancaster had arrived at what was initially the near post. He controlled it well, but his shot across the exposed 'keeper went just wide.

Rams are held on the road at Ware

Beaconsfield earned a deserved point on the road, with a 1-1 draw away at Ware, writes Arran White.

Beaconsfield could and should have been 1-0 up in the opening 10 minutes, with Manu Oke - William seeing his header go agonisingly wide. Most of the first half belonged to Beaconsfield with them creating the best chances but just lacking that final clinical touch.

Beaconsfield were the better side once again at the start of the second half, controlling possession and again creating great chances. It felt like only a matter of time before they took the lead, however, against the run of play Ware took their chance to make the game 1-0 on what began to look like another frustrating afternoon.

Beaconsfield really turned on the pressure after the goal, playing some excellent football with several excellent attacks coming down both wings. They finally got what they deserved after seeing the ball pushed onto the bar by the Ware keeper, Josh Marcon was in the right place to poke the ball home and bring the game level.

They will hope to return to winning ways when they face Northwood at Holloways Park on Saturday.

Chesham set up FA Cup tie with League One hopefuls

CHESHAM United booked their place in the First Round Proper of the FA Cup with a late 1-0 victory over former EFL regulars Yeovil Town at The Meadow.

A relatively uneventful game came to a dramatic conclusion as Jack Cawley's stoppage-time header saw Chesham through to the FA Cup first round proper for the second year running.

Chesham gave as good as they got for most of the afternoon against their opponents from the division above, but the game seemed destined for a stalemate until Cawley's late intervention.

Yeovil came into the game in mid-table in the division above, after winning the National League South title last season.

After a quiet opening the first incident of note came in the 21st minute, when Yeovil's Brett McGavin took a corner which came off a defender onto the far post before being cleared.

Chesham had played some neat football but without creating any chances, but on 37 minutes a fine build-up between Jack Connors and Joe Grant ended with Grant's left-foot shot forcing a fine flying save from Ollie Wright in the Yeovil goal. Chesham ended the half on top with Lewis Rolfe firing in a shot that was blocked at the expense of a corner.

A tight second half delivered an exciting game but no breakthrough for either team. The last half-hour was notable only for its lack of incident and a replay was seeming like a certainty until in the second minute of stoppage time Chesham forced a corner. Jack Cawley rose and headed Bradley Clayton's cor-



Jack Cawley with the winner - Photo Neale Blackburn

ner in at the far post to send the 1,300 fans at The Meadow wild! After defending a dangerous free-kick in the dying minutes the referee blew for full-time and Chesham progress.

The draw for the 1st round provided a mouthwatering tie for Chesham against League One Lincoln City, who currently sit in fourth place in their division.

*Chesham's women were also in action in the Adobe Women's FA Cup against Montpellier Villa WFC on Sunday.

With goals for Gemma Fraser (4) and Natalia Makowska Chesham progressed 5-2 on the day. They now face Fulham FC Women in the first round away from home.

*Finally Chesham's women's walking footballers also won The FA Walking Football Cup South Region at the weekend. They go on to play the winners of the other regions at St George's Park on finals day.

There are five teams from across Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in this year's FA Cup

first round after a replay victory for non-league sides Maidenhead United.

EFL sides Reading, Wycombe Wanderers and MK Dons were already in the hat and had their opening round matches confirmed during Monday evening's draw.

The Royals host League Two Fleetwood Town, the Chairboys host National League York City and Milton Keynes host AFC Wimbledon in the latest instalment of the controversial fixture.

Maidenhead, of the National League, drew 1-1 at Taunton Town on Saturday and welcomed the Somerset side back to York Road on Tuesday evening.

Tobi Sho-Silva, Ruben Carvalho and Sam Barratt netted in a convincing 3-0 win for the Magpies to make it to round one for the eighth time since 2014.

League One strugglers Crawley Town, who visit Berkshire on Saturday for a league meeting with Reading, will travel to Maidenhead next month.

FOOTBALL

Rams are unlucky to exit cup

Beaconsfield Town U18's will have been left feeling incredibly aggrieved to have lost 1-0 to Merstham in the final qualifying round of the FA Youth Cup after late drama overshadowed the game, writes Arran White.

Beaconsfield were the team on top for much of the first 20 minutes, limiting Merstham to a few half chances on the counter.

Merstham looked to have snatched a lead late in the first half, after seeing Keane in the Beaconsfield goal push a free kick away only for the rebound to be poked home.

Beaconsfield's appeals for offside were backed up by the linesman's flag and the game remained goalless approaching the break.

However, in the closing seconds Merstham found a way through, seeing a long range shot saved, before the ball was smashed home to give them a 1-0 lead entering the interval.

As the game entered the closing stages Beaconsfield upped the tempo. They looked to have finally found a way back into the game scoring from a corner at the death. The linesman's flag went up, and despite protests from Beaconsfield's players and bench, the referee agreed with his assistant and ruled the goal out for an alleged foul on the Merstham keeper, leaving most inside Holloways Park bemused.

FOOTBALL

Old Ducks return

Aylesbury United have re-signed midfielder Jack Moriarty. Moriarty made 48 appearances, scoring three times, in his first spell with the Ducks after signing for the club in 2022.

He won the Gary Hawksworth Memorial Trophy for Most Improved Player for the 2022-23 season before departing the club in 2023.

He went on to play for Hanwell Town, and Barton Rovers before departing in October 2023.

This follows the news that Sonny French and Tom Cove re-joined earlier in the month from Kings Langley and AFC Dunstable respectively.

CONTACT US

Get in touch

IF there are any stories you would like covered, contact BFP sport at: JAMES.RICHINGS@NEWSQUEST.CO.UK OR james.earnshaw@newsquest.co.uk

HOCKEY

Marlow Hockey men surrender lead twice

Marlow Hockey Men's First team twice surrendered the lead to draw 2-2 with Trojans in Southampton.

It was a very close game and Marlow went 1-0 up and then 2-1 with both goals scored by young Theo Seymour.. Unfortunately, they were unable to hold on and Trojans equalised to level the score at 2-2.

The second team had some confidence after their win the previous week but their match at home against Winchester 1st team brought them down to earth with a jolt, losing 8-1. The first few minutes were fairly even but after converting a penalty stroke to take the lead Winchester got into their stride and ran away with the game. They scored regularly from open play, a penalty corner, and another penalty stroke. Marlow threatened on occasions but the visitors were overall too strong and deserved their 8-1 win. Marlow managed a consolation goal by Sam Nicholson.

Other results (men):- 3rd team lost 5-2 to Sonning 2, 4s drew 1-1 with Staines 3 away, 5s lost 7-1 away to Amersham & Chalfont 4, 6s lost 2-0 to Eastcote 6, 7s beat Eastcote 7 9-0 away
Other results (women):- 3rd team drew away with Oxford Hawks 3, 4ths drew 3-3 with Sonning 3, 5ths drew 1-1 away with Maidenhead 3, 6s drew 1-1 with Newbury & Thatcham 4, 7s lost 4-2 to Wycombe 5 4-2



Hockey round-up. Picture: Pixabay

Sport

LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEGEND SAYS GOODBYE

Redgrave steps down as club president

MULTIPLE Olympian winner Sir Steve Redgrave has revealed he will no longer be the president of Marlow Rowing Club.

The 62-year-old, who won five gold medals and one bronze during his Games career, steps away after 12 years in the role.

He was initially appointed after the club suffered a devastation fire which damaged 60 boats among other equipment and memorabilia.

Redgrave will be replaced by Cath Bishop, a former Olympic rower who was named world champion in 2003 and won a silver medal at the 2004 games in Athens.

John Kirtland, 63, who has rowed for the club for more than a quarter of a century, said: "Steve was such a great president and figure – but he has lots of other commitments and he's focusing now on more national rowing programmes. "It's a funny one – you

might think, where can you go from having the most gold medalled Olympian in history as president, but we're taking the opportunity to bring in someone with a different background and expertise."

As well as picking up six Olympic medals, Redgrave stood on the World Championship podium on 12 occasions, winning an incredible nine gold medals.

He also achieved two silvers and one bronze.



Steve Redgrave pictured at the 2000 Olympics in Australia

FOOTBALLER TRAGICALLY DROWNED IN POOL

Cause of George Baldock's death confirmed by family

THE cause of death of a professional footballer from Buckinghamshire has been confirmed.

George Baldock, who hailed from Buckingham and played for the likes of Milton Keynes, Oxford United, Northampton Town and Sheffield United (the latter in the Premier League), passed away suddenly on October 9 at the age of just 31.

Initial reports suggested that the right-back, who had been capped 12 times by the Greek National Team, was found in a swimming pool at his home in Glyfada.

It has since been confirmed that Baldock, who spent three years in the top-flight for Sheffield, had tragically drowned.

Authorities in Greece said there 'are no indications of foul play'.

Baldock had spent the last seven years at Sheffield United, three of which were in the Premier League, before departing the Blades to join Greek outfit Panathinaikos in the summer.

He had only played four times for the Shamrocks, with his last game for the club being in the side's 0-0 draw versus Olympiakos on October 6 – three days before his death.

A statement from his family reads: "We are heartbroken with the sudden passing of our beloved George. We can confirm that a post-mortem examination has found that George tragically drowned whilst swimming in the pool at his home in Glyfada, Athens.

"George, you were the most special father, fiancé, son, brother, uncle, friend, teammate and person.

"Your enthusiasm and infec-

By James Richings

tious personality brought so much love to those that were fortunate enough to know you and those who adored you from the stands.

"We will forever cherish the special memories we have of you and you will continue to live on in your beautiful son.

"You were due to fly home today for us to celebrate his first birthday together, but instead we mourn your loss.

"As a family it has been incredibly touching, but equally so very difficult to read the huge number of tributes written by those that knew George and from those whose life he touched.

"It was impossible not to love him.

"We ask that you please continue to respect our privacy at this devastating time as we begin to process our grief."

Numerous tributes across the football community have been left for the late right-back, with all of his former clubs writing heartfelt messages.

Baldock played 453 games during his career, two of which were against Wycombe Wanderers.

Both games took place in 2015 at Adams Park.

The first, which was on Good Friday, resulted in a 3-2 win for Oxford United where he picked up a yellow card, whilst the second took place in December of that year, which the Chairboys won 2-1.

Baldock was remembered in Greece's recent 2-1 win against England on October 10 with a minute's silence.



George Baldock, who was from Buckingham, played in the Premier League for Sheffield United. He died on October 9 from drowning

WOMEN

Shootout heartbreak for the Chairgirls

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women 3 – 3 Comets FC (1-3 penalties), writes Darcie Panayiotou.

After a solid run in form over the past few weeks, the Chairgirls suffered defeat in the FA Cup following a deciding penalty shootout. Despite gaining the lead in the first half with goals from Eman Kassem and Jess Watkins, and a second half goal from Ashleigh Harte, visitors, Comets, edged their way back into the game late and took home the win.

A tough opening 10 minutes for the Blues saw the visitor take the lead early in the first half, as they regained possession of the ball in a dangerous area and slotted home in the seventh minute.

Despite finding themselves behind early, the Chairgirls continued to battle to get back onto level terms, with their equaliser coming into fruition only seven minutes after the visitors took the lead. Having found herself on the end of a lovely through-ball from Molly Carter, it was Jess Watkins who delivered a cross in from the byline to find the head of Eman Kassem, situated on the far post.

Despite her initial header being deflected off the goal-line by the Comets keeper, Kassem headed it home on her second attempt to draw Wycombe level.

After working back from the early deficit, it was the Chairgirls who took the lead going into the break, with Watkins hitting the target late into the opening half. Assisted by Kassem, Watkins was able to carry the ball into the box, clear of the Comets defence, and slot home with a tidy finish in the 45th minute, allowing for the Blues to go into half time 2-1 up.

Looking to continue to grow the gap in the scoreline from the visitors in the second half, it was Ashleigh Harte who made it three for the Chairgirls. Situated on the right edge of the box and having received the ball from Kassem, Harte was able to thump the ball in with an incredible strike which rolled over the fingertips of the Comets keeper and made it 3-1 to Wycombe in the 75th minute.

A quick retaliation from the visitors, however, saw them claim one back in the 78th minute to edge in on the gap created by the Chairgirls.

They then closed their deficit completely with a late 92nd minute volleyed equaliser, prompting the game to head to penalties.

The visitors were the first to step up to the spot, with their first penalty going wide.

The Chairgirls followed with Kassem's kick being denied by the woodwork. Comets scored their second, whilst Kayla Potter's hit was blocked down the middle. Both sides scored their third, with Giulia Livi netting for Wycombe.

The visitors sealed their win with their third penalty being scored on their fourth attempt, as Mia Parkin's shot was stopped by the keeper.

Looking forward to the weekend



Wycombe's 5-2 win over P'boro last season saw them have five different scorers



Kieran Sadlier scored in Wycombe's 5-2 win over Peterborough last season

By James Richings

DOMESTIC football is back at Adams Park this weekend after the international as Wycombe Wanderers take on Peterborough United.

This fixture has proved to be one of the most entertaining in League One in recent seasons, with there being high scoring games, late goals, and the odd red card.

The love has been lost between the two sides since the end of the previous decade, so what can we expect when the Posh arrive in South Bucks this Saturday lunchtime?

Wanderers' season so far

Despite losing the opening two league games, Wycombe have had a solid start to the 2024/25 campaign.

Important wins over Rotherham United, Northampton Town, Cambridge United, Bristol Rovers and Crawley Town, along with hard-fought draws against Blackpool and Barnsley, have moved the Chairboys from 19th to fifth, as they sit three points off the automatic places.

Although we are still in the very early stages of the sea-

son, Wanderers have scored in every league game so far, netting on 17 occasions.

This is the joint third-highest in the division, with Matt Bloomfield's side scoring the same amount of goals at first-placed Birmingham City, third-place Mansfield Town, and Blackpool, who sit 10th.

Only Wrexham (18) who sit in second, and Saturday's opponents, Peterborough (19), have scored more.

Yet incredibly, the Posh have conceded the most goals out of anyone this league season to date with 21, as they sit in 12th position.

Wycombe's last blank came in the home 0-0 draw against Derby County on April, with Wanderers only losing just four of their last 20 league matches since March.

Peterborough's season so far

It's been hit-and-miss for the Posh so far, as they continue to fight for a return to the Championship.

It's their third year in League One following their relegation from the second tier in 2022, and in that time, they have reached the play-offs in each of the last two seasons, but fell at the semi-final hurdle on both occasions to the eventual winners (Sheffield Wednesday in 2023 and Oxford United in 2024).

This year, they have scored the most goals so far but have struggled at the back, as they have yet to keep a clean sheet in the division this season.

Despite this, they look great going forward, with Kwame Poku scoring six times in 12 matches.

They currently lie 12th going into the fixture with four wins, three draws and four defeats from their 11 games played.

Last five games in all competitions

2023/24: Peterborough United 2-1 Wycombe Wanderers: EFL Trophy Final

2023/24: Wycombe Wanderers 5-2 Peterborough United: League One

2023/24: Peterborough United 2-2 Wycombe Wanderers: League One

2022/23: Peterborough United 0-3 Wycombe Wanderers: League One

2022/23: Wycombe Wanderers 1-1 Peterborough United: EFL Trophy Group Stage

Miscellaneous

- In the 10 games between the two sides since 2018, 40 goals have been scored (21 for Wycombe and 19 for Peterborough)

- Wanderers are unbeaten in their last four league games against the Posh (three wins and one draw)

- Peterborough's victory over Wycombe in the EFL Trophy final back in April was their first triumph over the club since 2020

- Additionally, their last win against the Chairboys at Adams Park came in August 2009 in a 4-0 away victory in the League Cup

- Their last league victory versus Wycombe at HP12 was way back in November 2003

- Wycombe scored with five different scorers when the two teams last played each other in the league, as Wanderers smashed Peterborough 5-2 at Adams Park

- The scorers were Archie Collins (OG), Jack Grimmer, Kieran Sadlier, Nicholas Bilokapic (OG), and Sam Vokes



Jack Grimmer's only home goal for Wanderers came against the Posh last season (PA)



Josh Scowen pictured against the Posh at Wembley



David Wheeler scored the Chairboys' fifth in that brilliant victory back in February



Matt Bloomfield and Darren Ferguson stand on the touchline at Wembley in the EFL Trophy Final (PA)

SPORT



Wanderers to play National League side in the FA Cup



The Wycombe Wanderers will take on York City

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play York City of the National League in the FA Cup.

It will be the first fixture between the two clubs since the 2015/16 season, and the first in the competition since their inaugural meeting in the 1985/86 campaign, which the Yorkshire side won 2-0.

The fixture will take place between November 1 and November 4.

The full list is as follows:
 • Rotherham United v Cheltenham Town
 • Barrow v Doncaster Rovers

• Worthing v Morecambe
 • Boreham Wood v Leyton Orient
 • Exeter City v Barnet
 • Carlisle United v Wigan Athletic
 • Tamworth v Huddersfield Town
 • Brackley Town v Braintree Town
 • Curzon Ashton v Mansfield Town
 • Wycombe Wanderers v York City
 • Bradford City v Aldershot Town
 • Hednesford Town v Gainsborough Trinity
 • Burton Albion v Scarborough Athletic
 • Tranmere Rovers v Oldham Athletic
 • Rochdale v Bromley

• Walsall v Bolton Wanderers
 • Grimsby Town v Wealdstone
 • Bristol Rovers v Weston-Super-Mare
 • MK Dons v AFC Wimbledon
 • Solihull Moors v Maidstone United
 • Stockport County v Forest Green Rovers
 • Reading v Fleetwood Town
 • Stevenage v Guiseley
 • Northampton Town v Kettering Town
 • Rushall Olympic v Accrington Stanley
 • Swindon Town v Colchester United
 • Salford City v Shrewsbury Town

• Crewe Alexandra v Dagenham & Redbridge
 • Port Vale v Barnsley
 • Chesham United v Lincoln City
 • Chesterfield v Horsham
 • Southend United v Charlton Athletic
 • Notts County v Alfreton Town
 • Maidenhead United v Crawley Town
 • Harrogate Town v Wrexham
 • Woking v Cambridge United
 • Gillingham v Blackpool
 • Tonbridge v Harborough Town
 • Sutton United v Birmingham City
 • Newport County v Peterborough United

Injury update given ahead of Posh clash

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has provided an injury update ahead of this weekend's clash against Peterborough United.

The Chairboys go into the game having not played last week due to the international break, whilst the Posh have featured twice in that time.

One player who won't be in the matchday squad is forward Brandon Hanlan, as he continues to recover from his ACL injury, but the striker did play in a practice match versus Queens Park Rangers earlier this month.

It was his first game in any capacity damaging his knee in the 1-0 home loss against Stevenage in November last year.

Speaking ahead of the Saturday lunchtime clash versus the London Road team, Bloomfield said: "I'm so pleased for him.

"I've done that injury myself and I know how much hard work you have put in to get back.

"He's been back training with the group for a while and he got 20 minutes in the practise match against QPR which is fantastic.

"It's our responsibility at this football club to bring him back in the right manner and to expose him to as many minutes as safely as we can.

"We're hoping to arrange another game for him soon, and then we have some games coming up which he can hopefully participate in, to bring him up to speed.

"It's been a real shame for Brands as he was in fantastic form before his injury, as good as I've ever seen him play.

"His injury was a crying shame for him and us as a football club, because if you look at the threat we had at the top of the pitch before and after his injury in those winter months, it really cost us.

"So to have him back with his personality, his smile and the way he is

By James Richings

with everyone, it's lovely to see him. "We hope to welcome him back as soon as possible."

The boss also spoke about the availability of centre back Ryan Tafazolli and forward Sam Vokes.

The duo haven't featured since August as they continue to recuperate from their injury problems.

No exact time frame has been given for when they will return to the Wycombe first team.

When asked about Tafazolli, who hasn't played since the 3-2 home loss to Birmingham City, Bloomfield said: "Taff is still a bit of a way off.

"He is back out on the grass doing some running, but he's but back in full team training yet.

"Taff is not close but he's closer than Vokes as he's still in the gym.

"He's doing strength work for his injury which he picked up against Wimbledon [in the EFL Trophy], so unfortunately for us, we won't be seeing them anytime soon.

"We've picked up one or two niggles in the interim period during the international break which is a shame, off the back of the QPR match.

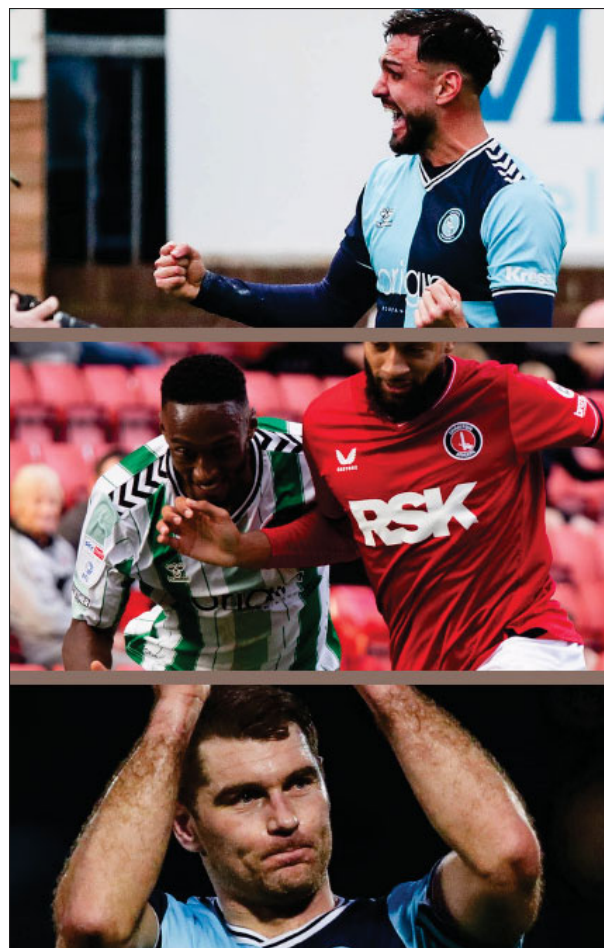
"We'll certainly miss one other player since the last time out, but other than that, we have a relatively clean bill of help."

Finally, speaking ahead of the match against Peterborough, he concluded: "We expect it to be a good day between two very good teams and we want to be our best selves.

"We need to be out of the traps.

"Peterborough would have played twice in the time since we last played, so they will be up and running, so we need to be ready to go."

The match will kick-off at 12.30pm on October 19.



Ryan Tafazolli (top), Brandon Hanlan (centre) and Sam Vokes (bottom) remain on Wycombe's injury list (PA)

Loan exits confirmed for two Chairboys

TWO Wycombe Wanderers players have departed the club on loan.

The first was central midfielder Jack Young, who joined Dorking in January.

The 23-year-old (who turns 24 on October 21), has struggled for game time since moving to Adams Park from Newcastle United, playing just eight times.

However, despite featuring in a handful of fixtures, he did play a huge part in Wycombe's 1-0 win over Fleetwood Town in March 2022.

His long ball injury-time caused havoc in the Cod Army box, which led to Jason McCarthy smashing home to secure an important win for Wycombe.

Wanderers would secure a spot in that year's play-offs by one point, and many believe the victory over Fleetwood was 'that' crucial win which made the difference.

His move to Dorking is the third loan move of his Adams Park career, after he spent some of last season at Ayr United and Wealdstone respectively.

In addition to Young's exit, Wycombe defender Jack Matton has moved out on loan to Bracknell Town, linking up with fellow Chairboys youngster Jahiem Dotse.

Other Wanderers who are also out on loan include Brody Peart (Basingstoke), Christie Ward (Weymouth), Laurie Shala (Potters Bar), Luca Woodhouse (Dagenham & Redbridge) and Taylor Clark (Farnborough).

To read more about the latest Wycombe Wanderers news, go to www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport, or follow James Richings on X (formerly known as Twitter).

Next match: Peterborough United (H) - October 19, 12.30pm.