Bucks Free Press

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Eddie's rise from town stage school to TV star

Parking warning to flats residents

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SPECIAL BUDGET REPORT: Hospital hub hopes – Pages 8-9

Incident followed aftermath of stabbing

Man admits PC crossbow shooting

By James Richings

A NEIGHBOUR from hell who stabbed a man in his 60s before shooting a policeman with a crossbow in a terrifying ordeal near a school has pleaded guilty.

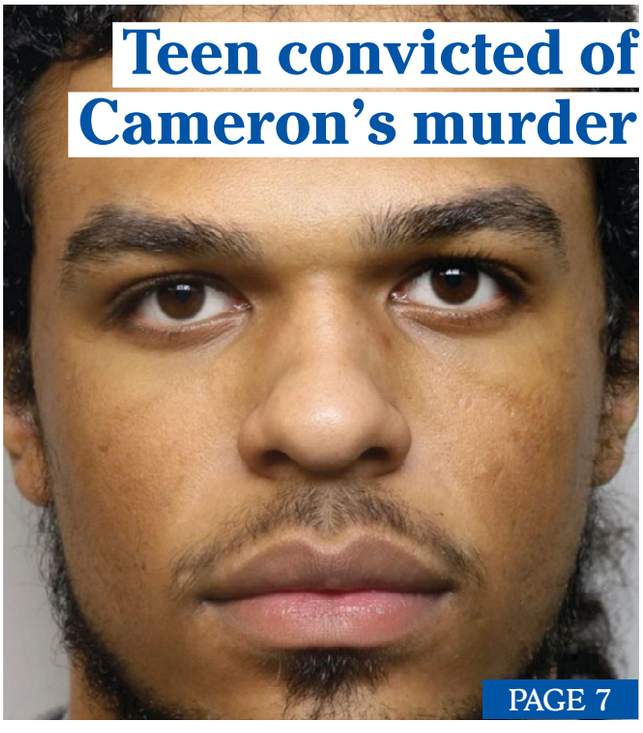
Jason King, from School Close in Downley, has been convicted of several charges after the frenzied attack in May this year.

Unarmed officers were ambushed by the 54-year-old as they responded to panicked 999 calls about a stabbing.

Senior investigating officer Det Insp Nick Hind, of the Major Crime Unit, said: "King has now admitted the offences and will be sentenced in due course."

Full story: Page 5

Teen convicted of Cameron's murder



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WIN £100 M&S SHOPPING SPREE: PAGE 14

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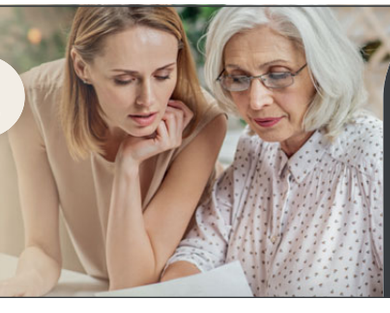

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FOOTBALL

Pair of narrow defeats for Windsor FC

Windsor endured a difficult week, narrowly losing by the single goal to Bedfont and Belstone in the space of four days.

On Saturday, mid-table Bedfont picked up a 1-0 home win over the Jacks, Andre Smith finding the net for the hosts.

However, on Tuesday promotion-chasing Belstone needed a late goal to win 2-1 at Holloways Park in a match not without controversy.

There was little to split the sides in a game filled with half-chances but Emile Hohmann opened the scoring 10 minutes into the second period for the visitors.

Troy Williams drew the hosts level shortly after and Fraser Nicholas thought he had turned the game on its head when he bundled in from close range, only for the official to spot a handball.

With five minutes remaining, Hohmann snatched the win for Belstone as they remain just a point behind leaders Windsor and Eton.

A nip-and-tuck tie, the visitors were perhaps fortunate to finish with 11 players as Perry Dicker took out Jamil Yusuf while already on a booking, however the referee opted to drag play back for a previous foul.

Windsor sit 15th in Combined Counties Division One and host Yateley United this evening at Holloways Park.

Windsor celebrating their goal. Credit: Trophy Photography

FOOTBALL

Chesham United maintain their unbeaten away run

By Andy Westlake

CHESHAM United found another late winner at Enfield to win 3-2 and maintain their unbeaten away record this season.

The fans enjoyed an eventful game but most of the discussion was about the performance of the referee and the three penalty decisions given.

Chesham used the same winning squad from last week with Avan Jones, Jack Cawley and Omar Rowe starting.

Enfield came into the game in the relegation zone and both sides made a cautious start.

Chances at both ends for Chesham's Steve Brown and Enfield's Sam Youngs got the game off to an exciting start. Chesham then came close when a Connor Stevens's shot was blocked on the line but they did take the lead just after the half-hour when Connor Stevens ran into the penalty area on the left only to be given a solid shove from Sam Youngs. Although it might be considered a soft penalty the referee had little option but to give it, and Jack Cawley blasted the spot kick into the net.

During the interval Enfield's manager Gavin Macpherson was shown a red card for arguing with the referee as the players came off at half-time but his team were level within two minutes of the break.

Lennon Peake's left-wing corner was flicked on and Jake Hutchinson headed in at the far post.

Six minutes later, Enfield had a penalty of their own. Harley Mills attempted to cross from the left, the ball hit Avan Jones on the arm and the referee pointed to the spot although Jones had his arms firmly by his side. Youngs converted the penalty and Chesham needed to regroup.

Midway through the second half Chesham made a triple substitution which turned the game around.

With ten minutes to go Chesham found the equaliser when the ball was crossed back into the area following a right-wing move and Connor Stevens drove it into the net.

As has become a bit of a habit Chesham then piled on the late pressure and when the home defence failed to clear a Jack Cawley long throw the ball hit Sam Youngs on the arm on the goal-line. After the handball decision at the other end the referee had little option but to award a penalty and show Youngs a red card. Jack Cawley again converted from the spot in the 89th minute for Chesham's winner.

*Elsewhere, despite two goals for Gemma Fraser, Chesham's women's team had a tough defeat against Real Bedford in the FAWNL.

Next up they travel to Fulham FC Women in the 1st round proper of the Adobe Women's FA Cup (Sunday, November 3).

Chesham United have a massive game at home at The Meadow in the First Round of the FA Cup against Lincoln City at 7:15 on Monday, October 4.

Fans not coming to the game can also watch on ITV4 on Monday night.

Jack Cawley celebrates the winner. Photo Neale Blackburn

FOOTBALL

Holmer pick up a pair of late league wins

Holmer Green beat PFC Victory 4-2 on Saturday in Combined Counties Football League, Division One , writes John Anderson.

With Jeffrey Fordjour, Alex Colverd, and Sammy Hill, unavailable for various reasons, Ben Booker and Kai Morgan started the game.

The loss of two players responsible for over half of the goals scored so far this season meant that the attacking options were limited. This showed up in the first half.

Holmer went behind from a corner on five minutes. The well-placed ball evaded Jensen Ellis and went in directly under the angle of the far post and cross-bar.

On 14 minutes Ellis saved a good free-kick at the expense of another corner. This once produced three chances for the visitors, the first two being wasted despite slack marking by The Greens. The third attempt was headed tamely wide.

Four minutes later, Sims was just off-target with a deft back-heel set up by James Saxby and Oskar Esplund-Evans.

The home side were not so fortunate from the next PFC free-kick on 27 minutes. The wall was badly positioned, and the shot squirmed under Ellis into the far bottom corner.

Not long before the interval, Liam Butters made his first real contribution to what would prove to be an excellent afternoon for the young centre-back. Without having to outjump defenders close by, he headed a Saxby corner gently in at the far post.

The team management solved the obvious attacking conundrum by replacing Morgan with right-back Evans up front, and another composed young defender Mason Spring coming on at right-back.

With just ten minutes of the half having passed, Lloyd Majaya won a midfield tackle for a loose ball and a chance opened up for Evans who reacted quickly. This time, he had noted the propensity the 'keeper had for being ready to sweep-up. A first-time lob over the out of position custodian brought the equalising goal.

On 90 minutes, a corner kick routine between skipper Martin Lancaster and Evans, enabled the former to find Butters unmarked beyond the far post. A perfect first touch and immediate thumping shot doubled Holmer's winning margin.

On Tuesday, Holmer Green overcame Brook House 3-2 to record successive wins in four days.

A brace from Colverd and another from Fordjour secured the victory to round off a positive October/

New era at Beaconsfield gets off to unbeaten start

A NEW era kicked off at Beaconsfield Town under interim manager Sam Togwell, with a 2-2 draw at home to AFC Dunstable, followed by an emphatic home 3-0 win over North Leigh, *writes Arran White.*

First to Saturday, and Sam Togwell's first game in charge. The first half was short of any real goal scoring opportunities, with Beaconsfield putting in an energetic performance, and having the better of the chances, despite being limited to a couple of sights of goal. Eli Grant showed his pace on the wing and created a couple of good chances for the hosts, but AFC Dunstable defended well when called upon, and rarely troubled the Beaconsfield back line.

The game entered half time finely poised at 0-0, with Beaconsfield showing an improved performance on recent games.

It was a fast start to the 2nd half, with Beaconsfield going close on a couple of occasions through Joe Lawal, first seeing his effort tipped onto the post before a shot bounced back off the bar. Beaconsfield finally found an opener through Jacques Kpohomouh, heading home Akiel Raffie's well struck free kick.

As the game entered the 90th minute Dunstable found a lifeline, equalizing through substitute Momodou Jallow. Beaconsfield immediately looked to respond to the setback, and pushed hard, looking like they had won the game in added time, as youngster Kingston White – Glean headed home. It was a cruel ending to the game as Dunstable again found an equalizer, this time with the last kick of the game. A shot from distance took a deflection and found its way into the back of the Beaconsfield net. It was a game that Beaconsfield and new manager Sam Togwell deserved to win, and they will again feel unlucky not to have claimed more points, with a much-improved performance under the new manager.

On to Tuesday and Beaconsfield finally ended their long wait for 3 points with an emphatic 3-0 win over North Leigh at Holloways Park.

Beaconsfield looked to pile on the pressure in the opening 15 mins, and while both teams tried to find their feet in the game, the hosts created a couple of good chances. Beaconsfield deservedly took the lead in 17th minute, as Joe Lawal was brought down in the box, to give Akiel Raffie a chance from the spot. Raffie tucked the penalty away in style, firing the ball into the top left of the net.

There was a lengthy stoppage with a nasty head injury to a North Leigh defender, which resulted in 5 minutes being added to the end of the first half. North Leigh had their chance in added time, with an excellent cross bravely defended by Kingston White – Glean. The half finally ended with Beaconsfield 1-0 up.

Beaconsfield started the second half well, and doubled their advantage when Joe Lawal stole the ball from the North Leigh defence, with work still to do he went past 2 defenders and calmly slotted into the net to make it 2-0 to the hosts.

North Leigh weren't without their chances, but Beaconsfield defended well from the front & continued to keep the visitors at arm's length, with goalkeeper Eddie Brearey forced into a fine save as the game neared full time.

With only a few minutes left on the clock Beaconsfield wrapped up the game, a shot from substitute Maks Jarzabek was saved, leaving Joe Lawal with a tap in for his second of the night, to make the game 3-0.

Beaconsfield are back in action on Saturday, with a trip to Hertford Town.

Beaconsfield Town. Credit: James Richings

FOOTBALL

Bedford end impressive Heathens run

Real Bedford ended Flackwell Heath's four-match unbeaten streak with a 1-0 victory at Wilks Park in a hotly-contested clash.

In front of another crowd of over 300 at Wilks Park, Flackwell pushed the impressive away side throughout the match, creating good openings for Matthew Ayres and Wiktor Makowski among others.

Reds goalkeeper Lindrit Beqiri stood out throughout the match, pulling off numerous saves including a triple save in eight seconds in the first half which looked nailed on for a Real Bedford goal and earning him a deserving man of the match award.

Drew Richardson shone in centre midfield for Bedford, causing problems for the Heathens and setting a real challenge for Jack Shakespeare and Harry Mepham in midfield, who both battled well throughout.

Despite the result, the match demonstrated the improvements Flackwell Heath have made since Real Bedford impressively defeated them in the FA Vase last season.

On Tuesday, Flackwell returned to winning ways and secured safe passage in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup with a 3-1 victory at Didcot Town.

Eddie Lee and a Wiktor Makowski brace did the damage for the Heathens after Luke Preen had given the hosts an early lead.

It proved a special evening for Jack Taylor who returned to the pitch for the first time in over a year after suffering an ACL rupture and reconstruction.

Flackwell host Barton Rovers on Saturday.

Flackwell defender Patrick takes a touch. Credit: Glenn Alcock

DARTS

PRDDL scores and scorers

Division 1 – Sponsored by Avocet Construction

Bradmoor Farm Warriors 0-11 Rivets
Jamie Whittaker 116 Checkout & 16 Dart Leg
Elliott Insley 110 Checkout

Chinnor Pavilion D 6-5 The Bull A
Darren Tidd 180
Jack Govier 100 Checkout
Sam Ridgway 17 & 19 Dart Legs
Keith Harman 18 Dart Leg
Ian Jenkins 17 Dart Leg

Thame Snooker Club 6-5 Bledlow Village Cricket Club A
Terry Cook 101 Checkout & 20 Dart Leg
Adam Mould/Jamie Boyce 17 Dart Leg (Pairs)
Pete Dumbarton 21 Dart Leg
Adam Mould 19 Dart Leg x2

The Bull B 5-6 Chinnor Pavilion A
Jon Slade 180
Allan Way 100 Checkout & 18 Dart Leg
David Butler 120 Checkout & 21 Dart Leg
Chris Stallwood 104 Checkout
Darren Hatton/Sheldon Admans 20 Dart Leg (Pairs)

The Crown Jacks 3-8 Bradmoor Farm A
Callum Hatcher 180 & 18 Dart Leg
Kelvin Amos 107 Checkout
Ross Chapman 113 Checkout & 18 Dart Leg x2

Weavers 4-7 The Crown Royals
Scott Philbey 180
Terry Hall 180
Alfie Carter/Leroy Carter 21 Dart Leg (Pairs)
Alfie Carter 19 Dart Leg
Mark Amos 16 & 21 Dart Legs
Jamie Vernon 17 Dart Leg
Ash Bird 18 & 21 Dart Legs

Whiteleaf Cross B 7-4 Chinnor Pavilion B
Ross Hales 180
Philip Lofty 149 Checkout
Philip Lofty/Harry Wagerfield 21 Dart Leg (Pairs)

Division 2 – Sponsored by Wessex Landscapes & Brickwork

Bledlow Village Cricket Club 9-2 Golden Cross
Warren Brooks/Jaeden Antoine 20 Dart Leg (Pairs)

Chinnor Pavilion C 3-8 Bradmoor Farm B

New Zealand 11-0 Bell B

The Black Horse (Missenden) A 5-6 Aylesbury Vale FC
Leo Beechey/Dan Clarke 20 Dart Leg (Pairs)

The Plough A 8-3 Bradmoor Farm D
Keith Carpenter 180
Mia Allwood 105 Checkout

The Three Horseshoes 7-4 Chinnor Pavilion E
Clayton Ford 20 Dart Leg

Wendover RBL 2-9 Bay 19
Matt Moran 113 Checkout
Steve Allen 17 Dart Leg

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

FORWARD SPENT FIVE YEARS AT ADAMS PARK

Ex-Chairboys striker joins Non League side

A FORMER Wycombe Wanderers fan favourite who scored the club's first goal in the Championship has found himself a new club.

Scott Kashket, who spent five seasons at Adams Park between 2016 and 2021, is now on the books at Hornchurch in the Non League.

He joined the National League South side at the end of September, following his exit from Sutton United earlier this year.

The 28-year-old has featured eight times for his new side, starting on four occasions, scoring once.

Kashket joined Wycombe in the summer of 2016 and went onto have a brilliant first season in South Buckinghamshire, scoring 16 goals in 29 matches.

He would win promotion with the Chairboys in 2018 to League One, and two years later to the Championship in 2020.

The forward, who also had stints at Buckhurst Hill, Hercules, Wingate & Finchley, Leyton Orient and Welling United before moving to Wanderers, has the distinction of being the club's first goal scorer in the Championship.

This was in a 2-1 home loss against Millwall in October 2020.

After leaving Wycombe in the summer of 2021, he went on to have spells at Crewe Alexandra, Gillingham and Sutton United before joining Hornchurch.

At Wycombe, he played 129 times and scored 31 goals for the Chairboys.

Scott Kashket spent five years at Wycombe

HELP NEEDED FOR FORMER CHAIRBOY PLAYER

Money raised for injured ex-Wanderers midfielder

By James Richings

A GOFUNDME page has been set up to help a former Wycombe Wanderers midfielder who has suffered a potentially career-ending injury.

Jacob Gardiner-Smith, who spent the 2019/20 season with the Chairboys but only played three times for the club, now represents Non League Sholing in the South League Premier Division.

He featured 13 times for the Boatmen this season, starting on 11 occasions.

However, the one-time Wanderer is expected to miss a significant period after suffering his second ACL injury of his career at the age of just 27.

He was hurt in the first-half of Sholing's recent 5-1 loss against Dorchester Town this month.

A GoFundMe page has now been launched to help the ex-Chairboy who has admitted that his long-term injury will prevent him from working 'in any capacity'.

A goal of £10,000 has been set and at the time of writing, £1,885 has been raised.

The money donated will cover his bills, rehabilitation costs and consultation fees.

The fundraising page reads: "Heartbroken doesn't describe it.

"Having been out injured for 18 months the first time just as my career was taking off as a young professional at Wycombe Wanderers, I was told I'd never play again.

"I fought through that to get my career back on track only for this to happen again which has been very tough to deal with.

"My surgery is going to cost upwards of £10,000 as well as rehab costs, consultation fees and bills.

"Football was providing my income as well as my coaching business and after suffering this injury, I am unable to work in any capacity.

"Waiting for the NHS would essentially be the end of my career and would also mean I couldn't work for over a year too.

"Any donations would be sincerely appreciated."

To donate to the page, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/jacob-gardinersmith-sholing-fc-acl-surgery.

Gardiner-Smith joined Wycombe after impressing Gareth Ainsworth on trial in the summer of 2019, having spent the previous season at St Albans City.

Prior to turning professional, he spent three seasons in Russia.

First with the CSKA Moscow youth team, before joining the Zenit Saint Petersburg Academy.

His time at Adams Park was short-lived, as he only featured three times for the Chairboys and those appearances all came in the EFL Trophy.

He was eventually loaned out to Braintree Road, playing 13 times.

The midfielder was then released at the end of that season but was part of the squad that achieved promotion to the Championship.

A respectable career in the Non League soon followed with spells at Hemel Hempstead Town, Cheshnut, Kings Langley, Hanwell Town, Beaconsfield Town, Hungerford Town and now Sholing.

However, after leaving Wanderers, he would spend 18 months out of the game after suffering the first ACL injury of his career.

He has also sustained a fractured knee, a meniscus tear and problems with his LCL and MCL before his most recent setback.

Jacob Gardiner-Smith spent one season with Wycombe in the 2019/20 campaign

FOOTBALL

Chesham looking for upset in FA Cup

AROUND 5,000 spectators will be crammed into the Meadow on Monday night as Chesham United hope to cause another shock in the FA Cup first round.

The newly-promoted National League South side will host Lincoln City of League One (the same division as their Buckinghamshire neighbours Wycombe Wanderers), in the world's oldest football competition.

In front of the ITV cameras, the cup tie will be a break from their league commitments, as they currently lie 10th in the league, just one point off the play-off places.

It's also worth noting that this is their first-ever campaign in the second step of the Non League pyramid – their highest-ever position.

And with comedian and Taskmaster host Alex Horne being a director of the Generals, these are very exiting times for this small football team that sits at the top of Amy Lane in the town.

Speaking to the BBC, co-manager Michael Murray said: "I say it many times, and I say it about going into this league, we're not going there just to make the numbers up or keep the score down.

"We believe if we can give a good account of ourselves there's no reason why we can't get a result."

Chesham have got history in this competition, as they produced one of the shocks of the round during the 2015/16 season.

In November 2015, they travelled to Bristol Rovers who were back in League Two after spending one year in the National League.

The Pirates were overwhelming favourites to knock out the Generals, as they sat 75 places above them in the footballing pyramid.

However, Ryan Blake's strike sent Chesham through and caused a chorus of boos around the Memorial Stadium.

Whilst Rovers suffered the embarrassment of being one of the sides to be eliminated from the competition by a Non League outfit at home at the first hurdle, they did go onto win a second consecutive promotion that season.

Chesham's heroics saw them play Bradford City in the second round at Valley Parade, where they lost 4-0.

However, it was 2-0 until the 90th minute.

One year later, they reached the first round again, but were eliminated by Peterborough United 2-1 at London Road.

Another EFL side waits from Chesham on Monday night, and despite Lincoln sitting in the League One play-off places, the Generals can hope they can smell the blood of the Imps on a very cold and packed night in South Buckinghamshire.

WYCOMBE 3-0 LEYTON ORIENT

'Wycombe were ruthless': Orient manager

Richie Wellens was not happy with his team's loss against Wycombe at Adams Park

LEYTON Orient manager Richie Wellens admitted that Wycombe Wanderers 'were far too good' for his side as they lost 3-0 to the Chairboys at Adams Park.

Strikes from Fred Onydeinma, Dan Udoh and Cam Humphreys gave Matt Bloomfield's team their eighth victory in 12 games so far this season.

The result is also Wanderers' 10 consecutive match in the division without a defeat – their longest run for two years.

Orient lacked any real threat going forward, with the club's supporters sarcastically cheering when Ollie O'Neill's tame attempt was saved by Wycombe keeper Franco Ravizzoli in the last 10 minutes.

It was the first time the Argentine keeper was properly tested during the contest.

Speaking at full-time, Wellens said: "They were far too good for us because every time they cleared it, they go big and they go long.

"They have strikers that are jumping in leaning in and are effective and they are hard to play against.

"The first two goals were mistakes and they were just better than us.

"When they got into the [attacking] areas, they took over with their pace, and even though we had lots of opportunities [to create chances], we slowed the game down.

"Wycombe were explosive, powerful, and we were poor.

"When they got into the final third, they used their quality and they were ruthless.

"They're giving it a right go."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3-0 LEYTON ORIENT

Chairboys cruise to three more points with easy win

WYCOMBE Wanderers made it 10 league games unbeaten as they comfortably defeated struggling Leyton Orient 3-0 at Adams Park.

The Chairboys made five changes from the team that defeated Burton Albion 3-2 midweek, as out went Gideon Kodua, Bez Lubala, Luke Leahy, Josh Scowen and Richard Kone.

In came Dan Udoh, Garath McCleary, Cam Humphreys, Tyreeq Bakinson and Fred Onyedinma, and these changes proved pivotal.

On five minutes, a mistake by Ethan Galbraith allowed Onyedinma through one-on-one with Orient keeper Josh Keeley,

He took a couple of touches to steady himself and placed it under the onrushing shot-stopper to register his second goal of the season.

Wanderers dominated the opening 45 from the off as Udoh, Bakinson and McCleary all went close to finding their second goal of the afternoon.

And it duly came on the stroke of half-time as Udoh buried his attempt into the roof of the net.

Dan Harvie started the move on the left-hand side, and after he fed through Humpheys, the latter's cross was expertly converted by the Nigerian.

It's his fifth goal in 14 matches since moving to Adams Park from Shrewsbury Town in the summer.

Orient rarely threatened and midway through the second half, Wycombe wrapped up the win with Humphreys' third strike of the campaign.

Aaron Morley would later hit the post for Wycombe, as they moved into the top two of the table.

Orient sit just above the relegation zone.

Up next for Wycombe is York City in the FA Cup on November 2 at Adams Park.

In the league, it's a trip to Wigan Athletic on November 9.

Attendance: 5,400 (793 away)

Wycombe have won four of their last five game against Leyton Orient. They are now second in the table, one place behind Birmingham City (NQ)

In the top two but there is work still to do

DESPITE Wycombe sitting second in the League One table, Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has insisted that 'there is a lot of work to do' for the season.

He made five changes going into the fixture following the 3-2 win away at Burton, and the change of personnel proved to be key for the Chairboys.

In came Dan Udoh, Garath McCleary, Cam Humphreys, Tyreeq Bakinson and Fred Onyedinma, with Gideon Kodua, Bez Lubala, Luke Leahy, Josh Scowen and Richard Kone missing out from the starting 11.

Wycombe rarely got out of third gear at Adams Park, and could have easily scored three or four more.

He said: "The changes were in discussion over Wednesday and Thursday – it seems to have all these options up front and not freshening things up after a late trip home from Burton.

"We pressed so high at Burton that Richard [Kone] and Luke [Leahy] needed a few days to recover as I wanted to protect them.

"With Josh [Scowen] being absent, I thought Ty's [Tyreeq Bakinson] athleticism and energy would give us that boost due to how Orient play.

"The boys have put a huge amount of effort into the week.

"We're scoring goals, the boys are in good form and it's a joy to watch them.

"We're really pleased but there is a lot of work to do still."

Wycombe are currently second in the table just three points behind table-topping Birmingham City.

The Chairboys were going to finish the day in third but got their place in the top two after Wrexham conceded a late equaliser away at Charlton.

This means the Welsh team are now one place behind Wycombe.

For Orient, they sit 20th, with just 11 points from their 13 games so far this season.

WANDERERS

Youth is the way forward

WYCOMBE Wanderers' academy held its inaugural 'Talent ID Day' to find prospective new recruits for its under-18 squad.

Taking place on Tuesday, October 29, the event was held at the club's Harlington training ground where six invited sides from local private football academies, each playing in a round-robin nine-a-side tournament, with the winning side receiving a trophy from first-team manager Matt Bloomfield.

Following Mikhail Lomtadze's takeover of the Adams Park club in May, plans have been put in place to try and reform an academy for Wycombe.

The previous establishment closed in 2012 following the club's then ongoing financial issues.

Wanderers have submitted plans to the EFL for a Category 4 Academy Licence for the 2025/26 season.

The Harlington Cup comprised of Academy director Jeremy Sauer commented: "It's been a fantastic occasion and a real landmark moment in Wycombe Wanderers' history, with the first ball being kicked in any academy structure since the previous setup was closed in 2012.

"There was a lot of talent on show and we look forward to bringing together a group of young players to form a training group for the remainder of the current season, with a view to formalising an under-18 side as part of our Category 4 academy from next season.

"We are making great progress with the launch of the academy, with fantastic support from the owners and first-team environment, and it was great to see many of the senior squad and staff engaged in the tournament and giving the youngsters encouragement.

"This is just the first of many initiative that we'll be running over the coming weeks and months to continue to build out the academy, and we're delighted to get started."

In addition to the ID Day, Wycombe have also appointed Harry Hudson as the club's professional development phase under-18s head coach.

Harry joined the Chairboys following his exit from Brentford's academy, and has previously managed at first-team level at Sevenoaks Town, Whyteleafe FC and Croydon FC respectively.

He is also the co-founder of the successful Kinetic Foundation, a registered charity helping young people through sport into employment, education and training.

Sauer added: "Plans for the academy are progressing at great pace and we are delighted to be building an extremely strong, highly qualified team to drive it forward to meet the ambitions of the club's vision of delivering a successful Category 1 academy in the near future."

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SPORT

Former Chairboys hero joins National League club

Dom Gape spent seven seasons at Wycombe Wanderers

A TWO-TIME promotion winner with Wycombe Wanderers has found himself a new club 18 months after leaving the Chairboys.

Dom Gape, who spent seven years at Adams Park between 2016 and 2023, has now signed for Non League Eastleigh of the National League on a short-term contract.

He penned his deal with the Spitfires earlier this month, making his debut in his new side's recent 2-1 away loss at Aldershot Town.

After leaving the Chairboys last year, he had a trial at Queens Park Rangers when former Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth was in charge, but no move materialised.

He eventually joined Sutton United, then of League Two, alongside former Wanderers teammate Scott Kashket, but only played seven times before departing in February.

Gape would then sign for Northampton Town, but left Sixfields after one month, playing just twice.

The central midfielder joined Wycombe from Southampton in the summer of 2016 and would feature in 205 competitive games in the light and dark blue quarters.

One of his most memorable moments in a Chairboys shirt was when he scored the winning goal against Chesterfield in April 2018, which secured Wanderers' promotion from League Two into League One, for the first time in six years.

He would also play in Wycombe's 2-1 victory over Oxford United in the 2020 League One play-off final, as the Adams Park team booked their place in the Championship, the second tier of English football, for the first time in their history.

He also played 75 minutes in the 2022 League One play-off final, which Wanderers lost 2-0 against Sunderland.

Despite featuring in two play-off campaigns, the latter years of Gape's stint at Adams Park were blighted by injury.

In all, he played just 48 times in his last three seasons, averaging just 16 games per year.

Changes to be made for FA Cup clash with York

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has insisted that 'there will be changes' for this weekend's FA Cup clash against York City.

The Chairboys face the National League outfit in the first round of the world's oldest football competition on Saturday, as they aim to book their place in the second round for the second consecutive year.

The changes are being made due to the Adams Park team having two long away days in the coming week.

The first is at Stockport County on Tuesday night, before Wycombe head up the M6 four days later for a bout against Wigan Athletic.

Speaking ahead of the cup tie this weekend, Bloomfield said: "This is an opportunity for us to make some changes this weekend and give game time to some of the boys who deserve it.

"There are some members of the squad that are quite unfortunate to not have played more than what they have, because the competition has been so fierce and the starting 11 has been hard to pick at times.

"There will be changes because of the week that is coming after that.

"The manner of how we play is important to me at the coaching staff and the players are on board with that.

"We want to win games but we want to entertain our supporters as we want people to enjoy coming to watch us.

"We're not trying to reinvent anything or be overly clever, we are trying to play the way we believe.

"We want people to enjoy watching us and we want to win and get through."

Wycombe have started the season incredibly well, scoring in 16 of their 17 games so far this campaign, losing just three times.

Those defeats were against Wrexham and Birmingham City in the league, and AFC Wimbledon in the EFL Trophy respectively.

They all came within the first four matches of the season, which has seen Wanderers progressively improve.

Despite this, the Chairboys' record in the FA Cup has been nothing short of terrible.

The club have been knocked out of the competition by lower-league opposition at Adams Park without scoring in each of the last three seasons.

Those losses were versus Hartlepool United in 2021/22, Walsall in 2022/23 and Morecambe in 2023/24.

Bloomfield added: "The FA Cup throws up these types of results, and we want to guard against that as much as we can on Saturday.

"To guard against it, we must be at it.

"York have been dominating games, have got results, and they are playing with a distinct style.

"Hinsh [Adam Hinshelwood], did a brilliant job at Worthing and he's doing the same at York, and they have recruited really well.

"The last thing I want to be is on the end of a cup upset, but I don't see it as that.

"I will see it as a competitive game as York are well drilled and have got some very good players.

"They're top of the league so they are a good side.

"We're up against a very good competition and I think it will be a good encounter on Saturday afternoon."

The match this weekend, which is the first between the two sides since April 2016, will kick-off at 3pm.

Wycombe are aiming to reach the second round of the FA Cup for a second straight year. Image: PA

Forward in line to make long-awaited comeback

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has revealed that striker Brandon Hanlan could make his long-awaited return from injury in this week's FA Cup clash against York City.

The forward reputed his ACL in the 1-0 home league loss versus Stevenage on November 11 after being thrown to the ground by Boro captain Carl Piergianni.

The ex-Bristol Rovers man received treatment for close to 10 minutes before being stretchered off the field of play.

Since then, Bloomfield has provided several positive updates on Hanlan's recovery, but no date was set for when he would make his return to first-team action.

He featured in a behind-closed-doors practise match against Queens Park Rangers in recent weeks, as he continued to build up fitness.

While the manager did not confirm or deny that Hanlan would feature against the National League outfit on Saturday, it is hoped that the 27-year-old will return before the end of this calendar year.

When asked by BBC 3 Counties Radio if he will be part of the squad for the cup clash versus York on November 2, Bloomfield said: "Possibly – I've yet to make a final decision on that.

"We are analysing where everyone is at in terms of their minutes, and there is a chance of getting some minutes for Brands.

"He can be a big player for us.

"He was in such fine form for us last season before he got injured, and he was a huge loss for this football club.

"We'll grab that opportunity at both hands to get him back, as he possesses great pace and strength."

Since moving to Wycombe in 2021, Hanlan has scored 14 goals in 98 matches for the Chairboys.

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