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'MAKE WYCOMBE GREAT'

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VISION TO BOOST TOWN'S IMAGE

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NEW CAFÉ
OPENS IN
SHOPPING
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£3K SPREE

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CHANCE TO WIN £100 JOHN LEWIS VOUCHER P23

'Disabled parking hell'



Mr Bassarath on the path and, inset, the uneven surface and excess foliage

Retired teacher, 81, struggling to reach home on unsafe path

By James Richings

A DISABLED 81-year-old man has described the parking situation and unsafe railings near his home as 'hell', and is begging Buckinghamshire Council to solve the problem. Retired teacher Kenneth Bassarath, of Dashwood Avenue, High Wycombe, says he was promised a permanent parking spot on the road 'some time ago' but nothing has come to fruition. He has to leave his car 'around

the back' and must walk a considerable distance, despite being disabled.

The pensioner suffered three broken lumbar vertebrae as well as an injured foot after falling while walking from his car to home.

The trek home is up a council-maintained footpath, which is on an incline, uneven and covered in weeds, long grass and litter.

The railings at the side of the path are not stable.

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Sport

SPORT: FOOTBALL

Sunday League players reunite for charity

A GROUP of former Chinnor Athletic Sunday League players have reunited for a charity football day.

The fourth annual event, held at the community pavilion in Chinnor, brought together 33 players to raise funds for Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Organising committee member Chris Turton said: "I loved every minute of it."

"Who would have thought, what originally was a simple idea of a one off charity game back in 2021, has grown to this."

"Thank you all so much,

the sponsors, donators and the public, you're all amazing."

This year's match ended 9-7 in favour of Team Chris over Team Rod, with the day raising £3,747 for the charity.

Donations can still be made through a Just Giving page.

The event also featured live music from local singer-songwriter Tim Matthews and a mini match at half-time involving young players from Chinnor Youth.

Nancie Sinfield, community fundraising

assistant at Thames Valley Air Ambulance, said: "Our crews are called out an average of nine times a day to help the most seriously ill and injured people across the region."

"But we receive no government or NHS funding, so we rely solely on the support of the public. Events like these are a fantastic reminder that we have the community behind us. A big thank you to Chinnor Athletic Football Club for putting on such a great event and raising vital funds for our lifesaving charity."



The teams at Chinnor Athletic's fourth football charity day

FOOTBALL

Three-year partnership with Mitre confirmed

CHESHAM United will play with a Mitre football after a three-year deal was agreed with the National League.

As a brand underpinned by its mission to support and champion football at all levels of the beautiful game, this new partnership will equip players across all 72 clubs in the National League with the elite-level Mitre Ultimatch Ball.

Complimenting Mitre's existing relationship with the FA competitions including the Emirates FA Cup, Isuzu FA Vase and Isuzu FA Trophy, with many National League clubs also competing in many of these prestigious tournaments.

To mark the new partnership, Mitre has crafted a bespoke Ultimatch match ball.

The design features The Enterprise National League's revitalised brand identity and logo, with a palette of deep blue, striking red, and flecks of silver.

The ball is thermally bonded with HyperSeal technology, ensuring superb shape retention, durability, and zero water absorption.

Its Hyperflow debossed grooves have been specifically designed for in flight stability, ensuring consistency across all speeds of play.

Inside, the Hyperfoam elastic cushioning offers optimal power, close control, and a responsive touch.

Speaking about the new partnership, Simon Rowe, Senior Vice President of Mitre & Global Sports Marketing at Pentland Brands said: "Partnering with The Enterprise National League marks an important milestone for our brand."

"It will allow us to significantly increase the number of players in the grassroots and semi-professional English football tiers that get to play with our exceptional Mitre products and experience the elite quality equipment that they deserve."

"Bringing Mitre and The National League together aligns brilliantly with our Mission to support and champion football at all levels of the game, we can't wait to kick off the new season with The Enterprise National League and its players."

Jon Warburton, Head of Commercial at The National League says "Mitre is a one of the leading brands in the market."

"Their brand is iconic and strikes a chord with football fans across the country and we're delighted to have them on board as our Official Match Ball partner."

"We are continuing our drive to partner with brands that can help us develop connections with our clubs, fans and their local community."

"Welcoming a partner of Mitre's calibre is a huge next step in that journey."

PHIL CATCHPOLE LEAVES WYCOMBE

Much-loved Wanderers commentator confirms exit

A LONG-lasting member of the Wycombe Wanderers media team has announced they will be leaving the club this summer.

Phil Catchpole, who is best known for commentating on the Chairboys, initially for BBC 3 Counties Radio before permanently joining the Adams Park side in 2022, confirmed on the evening of June 24 via social media that now is the time to 'move on'.

During his stint covering Wanderers, he became a popular hit with supporters due to his niche facts on players, infectious enthusiasm, creative puns and quirky social media presence.

Taking to X [formerly known as Twitter], the much-loved commentator, who has narrated 560 Wycombe games, said: "I've decided that the time has come for me to move on and I will leave Wycombe Wanderers with a full heart and countless memories."

"A massive thank you to all of you who've made me feel so welcome since I first picked up the mic."

"The fans are the one true constant in football and the heartbeat of the club."

He went on to describe his tenure reporting on Wycombe as both a 'pleasure and a privilege' to help 'tell the story of our great club'.

He continued: "It's changed my life in a wonderful way."

During his time at Adams Park, Phil's voice has narrated some of the most iconic moments in Wycombe's recent history.

The great escape year of 2014 at Torquay United, promotion to League One in 2018 at Ches-

terfield, celebrating promotion to the Championship for the first time in 2020 against Oxford United at Wembley Stadium, as well as countless brilliant games at Adams Park.

Following the confirmation of his departure, many Chairboys fans and players thanked him for his services.

Matt Devine said: "The man whose voice defined some of the greatest moments and achievements in Wanderers history."

"As a colleague, it's been a pleasure to work with you mate, and as a fan, I'd like to thank you for the countless memories that your commentaries brought to life."

"All the best, Phil."

Sam Avery said: "Absolute legend!"

"A true pro in every aspect and someone I've learned so much from."

"Alongside me for my first Wycombe game on BBC 3CR, and I'll never forget commentating on a game together in separate locations, 30 miles apart, during the second Covid lockdown."

"All the best!"

Wanderers right back Jasper Pattenden added: "What an incredible person."

"One of the very best there is."

"What a pleasure to get to know you, mate and share the Bill Turnbull gantry with you from time to time."

Joanne Sturges said: "The voice of Wycombe. Gutted to see you go but hope all goes well for you whatever you do in the future."



Phil Catchpole confirmed his exit via social media on June 24 via X. He was swamped with numerous well wishes

Adams Park hero Dom Gape finds new club in the EFL

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

Dom Gape, who spent seven years with the Adams Park club between 2016 and 2023, has penned a permanent deal with Colchester United in League Two following his release from Shrewsbury Town.

The midfielder's arrival in Essex means this is the fifth club he has signed for in the two years since he left Wanderers.

We're delighted to confirm the signing of Dominic Gape.

The 30-year-old midfielder has nearly 200 EFL appearances and experience across all four tiers, having come through the Saints Academy before a seven-year spell at Wycombe.

He initially joined Sutton United but only played seven times before leaving for Northampton Town midway through the 2023/24 season.

After his stint with the Cobblers ended, he joined Eastleigh in the National League but again only lasted half a season, as he was signed by Shrewsbury Town under the management of Gareth Ainsworth in January.

His deal was only until the end of that season, and during his time in Shropshire, he played 16 times.

Speaking on his move to Colchester, he told the club's website: "Coming



Dom Gape (pictured against Brentford in September 2020) has joined Colchester United (PA)

through at Wycombe, I was really lucky to have a great group of senior pros to help guide me.

"Now I feel like it's my turn to be that senior pro, to offer guidance and show the young lads what it means to be a professional and to be a winner.

"If you look at the form from the back half of last

season, the last 30 games were really strong.

"If we can build on that, make a few improvements here and there, we should be set for a successful campaign."

Gape joined Wycombe in 2016 on loan from Southampton, with his move to Wanderers being made permanent a year later.

His second season with the Chairboys saw him score the winning goal away at Chesterfield in April 2018, which secured not only a 2-1 victory but a return to League One after six seasons away.

Two years later, in 2020, Gape played the full 90 minutes in Wycombe's 2-1 triumph against Oxford

United in the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

This secured the Chairboys' place in the Championship for the first time in their history.

However, persistent injuries across the next three seasons saw Gape only play 48 times, 36 of which were starts.

CHAIRBOYS Ravizzoli finds new side after departure

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper Franco Ravizzoli has signed for League One rivals Blackpool on a free transfer.

The 27-year-old joins the ex-Premier League outfit on a two-year contract with an option for a further 12 months.

His arrival at Bloomfield Road comes after he was released by the Chairboys this summer, following two seasons in South Buckinghamshire.

He initially began his stint at Adams Park as second choice behind Max Stryjek, but after the latter was dropped following a red card against Stevenage in February 2024, Ravizzoli came in and was ever-present in the league (apart from two games) for just short of 12 months.

The Argentine was then demoted back as Wycombe's second choice in February of this year after Wanderers signed Will Norris from Portsmouth.

On signing for Pool, Ravizzoli said: "I'm really happy to be here and be a part of this big club.

"It's an amazing feeling.

"To get this done and over the line so soon into pre-season is really important to me and I can't wait to meet the players, staff and supporters."

Head Coach Steve Bruce added: "Franco has had an impressive couple of seasons at this level, and we're looking forward to watching him progress further in his career here at Blackpool.

"He will join the rest of the group out in Spain for our training camp as we continue our preparations for the new season."

Ravizzoli signed for Wycombe in September 2023 and played 52 times, keeping 20 clean sheets.

The 27-year-old began his career in his native Argentina, representing both Independiente and River Plate's youth teams before his move to England in 2020.

He counts both Eastbourne Borough and MK Dons on his list of former clubs and has featured against Blackpool several times over the past few seasons including in the FA Cup tie against Eastbourne back in November 2020.

For Wycombe, he also played against Blackpool in April 2024 at Bloomfield Road which ended 0-0.

Four months later, he again played in a draw against the Tangerines in North West, as Wanderers drew with the ex-Premier League side 2-2 in August.

Finally, he featured in the full 90 minutes of Wycombe's 1-1 draw versus Steve Bruce's side at Adams Park in January 2025.

SPORT: THEY FINK ITS ALL OVER

Ex-Dortmund striker joins the Chairboys

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of Bradley Fink from Basel for an undisclosed fee.

The 22-year-old ex-Borussia Dortmund striker and current Switzerland U21 forward becomes the Chairboys' sixth new arrival at Adams Park.

He will wear the number nine shirt following Sam Vokes' move to Gillingham.

He joins following the acquisitions of James Tilley from Wimbledon, Dan Casey from Motherwell, Caolan Boyd-Munce from St Mirren, Armando Junior Quitirna from Crawley Town and Taylor Allen from Walsall, respectively.

During his youth career, Fink spent a season at SC Cham before enjoying eight years at Luzern between 2011 and 2019.

He would then leave his native Switzerland to sign for Dortmund in Germany, having three years in the academy.

Fink played several pre-season games for

BVB and featured 14 times for their reserve team, scoring twice in the league.

A move to Basel followed in 2022, where he has scored six goals in 37 league games.

Head Coach Mike Dodds said: "I think the fans will be excited to see us bring someone of Bradley's pedigree to the club, and his experience shows he could be a hugely influential player for us.

"He's a striker who can play in a number of different systems and his height and goalscoring ability will be important attributes for us, so we're delighted to have him in the building and look forward to working with him."

Tom Stockwell, the club's Director of Football Strategy, added: "We believe this signing makes a strong statement about the direction of the football club, and being able to attract a player from a top European Club shows the ambitions we have here."



Wycombe have signed Bradley Fink from Basel

SPORT

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Ex-Wycombe keeper joins club competing in Europe



Nathan Shepperd never played a game for Wycombe

A FORMER Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper has found himself a new side which will be playing European football this summer.

Nathan Shepperd, 24, who spent two months with the Chairboys between February and April 2024 after a successful trial period but never made an appearance, has been signed by The New Saints (TNS), who play in the Cymru Premier.

He joins his new team after spending the previous season at Queens Park Rangers.

The goalkeeper was initially

brought in at Adams Park by ex-manager Matt Bloomfield to provide emergency cover for Franco Ravizzoli, after Max Stryjek was sent off in a 1-0 away loss at Stevenage, which resulted in him serving a three-game ban.

He was expected to be the third choice in South Buckinghamshire, but after the Argentine kept his position in the team and with Stryjek surplus to requirements and was loaned out to Crewe Alexandra in League Two, Shepperd became the club's number two.

Shepperd was an unused substitute on eight occasions and was released 12 months ago.

The Welsh keeper was then snapped up by QPR, but again, never made a first-team outing for the Hoops.

He is, however, expected to play some role in TNS' upcoming Champions League qualifier matches against Shkendija of North Macedonia at the start of July.

He began his career at Cambrian & Clydach Vale before leaving them for Swansea City in 2012.

The keeper would spend the next seven years with the Swans upon being released a few months short of his 19th birthday.

A move to England followed as he was snapped up by Brentford and was a regular in the B team, being named captain and winning the 2019/20 Player of the Year award.

His performances caught the eye of League of Ireland Premier Division outfit Dundalk in January 2022, and over the next two seasons, he would play 79 times before his move to Wycombe.

Mikki is Wanderers' man as van Sas joins

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced the signing of Dutch goalkeeper Mikki van Sas from Feyenoord for an undisclosed fee.

The 21-year-old, who spent three years at Manchester City between 2020 and 2023, is set to replace Will Norris as the Chairboys' number one for the upcoming 2025/26 season, which will start on August 2.

His arrival in South Buckinghamshire means he is the club's seventh new face to join the Adams Park outfit, following the acquisitions of James Tilley, Dan Casey, Caolan Boyd-Munce, Armando Junior Quitirna, Taylor Allen and Bradley Fink.

Head Coach Mike Dodds said: "Mikki is another really exciting addition to the squad who adds extra strength and competition in our goalkeeping department, and his attributes are a great match for the way that we want to play.

"He's had a fantastic upbringing in football in the Netherlands, and his three years in England with Man City will also stand him in good stead to help him settle here quickly.

With van Sas expected to be a first-team regular, he is set to become Wycombe's sixth first-choice keeper since 2020.

Ryan Allsop was the undisputed number one between 2018 and 2021 before he was dropped for David Stockdale, who played 63 consecutive league games for Wycombe.

His departure in 2022 saw Max Stryjek join, but after some erratic displays in 2023/24, he was displaced by Franco Ravizzoli.

The Argentine was virtually ever-present (excluding two games) in the league for roughly 12 months when Will Norris joined on a free transfer from Portsmouth in February and displaced the South American.

And despite keeping 10 clean sheets in 19 matches at the back end of last season, his displays were not as convincing as hoped, with high-profile errors coming in defeats against Birmingham City and Charlton Athletic, respectively.

This has led the club to look into the market, with van Sas poised to sign.

Van Sas spent last year on loan at Vitesse from Feyenoord, playing 13 times in all competitions.

He has also played for the national team's U15s, 16s and 18s and U19s, but he has yet to make his professional debut for the first team.

He has also not featured for Feyenoord's men's team following his arrival in 2023 from Manchester City.

Tom Stockwell, Director of Football Strategy, added: "We're delighted to secure another player from a top European club; Mikki has huge potential and he's a big and imposing physical presence in the goal, with excellent shot-stopping ability.

"With settled status, Mikki doesn't take an ESC spot for us, which is important for the strategy and requires us to act smartly with regards to our recruitment.

"I'm sure the fans will welcome and support him."

Following his arrival, van Sas said: "An amazing club, I have seen so much about it with the pictures and videos, so I am excited.

"Everyone seems very nice and very honest, the facilities are very good, and the stadium is wonderful."



Mikki van Sas is expected to be Wycombe's new number one goalkeeper (PA)

Chairboys keen to sign Barnsley's Connell

WYCOMBE Wanderers have had a bid rejected by Barnsley for defensive midfielder Luca Connell.

The Chairboys, who are looking to strengthen in the middle of the park following Josh Scowen's ACL injury, which he suffered in April, gave the Tykes a 'substantial bid' for the former Bolton Wanderers and Celtic man.

The Oakwell team immediately rejected the offer, but it is believed that Wanderers are planning to make a second bid for the 24-year-old.

The Adams Park side has been told to make an offer in the region of 'seven figures' if they want to secure Connell's signature.

It has been a productive summer for Mike Dodds' team as they have already added seven new faces to the first-team squad.

Goalkeeper Mikki van Sas, wingers James Tilley and Junior Quitirna, centre backs Dan Casey and Taylor Allen, striker Bradley Fink, and box-to-box midfielder Caolan Boyd-Munce have all arrived in South Buckinghamshire, and more faces are expected to follow suit.

Connell has played 123 times for Barnsley since joining from Celtic three years ago.

During his time in Yorkshire, he was included in the 2022/23 League One Team of the Year.

That season, the Tykes reached the 2023 play-off final but lost the Wembley showpiece to Sheffield Wednesday.

He began his career with Bolton, spending nine years with the Trotters before spending three seasons at Celtic.

Two loan spells at Queen's Park followed before his move to Yorkshire three years ago.

The Free Press understands Barnsley 'will have to sell players this summer' with Connell potentially being one of those names.