

Bucks Free Press

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MAN SEEKING HELP FOR THIRD UKRAINE CONVOY

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Snow shutdown for traffic and schools



Seven crashes in one street as it misses out on gritting route

SCHOOLS closed and roads were shut as snow and ice brought chaos across Buckinghamshire.

Whitelands Road in High Wycombe was brought to a standstill, as well as Bell Lane between Little Chalfont and Amer-sham, after a series of crashes.

Pupils had time off as heating issues, electrical problems and burst pipes led to the closures of Wooburn Green Primary

By Timothy Edgley

School, Claytons Primary in Bourne End and The Misbourne Secondary.

Snow fell on January 2, leading to seven crashes in just a few hours on the High Wycombe residential street.

Full story: Page 5



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Sport

Aylesbury match off due to frozen pitch

THE anticipated Aylesbury United versus Thame United match had to be postponed due to freezing weather.

The match, which was scheduled for January 3, 2026, was called off due to freezing conditions.

The team's pitch is currently covered in a layer of snow and remains frozen.

With no improvement in the forecast throughout the week, the decision to postpone was made early to avoid what would have been a purely academic pitch inspection.

This early decision allowed players, officials, and supporters to make alternative plans.

Aylesbury United stated: "We would like to thank the Southern League and Thame for working with us to make an early decision."

An announcement will be made when a date for the rearranged fixture has been agreed.



The pitch at Aylesbury. Image: Aylesbury United

Minhas set to leave Chesham after 18 months

FORWARD Nathan Minhas is set to leave Chesham United after 18 months.

The 28-year-old, who joined at the start of the National League South campaign in July 2024, will move to Southern Premier South side Chertsey Town, as he looks to secure more regular game time during the second half of the season.

Minhas made 63 appearances and scored 19 goals in claret and blue, emerging as the club's top scorer of that debut campaign.

The club said: "He will link up at Alwyns Lane with Toby Little's Chertsey side, alongside former Generals Eoin Casey and Ashley Lodge."

"Everyone at the club would like to place on record their sincere thanks to Nathan for his contributions.

"His goals last season, when he finished as our top scorer, played a key role in a strong debut campaign at this level for the club.

"A fantastic professional both on and off the pitch, we wish Nathan every success in the rest of his career."

However, with opportunities limited in recent weeks, it has been mutually agreed that Nathan can move on in order to play more football.

Nathan had initially joined the club from Slough Town and finishes his tenure at the Meadow after scoring four goals this season.

This season, he made 20 appearances, starting on 14 of those occasions, racking up 1,113 minutes for the club and was booked just once.

With him in the team, Chesham United managed a 25 per cent win rate.

The announcement was met with well wishes from fans with one stating, 'you've got a great signing there'.

At his new club, he will reunite with previous teammates, Eoin Casey and Ashley Lodge.

The announcement comes after the team's most recent game against Beveree had to be called off due to a frozen pitch.

In a statement, the club said: "Our trip to the Beveree was originally scheduled for Saturday 3rd January, but was postponed, with a frozen pitch leading to a decision by the match referee on player safety grounds.

"Tickets will be available to purchase online from Hampton's Fanbase platform.

"If you cannot make the re-arranged match and had already purchased tickets online, then you should contact enquiries@hamrichfc.com for a refund."

Beaconsfield set for belated start to 2026 after postponement

BEACONSFIELD Town FC's first 2026 game was cancelled due to a frozen pitch.

Set against a challenging backdrop, the club's first match of the new year was called off on Saturday morning due to an unplayable pitch.

Consequently, the Rams were unable to get their 2026 off to a start.

The new date for this game has been announced as Tuesday, January 13, with kickoff scheduled for 7.45PM.

The cancelled match meant that there was no action for Beaconsfield Town FC fans this past weekend and those hoping to watch the women's team were also disappointed as the women's development team also had their Sunday afternoon match cancelled late on Saturday night.

A new date and time for their match are yet to be announced.

Despite these setbacks, the club remains optimistic about their upcoming games.

Home advantage might well be on the men's side this Saturday, with the all-weather pitch and slightly warmer weather expected to facilitate a smooth play against Enfield on Saturday, January 10, with a 3pm kick off.

Despite not having had the chance to play last weekend, Beaconsfield Town FC remains buoyant thanks to their recent Buckinghamshire derby win against Marlow.

Currently sitting 10th in the league, the club is looking ahead to their crunch game

Elizabeth Birt

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against the 20th-placed Enfield.

Last season, Beaconsfield FC secured four points from the matchup against Enfield, an away victory and a home draw.

This time, they aim to notch up a home win and claim all three points at Holloways Park.

On Sunday, January 11, Beaconsfield's women's first team will be back in action away against Sholing Women, a team they previously defeated 3-1.

The women's first team currently sits in fourth place.

Both teams are yet to register a league draw this season.

The club's other teams will also be taking to the field this weekend.

On Thursday, January 8, the U18 youth team will be making a short trip to Hartley Wintney for a high-stakes quarter-final match against their under-18s team.

Known for their cup-winning streak over the last three seasons, the Beaconsfield youth squad is eager to add more trophies to their collection.

The women's development side will be participating in a third-round cup game against Denham United Ladies Reserves on Sunday, January 11.

Despite their rivals being seven points ahead in the league, the young Rams are optimistic about their chances.



Beaconsfield Town are due to play at home on Saturday

Two vie for right-back slot after Grimmer back fracture

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach has confirmed that captain Jack Grimmer 'will not be back anytime soon' after he fractured his back.

The right-back came off in the first-half of the Chairboys' 1-1 draw against league leaders Cardiff City on New Year's Day.

He received nearly 10 minutes of treatment before being replaced by Taylor Allen.

No time frame has been set on his recovery, but Duff has confirmed that the right-back slot will be a 'shootout' between Fin Bank and Niall Huggins, the latter who scored in the Chairboys' 2-0 home win over AFC Wimbledon.

Duff said: "Jack Grimmer has a fracture in his back. I don't know the time frame, but it won't be anytime soon."

"Fin is back in training, but it is conveyor belt football as one returns, but another gets injured."

"He'll have a shootout with Niall for that place at right back."

"He has played 50 games for Sunderland, and you don't do that if you're not a good footballer, and to do that in front of 48,000, you need a different mentality."

"It has been difficult for him as he arrived not fit, the manager changed, and he's been up against the club captain."

"But fair play to him, as he has got his head down and worked hard."

Grimmer's lengthy absence is one of many that Wycombe have been dealt with at the turn of the year, as midfielders Ewan Henderson, Josh Scowen and



No time frame has been given on Jack Grimmer's back injury. Image: John Walton

George Abbott remain absent.

Duff said he is 'hopeful' that the club will be active this month in the transfer market, and with Wanderers' next game not being until January 17 away at Northampton, it is hoped a handful

of names could be signed within the next two weeks.

However, Duff has insisted that any new faces that do arrive at Adams Park will not be 'fringe players'.

Speaking after the Cardiff draw on January 1, he admitted he 'doesn't know' about

the outgoing which could occur this month.

When asked about new signings, he said: "Hopefully, but January is a difficult window."

"We need to add, there is no doubt about that, but we need to be careful in what we

bring in.

"I don't want numbers – I want players to come in and impact the team."

"That doesn't mean you're nailed on to start, but they cannot be fringe players."

"They need to come in and affect the first team."

Junior and Huggins score in 2-0 win over Dons

WYCOMBE Wanderers secured their first victory in four games as they defeated AFC Wimbledon 2-0 at Adams Park.

Michael Duff made one change to the team that drew 1-1 against Cardiff City on New Year's Day, as the injured captain Jack Grimmer was replaced by Taylor Allen, who was making his start since the League Cup tie against Fulham in October.

It was a positive start for the Chairboys, who nearly took the lead on five minutes when Allen crashed the underside of the crossbar on the volley.

He is still waiting for his first Wycombe goal since his move from Walsall in the summer.

Thankfully, Wanderers didn't have to wait too long for their opener, as they took the lead seven minutes later through Armando Junior Quitirna.

Fred Onyedima did brilliantly on the left-hand side to beat three players to reach the touchline.

His drag back found the ex-Crawley Town man, who swept home his third of the season and his second in five goals.

Wanderers haven't had the best of records against the original Dons since the latter's reformation, securing just three victories in 18 games, but the visitors rarely threatened in the opening 4

Their best chance fell to Matty Stevens on 20 minutes, who fired his shot from 10-yards wide of the mark.

The first-half ended as the second-half began, with Wycombe bossing the ball.

Caolan Boyd-Munce forced Nathan Bishop into two good saves either side of the break, while the ex-Wycombe keeper did brilliantly to deny Fred Onyedima.

On 67 minutes, Wanderers would secure their first win of 2026 as Niall Huggins scored his first Chairboys goal to wrap up the three points.

The on-loan Sunderland man teamed up brilliantly with Jamie Mullins inside the box before placing it beyond an on-rushing Bishop.

It was nearly three in injury-time when Bradley Pink struck the foot of the post.

The result has now ended an eight-game winless streak against the Dons in the league, going back to October 2014.

The victory has put Wanderers on 33 points for the season in ninth place.

Up next is an away trip to Northampton Town on January 17.

Talks stall in bid to sign Humphreys

THE Free Press understands that talks between Wycombe Wanderers and Ipswich Town have stalled for the signing of midfielder Cameron Humphreys.

The 22-year-old, who spent last season on loan with the Chairboys from the Tractor Boys, has only played four times for the Suffolk-based team this campaign, following their relegation from the Premier League.

The Free Press has been told that there are "a lot of things to iron out" before anything is signed for Cameron Humphreys.

Wanderers are in the hunt to recruit a central midfielder following

George Abbott's return to Tottenham Hotspur and injuries to Josh Scowen and Ewan Henderson.

At the time of writing, Jamie Mullins, Luke Leahy and Caolan Boyd-Munce are Wycombe's only options in the centre of the park.

Magnus Westergaard is another option in midfield, but as The Free Press reported on Wednesday the Dane is reportedly close to being sold to Vålerenga in the Norwegian Eliteserien.

Westergaard is contracted with the Chairboys until June 2028, so a fee will need to be negotiated between the clubs.



Cameron Humphreys battles for the ball with Wigan's Jensen Weir. Image: Rhianna Chadwick

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Record signing leaves club for undisclosed fee



Magnus Westergaard has left. Image: Steven Paston/PA

THE Chairboys' record signing Magnus Westergaard has left the club for an undisclosed fee less than a year after signing.

The 27-year-old, who joined Wycombe Wanderers for a club-record fee, penned a deal with the Chairboys on January 15, 2025.

Prior to joining the Chairboys he had spent his entire playing career in Denmark where he represented sides such as Copenhagen, Lyngby, Hvidovre and Viborg. He left the latter for South Buckinghamshire after playing 61 times across the last three seasons in all

competitions.

The club has now confirmed that Westergaard has been sold to Vålerenga in the Norwegian Eliteserien.

Westergaard was contracted with the Chairboys until June 2028, so a fee will need to be negotiated between the clubs.

When he joined the club chief football officer Dan Rice said: "Magnus is a player with fantastic pedigree in the Danish Superliga and complements the way we play, so we're really pleased to bring him to the club, especially given the strong level of competition we faced

for his signature from clubs in the UK and across Europe.

"He was one of our top targets for this January transfer window and it's great that we've been able to attract a player of his calibre to Adams Park to help us achieve our short-term goals this season and be part of our plans going forward.

"We remain undeterred in our efforts to make this squad as strong as possible alongside the recruitment of a new manager to lead the team, and are fully committed to continuing to improve the club at every level.

"We thank Viborg for their cooperation throughout this process and look forward to welcoming Magnus into the squad."

It hasn't worked out for the Dane at Wycombe, as he has only played nine games and started four this season in League One - Though he has made 18 appearances across all competitions with a goal in the Carabao Cup against Bromley through a header, and an assist in the EFL Trophy against Fulham U21.

His last start under Michael Duff was during the Chairboys' 4-0 loss to Luton.

'We showed our quality' - Duff on Wycombe win

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff was pleased with his side's 'aggression and quality' as his side defeated AFC Wimbledon 2-0 at Adams Park.

Armando Junior Quitirna's 12th minute strike and a well-taken Niall Huggins finish midway through the second period secured the Chairboys' first win in four, and ended a run of eight consecutive league games against the Dons without a win.

During the icy and freezing conditions in South Buckinghamshire, Wanderers were clinical in attack and gave the South London side no time on the ball.

The visitors improved during the second period, but rarely tested goalkeeper Will Norris.

Speaking at full-time, Duff said: "A decent but tired performance from both teams, as there was an extra game in this Christmas period, where there isn't one usually.

"I thought it was a bit scary at times as that is what Wimbledon do, but we showed our quality.

"We hit the crossbar early, got a good goal, and then we started the second half really well as we had chance after chance, but that is where it can get nervy as you're thinking, 'are we going to pay for this?'"

"They were having a spell in the game, but in the end we picked them off and could have scored two or three times.

"We knew that the second half was going to kill them off, but we have shown quickly off one- and two-touch, and when we keep it with a purpose, we're a half-decent team.

"The Luton game [losing 4-0] might not be a bad thing, as it was a reminder of how we were

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at the start of the season, and what we could turn into if we have five/six touches on the ball, passing it back to our keeper, who ends up booting it.

"It's pointless football.

"Today we showed that quality and aggression, and we came out on top."

The result means Wanderers have moved into 10th on 33 points for the season, six off the play-offs and six away from relegation.

As we enter the back end of the season, Duff hopes striker Bradley Fink can find his goal-scoring touch.

The forward has only scored two goals in 18 games in all competitions, but none in the league.

He came close to broking his league duck when he struck the post in injury-time against Wimbledon.

Duff said: "I feel for him, as all he can do is get in those areas.

"We had a long chat yesterday [January 3], and when he nearly scored, I thought I might have played a part in that!

"He is having the chances, and he's not stupid, as he knows he has come in for decent dough with a reputation that hasn't quite worked [yet].

"But he's only 22 and in a foreign country, but in the last five or six games, he's had chances and based on the law of averages, one will go in.

"He has that mentality of going again after a miss.

"He just needs one to go off his backside."



Michael Duff was happy with his side's display against AFC Wimbledon. Image: John Walton

Loanees have now returned to their parent clubs

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that the loanees, midfielder George Abbott and striker Donnell McNeilly, have now both returned to their parent clubs.

Abbott, who scored one goal in 15 games for the Chairboys, missed two-and-a-half months of the season with injury, before suffering a setback in his comeback match against Plymouth Argyle at the end of December.

He has now returned to his home club, Tottenham Hotspur, to undergo treatment on a calf injury, which is expected to rule him out of action for roughly six weeks.

McNeilly, who left Chelsea at the end of last season, before joining Nottingham Forest in August, signed for the Adams Park side on Transfer Deadline Day.

He played 17 times for the South Buckinghamshire outfit, scoring two goals.

The forward made his final appearance for the Chairboys in the 2-0 victory against AFC Wimbledon which was played on January 4.

Head coach Michael Duff said: "We made a decision today [January 4] with George Abbott as he's out for another four to five weeks, so we can't wait.

"He'll be going back.

"Donnell will be going back to Nottingham Forest, and we thank them for their efforts.

"It is just they haven't played enough minutes for us for whatever reason that is.

"We are short in areas, and we need to strengthen," he then added.