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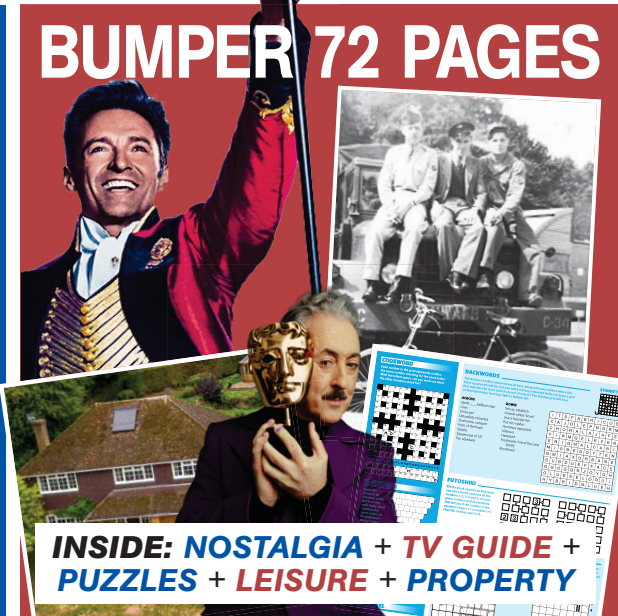
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YOUNG CHEF 'MISSED BY FAMILY' AFTER CRASH DEATH: P8

'Light up parks after attacks on women'

Call for action on no-go area of unlit paths

By Nathaniel Lawson

WOMEN are avoiding a dark path on The Rye in fear for their safety, after the council was warned more than three years ago about a lack of lighting. They say the route, which is alongside hedges and open parkland, should be improved.

Stuart Bosley is calling on the authority to install lighting



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SPECIAL REPORT



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HOMELESS CRISIS FOR WYCOMBE

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RGS HIGH WYCOMBE

Karate gold at England International Open



Stephen Ware pictured in the centre image: The Well Crowd

HIGH Wycombe Karate athlete Stephen Ware secured gold in Inclusive Kata at the Karate England International Open Championships this weekend.

Ware defeated a highly competitive field, including two of his current world-champion teammates to claim the title.

Ware said: "I'm incredibly proud to take gold at such a strong event, especially competing alongside teammates who are among the very best. Every competition is another chance to learn, improve and represent inclusive karate on a bigger stage."

The victory marks another major milestone in Ware's international karate career and continues a run of strong performances that has established him as one of the UK's leading inclusive competitors in the sport.

Ware is also one of the

athletes supported through Snap Fitness' Grassroots to Greatness grant programme, which provides funding support to help talented community athletes access training, coaching and competition opportunities to progress in their sport.

Ware is now continuing his preparations for the World Championships in July, set to take place in Romania, as he aims to build on his recent success and further raise the profile of inclusive karate within the wider sporting community.

Over 200 applications were received for the 2025 Grassroots to Greatness grants with 12 athletes awarded grants worth £20,000 in total.

Winners span ages 18-65 and represent a broad spectrum of sports and communities across the UK.

London e Benfica 2 Holmer Green 3

THE first league match for the hosts since 16th January and it's been two weeks since Holmer Green's last match.

As expected, the pitch at Amersham was in an understandably poor condition but was declared fit after an earlier inspection.

The away side had the better of the first half possession but, other than two great efforts: one from Dai Mitani which produced a superb save from Burke and one from James Mangan which hit the crossbar, there was not much else to report. Half time: 0-0.

More Greens' pressure in the second half resulted in the industrious Josh Peck having a half chance which narrowly missed the far post. The Greens' wing backs were finding more space but the final ball lacked any threat. Peck was unlucky with a deft flick after good approach work but was cleared by a defender as it was heading over the line.

From the resultant corner a back header from Liam Butters was cleared before Oskar Esplund-Evans could score. On 56' a long throw from the home side wasn't cleared sufficiently and, as a looping ball was sent in from the right, Sangare continued the loop over Bell for an undeserved lead. From the kick-off a good ball from the right by Mitani saw Esplund-Evans' glancing header saved by Burke. Two minutes after the first goal a poor kick from Bell resulted in the ball going wide on the right which was crossed to the near post, and as the ball bobbed twice Richardson had the easy task to loop the ball over Bell for the host's second.

After yet more Greens' pressure on 64' a corner eventually came back out to Ollie Saunders who sent in a superb cross for Butters to head past Burke and register his fifth of the season. Yet more Greens' pressure resulted in a chance for Peck which went just wide. On 76' a double substitution for the Greens saw Sadibo Camara and Zac Webster replace Saunders and Max Fanstone respectively, this resulted in Esplund-Evans reverting to left back. By now the game was being played almost exclusively in the Benfica half other than a corner to the home side which woke Bell up in the goal!

On 83' a Mitani free kick was returned to him and he sent a cross back into the area for James Mangan to rise above all others and head past Burke for his second goal of the season. Peck had a half chance saved by the overworked Burke who sustained a stretching injury but was deemed OK to continue. On 88' a corner to the Greens was headed on by Mangan for Esplund-Evans to score from close range for his fourth goal of the season.

Team: Bell, Esplund-Evans, Neilon Pascali, Butters, Holbrook, Mitani, Majaya, Saunders, Mangan, Peck, Fanstone. **Subs:** Camara, Webster. **Unused Subs:** Elias Lubbat, Mason Green.

Beaconsfield seal convincing away win over Aylesbury

SAM Togwell's men built on their recent good form with a convincing 3-1 win away to Aylesbury.

Two goals from Manu Oke-William and one from Zac Fraser-Grante secured the three points.

The first half was a tight and scrappy affair. The moment of quality came in the 37th minute when Akers' right-wing cross was met by Oke-William, who headed it home while holding off a defender. After the break, the Rams took a significant step forward, scoring again from a mazy run by Fraser-Garte, who chipped the onrushing Jake Hopwood.

Aylesbury then had their best spell of the game, with Frankie Bircham scoring to halve Beaconsfield's lead. The Ducks piled on the pressure and came close to equalising just moments later.

However, the Rams held firm and finished off the game on the counterattack. Fraser-Grante picked up a loose ball, carried it for 15 yards, and passed it to Oke-William, who did the rest. The Rams' number 9 did not disappoint; once he shifted

the ball to his right foot, there was only one outcome. His second goal and Beaconsfield's third wrapped up the three points.

Next match Sat 21st February | 3pm KO | Holloways Park

ROTM Manu Oke-William Beaconsfield Town Women 0-4 Southampton Women

Sunday was not a good day at the office for Harris and his team. With no fit senior goalkeeper available, defender Ash Harte had to put on the gloves for the third time this season, this time from the start.

Southampton took the lead in the 7th minute and gained further control of the game, doubling their lead before halftime.

In the second half, the Rams hit the crossbar twice in quick succession, thanks to efforts from Hussain and Todd. However, it was a frustrating afternoon at Holloways Park, as the visitors scored two more goals to secure a decisive 4-0 victory and take all three points back to the south coast.

ROTM Ash Harris

Next match Sat 1st March | 2pm KO | Holloways Park



Beaconsfield Town beat Aylesbury.

Payers attend Children's Mental Health event

A trio of Wycombe Wanderers players have attended a Foundation event in Children's Mental Health Week.

Luke Leahy, Dan Harvie and Josh Scowen joined Disraeli and Booker Hill Primary Schools at Wycombe Wanderers

Foundation's Premier League Primary Schools Children's Mental Health Week session at Adams Park on Tuesday afternoon.

The event was made up of a stadium tour from ex-players Keith Samuels and Vince

Faulkner, a number of interactive workshops, and a Q&A opportunity with the trio about their careers so far.

On Monday night, Jamie Mullins and Luke Harris attended the Foundation's Walking Football session to interact with

participants.

A Wycombe player will be at the Blue Arrows darts session at the Hughenden Quarter Retirement Village on Wednesday, as the Blues continue to engage with a wide range of people and groups across the community.

Sport

Youth team qualify for international cup

A youth football team from Buckinghamshire have qualified to take part in the Kraków City Cup in Poland this June.

Downley Dynamos U13 Atletico have qualified to be a part of an international tournament bringing together youth teams from across Europe.

A spokesperson for the team said: "The boys work incredibly hard and show real dedication every week. For many of them, this would be their first opportunity to play football abroad and represent their community on an international stage. It would be a huge moment in their young lives."

The players, aged 12-13, compete in the Wycombe & South Bucks Minor Football League and train year-round with the

support of volunteer coaches and parents.

To make the trip possible, families have launched a GoFundMe campaign to help cover travel, accommodation and essential team kit, ensuring that no child misses out due to financial circumstances.

A parent involved in the fundraising added: "This trip means so much more than football. It's about confidence, teamwork and giving the boys an experience they'll remember forever. Without the fundraising, some families simply wouldn't be able to make it happen."

The campaign has already received strong local support, but further help is needed to reach the total required to allow the full squad to attend.



Downley Dynamos U13 Atletico Image: GoFundMe

Michael Duff slams 'individual errors' as Wycombe defeated at Reading

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff was critical of his side's defending as the Chairboys lost 3-2 away at Reading in the Thames Valley derby.

The Royals' top scorer, Jack Marriott, scored twice to give the Berkshire team a 2-0 half-time lead, but Wanderers drew level with goals from defenders Dan Casey and Anders Hagelskjaer.

The latter was a stunning strike from a tight angle, with it being his first for the club since arriving in January last year.

However, two minutes after Hagelskjaer's 72nd-minute equaliser, in-form Marriott completed his hat-trick to secure the victory with his 16th goal of the season.

It is the second season in a row that Wycombe have lost away at Reading.

Speaking on the display, Duff said: "With their first goal, it was us who had a three-on-one.

"For the second, it was just a disaster.

"And the third one was even worse because we had just got back in the game.

"We'd just got back in it, and I was pretty convinced we could have gone on to win.

"The whole momentum of the game was with us; it was us attacking them.

"Tactically, we got everything wrong. It's just not good enough. You have to find a way.

"Some of the players think they must be playing for little old Wycombe or something like that.

"Big players step up in big moments.

"That's what the best players do.

"In possession, we were really good, but we can't really talk about that because of the individual errors.

"In that first 15 minutes, if you take away that really horrible goal, it was a really positive start.

"We dominated those 15 minutes.

"Of course, overall, there are still lots of positives.

"But we lost, and the overriding emotion is just frustration again."

Wanderers fall to narrow defeat away to Reading

WYCOMBE Wanderers fell to a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Berkshire neighbours Reading, despite coming from two goals down to level the game.

It was the hosts who drew first blood in the battle of Berks and Bucks. Talismanic striker Jack Marriott caught the Wycombe defence napping, beating Anders Hagelskjaer to a loose ball and lifting in over Will Norris with a delicate finish.

Wanderers responded well to the early goal and created plenty of chances to get themselves back on level terms.

Hagelskjaer had an effort fly just wide, whilst Junior Quitirna and Luke Harris forced Royals keeper Joel Pereira into some strong saves.

Wycombe's best chance of the first half fell to Quitirna, who had the net at his mercy after Harris' effort was parried into his path by Pereira. Somehow, the winger blasted his effort over the bar.

Michael Duff's side would live to regret that miss, as Marriott doubled Reading's advantage on the stroke of half time.

The 31-year-old pounced after Dan Harvie miscontrolled a clearance, finding himself one-on-one with Norris, beating his opposite number with an emphatic finish.

A quick response was needed from Wycombe in the second half, and they

James Richings

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got it within five minutes.

Aaron Morley's free-kick was flicked into the path of Dan Casey by Cauley Woodrow, who netted his third goal for the club since signing from Motherwell in the summer.

After probing away at the Reading defence, Wanderers bagged a deserved equaliser with just under 15 minutes to play.

Hagelskjaer popped up with his first goal in English football, and it was a goal any striker would've been proud of.

However, any thought of the visitors getting a winner was quickly squashed.

Once again, Marriott was on hand to pounce on another loose ball and fire home his hat trick, which would prove to be the decisive goal in the contest.

The Royals ran out 3-2 winners, having survived a late scare to claim a massive three points in the context of their season, leapfrogging the Chairboys in the table and closing the gap on the play-offs.

Wycombe fell to 11th place in League One, which could be even lower once the 3pm kick-offs have concluded.

They travel to Exeter City on Tuesday evening looking to put things right.



That is now two defeats in two seasons for Wycombe at Reading Image: NQ

Late goal denies Wanderers rare away win over Exeter

THE draw means the Chairboys remain winless at St James Park since September 2015, a run that now stretches to eight games.

Michael Duff's side took the lead through Fred Onyedimma – his ninth goal of the season – but were pegged back in the dying moments when Jayden Wareham headed in from an Akeel Higgins cross.

Wanderers were made to work hard in the pouring South West rain, as Exeter, who lost manager Gary Caldwell to Wigan Athletic just a day earlier, peppered Will Norris throughout the contest.

Ilmari Niskanen had the game's first effort after five minutes, trying his luck from close range, before an Ethan Brierley header drifted wide four minutes later.

On 12 minutes, Wareham attempted an audacious half-volley from 35 yards, which flew over the bar. Despite Exeter enjoying more of the ball and registering more attempts, it was Wycombe who struck first.

Just before the midway point of the first half, Henderson – making his first league start since the 1-1 draw at Plymouth in December – lofted a long ball over the top to Onyedimma. The 29-year-old latched onto it, poked it around Whitworth and finished confidently.

It was the first time Wycombe had led away at Exeter since their last win there nearly ten-and-a-half years ago. For Onyedimma, his ninth of the campaign marks his best goalscoring season since making his professional



Fred Onyedimma scored his ninth goal of the season in the draw Image: Rhianna Chadwick

debut in 2013/14.

Henderson nearly doubled the advantage with a strike from outside the box on the half-hour mark, before Exeter regained control. Ryan Rydel, former Wanderer Luca Woodhouse and Wareham all tried their luck be-

fore the break.

The second half was evenly balanced, with both sides creating chances. Wareham went close again, Rydel was denied by Norris, and Pierce Sweeney fired wide as Exeter pushed for an equaliser. It looked like Wycombe

would return to Buckinghamshire with all three points, but in the first of five added minutes, Wareham popped up with his 14th goal of the season to rescue a point for the Grecians.

The result means Exeter have now lost just one of

their last nine meetings with Wanderers since their promotion to League One in 2022.

In the table, the Chairboys drop to 10th on 44 points – five off the play-offs.

Up next is Stevenage at home.

Winger 'loved' his time at Wycombe

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers winger Kieran Sadlier has revealed that he 'loved' his time at Adams Park.

The 31-year-old, who is now playing in the US for the newly formed Sporting JAX, spoke to The Ireland Radar Podcast about his career so far, which included his two-year stint in South Buckinghamshire.

Following his release from Bolton Wanderers in the summer of 2023 (he spent the latter half of the campaign on loan at Leyton Orient, helping the Os win promotion to League One), he was convinced by former manager Matt Bloomfield to sign for Wycombe.

Joining on a free in September of that year, Sadlier initially was on the fringes of the starting 11, as he came on as a substitute in 10 consecutive league games after his arrival.

However, injuries and a change of shape allowed the former West Ham United player to get his run in the team.

This saw him finish the 2023/24 season with 45 games and six goals.

However, injuries in his second campaign saw Sadlier play just four games from October to May.

Speaking on the podcast, he said: "I remember my first game, the manager was like, can you do me a favour, and can you go right wing-back?"

"And I was like, oh yeah, of course I will.

"Obviously, I'll say yes, and I will do it 100% because I want to play.

"Eventually results weren't great and he reverted to a 4-3-3.

"That's when I really got going at Wycombe, probably from October, November onwards for the whole season.

"We did really well. I loved it. I loved it there. Playing game in, game out on the left.

"Then last season I had a really good start, playing some really top football, probably on course for my best season with stats and goals and all that.

"Then I got injured about six or seven games into the season, and that completely ruined my season with injuries. I had a double hernia, a calf injury, everything.

"A new manager came in, and the club just went from being at the top of the league and...it just didn't work out."

In total, he played 60 times and scored eight goals.

During those two seasons, he helped Wanderers reach the 2024 EFL Trophy Final and played in the 2025 Play-offs.

'We can't keep throwing points away' - Duff

MICHAEL Duff said it was frustrating that his Wycombe team 'keep throwing points away' as Wanderers drew 1-1 away at Exeter City.

It looked like the Chairboys were going to secure their first three points at St James Park since September 2015 after Fred Onyedimma's 22nd minute strike.

But in the first minute of five added on at the end of the contest, Jayden Wareham popped up to score his 14th of the season.

The result means Wycombe have won two, drawn two, and lost two from their last six games, leaving them five points off the play-off positions in 10th place.

It is also the second time this season Wanderers have been stung by a late goal in Devon, as Exeter's county neighbours Plymouth Argyle also scored an injury-time equaliser to rescue a point against Duff's men this season.

Speaking at full-time, he said: "It's two points thrown away.

"The pitch is really difficult, but we got ourselves 1-0 up, and despite having three

centre-halves on the pitch, we can't get done with a cross and leave him totally unmarked in the box.

"I don't think the referee has helped us because we were trying to make a substitution for 90 seconds and we couldn't get him on – he knew we were trying to get him on, but he allowed them to play quickly – but he wasn't the one that crossed it and he didn't head it in the back of the net and we have to take responsibility for that.

"It's five points dropped now in two games, and if we hadn't, we'd be joint sixth.

"We can't keep throwing points away, and I sound like a broken record at the moment.

"It's frustrating.

"They were 1-0 down at home, so they were always going to chase the game.

"But I can't remember Will (Norris) making a save; it's not like he kept us in the game.

"We have to learn to see it out, you can't let a cross come in the box like that and leave a man unmarked."



Michael Duff spoke of his frustration

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Liam O'Rourke pictured with Wycombe defender Anders Hagelskjær

Wycombe honour disabled fans

A disabled Wycombe Wanderers supporter is hoping that fellow disabled fans will be able to 'vent their frustrations in a different way' ahead of the Chairboys' home clash against Burton Albion.

The Adams Park side will host the Brewers on February 28, with the fixture being dedicated to the club's Disabled Supporters Association.

Wanderers fan, Liam O'Rourke, works as the DSA's communications officer and revealed his role has given him

'more confidence' to speak up if any issues occur.

He has also spoken about how many disabled fans, both young and old, meet at the games to talk about their physical and mental ailments, and how they can help one another.

He told the Free Press: "The day is really important as it gives people a day off from thinking about everyday struggles – they can come to the football and vent their frustrations in a different way. "We want fans to mix with people

that they don't usually mix and the DSA have helped me a fair bit.

"We have interacted with people that we wouldn't really interact with.

"We will share our experiences with people, either older or younger, how we live with it and tell people how we cope with it.

"We're swapping stories and ideas on how we can make things easier for each other.

For more information about the work the DSA do, visit the Wycombe Wanderers website.

Lowe could make his debut this weekend

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has revealed that striker Nathan Lowe might make his debut for the club this weekend.

The forward joined the Chairboys on loan from Stoke City at the back end of January but arrived at Adams Park nursing a leg injury.

He has played in a behind-closed-doors match to regain fitness, and Duff has teased with the possibility of making his Wanderers bow this Saturday, when Stevenage arrive in South Buckinghamshire.

Lowe began the campaign on loan at Wycombe's League One rivals Stockport County but returned to the Potteries after suffering an injury in the club's 2-1 home loss against Lincoln City on Boxing Day.

He scored seven goals in 26 matches for the Greater Manchester side.

Speaking ahead of the lunchtime clash this weekend, Duff said: "He'll be in contention for a few minutes.

"Definitely not in contention to start, but he'll be a conversation.

"You've caught me now. I've just left all the coaches in the office trying to knock a team out.

"There's lots of debate, which is a good thing. It means you've got some good players - you're just not rolling out the same 11.

"He'll come into that conversation. But it will be an impact from the bench if we decide that he is ready."

Duff has also provided an update on the availability of Alex Lowry.

The Scotsman has not featured for the Chairboys since the 4-0 drubbing against Luton Town on December 26, missing the last 10

James Richings

games.

He has been an unused substitute in five of those matches, while missing five matchday squads.

Reports have been floating that the ex-Rangers man could leave for a team in Europe, but Duff has rubbished the rumours.

He explained: "There's no stance.

"Alex is our player, and can only pick a squad of 18 at the moment.

"I think there are people ahead of him.

"All Alex can do is get his head down and work hard in training. "That's the situation as it is.

"It's not like he's been excluded or anything like that.

"We just think there are other people ahead of him at this moment in time, but that can change quickly.

"I think I've only been here for four months now.

"There are quite a few that weren't in the squads at the start.

"Niall Huggins has been out of squads, Dan Casey has been out of squads, Anders Hagelskjær and Caleb Taylor have been out of the squads.

"So, they've all had opportunities.

"Just make sure you're ready when you do get one."

Wycombe lost to Stevenage 1-0 back in August in what was one of Mike Dodds' last games in charge.

In this fixture last season, Wanderers won by the same scoreline thanks to a Conor Taylor strike in the last minute.



Nathan Lowe (pictured for Stockport) joined Wycombe on loan from Stoke City

Wycombe defender on loan at Yeovil Town

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed defender Declan Skura has departed the club on loan.

The 23-year-old, who joined the Chairboys three years ago from Kingstonsian, has joined National League Yeovil Town on a two-and-a-half-month contract.

Prior to his temporary move down to Somerset, Skura had played 23 times for Wycombe but had only featured twice this season.

Those two outings came against Wigan Athletic in September in the League Cup and the Fulham U21s in the EFL Trophy the following month.

This is the defender's second loan move away from Adams Park, following a successful stint at Non League Ebbsfleet two years ago.

A statement from Yeovil reads: "Everyone at Yeovil Town welcomes Declan to the club and looks forward to working with him over the coming months."

He has been assigned the number 27 shirt for his spell at Huish Park.

While Skura departs South Buckinghamshire, Wycombe have confirmed the arrival of midfielder Joseph McCallum.

The ex-Coventry City Under 18s player arrives at Adams Park following a trial stint with the Chairboys earlier this year.

Despite being looked at for the academy, the 18-year-old is expected to be included in several first-time squads.

He will wear the number 30 shirt for Wycombe, which was last worn by George Abbott.

Academy Head of Recruitment Nathan Marshall, pictured with Scouting and Recruitment Lead Juan David Martinez and Chief Football Officer Dan Rice, commented: "It's a signal of the club's intent to sign top young talent and provide them a platform to progress into our first team.

"Joe is an exciting midfielder who is effective both in and out of possession, combining industry and composure to progress play."

Tom Stockwell, the club's Director of Football Strategy and Data Intelligence, added: "We look forward to seeing Joe's progression at Wycombe Wanderers."