

Bucks Free Press

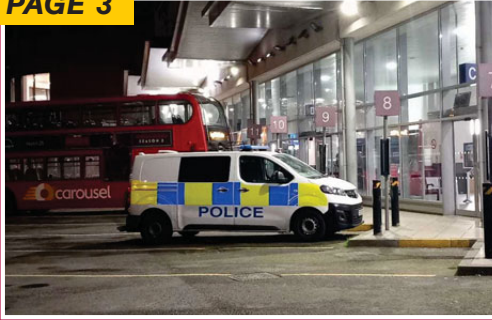
Friday, March 27, 2026 *Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856* £1.80

PAGE 7



RESIDENTS 'BETRAYED' OVER 544 HOMES PLAN

PAGE 3



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WEEKEND PULLOUT

Toddler hit by car fighting for life

Shock and sadness as police appeal for witnesses to incident



By James Richings

RESIDENTS in High Wycombe have reacted with shock and sadness after a three-year-old boy was left in a life-threatening condition after being hit by a car in the town.

At around 7pm on Saturday, March 21, emergency services attended Hicks Farm Rise, near the entrance to the Jet petrol station.

It has been confirmed that a black Kia Sportage collided with the child, who was taken to hospital.

The road was immediately closed as paramedics treated the boy.

Full story: Page 5

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Caroline Richard, scorer of Marlow's first goal on March 21. Image: GMWSportPhoto

All to play for at different ends of tables for Marlow

MARLOW'S men's and women's 1st teams have all to play for in their last matches of the league season on Saturday, but at opposite ends of their respective England Hockey West Conference leagues.

The women will require a point away at Cheltenham to guarantee their safety after a frustrating 2-2 home draw against local rivals Slough on Saturday, rueing the fact they let a 2-0 lead slip in the closing minutes of the game.

It all looked so promising in the first half, with Marlow playing their best hockey of the season.

Caroline Richard opened the scoring early in the first quarter with a thunderous strike after a lovely team move.

Lana Jones-Wallis then doubled the lead just before half time, with a similarly comprehensive reverse-stick strike.

The third quarter was tighter, with the sides trading penalty

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corners which were well defended, and no further goals came until half way through the final quarter, when a Slough penalty corner finally got past Alys Ramm in the Marlow goal, and was stopped by a defender's foot on the line.

A penalty stroke was the result, and although Ramm got a touch to the ball, she couldn't stop it crossing the line.

With five minutes left, Slough were awarded another penalty corner, which led to a shot which looked to be going wide, but was cruelly deflected by the number one runner's stick, the deflection taking it high into the roof of the net.

Despite the late reverse, Marlow remain above both Slough and Saturday's opponents Cheltenham, as well as Clifton Robinson's, and could feasibly survive whatever the outcome of the final game - but they will be playing for a win just to make sure.

Marlow's men had a very different day on Sunday, romping to a 7-0 win over Isca in their last home game of the season.

After a cagey and goalless first quarter, Callum White opened the scoring after deftly wrong-footing the Isca goalkeeper and smashing in a reverse stick shot.

That goal opened the floodgates, with three penalty corners goals following by half time - the first an audacious overhead finish by Jayden Zammler after the initial strike was saved, the second and third more conventional drag flicks by Tom McKinley and White.

He then went on to complete his hat-trick early in the second half, followed by Zammler scoring a second close-range goal after a flowing team move.

White completed the scoring

with his fourth goal a minute before full-time, and Marlow's spirits, already high, were raised still further when news filtered through that league leaders Clifton had lost 3-1 at Chichester.

Although Clifton remain favourites for the title (and the sole promotion place) they will be taking nothing for granted as they head west to Ashmoor in the final round - a tough place to win.

Only Marlow have done so this season.

Last Sunday also saw Marlow's U18 girls win through to the final of the EH Tier 2 Plate, following a close-fought victory in a penalty shoot-out at Khalsa Lemington.

At finals weekend in Nottingham, they will be joining the U18 boys, who had already secured their place in the T2 Cup final, and finished their league season unbeaten with a last minute 2-1 victory over Reading.

Five wins in a row for Holmer Green

HOLMER Green made it five league wins on the spin on Tuesday night, after they beat Berks County 3-2 at Watchet Lane.

The Greens, who now head to former frontrunners Bedfont at the weekend, showed real grit in weather that swung from swirling wind to torrential rain and back again.

Managerial tweaks have been minimal in recent weeks, with the only change seeing Anthony Tyson again preferred at centre-back as skipper Ben Booker dropped to the bench.

Berks County struck the first blow after 11 minutes.

A cross from the left found Lawson Jones unmarked, and his glancing header nestled inside the far post beyond the reach of Sam Bell.

Holmer nearly hit back moments later when Josh Peck's pressure allowed Oskar Esplund-Evans a sight of goal, but the stand-in striker couldn't quite bring the ball under control.

With rain now hammering down and the wind squarely in their faces, Holmer focused on staying compact.

Their reward came on 34 minutes. Ollie Saunders drove through mid-field and let fly from 20 yards.

The shot proved too hot to hold for the visiting keeper, and Peck reacted sharply, sweeping in the loose ball to level the contest.

Despite turning around with the elements now behind them, Holmer were dealt an early setback.

Tyson briefly left the pitch for treatment, and although he returned quickly, the back line hadn't yet reset when a through-ball exploited the space between Tyson and Zac Webster.

Johnson raced in and finished calmly to restore the visitors' lead.

The downpour intensified soon after, briefly threatening to swamp the surface, but Holmer adapted superbly as the pitch cut up.

Their pressure told on 64 minutes when the Berks keeper spilled a high ball.

Peck was first to it, shifting possession to Ewan Philpot, who unleashed a thunderous strike that crashed off the underside of the bar and over the line. Despite the keeper's protests, the assistant referee was perfectly placed and awarded the goal.

Holmer sensed their moment and completed the turnaround on 70 minutes.

A low Saunders corner skidded unpredictably across the goalmouth, ricocheting off several players before falling to Harrison Holbrook, who stabbed home from close range.

With more than 25 minutes still to play, Holmer showed a resilience they have sometimes lacked this season.

Substitute Lloyd Majaya added fresh legs late on, and the Greens saw out stoppage time with minimal alarm to secure a deserved victory.

Sport

Norris in Carabao Cup team of tournament

WYCOMBE Wanderers goalkeeper Will Norris has been chosen in the Carabao Cup Team of the Tournament for this season.

The shot-stopper, who played in every stage of the competition for the Chairboys before they were eliminated by Premier League Fulham in the fourth round, received an average score of 7.64/10.

This includes keeping two clean sheets during that run, which came against Leyton Orient in the first round (which Wycombe won 1-0) and Wigan Athletic in the third round (which ended in a 2-0 triumph for the Chairboys).

This year's Carabao Cup was won by Manchester City, who defeated Arsenal in the final 2-0 on March

22.

It was the ninth time they had won the trophy, and their seventh in the last 13 seasons.

The rest of the team is as follows:

GK: Will Norris (Wycombe Wanderers) – 7.64

RB: Matheus Nunes (Manchester City) – 6.96

CB: Tyrrell Warren (Grimsby Town) – 7.73

CB: Jorge Cuenca (Fulham) – 7.21

LB: Nico O'Reilly (Manchester City) – 7.15

RM: Rayan Cherkhi (Manchester City) – 7.57

CM: Ruben Colwill (Cardiff City) – 7.37

CM: Ethan Galbraith (Swansea City) – 7.38

LM: Jeremy Doku (Manchester City) – 7.64

RS: Raul Jimenez (Fulham) – 6.77

LS: Antoine Semenyo (Manchester City) – 7.16



Fulham's Issa Diop (centre) with Will Norris (left) and Benjamin Lecomte. Pic: John Walton

Allen sent off inside 10 minutes in away defeat to Leyton Orient

TAYLOR Allen was sent off inside 10 minutes as Wycombe Wanderers lost 2-0 to relegation-threatened Leyton Orient at Brisbane Road.

The Chairboys travelled to East London full of confidence following their historic and fantastic 2-0 victory away at promotion favourites Cardiff City in midweek, with Michael Duff making two changes to the starting XI that impressed in Wales.

Out went Ewan Henderson and Luke Harris, while the goalscorers against the Bluebirds, André Vidigal and Cauley Woodrow, came into the side.

However, Duff's game plan was thrown out of the window when Allen was shown a straight red card 10 minutes into the contest.

Moments after Vidigal delivered a dangerous ball into the Orient box, the home side countered, with Demetri Mitchell's long ball over the top finding Dom Ballard.

The striker tussled with Allen, who pulled him back just outside the box, and referee Simon Mather gave the centre-back his marching orders.

He becomes the third central defender Wycombe have lost in the last three weeks, following long-term injuries to Anders Hagelskjær and Dan Casey.

Allen will now miss Wanderers' next three games.

Duff opted to make a double change almost immediately, with Vidigal and Lowe being withdrawn and Niall Huggins and Luke Harris being introduced.

This allowed Orient to dominate possession, with Tom James, Tyreeq Bakinson (formerly of Wycombe), and Theo Archibald all trying their luck at goal.

They eventually found their opener on 19 minutes through Mitchell, in a moment goalkeeper Will Norris

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will want to forget.

The Chairboys' number one, who has come under heavy criticism for his performances this season, had another error added to his name.

Mitchell's low but powerful shot should have been dealt with comfortably, but the former Portsmouth keeper fumbled the attempt, spilling the ball out of his grasp.

It eventually crawled over the goal line despite his best efforts to claw it away.

Wycombe grew into the contest as the half went on despite the man disadvantage, with Conor Taylor, Dan Harvie, and Jack Grimmer all going close but without reward.

It was a similar story in the second period as Orient controlled possession while Wanderers looked to counter.

The Chairboys' best chances in the latter stages fell to Dan Harvie, but he was denied by Will Dennis, while Onyedimma also went close.

The game was then wrapped up in stoppage time, when Idris El Mizouni scored a well-taken first-time shot, which crashed in off the post, as Wycombe slipped to their third defeat in four games.

Up next in the league is a home match against bottom-of-the-table Port Vale on March 28.

The result means Wanderers are now three without a win at the home of Orient in their last three league games.

They have also not scored in any of those three outings (a 0-0 draw in December 2023, a 1-0 loss in April 2025 and a 2-0 loss in March 2026).

This doesn't include Wycombe's 1-0 win at the stadium back in August, as this was in the EFL Cup.



Wycombe have not scored in their last three away league games at Orient Image: NQ

We ended up shooting ourselves in the foot, admits Duff

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has blamed "individual errors" for their 2-0 defeat away at Leyton Orient, but praised his side's performance.

On nine minutes, centre-back Taylor Allen was shown a straight red card for bringing down Dom Ballard, who was clean through on goal.

Following his dismissal, Duff took off André Vidigal, making his first start for the Chairboys since joining from Stoke City, and striker Nathan Lowe, in favour of Luke Harris and Niall Huggins.

Ten minutes later, the Os went 1-0 up through Demetri Mitchell.

His low shot from the edge of the box was fumbled into the net by goalkeeper Will Norris.

It was another high-profile error from Wycombe's number one, who was also at fault for one of the goals in the club's 2-1 home defeat to Luton Town a week earlier.

Speaking at full-time, Duff said: "It's individual errors that cost us the game. That's one thing I'm not in control of."

"From my point of view, players took information, delivered tactically exactly what we want, especially when we're down to 10 men and ran their hearts out for each other."

"It's all I can ask for as loads of things didn't go our way."

"We ended up going 3-3-3 in the last 10 minutes to try and... I'd rather get beat 2-0 trying to get back in the game rather than accepting a 1-0."

"If you're going to get beat, you might as well have a performance with it rather than just sinking the joint out."

"The second goal, I'm not worried about, because I'd rather get beat 2-0 trying to get back in the game, which is what we're trying to do."

"That's why we keep two up front."

On Norris' error that gave Orient the lead, he added: "There isn't a person in this ground that hasn't made a mistake."

"I think he's big enough and tough enough to hold his hands up and say he should have saved it."

It is a bit frustrating as it is a mistake, and I am not going to try to pull the wool over the supporters' eyes and say it wasn't a mistake.

"So yes, really disappointing because we ended up shooting ourselves in the foot again."

Duff went on to praise the players for staying in the game despite being a man down, and also thanked the club's supporters for their backing during the defeat.

Up next is Port Vale at home on Saturday.

Three siblings in Argentina for World U-17s Waterski contest

THE Cosgroves from the Chalfonts are heading to Argentina as part of six-strong GB team competing at the World Under-17s Waterski Championships.

For the first time, all three siblings - James (16), Isabel (14) and Lara (12) - have earned the honour of representing their country at an international competition. The Championships take place in Villa Dolores, Córdoba, from 1 to 5 April.

The trio, from Chalfont St Peter, are no strangers to international competition.

All have taken part in European Championships - at which level Isabel has already won multiple medals. Both James and Isabel also competed at the last World Championships in Canada in 2024.

Isabel is a pupil at Berkhamsted Girls' School in Hertfordshire and has proved herself to be one of GB's most talented young waterskiers. She first achieved success at the 2024 European Youth Waterski Championships when she won bronze in the Under-14 girls' slalom event.

At the 2025 Euros last summer she won three U14 golds - in slalom, tricks and overall - as well as a silver medal in jump.

Lara, who also goes to Berkhamsted Girls' School, made the final of the Under-14 girls' slalom at last year's European Championships when she was just 11. She finished an impressive eighth.

James, a Berkhamsted Boys' student, was injured



James Cosgrove and his siblings will compete at the 2026 World Under 17 Waterski Championships (James Elliott)

and unable to compete last year. The World Championships in Argentina will be his first major event since returning to the water.

James and Isabel are entered in all three waterski events - slalom, tricks and jump - and will compete for the overall title. Lara will go in slalom and tricks.

Mum Kate Cosgrove says: "We're so proud of all three of them. It's great they're all in the team to-

gether to support each other."

Dad Alex Cosgrove, who will be Team Captain in Argentina, says: "It's their sibling fun competitiveness that drives them all on to be better skiers and none of them would be as good as they are without each other."

The rest of the GB Team for the World Championships includes two more European medallists. At the 2024 Euros, Harley Cos-

ter (15) from Camberley in Surrey won gold in the Under-14 boys' jump, bronze in both slalom and tricks and silver overall.

At the 2023 Euros, Charlie Fearn (16) from Sheffield, South Yorkshire, won bronze in the Under-14 boys' jump.

The sixth member of the GB team going to Argentina is Willow Skipsey (16) from Chichester, West Sussex. A student at Chichester College, she has

progressed quickly since being introduced to waterskiing just three years ago through an after-school club.

Harley, Charlie and Willow will compete in slalom, tricks and jump and contest the overall.

The individual scores of the squad will also contribute towards a Team score.

All six athletes are currently training in Florida, USA, and flew to Argentina on Thursday, March 26.

Football shirt charity thanks club

A charity that sends surplus football kits to some of the most impoverished areas in the world has thanked Wycombe Wanderers for their contributions as they achieved another milestone.

Kit Aid, which was launched by Watford-based man Derrick Williams, has personally expressed gratitude towards the Chairboys for the help they have provided to the cause.

It comes after the charity recently confirmed that they had now handed out over 1,250,000 items of clothing since they began in 1998.

Mr Williams told the Free Press that Wanderers were one of the first clubs that got involved with the charity.

He explained: "I remember it was when John Gorman was the manager.

"I met him and he was really nice to us all.

"I can't remember who it was against, but it was before a match and he must have been in the zone and game ready, but he took the time out to speak to me about the charity and what we do.

"I always remembered that."

Wycombe have been part of Kit Aid's donation campaign since the early 2000s and in 2022, a fundraiser for the charity, with the help of the Bucks Free Press, helped raise over £1,100.

Kone bags brace for Rangers

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers forward Richard Kone scored two goals in the space of 60 seconds as his new side, Queens Park Rangers, thrashed Portsmouth 6-1 at Loftus Road.

With the Hoops already 4-1 up going into the last five minutes, the Ivorian made it 5-1 on 86 minutes before getting his second from the penalty spot just seconds later.

The hosts raced into a three-goal lead inside 29 minutes through a Paul Smyth double, scored either side of a long-range effort from Rayan Kollit.

Portsmouth pulled one back before the break through John Swift, but Kollit struck again early in the second half before the former Chairboy bagged his brace.

Head coach to miss clash

HUDDERSFIELD Town head coach Liam Manning will not be in the dugout for when they face Wycombe Wanderers next month after being granted compassionate leave for the rest of the season.

Beaconsfield school win championship

THE Davenies Under 13 football team in Beaconsfield etched their names into school history on Friday, March 20 with a thrilling victory in the ISFA Bowl Final at the Hertfordshire FA Stadium to become national champions.

In a fiercely contested national showdown against Woodhouse Grove (Bradford), Davenies emerged triumphant after a dramatic penalty shoot-out, securing one of the school's most significant sporting achievements to date.

The final was ultimately decided by a tense penalty shoot-out. Goalkeeper Finn delivered a standout performance, making crucial saves to keep Davenies in contention. After confidently converting his own penalty as the ninth taker, Finn applied decisive pressure on Woodhouse Grove.

Their final effort missed the target,

sealing a memorable victory for Davenies. The ISFA Bowl is a national competition that began in September, featuring schools from across the country. Davenies' triumph marks a historic milestone, reflecting not only the team's technical ability but also their resilience, teamwork, and composure under pressure.

Head Coach, Mr Burrell, said: "The squad have been fantastic all year, and what they have achieved is truly remarkable.

"They have etched themselves into the school's history and should be extremely proud of their accomplishments."

Davenies is an independent school for boys aged 4-13 in the heart of Beaconsfield operating bus routes from Amersham, Chalfont St Peter, Maidenhead, Taplow, High Wycombe, Farnham Common and Gerrards Cross.



The winners celebrate

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Wanderers in Berks & Bucks Cup final after shootout



Wycombe won the cup tie versus Slough 3-1 on penalties

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play Hungerford Town in the 2026 Berks & Bucks Cup Final after the Chairboys defeated Slough Town on penalties following a 1-1 draw.

Bradley Fink gave the Adams Park side the lead at Arbour Park inside the opening 60 seconds, before the Rebels equalised 10 minutes later through Tyrese Dyce, after a mistake from the Wanderers defence.

The game eventually went to a shootout, and despite Fink and player-manager and ex-Wycombe man Scott Davies missing each of Wanderers'

and Slough's first kicks, strikes from Alex Lowry, Josh Scowen and Cam Stones secured a 3-1 shootout win.

The result means the Adams Park side will play in the final for the first time since 2012.

For Hungerford, it will be their first appearance in the final two since 2017, while for Slough, their last appearance in the showpiece came in 2019.

After a frantic start to the match in Berkshire, the game eventually evened out with both sides enjoying large spells of possession.

The weather conditions worsened during the contest as heavy rain came thundering down in the Thames Valley, which slowed up play.

The shootout began with early drama as Michael Edegbe saved from Fink to give Slough the advantage, but that opportunity slipped away as Scott Davies, who had two stints as a player at Wycombe, fired over the bar.

Alex Lowry and Josh Scowen converted for Wycombe, while Dan Roth also missed for the Rebels, leaving Slough chasing the shootout. Harvey Walker kept hopes alive with

a composed finish, and after Arthur Gregory missed for the visitors, there was a chance to level.

However, Jaide Drakes-Thomas saw his effort crash against the underside of the bar and bounce out.

That miss proved decisive, as Cam Stones stepped up to convert the winning penalty and send Wycombe through to the final, where they will face Hungerford Town.

Wycombe will play Hungerford in the showpiece this spring, after the latter defeated the Reading U21s 4-3 in a thrilling contest.

Chairboys defender to miss rest of the season

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has confirmed that centre back Dan Casey is set to miss the rest of the season through injury.

The defender, who only joined the Chairboys in the summer, was hurt in the 3-2 away loss at Bolton Wanderers at the start of March, but it had been hoped he would return for the April fixtures.

However, speaking ahead to this week's home clash against bottom-of-the-table Port Vale, it was revealed that the Irishman will not be a part of Wanderers' seven league games.

This comes as a huge blow for Wycombe, who have already lost Anders Hagelskjær for the remainder of the campaign through injury, and Taylor Allen, who will be suspended following his red card at Leyton Orient last weekend.

It is believed that Jack Grimmer will partner Connor Taylor at the centre of defence, with Niall Huggins being drafted in as right-back.

Speaking to the press, Duff said: "It is not good news Dan - he has had a setback.

"We're still waiting to find out the results of exactly what's happened there, but it doesn't look great.

"That is a blow, because we were hoping to have him back next week.

"Other than that, it's as you were.

"We have had nothing from last week - everyone has come through."

Wycombe take on a Port Vale side who currently sit bottom of the League One table but since Jon Brady's arrival following Darren Moore's sacking in Janu-

By James Richings

ary, the Valiants have hit better form winning seven of their last 19 games with him in charge.

This includes Bristol City and Sunderland in the FA Cup, in which they have secured a quarter-final tie with eight-time winners, Chelsea.

They also beat promotion-pushing Bolton Wanderers and have two games in hand on some of the teams around them at the foot of the table.

Duff has not looked at their position in their standings as a negative ahead of their visit, and believes the contest at Adams Park will be a tough test for Wanderers.

He said: "It's a different challenge

"We'll have people that will rock up and look at a league table.

"Unfortunately, as we've found out already, football doesn't work like that.

"Jon's had a reaction since he's gone in.

"They've still got the carrot of an FA Cup game at Stamford Bridge, so that, even if people think they're done or not in the league, which I'm sure they don't believe that they are, the players all know that's coming around the corner.

"They'll all want to play in that.

"So, if nothing else, they've got that motivation.

"We will have prepare for the best version of them.

"John will have belief that he can still keep them up and they will be battling."



Dan Casey (pictured playing for Motherwell) is expected to miss the remaining seven games of the season through injury (PA)

Andrade 'sorry' after fighting with teammate

A FORMER Wycombe Wanderers striker has been let go by his current club for fighting with a teammate during a match.

Bruno Andrade, who spent the 2012/13 season at Adams Park on loan from Queens Park Rangers, was shown a straight red card in AFC Rushen & Diamonds' 3-0 loss away at Loughborough Students on March 21 in their Northern Premier League Midlands Division fixture.

The hosts took the lead on 18 minutes before the game descended into chaos just 120 seconds later as the forward and his striker partner, Tyler Winters, were seen having a disagreement.

According to manager Elliot Sandy, he was told by the linesman that that 'there was a bit of hands and stuff between the two of them there was obviously two red cards.'

He added: "It is inexcusable really, I have never had anything like that in football, and we will deal with internally, and to be honest I just want to talk about the rest of the lads who gave absolutely everything."

Following the incident, the club thanked its fans and the players who completed the game.

It was later confirmed that both Andrade and Winters are now no longer available for selection for the remaining games this season, and that they are 'free to pursue opportunities with other clubs'.

Andrade took to social media to apologise for his actions and thank the fans for their support.

He said: "I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart to everyone associated with the club from top to bottom for everything.

"Especially the fans that took me in and made me feel at home.

"The support and love were always acknowledged. I'm grateful. Sorry it ended this way."