

Bucks Free Press

Friday, April 10, 2026 *Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856* £1.80



WYCOMBE WANDERERS

PAGE 7

EXCLUSIVE

WANDERERS £10M DEBT REVEALED

PAGE 5



BURGLARY HORROR AT PETROL STATION

PAGE 8



ANCIENT TRADITION RETURNS THIS WEEKEND



WIN £100 GARDEN VOUCHER: P34

‘LIVING IN FEAR’

Residents’ lives made a misery by ‘threatening and abusive behaviour’ and ‘careless parking’

CONCERNS have been raised about parking and alleged threatening behaviour at a car garage in High Wycombe.

Thames Valley Police said officers have been called to Motortek, on West Wycombe Road, and were working with Buckinghamshire Council

By James Richings

and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) following complaints about vehicles parked in an anti-social manner.

Full story: Page 6



FREE ENTRY

KIDZ WORLD

FAMILY FAIR

EASTER SCHOOL & BANK HOLIDAY

ALL RIDES & INFLATABLES FOR 2026

HOTLINE 07956 245531

www.parnhamfunfairs.co.uk

TOKEN FAIR

SATURDAY 28 MAR TO SUNDAY 12 APR

2 SPECIAL WRISTBAND DAYS

THESE DAYS ARE WRISTBAND NOT TOKEN FAIRS

WED 1st APRIL & WED 8th APRIL

2 SESSIONS ON THESE DAYS 12PM-4PM & 3PM-7PM

PAY ONE PRICE £12.99

PER PERSON PER SESSION

FREE UNLIMITED RIDES ON ALL RIDES & INFLATABLES

Plans to build five homes on farm withdrawn

PLANS to build five homes at a farm near Great Missenden have been withdrawn.

Documents were first submitted to the authority in December 2022 to build five homes, including three detached and two semi-detached properties.

It involved the demolition and removal of existing buildings at Deep Mill Farm, Hyde Lane, Little Kingshill.

The application was validated in January 2023. A decision notice issued this week confirmed the plans had been withdrawn.

In the notice, council planning officer

Alex Armour said: "I confirm that the application has been treated as withdrawn and the file has therefore been closed."

The application explained that the proposal sought to redevelop the brownfield site for "bespoke houses", designed in the form of a farmstead.

The site currently contains large equestrian buildings and a small private gym.

It stated that the homes would replace "unsightly large buildings" with visually attractive structures built using high-quality materials.

The statement said: "The proposals

presents a high quality architectural scheme on a brownfield site, that successfully integrates new dwellings into the landscape setting.

"If approved the proposal will deliver a high quality bespoke scheme for one, two bedroom dwelling, two, three bedroom semi-detached barns, one, four bed detached house and one, five bed detached house, arranged in the form of a farmstead.

"Careful consideration has been given to the Chiltern Design Guide with the scheme adopting high quality materials,

hand laid flint, brick and clay tiles, with significant landscape enhancements and soft/green boundary treatments.

"The proposal will result in a "greening up" of the site with a 50.2 per cent reduction in hardstanding, a 28.4 per cent reduction in building footprint and a reduction in volume.

"In addition, the site will also deliver at 26.57 per cent habitat biodiversity net gain as set out in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report."

One objection was raised against the plans, although it cannot be viewed as

public planning comments are hidden by Buckinghamshire Council, which is one of only a handful of authorities in the country to restrict access in this way.

The statement added: "The replacement of the existing uses with five residential dwellings with result in a significant reduction in daily traffic activity.

"The proposed new access road junction onto Hyde Lane has suitable visibility splays and geometry to safely accommodate the traffic movements generated by the proposed development."

Wanderers record loss of £9.9m as debts soar in latest accounts

Isabella Harris

Isabella.Harris@newsquest.co.uk

WYCOMBE Wanderers have reported a near £10 million loss in their latest financial accounts, with rising costs and debt levels prompting concern among some supporters.

The Chairboys posted a loss of £9,865,008 for the year ending June 30, 2025, more than double the previous year's deficit of £3,852,571.

Turnover increased to £7,083,977, up from £5,792,146, but spending continued to outstrip income. Administrative expenses alone totalled £7,775,020.

The club's long-term debt has also risen significantly. Creditors due after more than one year increased to £20,479,768, compared with £7,161,536 the previous year. Net liabilities now stand at £10,995,393.

The club said becoming "financially sustainable" remains a "long-term aim" following investment from its owners.

Wycombe Wanderers have been owned by Kazakh billionaire Mikheil Lomtadze since 2024. Concerns have been raised by some supporters about the club's reliance on owner funding, with reports he has not visited Adams Park since taking over.

One source described the latest figures as "eye-watering", while others have questioned how sustainable the current model will be in the longer term.

A spokesperson for the club said: "The recently published financial statements to 30th June 2025 reflect substantial planned investment by the Club's owners into its infrastructure, first-team squad and in setting up the academy, with the long-term aim of making the club financially sustainable."

"The Ownership Group have also paid off all external debt and converted some of their funding into permanent capital."

"During the period the Club has invested in its facilities at Harlington and Marlow Road as well as the Adams Park pitch and stadium facilities."

"The Club is financially stable and has started on its journey to becoming sustainable."

During the period, the club invested in its training facilities at Marlow Road and used Harlington in west London for first-team training.

Works at the Marlow Road site were carried out without initial planning permission but were later approved retrospectively despite objections.

The club has since returned to Marlow Road, while its academy continues to use Harlington.



Kazakh billionaire Mikheil Lomtadze, pictured, has owned the club since 2024 but has never visited

Invitation to residents to back Scouts' event

A SCOUT group in the High Wycombe area is inviting residents to support its latest fundraising event.

Penn and Tylers Green Scout Group will hold a spring jumble sale at Tylers Green Village Hall on Saturday, May 9, with doors opening at 12.30pm.

The group, which runs Beaver,

Cub and Scout sections for young people in the area, currently has a waiting list of around 30 children. Like many local Scout groups, it relies on fundraising to cover equipment, activities and running costs.

The sale will feature a wide range of items, including clothing, shoes, garden equipment and sports gear.

Paul Wicks, from the group, said:

"With all Scouting groups, fundraising is an important and necessary function as we are a charity and have to self-fund."

He added that events like this help ensure the group can continue offering opportunities for young people locally.

Residents are encouraged to attend and support the event.



Come and support the Scouts next month

Chesham storm to convincing Slough win

CHESHAM United delivered a commanding performance against a depleted Slough Town, securing a resounding 4-1 victory at The Meadow.

The match took place in Buckinghamshire. Chesham welcomed their rivals in a contest that saw the home side leverage their early dominance into a decisive second-half performance.

The Generals struck first on nine minutes when Alex Lafleur capitalised on a set piece, finding the back of the net after a deflection sent his shot into the side netting. Despite starting brightly, the visitors initially struggled to find their rhythm, but they managed to keep the scoreline close as their goalkeeper, Michael Edegebe, pulled off a string of impressive saves to thwart Chesham's attempts.

Captain Callum Adebisi came close to opening the scoring earlier for the hosts, striking the crossbar from close range, while the lively Mitchell Weiss drew another fine save from Edegebe with a powerful effort that rattled the post. The Rebels, though limited in clear-cut chances, defended resolutely to reach the break just one goal adrift.

However, any hopes of a second-half comeback from Slough were dispelled. Within minutes of the restart, Chesham doubled their lead when Jayden Bennetts latched onto a low ball from Kai Yearn, displaying composure as he fired in off the post. The hosts soon made it three, following a well-executed counterattack that saw Yearn assist Weiss, who expertly lifted the ball over the onrushing Edegebe.

The Generals continued their blitz, adding a fourth just moments later when Weiss scored his second goal of the match with a powerful strike. The flurry of goals in the opening minutes of the half effectively sealed the contest, leaving the visitors reeling.

To their credit, Slough pushed back, and Jaiden Drakes-Thomas forced a good save from Ben Goode as the Rebels sought to establish some momentum. As the game progressed, both sides made strategic substitutions, with Slough introducing several academy players in search of valuable experience against a well-drilled Chesham side.

In the seventy-eighth minute, the Rebels found a glimmer of hope when Tyrique Clarke executed a well-placed shot to reduce the deficit, showcasing his technical ability inside the box. However, the moment lifted Chesham's spirits, as they maintained their composure to see out the game.

A notable moment for the visitors came in the final minutes when young goalkeeper Bob Honey made his senior debut, impressing with a diving save to deny Chesham a fifth goal, highlighting the prospect's promise despite the scoreline.

Chesham's decisive victory underscores their clinical ability, particularly during a transformative spell early in the second half. While the Rebels battled valiantly, the Generals' attacking prowess proved too much on the day.

Chesham United will look to build on this momentum as they prepare for their next match, while Slough has plenty of work ahead to bounce back.



Northampton Saints

Grassroots rugby clubs can win £5k in building materials

GRASSROOTS rugby clubs in Buckinghamshire are among those eligible for a significant opportunity to enhance their facilities, as Northampton Saints and Travis Perkins have announced a new competition.

This initiative, launched to celebrate 25 years of partnership between Northampton Saints and Travis Perkins, aims to provide two clubs within the Saints' community region with £5,000 worth of building materials each.

The competition is open to clubs from several counties within the Saints' designated community region, including Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and north Essex. Representatives from eligible clubs in Buckinghamshire can enter the competition by completing the entry form before the deadline of May 1.

In addition to the materials donation, the prize package includes a training session at the High Performance Centre at cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens for one junior

Ramy Abou-Setta

ramy.abou-setta@newsquest.co.uk

age-group team from each winning club. The session will be led by three Northampton Saints first-team players and the club's community coaching staff.

Ulundi Makhanya, director of commercial partnerships at Northampton Saints, said, "Travis Perkins has been – and remain – a fantastic and long-standing supporter of the Club, and we are delighted to mark the 25th anniversary of our partnership with this brilliant competition."

Makhanya also emphasized the scope and appeal of the initiative: "We have dozens of grassroots clubs within our community region and I know every single one of them would love to win this prize, not only to create a lasting impact to their facilities, but also to provide one of their junior teams with the chance to train with three of our players and utilise our fantastic High Performance Centre."

The £5,000 materials for each club will be supplied by Travis Perkins, the UK's largest supplier of building materials to the building and construction industry. Travis Perkins operates more than 500 branches nationwide and supplies thousands of products and materials, including a tool hire service, to trade professionals and self-builders.

Alison Wong, group head of marketing at Travis Perkins, commented on the significance of supporting grassroots clubs: "We are delighted to be partnering with Northampton Saints on this fantastic prize which could prove transformative for a grassroots rugby club."

Highlighting the ongoing challenges related to funding, Wong added, "So many people of all ages get so much enjoyment from being involved in grassroots rugby clubs but, like all sports, funding can be difficult to secure for improvements to facilities."

Wong described the potential long-term impact of the competition: "A donation of £5,000 worth of materials

can go a long way to making a long-term difference to a club – whether it be improvements to the clubhouse, changing rooms or any other areas which may need a refresh – and we look forward to reviewing the entries we receive."

The unique aspect of the competition, according to Wong, is the training experience for junior players: "The chance to rub shoulders with some of Northampton Saints' stars in a specially arranged training session is another fantastic element to the prize and will offer a junior team from each of our successful clubs an unforgettable experience."

Clubs wishing to participate must ensure that their applications are submitted before May 1. According to an announcement, the entry process requires eligible clubs to complete a form.

The building materials provided by Travis Perkins may be used for improvements to clubhouses, changing rooms, or other key areas, potentially leaving a lasting mark on community rugby in Buckinghamshire.

Sport

New women's cricket club set to launch

A new women's cricket club is set to launch near a Buckinghamshire town in a bid to create a 'fresh and inclusive space'.

The Penn Street Hits or Misses will be based at The Pavilion in Penn Street, near Amersham, and is inviting residents to an open day on Sunday, April 12, from 11am to 2pm.

The event will give prospective players the chance to meet organisers, explore the facilities and learn more about the club ahead of the season.

Weekly training sessions will begin the following day, Monday, April 13, running from 6pm to 7pm.

The club is designed to cater for all abilities — from complete beginners to those looking to return to the sport or play competitively and is open to women and girls aged 14

and over.

Alongside regular training and fitness sessions, the club hopes to establish a team to compete in a Ladies T20 league, offering both social and competitive cricket opportunities.

The club's name is a nod to the pub opposite the ground, long associated with cricket in the area and home to a men's team for more than 50 years. With that chapter now ending, organisers say the new club represents a fresh era for the historic site.

The Penn Street Hits or Misses also believes it is among the first women's cricket clubs in the UK to have its own dedicated ground, rather than sharing facilities. Organisers say this marks an important step forward for visibility and growth in women's sport locally and beyond.



The Pavilion, Penn Street Image: Google

Beaconsfield draw 4-4 in crazy eight-goal thriller

BEACONSFIELD lost 2-1 away to play off hopefuls Biggleswade Town, despite a hard fought attempt at a second half come back, before they drew 4-4 in a chaotic game at home against bottom four side Northwood.

On Good Friday Beaconsfield travelled to play off contenders Biggleswade Town. Windy conditions caused Beaconsfield problems, and that coupled with a defensive error gave Biggleswade their opener. Coree Wilson pounced on a failed clearance in the box and fired his side in front. Another mistake minutes later saw the hosts double their lead when Rian Silver headed in. Beaconsfield had a chance as the half drew to a close, but Aaron White's header from a corner was saved by the home keeper.

The second half saw an inspired Beaconsfield try to mount a come back. A tighter game gave both teams limited shots on goal. Beaconsfield gave themselves a chance of a fight back with Nnaemeka Anyanwu showing skill and pace to best his man before putting the ball perfectly in the air for Manu Oke-William to head in to the net. Beaconsfield looked the better side for large spells of the half, coming close to levelling the tie twice, first substitute Bethel Nwokorie had the ball cleared as he looked to shoot in the box on his first team debut, before Ollie Turner's strike from distance flew narrowly wide. There were strong calls from Beaconsfield for a penalty for handball with a few minutes left but the referee was unmoved and Biggleswade went on to see the final moments off the game out and take the win.

Onto bank holiday Monday, where Beaconsfield returned home to Holloways Park to face Northwood, a team in a fight of their own at the opposite end of the table, and a different test, to that which Biggleswade Town posed on Friday.

A slow start from Beaconsfield saw Northwood race in to a early two goal lead. Poor defending gave Alie Bangura

Ramy Abou-Setta

ramy.abou-setta@newsquest.co.uk

sight of goal one on one with keeper Tommy Dymott, who he chipped his effort over to give Northwood the lead. Shortly after more poor defending gave Northwood striker Arel Amu his chance, he too chipped the ball over an on rushing Dymott to make it two.

Beaconsfield seemed to turn it up after the goal, and they got a goal back minutes later, with Jack Esiri shooting from just inside the box and finding the back of the net on his first start for the senior side. As the game approached the break Beaconsfield drew level, a corner swung in was not cleared by Northwood and Mark Nisbet smashed a loose ball into the net.

A crazy second half followed the first, within moments of the restart Beaconsfield took the lead. Another excellent corner from captain James Dobson fell perfectly and was headed in

by Luke Neville. Beaconsfield looked well on top now, and could have extended their lead through Olly Turner who saw an effort from distance go narrowly wide. The hosts did extend their lead through Manu Oke-William, whose perfect shot beat the on rushing Northwood keeper and fell into the bottom corner.

Beaconsfield looked to be in full control until a crazy final 5 minutes, first the referee felt Dobson had caught Bangura in the box and pointed to the penalty spot. Up stepped Freddie Ford to slot home. There was another twist in the crazy game as Northwood stole a point in the final seconds, Beaconsfield failed to clear the ball out of the box and Hamza Miezou was given a tap in to see the game end 4-4.

The draw sees Northwood relegated from The Southern League Division 1 central, while Beaconsfield remain 11th going in to the final 3 games.

Next up is a trip to Enfield tomorrow.



Beaconsfield face Northwood at Holloways Park Image: ARRAN WHITE

Greens rack up their ninth successive league win

THE Greens racked up their ninth successive league win, and in doing so broke the club record of 2009-10.

With James Mangan on holiday and Ewan Philpot having picked up an injury at Hanworth on Saturday, Dai Mitani came in and so did Oskar Esplund-Evans who has proved once again that he is versatile and can play up front, and is a good partner for Peck in the absence of Alex Colverd.

A Mitani corner early on was headed against the outside of the goal frame by Liam Butters, but the narrow angle was against him. At the other end Butters and ex-Holmer player Luca Clark came together and Clark went down, but the Referee thought and the Veo confirms there was nothing really in it. It was then Peck's initial chance arrived on 18 minutes. Yet another Bell long ball pitted the top scorer against two defenders. He emerged with the ball and got a good low shot away which the 'keeper kept out with an outstretched leg. On 25 minutes Peck finally had the good fortune he deserved. After battling well centrally at the edge of the Staines' penalty area. This time his shot took a handy deflection, moving the shot just out of the 'keeper's reach. Two minutes later, the visitors went close in strange circumstances. A centre from well wide on the right, surely not a shot, went high up into the air. It came down almost vertically about an inch

in front of the crossbar, where Bell took it comfortably and cleanly. The rest of the half was open and the game would be close.

HT 1-0

The second half was not unlike the first, both sides had similar amounts of possession and openings of promise were appearing at both ends. The longer this went on would be to Holmer's advantage. But neither 'keeper was really being tested by goal-bound efforts. Given the number of points given away by The Greens this season, the Watchet Lane faithful would be forgiven for any unease. Staines made four substitutions, the first of which looked most promising from their point of view. A left side attacker with pace. Bur Zac Webster is improving with every game; and Carlo Paul on the left of defence was making his fourth successive start, initially coming into the side against then leaders Bedford recently. The recent centre-back pairing of Butters and either Ben Booker or Anthony Tyson, has also made up for the absence of Theo Ransby.

The coup de grace came with one minute of normal time left. Webster headed the ball out of defence, Harrison Holbrook moved it onto Peck who yet again was marked by two centre-backs. The first missed his kick and Peck was away, outpacing both and slotting the ball low past the goalkeeper and just inside the post near the covered area behind the clubhouse. The second strike deflated the away side, and they made little headway about getting back into the game.

City defeat was 'two teams separated by fine margins'

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff was left extremely disappointed with the way his team let the lead slide, as the Chairboys lost 2-1 at home to Bradford City, which has all-but ended his side's hopes of making the play-offs this season.

It only took Wycombe six minutes to draw first blood in the contest.

Caolan Boyd-Munce set it to Andre Vidigal, who danced inside Matthew Pennington and curled a finish past Sam Walker.

The Bantams' best chance of the half came 10 minutes after they went behind when Bobby Pointon was played in from an Ibou Touray header. Will Norris was quick off his line, though, to parry the effort behind for a corner.

Five minutes after the break, Bradford got themselves back on level terms.

A cheap turnover from the Chairboys allowed Stephen Humphrys a one-on-one with Norris.

The Wycombe keeper saved the initial effort before Pointon lashed home the rebound.

Bradford turned the contest on its head in the 68th minute when a deep free-kick from Max Power found the unmarked Aden Baldwin, who strode into the box and lashed home the cross on the volley.

Nathan Lowe should have done better when teed up inside the Bradford box late on, but the Stoke loanee scuffed his strike as the Bantams held on to move up to third.

It was the first meeting between the two sides at Adams Park since February 2019, and only the second time Bradford have done the league double



Michael Duff reflects on Wycombe's loss at Bradford. Image: Steven Paston/PA Wire

over the Chairboys.

Speaking at full-time, Duff said: "I don't think there was a lot in the game – two teams separated by fine margins.

"[We had] a couple of chances to score good goals, we hit the post but then gave them a really poor goal – they've done nothing to score a goal, and conceded from a set play.

"The actual game, there was nothing in it – a really tight game.

"First half I thought we played some good stuff, sec-

ond half, obviously the bodies, we ended up with no wingers available.

"We end up going 4-4-2 then trying to play a diamond – we can't get the play into the front half enough.

"I just thought they did the horrible side of the game a bit better than us."

Bradford boss Graham Alexander said: "I was delighted with how they [Bradford's players] approached the game in the first place.

"I thought we could do better

on the goal without a shadow of a doubt. There's a detail in there which we spoke about.

"It's disappointing – it was a great finish from the lad [Vidigal], but we shouldn't have allowed him to cut back inside the pitch.

"That said, I think the players reacted well to that – we didn't get too downhearted.

"I said at half-time to ignore the scoreline and just make sure we set our heads on what the objective is in the next 50 minutes, which turned out to

be nearly 55.

"I thought the players had a massive motion of control today. If you pile on the previous couple of away results and add it onto this then we're going to be in a dark moment – but we didn't.

"We separated that, saw this game in its own entity – it's not just coming back to win 2-1 it's the calibre of opponent we're up against – the record they have here.

"To win 2-1, I'm absolutely delighted with every player."

Wycombe's push for the play-offs suffers

THE Chairboys visited Greater Manchester full of confidence after a 4-0 thumping against bottom-of-the-table Port Vale six days prior, however, they two first-half goals from Odin Bailey and Isaac 'Tanto' Olaofe secured the win for the hosts.

County began the contest the stronger as Will Norris was on hand to deny Olaofe and Bailey inside the opening five minutes, before Wanderers forward Nathan Lowe, who began the season on-loan at Stockport from Stoke City, fired a header over the bar.

Wanderers began to grow into the contest as a teasing cross by Fred Onyedinma on 13 minutes just missed the on-rushing Lowe, while Luke Harris also had a pop at goal.

However, it was the hosts that took lead just before the midway point of the half, and while the finish was well-taken, it was Wycombe's own doing.

A loose ball by Norris to Cauley Woodrow was disposed by Josh Stokes.

The latter ran into the Wycombe box, it was dealt with, and there was Bailey to smash home his first goal for Stockport in 2026, and his first in any capacity since October.

Despite going a goal down, the Chairboys continued to attack as Lowe again went close while County centre back, Joseph Olowu, nearly put the ball into his own net, but Corey Addai was on hand to make a brilliant save.

Wycombe looked good on the ball but struggled to create any clear cut chances as Stockport made it 2-0 just before the break, thanks to an Olaofe header.

The striker had spent two seasons with the club before leaving for Charlton Athletic last summer, only to return to the Edgley Park side in January.

It was his first goal since re-signing.

Stockport looked like they were smelling blood as Norris was on hand to make a handful of crucial saves, most notably from Olaofe and Stokes, while Addai was on hand to thwart Cauley Woodrow.

The second period didn't see Wycombe offer anything of note as enjoyed the ball up until the final third.

This resulted on County going on the counter, as Gambian international Adama Sidibeh rounding Norris, who came rushing out of his goal, to tap home his sixth strike in 14 games since signing from St Johnstone in January.

The result mean Wanderers are now winless in their last three against Stockport.

'I felt we gave up a bit' - Duff reflects on loss

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff believes his side 'gave up a bit' as the Chairboys' play-offs were dented following a 3-0 away defeat at Stockport County.

First-half goals from Odin Bailey and Isaac Olaofe put the Hatters ahead at the break before Adama Sidibeh rounded off the game with a well-taken finish in the final 10 minutes.

The loss is a damaging one for Duff's side as they sit two places and three points off the play-offs with five games remaining, with three of those fixtures being against teams in or around them (Lincoln City, Huddersfield Town and Bradford City).

He said: "I felt we gave up a bit from 55 or 60 minutes which is the main frustration of the afternoon.

"We're becoming nearly men which we can't do. We work so hard to give ourselves an opportunity. You look at the results, someone's just told me there, you need to step over the line.

At 2-0 down you have to play with more freedom, but it looked like we were feeling sorry for ourselves."

Wanderers' form from the start of the campaign has improved dramatically, but they have only won four away games all season in the league, three of these in 2026.

Additionally, the Chairboys' best run of consecutive wins in the division this term is only three. This came at the end of February/start of March.

Duff added: "Football's a tough game. No-one's going to feel sorry for you. If you're feeling sorry for yourself then someone's going to go past you.

"The challenge to them is who's going to step up when we need them. We know when we're good, we're good. But who's going to grab someone by the scruff of the neck and tell them it's not good enough?

"It's not giving up in terms of downing tools because they're bad lads. But that can't happen."



Wanderers manager Michael Duff was not happy. Pic: Steven Paston/PA Wire

SPORT

ISSN 0963-2336 £1.80



9 770963 233159



'He's done': Push for promotion suffers fresh blow



Wycombe's Junior Quitirna (right).
Image: Adam Davy

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Michael Duff has said that midfielder Caolan Boyd-Munce is 'done for the season' with a knee injury.

It only took Wycombe six minutes to draw first blood against Bradford City on Easter Monday, as Caolan Boyd-Munce, who started the game, set it to Andre Vidigal, who danced inside Matthew Pennington and curled a finish past Sam Walker.

Boyd-Munce did not return to the field in the second-half and was replaced by Ewan Henderson for the remainder of the fixture,

speculation as to the injury sustained by the former Northern Ireland international would form the discourse on social media.

At the pre-match press conference ahead of the Huddersfield Town, Duff broke the news: "Caolan, that's him done for the season."

He's done his MCL, sort of Grade 2, so he'll be six to eight weeks, I'd imagine.

"So that's him done."

Boyd-Munce suffered a quad injury earlier in the season in his

side's 4-0 home win over Doncaster Rovers in February.

The Northern Irishman went down calling for attention around 30 minutes into the contest against the Yorkshire outfit, where he received on field treatment.

He initially continued but only lasted five more minutes before he was replaced by Luke Leahy.

Junior Quitirna also came off injured in the Bradford City 2-1 loss in the 60th minute. He was replaced by Nathan Lowe.

Duff said on his injury: "Junior

wasn't as bad as we first feared, but there was two or three others, so we'll have to see where they're at.

"It's been disappointing because we were sort of on a really good run and then we've just literally been decimated by injuries in key positions."

"Obviously, Fred was a big one as well. There'll be a few we'll be waiting last minute on, but I've just said it on another interview there."

"We'll have 11 players, so we should be able to put a team out that should be competitive."

Duff gives brutal verdict on Chairboys' season

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Michael Duff has given a brutal verdict as to the Chairboys end of the season hopes as he says that the play-offs are 'done for us now'.

The Chairboys lost 2-1 at home to Bradford City on Easter Monday, which has all-but ended his side's hopes of making the play-offs this season - Though Duff has kept tight-lipped about his thoughts, at the Huddersfield Town pre-match conference he did not mince his words.

He said: "I've had quite a big meeting with the players this morning, just in terms of, I think that's the play-offs done for us now. So, I've kept my mouth shut a little bit for the last six months, trying to just observe constantly. So, I've given what my thoughts are, where we need to improve, how we need to improve."

"We fall the wrong side of fine margins far too often. We play well and move far too often. So, we've shown quite a lot of stats this morning of where we are."

"Goal difference third, goals scored fourth, goals against fifth, but we're 11th in the league, which is impossible. And that's over a 34-game period, I think it is. So, it's things that we need to improve on from a mentality point of view."

"We've got some good players, no doubt about that, but moments in games, soft goals at key times and insistently doing it as well. It happens over a season, of course it does. But I said when I first came in, you're going to be really good for five games this year."

"Don't worry about them, you'll win them. You're going to be really bad in five games. Don't worry about them, you're going to lose them."

"So, that's the same in every

Ramy Abou-Setta

ramy.abou-setta@newsquest.co.uk

level, every league. But it's the 36 in between that deciphers where you end up. And we fall on the wrong side of those tight games far too often, whether it's drawing a game we should win, or whether it's losing a game like we did at Bradford on Saturday."

"You can't lose the game. You can't have the mentality of, oh, if the referee gives the goal that was in to make it 2-0, it's a different game. It didn't happen."

"I can't give up a soft goal at the first, and then we're really good at set plays, but when we play teams that are up and in and around us, that's the only time we've given up goals."

"So, when we're 2-3, 4-0 up, which we've been lots and lots of times when we've played well, we don't concede from goal kicks. So, it's something between the ears."

So, I've given my thoughts on what I think. I've asked Devin as well. It's not been a one-way conversation, because ultimately, if we want to improve, we need to get to the bottom of it and the next four games are an opportunity to try and find out where we're at. The challenge is to win the next four games."

"We don't want it petering out."

"We've got a lot of players, but a lot of them were here before I came in. So, they've got an opportunity now to show me the next month whether they want to be here next year or what I fully expect."

"So, they've got the full version of me in the meeting and what I expect of how I want it to look moving forward."



Michael Duff blamed his side's 2-0 loss at Orient on 'individual mistakes'. Image: Bradley Collyer

How side can qualify for the play-offs

WYCOMBE'S play-off hopes in League One are slim but not impossible.

They currently stand mid-table with about 59 points after 42 games.

The major obstacle is that they are several points away from sixth place, with only a few matches left this season.

Teams including Reading, Plymouth, Huddersfield, and Luton lie between them and that final play-off spot.

Wycombe's performance this season reflects this tough challenge.

They've managed a positive goal difference and boast a strong home record.

However, they've been held back by too many draws and away losses.

It's not hard to imagine them pulling off an upset at Adams Park, but stringing together three or four consecutive victories seems unlikely at this stage.

Unfortunately for Wycombe fans, this means closing the gap for a top-six finish is a tall order this term.

This season's campaign seems more like preparation for a focused promotion attempt next season than a last-minute dash to the play-offs.

However, should other clubs falter under end-of-season pressure, a late surge from Wycombe can't be entirely dismissed. Nonetheless, a promotion bid next season appears more realistic than a last-minute play-off success.

Therefore, while this season's play-off dream is faint, Wycombe is building a strong base for a determined charge in the next campaign.