

Bucks Free Press

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BACKLASH OVER BUS LANE CONFUSION

**FULL
STORY:
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By Nathaniel Lawson

DRIVERS failing to use London Road's part-time bus lanes outside peak-time restrictions are being blamed for causing unnecessary congestion.

Concerns have been raised that many motorists continue to avoid the bus lanes even when they are open to all vehicles, leading to queues.

Cllr Trevor Snaith said many either do not realise the lanes can be used outside restricted hours or are reluctant to enter them for fear of receiving a penalty charge notice.

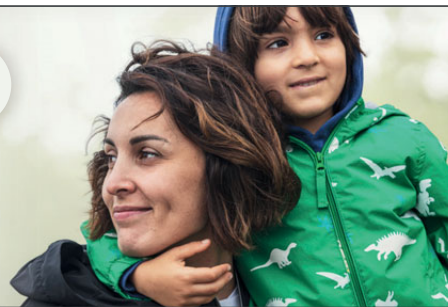


Drivers failing to use part-time system are causing congestion

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News

Fans' match raises £2k for charity

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A football match organised by two Wycombe Wanderers fans has raised nearly £2,000 for a disabled charity.

Supporters Liam O'Rourke and Jayden Wilkins teamed up to stage the fixture at Adams Park between Liam's Legends and Wilkins Wanderers, raising vital funds for the club's Disabled Supporters Association.

The cause is particularly close to Mr O'Rourke, who has cerebral palsy and is closely linked to the charity.

On the day, 42 players took to the Adams Park pitch in front of a crowd of around 75 people, with Wilkins Wanderers securing a 5-1 victory.

Nigel Vickery, chairman of Wycombe's Disabled Supporters Association, told the Free Press: "Liam and Jayden came together and it was their brainchild, which has become very successful.

"Everyone at the DSA is grateful to the lads for organising the match, as well as those who played.

"They have been brilliant and given 100 per cent despite the heat. It has been entertaining, everyone who came along enjoyed it, and we will benefit by £1,000 from today."

The Wycombe Wanderers Disabled Supporters Association (WWDSA) works to ensure disabled fans can fully enjoy matchdays and wider club life.

It provides advice and support on ticketing, transport and stadium access, helping to remove barriers to attendance.

The group also represents the voice of disabled supporters, feeding back to the club and helping shape accessibility improvements.

Among its initiatives is a quiet room at Adams Park, where fans who find the matchday atmos-



Teams line up before kick-off. Image: Leighton Rudd

phere overwhelming can watch the game via a lower-volume livestream.

Both organisers described the day as a success and were delighted by the amount raised.

Wilkins, who managed his side and was sent off after two yellow cards, one for arguing with the referee and another for encroachment, said: "It has been an exhilarating day, despite being sent off.

"Jensen Ellis [Wilkins Wanderers' goalkeeper] will be giving Will Norris a run for his money. It



Match action. Image by Leighton Rudd



Nigel Vickery, DSA chairman



Images taken by Leighton Rudd



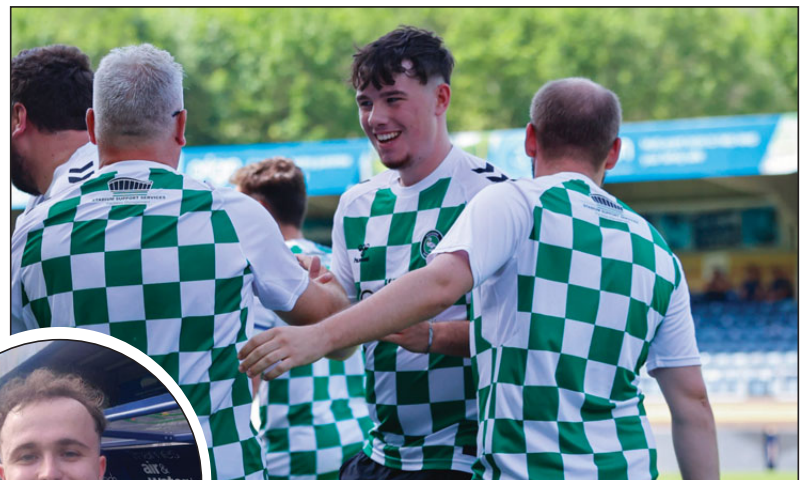
Goal celebration. Image by Leighton Rudd



Wilkins Wanderers celebrating their way on the day



Images taken by Leighton Rudd



Players celebrate. Image Leighton Rudd



Brian Jeeves scored the first goal of the contest inside the opening 10 minutes



Brian Jeeves celebrates scoring the opening goal on the day

Swimmer in England squad for Commonwealth Games

A High Wycombe swimmer has been named in Team England's squad for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Cameron Brooker, 24, is among 42 athletes selected to represent England at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre this summer, as part of a strong and experienced team.

The squad features 28 Olympic pathway swimmers and 14 para-swimmers, competing together as one unified group.

Brooker lines up alongside some of the biggest names in British swimming, including four-time Commonwealth champion Adam Peaty, who returns for his fourth Games, as well as Olympic medallists James Guy and Tom Dean.

For the High Wycombe athlete, the call-up marks a major milestone and an opportunity to compete on one of the sport's biggest stages.

The team also includes rising talent and experienced competitors, such as Freya Colbert, who heads into her second Games after breaking her own British record in the 200m freestyle, and Erin Little, who is set to make her senior debut.

In the para-swimming squad, Paralympic champions including Alice Tai, Poppy Maskill and Louise Fiddes headline a strong line-up.

Swim England's Head of Sport and Team England Team Leader for Swimming and Para-Swimming, Richard Blackshaw, said the selection reflects both talent and unity.

He said: "The swimming team is immensely proud and excited to have the opportunity to represent Team England and the English swimming community at the Commonwealth Games.

"What makes this team par-



Cameron Brooker during the Men's 200m Backstroke Heat 5 on day six of the Aquatics GB Swimming Championships

ticularly special is its fully integrated nature, bringing together para and Olympic pathway athletes to compete as one unified group, reflecting the very best of inclusivity and shared ambition.

"United by a common goal, the team is determined to represent Team England with distinction this summer, both in and out of the pool."

Team England Chef de Mission Jonathon Riall added: "It's brilliant to be able to announce such a strong swimming squad for Glasgow 2026.

"We have a number of returning Commonwealth champions and true stars of the sport, alongside some new faces who are set to make their mark this summer."

The swimming events will take place at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre, one of the UK's premier aquatics venues, which previously hosted competition at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

For Brooker, the focus will now turn to final preparations as he aims to make his mark in

Glasgow and represent High Wycombe on the international stage.

Full swimming squad for Glasgow 2026: Olympic stream swimmers: Adam Ramsay-Peaty, 31, Uttoxeter Oliver Morgan, 23, Bishop's Castle Edward Milledred, 23, Northampton Jacob Mills, 18, Leicester Jack Skerry, 21, Chelmsford Greg Butler, 25, Clayton James Guy, 30, Bury Jacob Whittle, 21, Alfreton Gabe Shepherd, 18, Harrogate Max Morgan, 18, London Cameron Brooker, 24, High Wycombe

Freya Anderson, 25, Birkenhead Freya Colbert, 22, Grantham Leah Schlosshan, 21, Leeds Erin Little, 20, Maldon Lauren Cox, 24, Leamington Spa Eva Okaro, 19, Sevenoaks Abbie Wood, 27, Buxton Emily Richards, 25, Newcastle Amalie Smith, 16, Tonbridge Imogen Clark, 27, Morton Darcy Revitt, Guildford Amelie Blocksidge, 17, Salford Gabrielle Idle-Beavers, 17, Barnsley Max Litchfield, 31, Sheffield Luke Greenbank, 28, Cockermouth Jacob Peters, 25, Poole Tom Dean, 26, Maidenhead

Ex-players set for charity match

FORMER players of Chinnor Athletic are set to lace up their boots once again this weekend as the village hosts its fifth annual charity football day in aid of Young Lives vs Cancer.

The event, billed as this year's "official World Cup warm-up", will take place on Sunday (June 7) at the Chinnor Community Pavilion, with a 10.30am kick-off for a special 11-a-side match featuring ex-Sunday side players.

Despite joking that "we are old", organisers have confirmed the game will be run by fully qualified officials, ensuring a competitive – and entertaining – contest.

Off the pitch, there will be plenty to keep visitors occupied throughout the day. A packed schedule includes a raffle, auction and a mega prize draw offering a two-night hotel stay, alongside live music from The Time Travellers, an ice cream van and a fully stocked bar.

The charity day has already raised more than £7,000 across its previous four events, with organisers now targeting a further £2,000 this year.

All proceeds will go to Young Lives vs Cancer, which supports children and families facing the fear, financial pressures and uncertainty that often come with a cancer diagnosis.

To donate, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/chinnor-athletic-fc-5worldcupwarmup>.

Cricket win was tale of families

FOUR families made history at a Penn club's cricket match.

On Sunday, May 24, Winchmore Hill Cricket Club (WHCC) fielded four families against White Waltham Cricket Club with a "fantastic win".

Van Den Berg brothers, Liam and Ethan; Ansari family, consisting of father, son, and grandfather (Shaz, Aayan, and Bubba, who hadn't played for over 20 years); Gopal father and son duo (Gowtham and Thamil); and the Jupp family, father, son, and daughter (Pete, Rocco, and Georgie), all participated.

Thirteen-year-old Ethan and 12-year-old Georgie brought home the win.

Liam debuted as an umpire. Four youth players (Georgie, Thamil, Ethan, and Aayan) made their senior team debuts.

Bucks to take on Berks in NCCA Trophy

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CC host neighbours Berkshire in the quarter-finals of the NCCA Trophy at High Wycombe this Sunday (11am).

The hosts won all four of their games to finish top of Group Four, while the visitors were runners-up to Wiltshire in Group Three, preserving their record of having qualified for the knock-out stages of the 50/50 overs competition every season since 2016.

Two Bucks players, Josh Lincoln and Max Uttley, are set to face their former team-mates.

Allrounder Josh left Berks along with brother Dan during the winter, the latter, who skipped the county, deciding to spend this season with Staffordshire. Both, however, are enjoying another successful year with High Wycombe, who are setting a strong pace in the Home Counties Premier League following four successive victories as they defend the title.

In the other Trophy ties being played this Sunday, Wiltshire take on Oxfordshire at Warminster, Cumbria face Staffordshire at Carlisle and Norfolk host Cheshire at Sprowston.

The Berkshire side includes Johnny Connell, who recently struck a sensational 121 off 53 balls against Sussex at Horsham in a T20 NCCA Showcase match. And afterwards, he was invited to spend a day training with the Sharks.

County coach Bjorn Mordt described that innings as "probably the best white ball knock I have seen live. It was very special. It was chanceless until 97 when he had a life, but other than that it was just wonderful, brilliant execution of all his skills, excellent reverse-sweeping, and he just looked really calm."

Sussex are not the only side taking a keen interest in the 23-year-old as he played for both Essex and Hampshire in second-team T20 games last week.



The match takes place this weekend

SPORT

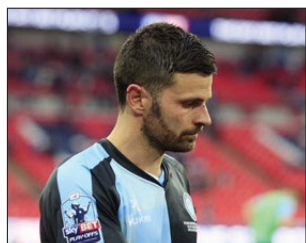
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Ex-Wycombe striker named assistant boss at Gillingham



Steven Craig spent two years at Wycombe Wanderers

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers striker Steven Craig has joined League Two Gillingham as their new assistant manager.

The 45-year-old, who spent two years at Adams Park between 2013 and 2015, reunites with Gareth Ainsworth, who is currently in charge of the Gills.

Craig was one Ainsworth's first permanent signings when in charge of the Chairboys, where he scored eight times in 69 matches.

One of those strikes was a penalty in the club's famous 3-0 away victory

at Torquay United in May 2014 – a win that saved Wycombe from relegation to the Non League.

Speaking on his new role, the former Falkirk, Motherwell, Aberdeen, Dundee, Livingston, Ross County, Partick Thistle, Dumbarton and Forfar Athletic, said: "I am delighted to get it done.

"It came out of the blue.

"I got the call two or three weeks ago asking if I would be interested and it sort of snowballed from there.

"I can't wait to get started.

"The chance to go back full-time

with the Gaffer [Ainsworth], Dobbo [Richard Dobson] and [David Wates] Watesy was too good to turn down."

Out of the eight goals he scored for the club, one of them against Plymouth Argyle in Wanderers' 3-2 first-leg victory at Home Park in May 2015.

Starting the fixture, he put the Chairboys 3-0 up just after half-time, after Wycombe went into the break 2-0 up.

He didn't play in the second leg at Adams Park which Wycombe won 2-1 on the night (5-3 on aggregate), but

did make an appearance in the final against Southend United at Wembley Stadium.

The forward came on as a late substitute at the end of original time with the scores at 0-0.

A Joe Jacobson free-kick which deflected off goalkeeper Dan Bentley five minutes into extra time put Wanderers ahead, but an injury-time equaliser from Joe Piggott sent the match to penalties, which the Chairboys lost 7-6.

This was Craig's last game for Wycombe.

Wycombe sign 18th goalkeeper since 2020

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of goalkeeper Conor Hazard from Plymouth Argyle.

The 27-year-old, who has played nine times for his native Northern Ireland, joins the Chairboys after rejecting a contract offer to remain at Home Park.

He will officially join the Adams Park side on July 1, following the expiration of his contract with Argyle.

He spent three years in Devon following his exit from Celtic in 2023, playing 91 times and keeping 20 clean sheets.

One of those came against Wycombe last season, in a 1-0 victory for Plymouth at Adams Park.

Tom Stockwell, the club's Director of Football Strategy and Data Intelligence, commented: "We're happy to welcome Conor Hazard to the club as our first summer signing.

"There was a lot of competition for Conor's signature, and we are delighted he has chosen Wycombe as the club at which to take his next step.

"With Conor's experience of League One and Championship football, as well as international football with Northern Ireland, we are confident he will come in ready to hit the ground running.

"Conor was among the best shot-stoppers in the division last season, and his commanding 6'6" frame allows him to dominate his area.

"The research and references taken on Conor also highlighted his high level of communication and organisation, as well as his high standards and desire to continue to push and develop.

"This makes him an excellent fit with the club and its ambitions. I'm sure the fans will welcome

James Richings

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Conor and look forward to seeing him in a Wycombe shirt soon."

The Downpatrick-born stopper came through Cliftonville's youth system before joining Scottish giants Celtic in 2014, but he played only seven times for the Bhoys.

He spent nine years with the club, during which he had loan spells at Falkirk, Partick Thistle and Dundee, as well as a productive stint in Finland with HJK Helsinki, where he won the 2022 Veikkausliiga title.

His arrival at Adams Park leaves question marks over the future of Will Norris, who is yet to sign a new deal with the club.

The 32-year-old, who joined from Portsmouth in February 2025, has endured a mixed spell since arriving 18 months ago.

He has kept 22 clean sheets in 59 matches but has made several high-profile errors.

Despite this, a new deal has been offered, but no announcement has been made on whether he will resign.

Hazard's arrival means he is the 18th goalkeeper to join Wycombe since 2020.

David Stockdale – 2019/20 Curtis Anderson – 2020/21 David Stockdale – 2020/21 (re-signed) Adam Przybek – 2021/22 Tyla Dickinson – 2021/22 Max Stryjek – 2022/23 Josh Blunkell – 2022/23 Harvey Cartwright – 2022/23 Franco Ravazzoli – 2023/24 Laurence Shala – 2023/24 Nathan Sheppard – 2023/24 Nathan Bishop – 2024/25 Shamal George – 2024/25 Jonny Pettitt – 2024/25 Will Norris – 2024/25 Mikki Van Sas – 2025/26 Stuart Moore – 2025/26 Conor Hazard – 2026/27



Northern Ireland goalkeeper Conor Hazard warming up before a FIFA World Cup European Qualifying match. Photo: Liam McBurney

Fans to enjoy two friendlies at Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers will welcome supporters back to Adams Park for two pre-season friendlies this summer, with both fixtures set to be open to the public.

While the opposition and exact dates are yet to be confirmed, the club has indicated that further details will be announced in due course, giving fans something to look forward to ahead of the new campaign.

Public pre-season fixtures at Adams Park have been few and far between in recent years, with just three held since 2020. Each has provided memorable moments for Chairboys supporters.

The first came in July 2021, when Wanderers marked their return to League One following relegation from the Championship with a 1-0 win over FA Cup holders Leicester City. Daryl Horgan struck late to seal a notable victory against top-flight opposition.

Two years later, Adams Park hosted Joe Jacobson's testimonial against Cardiff City. The goalless draw in July 2023 was a fitting occasion to honour the long-serving defender in front of a strong home crowd.

More recently, Wanderers entertained Watford in the summer of 2024, running out 3-2 winners in a fiercely contested and at times bad-tempered encounter.

With interest in pre-season fixtures continuing to grow, the announcement of two home friendlies offers fans a rare chance to see the Chairboys in action on home soil before the competitive season begins.

Full details, including opponents and ticket information, are expected to be released by the club soon.

The league season is due to start on Friday, August 14.