

Bucks Free Press

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'CONTROLLING WIFE KILLED EX AND HID BODY IN LOO'

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**66-year-old accused of
abusing him for decades**

By Lucy Batizovszky

A 'CONTROLLING' wife killed her ex-partner and hid his body in the toilet of the home they shared in High Wycombe, a court heard.
Cheryl Downs, 66, allegedly abused Robert Kellett for decades and then hid the body for almost a year, Aylesbury Crown Court was told this week.



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Sport

Big entry for youth chess event

A chess tournament has brought together nearly 70 young players from across the region.

High Wycombe played host to the BYCA EJCOA Zonal 2026 on May 23, marking a return of major youth chess competition to the town for the first time in two years.

The event drew 69 children from neighbouring towns and cities.

It was supported by parent volunteers, Pine Trees management company, and High Wycombe-based Enterprise Trophies & Engraving.

Ray Yu, chairman of the British Youth Chess Association (BYCA), attended the tournament and encouraged players throughout the day.

He said: "The smiles –

some triumphant, some shy, all proud – were the perfect ending to a day that celebrated not just competition, but growth, learning, and community."

For many participants, it was their first experience of a chess tournament and the mix of nerves and excitement was clear throughout the day.

National Arbiter Soumya Gorrepati and Floor Arbiter Harsha Vardhan ensured fair play and smooth organisation from start to finish.

A young chess reporter, Shreenitya Mukerjee, interviewed players, parents, and volunteers during the event.

Many shared stories about how they discovered chess and spoke about the important role parents play in motivating young players.



The event took place at the end of May Image: NA

Beaconsfield pre-season fixture schedule confirmed

BEACONSFIELD Town manager Sam Togwell will have six opportunities to fine-tune his side's preparations ahead of the new campaign, with a varied pre-season schedule offering a mix of familiar opposition and local interest.

The Rams are set to play a total of six matches during the build-up to the new season, with four of those fixtures taking place at Holloways Park. One away trip is also pencilled in, ensuring supporters will have plenty of chances to see the squad in action before competitive football resumes.

Among the highlights of the programme are three meetings with local opposition from the Berks & Bucks area, fixtures which are always keenly anticipated by players and supporters alike. These matches not only provide a strong test but also bring an added edge, with local pride on the line even in pre-season.

One of those opponents is Southall, a side Beaconsfield supporters may remember well. The two clubs last met in a pre-season fixture two years ago, when Southall were still groundsharing at Burnham. That encounter proved to be a competitive outing, and another closely contested match is expected when the sides meet again this summer.

The final part of the schedule sees the Rams face Bedfont Sports and Kingston, rounding off their preparations in August. Bedfont will be familiar opposition, having featured in last year's pre-season campaign, while the clash with Kingston will be the only fixture to take place that month as Togwell's squad make their final adjustments ahead of the league season.

Off the pitch, arrangements have been made to ensure supporters can easily attend matches at Holloways Park. Tickets for all home friendlies will be available on the gate, allowing fans to turn up on the day and get behind the team. Details for the away fixture against Southall are expected to be confirmed in due course.

Supporters planning to attend are reminded that Saturday fixtures will kick off earlier than usual, so it is advised to check timings in advance to avoid missing any of the action.

There is a sense of anticipation around the club as preparations begin to take shape, with pre-season also offering fans their first glimpse of any new signings and emerging talent within the squad. For Togwell and his players, these matches will be crucial in building fitness, cohesion and momentum ahead of what they hope will be a successful campaign.

However, supporters are advised to keep an eye on updates, as pre-season fixtures can be subject to change. Matches may be moved, cancelled or adjusted at short notice, depending on circumstances.

With a busy and competitive schedule lined up, the Rams will be aiming to make the most of every opportunity as they gear up for the new season.

Bucks suffer heavy defeat in Counties Trophy semi-final

BERKSHIRE secured their place in the semi-finals of the National Counties Trophy with a commanding 124-run victory over Buckinghamshire at High Wycombe on Sunday, delivering an impressive all-round performance that underlined their status as one of the competition's strongest sides.

After being put in to bat, Berkshire made a steady but cautious start before suffering an early setback. Openers Rhys Lewis and Johnny Connell were both dismissed leg before wicket by Ed Bragg, falling for 32 and nine respectively as the visitors slipped to 55 for two. However, what followed proved decisive, as James Isbell and Charlie Dunnett combined to rebuild the innings with a superb partnership.

The pair added 161 runs, transforming Berkshire's position and putting the pressure firmly back on Buckinghamshire. Finchampstead's Isbell led the charge with a fluent 83 from 90 deliveries, striking 11 boundaries and a six, while Henley's Dunnett provided excellent support with 77 from 96 balls, including seven fours. Their efforts took Berkshire to 216 before both were dismissed in quick succession.

Even then, Berkshire's momentum did not falter. Ben Salter and Euan Woods continued the acceleration, adding a valuable 68-run stand. Salter made 34 before falling to Josh Lincoln, who finished with figures of 2-51 against his former county, but Woods carried on in emphatic fashion.

His unbeaten 47 from just 31 balls ensured Berkshire closed their innings strongly on an imposing 308 for five from their 50 overs.

Buckinghamshire's reply never truly got going as Berkshire's bowlers struck early and consistently. Toby Greatwood removed Archie Dodds for just one, while captain Andy Rishton produced a superb spell, sending down his full allotment of 10 overs and claiming four for just 20 runs. Among his victims was

James Richings

Northamptonshire batter Aadi Sharma, who was caught behind for a duck, leaving the hosts in deep trouble at 38 for five.

Although Berkshire seemed firmly in control, Buckinghamshire showed some resilience through a sixth-wicket partnership between George Harvey and Josh Lincoln. Harvey made a determined 51 from 69 balls, while Lincoln struck 61 from 64, and together they added 78 runs to restore a degree of respectability. However, the required run rate and early damage proved too much to overcome.

Euan Woods capped off a fine all-round performance by taking three for 50, helping bowl Buckinghamshire out for 184 in the 40th over to seal a comprehensive victory.

The result means Berkshire will host Oxfordshire in the semi-finals on June 28.

Oxfordshire progressed after a convincing seven-wicket win over Wiltshire, chasing down a target of 217 with ease thanks to unbeaten half-centuries from Freddie Smith and Hayden Rossouw.

Meanwhile, attention now turns to Berkshire's T20 campaign. This Sunday, they travel to South Wales to face Wales National Counties in a double header at Panteg, with matches scheduled for 11am and 2pm.

Berkshire currently have two points from two games, while Wales sit higher in the table with four points from four matches.

Bedfordshire lead the group with six points from four fixtures.

With confidence high after their dominant Trophy performance, Berkshire will be looking to carry that momentum into the shorter format as they continue their push for success across both competitions.



Berkshire won by 124-runs

Wycombe chairman Rice acquires 10% stake in club

WYCOMBE Wanderers chairman and director Dan Rice has acquired a 10 per cent stake in the club.

The shareholding has been purchased from Felician EFL Limited, which retains an 80 per cent controlling interest, while the Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Trust continues to hold the remaining 10 per cent.

The move is the latest step following the club's takeover in May 2024, when Mikheil Lomtadze, through Felician EFL Ltd, bought a 90 per cent stake from the Couhig family.

The deal brought an end to the American owners' five-year spell at Adams Park, a period which delivered promotion to the Championship, three Wembley appearances, and improved financial stability.

Lomtadze, Rice and Eduard Vyshnyakov were appointed as directors as part of the transition, with the new ownership group setting out a long-term vision for growth on and off the pitch.

Since the takeover, there has been increased investment across the club.

That has included launching an academy setup, upgrades to facilities at Adams Park, and greater backing in the transfer market.

This was highlighted in January 2025, when Wanderers broke their transfer record twice in a week.

Defender Anders Hagelskjær joined from Molde for around £500,000 before midfielder Magnus Westergaard signed from Viborg for approximately £850,000.

Lomtadze said: "Dan has been my trusted partner in the journey of Wycombe Wanderers, and I am delighted that he



Dan Rice now owns 10 per cent of Wycombe Wanderers Image: Wycombe Wanderers TV

has become a shareholder in the club.

"Our ambition remains unchanged: to build a successful, sustainable football club that makes our supporters proud."

Rice has played a central role in the club's development over the past year, helping to shape its direction following the ownership change. His move to become a shareholder formalises that influence.

The club's revised ownership structure sees Felician EFL Limited hold 80 per cent, Rice

10 per cent, and the Supporters Trust retain 10 per cent, ensuring continued fan representation.

The share transfer has been approved by the club's board and the relevant football authorities.

On the pitch, Wanderers have remained competitive in League One since relegation from the Championship in 2021, finishing in the top half in each of the last five seasons, including two play-off campaigns.

The current board have made clear their ambition to return to the Championship, with a longer-term aim of reaching the Premier League.

Founded in 1887, Wycombe spent much of their history in non-league football before entering the Football League in 1994 under Martin O'Neill. Their 2020/21 season remains their only campaign in the second tier.

Wycombe's league finishes since relegation from the Championship

2021/22: 6th (Lost the League One play-off final against Sunderland)

2022/23: 9th (Gareth Ainsworth leaves for QPR, Matt Bloomfield arrives, Wycombe's first managerial change in over 10 years)

2023/24: 10th (Lost in the EFL Trophy final against Peterborough United)

2024/25: 5th (Lost in the play-off semi-finals against Charlton Athletic)

2025/26: 11th (Mike Dodds sacked, Michal Duff hired)

County set to have presence at World Cup

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE will have a small but proud presence on football's biggest stage this summer, with three players confirmed to have strong links to the county at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

More than 1,200 players have been selected across the 48 competing nations for the expanded tournament in North America, but despite that global reach, only a handful can claim connections to clubs in Bucks.

After reviewing all confirmed squads and tracing club histories across the county, just three names emerge with clear local ties.

Wycombe Wanderers connections lead the way

The most high-profile name is Eberechi Eze, who has been included in England's 26-man squad.

The attacking midfielder, now at Arsenal, spent time on loan at Wycombe Wanderers during the 2017/18 season, making 20 appearances and scoring five goals in League Two.

Despite spending just six months at Adams Park, he played a vital role in the club's promotion to League One that year.

Eze has since gone on to become one of England's most exciting attacking talents, and his rise from Adams Park loanee to World Cup player is a source of pride for Chairboys supporters.

Joining him with a Wanderers connection is Iraq international Ali Al-Hamadi.

The striker, currently on the books at Ipswich Town but ended the recent season on-loan at Luton Town, began his senior career at Wycombe after signing in 2021 and making his professional breakthrough with the club.

Al Hamadi has been named in Iraq's squad for their first World Cup appearance in 40 years, marking a major milestone for both player and nation.

He has also played for AFC Wimbledon, Bromley and Stoke City.

Non-league roots represented

Completing the trio is Max Crocombe, who represents New Zealand.

The goalkeeper, now playing in England, previously featured for Buckingham Town, giving the county a link to the Non League.

Crocombe has been named in the All Whites' 26-man squad for the World Cup, as New Zealand return to the global stage for the first time since 2010.

Mixed results in May for Marlow Ladies

MARLOW Ladies endured a mixed run of results during a busy May on the county circuit.

In the Burnham Plate, Marlow were narrowly beaten 14-13 away at Gerrards Cross before falling 17-12 at Chalfont St Giles.

However, they came agonisingly close to victory in the Top Club competition, also at Chalfont.

Ann White impressed with a commanding 21-8 singles win, while the triples lost by just one shot.

Despite defeats in the pairs and fours, Marlow edged the overall score 69-66, but missed out on points.

Marlow Men suffered a disappointing Bucks Cup exit, losing 68-54 to Bassetsbury despite a strong 24-12 win on one rink.

There was more success in mixed competitions.

Marlow beat Chesham 49-33 in the Bowls England Double Fours and produced an outstanding 42-23 win over Gerrards Cross in the Tony Alcock event.

They ended the month with a 43-33 defeat to Iver Heath.



Marlow Bowls Club had a mixed run of results during a busy May

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Ex-coach Dodds linked with role at Blackburn



Ex-Wycombe coach Mike Dodds

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds could be set for his fourth job in just over a year.

The 40-year-old, who was in charge of the Chairboys between February and September 2025, winning just nine of his 31 games, has been linked with a move to Championship side Blackburn Rovers.

Rovers recently reappointed Tony Mowbray as manager, returning four years after his

first spell at the Lancashire club ended.

Mowbray previously worked with Dodds at Sunderland between August 2022 and December 2023.

Following Mowbray's dismissal at Sunderland, Dodds stepped in as interim boss, winning two of his three matches in charge at The Stadium of Light.

In total, he had three separate caretaker spells with the Black Cats, recording just four wins from 18 games, 11 of which were

defeats.

Dodds is currently assistant head coach at Oxford United, where former Wycombe boss Matt Bloomfield is in charge.

He initially arrived at Adams Park in February 2025 after Bloomfield's surprise departure to Luton Town, despite Wanderers sitting second in League One, having lost just four of their opening 25 matches.

However, Wycombe's form dipped significantly towards the

end of the season, slipping to fifth after winning only seven of their final 16 league games.

A play-off defeat to Charlton Athletic followed.

A poor start to the 2025/26 campaign for Wycombe Wanderers, with just two wins from 11 matches in all competitions, ultimately led to Dodds' dismissal in September.

It is now understood that Mowbray is keen to reunite with Dodds ahead of the upcoming season.

Wanderers sign second goalkeeper of summer

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of goalkeeper Matt Macey.

The 31-year-old joins the Chairboys on a free transfer following his exit from League Two outfit, Colchester United.

He becomes the club's second signing of the summer, joining fellow shot-stopper in Conor Hazard, who arrived earlier this month after he rejected a new deal at Plymouth Argyle.

Tom Stockwell, the club's Director of Football Strategy and Data Intelligence, commented: "We're pleased to welcome Matt Macey to the club."

"Matt is a very experienced keeper who has performed to a high level in the EFL for a number of years, with the last two seasons at Colchester."

"Along with the addition of Conor Hazard earlier in the window, Matt's arrival really strengthens the goalkeeping department at the club."

"Matt's shot stopping and aerial dominance numbers were very strong in League Two last season and we are delighted to have Matt at the club."

The 31-year-old, who began his career at Bristol Rovers, joined Arsenal aged 19 in 2013, spending one year in the Gunners' youth set up.

He would spend the next seven years at the Emirates, but only played two first-team matches, both coming in the 2017/18 season.

Macey's career in North London saw him go out on loan at several clubs which

James Richings

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included Accrington Stanley, Luton Town and Plymouth Argyle, before a permanent move to Hibernian in 2021 followed.

After 18 months in Scotland, he returned to Kenilworth Road and spent six months at Luton, before joining Portsmouth on loan for the second half of the 2022/23 season.

He would sign for Pompey on a permanent basis that summer, but was immediately demoted to number two following the arrival of Will Norris, who is currently Wycombe's number one.

After not playing a single match in the 2023/24 season, which saw the Blues win promotion back to the Championship after a 12-year absence, he signed for Colchester, playing 98 times.

His arrival in South Buckinghamshire effectively ends Will Norris and Mikki Van Sas' stints with the club.

Norris had been offered a new contract after the 2025/26 season ended, but no word has been said on whether he had signed.

Van Sas, who arrived last summer from Feyenoord, began the campaign as Wycombe's number one, but was dropped after a poor run of form in the autumn.

It is now highly likely that both will exit Wycombe this summer, with Stuart Moore being the club's third choice keeper.



Matt Macey has joined Wycombe Wanderers on a free transfer Image: PA

Wycombe's pre-season friendlies confirmed

WYCOMBE Wanderers will face two-time FA Cup winners Portsmouth in a pre-season friendly this summer.

The Chairboys, who are now in their sixth consecutive season in League One following their relegation from the Championship in 2021, will play Pompey at Adams Park on July 25.

The match will start at 4pm.

This is one of four confirmed friendly matches Michael Duff's team will play this summer.

The first will be against Queens Park Rangers which will be played behind closed doors on July 21.

On that same day but in the evening, Wycombe will travel to Farnham Town to face the Non League outfit, which will be open to the public.

Four days later, Wanderers will play another behind-closed-doors match, this time against Yeovil Town.

Competitively, Wycombe and Portsmouth played each other 21 times since their first meeting in September 2012.

The Chairboys have won six of those matches, Pompey eight with there being seven draws.

The last meeting between the two was in January 2025 in the FA Cup, which saw Wanderers beat the former Premier League outfit 2-0, with Brandon Hanlan and Sonny Bradley scoring the goals.

This happened to be Matt Bloomfield's last game in charge of the club before he joining Luton Town, then of the Championship a few days later.

The confirmed pre-season fixtures so far are:

Tuesday, July 21: Queens Park Rangers (behind closed doors)

Tuesday, July 21: (7.45pm): Farnham Town (A)

Saturday, July 25 (Morning): Yeovil Town (behind closed doors)

Saturday, July 25: (4pm): Portsmouth (H)