

Bucks Free Press

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OAP 'FRIGHTENED' TO LEAVE HIS HOUSE DUE TO FALLING TREES



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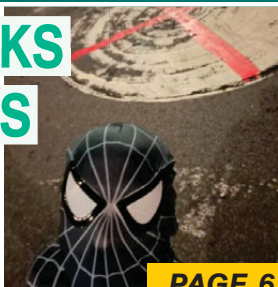
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TEEN DRUG DRIVER CAUSED CAR EXPLOSION

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Calls for urgent action on speeding after double fatal crash inquest concludes

By James Richings

A HIGH Wycombe crash which took the lives of two young men was the result of speeding, drug use and careless driving, an inquest has heard.

A 19-year-old driver who died after a devastating three-car collision on Daws Hill Lane was travelling "at speed", over the legal limit for cannabis and had laughing gas canisters in the vehicle, Beaconsfield Coroners Court was told on Tuesday, June 16.

Sameer Ali Ahktar was behind the wheel of a black Audi RS3 when it collided with a Volkswagen Polo before striking a Honda Jazz on Daws Hill Lane in the town, in the evening of Thursday, July 24, 2025.

The court heard how the Audi immediately caught fire following the second impact due to its excessive speed, "flew" into the roundabout, flipped onto its roof, slammed into a tree and exploded.

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Sport

Ex-Chairboy Potter's Sweden beat Tunisia

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers defender Graham Potter enjoyed a dream start to the World Cup finals as his Sweden smashed Tunisia 5-1, which has led to the dismissal of the latter's head coach.

Tunisia sacked Sabri Lamouchi one game into their campaign following the loss in Monterrey. Lamouchi - who managed Nottingham Forest and Cardiff City and guided Ivory Coast to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil - was only appointed in January on a two-and-a-half-year deal, replacing Sami Trabelsi.

But his tenure only lasted five games - three defeats, one draw and one victory - with his last being the hammering by the Swedes at the hands of Potter, who had a brief loan spell at Wycombe from Birmingham

City in the 1990s.

Sweden made a fast start, racing into a 2-0 lead inside the opening half-hour thanks to goals from Yasin Ayari and Alexander Isak.

Tunisia briefly threatened when Omar Rekik pulled a goal back before the interval, but Potter's side took full control after the break, strikes from Viktor Gyokeres, Mattias Svanberg and a second from Ayari sealed an emphatic victory.

The result has left Tunisia facing an uphill battle to progress from the group stages. They return to action on Sunday against Japan at the same venue, before completing their group campaign against the Netherlands in Kansas City on June 26.

In his time at Adams Park in 1993/94, Potter played five times.



Sweden manager Graham Potter, centre. Image: AP/Tony Gutierrez

Berks go top of group with double over Wales

BERKSHIRE completed an impressive double over Wales National Counties in their NCCA T20 group game at Pantag on Sunday, winning by eight wickets and 107 runs.

In the opening game, they restricted their hosts to 91-9, with six bowlers taking at least one wicket. Only two batters reached double figures, Sami Khan with 39 not out and Alex Horton 23.

Berks needed only 10 overs to knock off the runs, Ben Salter making 27, skipper Johnny Connell 26 and Rhys Lewis 22 not out, the wickets falling at 50 and 79.

The second game was also one-sided, as Finchampstead batter Ben Salter added to Wales' woes by blasting 83 off 42 balls with eight sixes and five fours. He and Henley's Connell (34) added 87 for the second wicket, as Berks posted an imposing 203-7.

Wargrave all-rounder Euan Woods scored 32, and he followed up by dismissing Glamorgan-contracted player Horton for a two-ball duck.

Woods also bowled Calum Nicholls, another who is on Glamorgan's books, for just one run and, with Andy Rishton and Toby Greatwood striking as well, along with a run out by Salter, five wickets tumbled for only 36 runs.

Woods went on to take 3-24 and Sulaiman Akhtar 3-21, as Wales were shot out for 96 in 16.1 overs, Cameron Hemp making 45 before offering a return catch to bowler Rhys Lewis.

Berks go top of Group 3 thanks to their vastly superior net run rate (3.86) over Buckinghamshire (1.91) and Bedfordshire (-0.4), with all three counties locked together on six points.

Berks face Bucks at Wokingham's Sadlers End ground next Sunday (21st), while Beds take on Oxfordshire at Boundary Park in Didcot.

Bucks won both their matches against Oxon last weekend, winning by 53 runs (188-135) and 30 runs (210-3-180-6).

The National Counties Trophy semi-final between Berks and Oxon is to be played at Wargrave on June 28.

Beaconsfield Town boy signs for Brentford FC academy

A Beaconsfield Town young footballer has been officially registered as a Brentford FC Academy player.

Ethan Hopkins has been officially registered as an academy player and will represent them at the U11 level next season.

This comes less than a year after he first caught the eye of the club's scouts while attending a showcase tournament.

Ethan only joined Beaconsfield Town Youth FC in 2023 and has been playing as part of their U10 Rams squad managed by Spencer Nolan and overseen by lead coach Dan Abbott.

His journey to signing for Brentford began in October 2025 when he represented private academy FPF at a showcase tournament during the half-term break.

His performances at the tournament captured the attention of Brentford FC scouts, who invited him to attend the club's Academy Development Centre (ADC) in November 2025.

He impressed coaches at the ADC over the next four months, earning an invitation in March 2026 for an eight-week trial with the Brentford Academy.

Following the successful completion of the trial, Ethan was offered a permanent place within the Brentford Academy in May 2026, and now he has been officially registered.

Ethan's achievement has been attributed both to his dedication and the quality coaching he has received at Beaconsfield Town Youth FC.

"BTYFC are delighted to announce that Ethan Hopkins, from our U10s Rams squad, has been officially registered as a

Ramy Abou-Setta

ramy.abou-setta@newsquest.co.uk

Brentford FC Academy player.

"Ethan joined Beaconsfield Town Youth FC in 2023 and has featured as part of the U10s Rams Squad, managed by Spencer Nolan and overseen by U10s lead coach Dan Abbott.

"His journey to signing for Brentford began in October 2025 when he represented private academy FPF at a showcase tournament during the half-term break.

"His performances at the tournament caught the attention of Brentford FC scouts, and in November 2025 Ethan was invited to attend the club's Academy Development Centre (ADC).

"Over the following four months, he impressed coaches at the ADC, earning an invitation in March 2026 to undertake an eight-week trial with the Brentford Academy.

"Following the successful completion of that trial, Ethan was offered a permanent place within the Brentford Academy in May 2026.

"He has now been officially registered and will represent Brentford at U11s level next season.

"Everyone at Beaconsfield Town Youth FC wishes Ethan the very best as he takes this exciting next step in his footballing journey."

Beaconsfield's Ethan Hopkins has signed for Brentford Academy



More than 100 fans at Adams Park to watch a thrilling England win

Ramy Abou-Setta

ramy.abou-setta@newsquest.co.uk

MORE than 100 football fans gathered at Adams Park to watch England's thrilling 4-2 World Cup victory over Croatia.

The celebration on Wednesday night took place on the brand-new big screen in the Chairboys Village.

Thomas Tuchel's squad put on an impressive performance in the second half, clinching all three points.

Fans in the fanzone cheered them on, creating a vibrant and supportive atmosphere under the night sky.

The promise of a first free drink, combined with the aroma of burgers and chips, added to the celebratory mood for England's opening game.

With more screenings scheduled for the upcoming games against Ghana on June 23 and Panama on June 27, the Chairboys Village is set to be a hub of activity once more.

Eager fans can purchase their tickets online or simply pay on the night, but seating is limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Reflecting on the Croatia game, Marcus Rashford scored the final goal in the six-goal spectacle.

This came after Harry Kane's two first-half goals were matched by two from Croatia.

Jude Bellingham reclaimed the

lead for England shortly after half-time.

It was last pre-season when Bellingham appeared at a Wycombe Wanderers friendly, watching on as the Blues drew 1-1 with Barnet, and meeting a selection of Chairboys academy stars afterwards.

Tuchel and his team are now looking ahead to the clash with the Black Stars next Tuesday.

A win here would almost ensure their progression to the knockout stages.

Ghana overcame Panama with a last-gasp winner late on Wednesday night, denying the Central Americans their first ever World Cup point.

Looking ahead to the Panama fixture, fans will recall Kane's memorable hat-trick against them in 2018, which propelled England to a 6-1 triumph.

Only two players - Jordan Pickford and John Stones - started both that game and last night's win over Croatia.

The Chairboys faithful are also keen to see Eberechi Eze on the World Cup stage.

However, the former Wycombe loanee was an unused substitute in Dallas.

Eze starred in a loan spell at Adams Park in 2017, going on to reach the top-flight with Crystal Palace and then Arsenal, featuring in the Champions League Final for the title winners last month.



England fans at Adams Park. Images: WWFC



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Ex-manager Adams meets those battling addiction



Tony Adams when he managed Wycombe Wanderers. Pic: WWFC

EX-WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Tony Adams has recently met people in Buckinghamshire who are working to break the cycle of addiction and crime.

The ex-Arsenal and England captain, who also managed the Chairboys between 2003 and 2004, spent time at Blue Sky Services in Denham.

The organisation is a social enterprise run by the Forward Trust, providing grounds and car park maintenance across London, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire and surrounding counties, while employing people with lived experience of offending,

unemployment and addiction recovery.

On his visit, Adams gained hands-on experience with landscaping work, spending time on the tools alongside Forward Trust CEO Mike Trace and team members. The initiative aims to give individuals practical skills and a pathway back into employment.

The visit came as Adams marked 30 years in recovery from alcohol addiction, which he has previously said impacted his playing career and led to a prison sentence.

Now chair of trustees and a long-standing ambassador for the charity, he

said he remained committed to supporting those in the criminal justice system and those facing addiction.

The Forward Trust has been working since 1991 to help people build positive and productive futures, supporting individuals to move on from addiction and crime. It now runs more than 85 service delivery projects in England and Wales, helping over 35,000 people each year, with the support of around 900 staff and 250 volunteers.

Around 35 per cent of its workforce have lived experience, helping shape its services and approach.

Blue Sky Services, owned by the Forward Trust, provides professional grounds maintenance for clients including councils, social landlords and private organisations. It is also an independently accredited landscaping contractor through the British Association of Landscaping Industries.

Away from his charity work, Adams founded the Sporting Chance Clinic in 2000, supporting professional sportspeople dealing with addiction, and later established a business offering mental health and addiction support to employees.

Ex-fan favourite to get an honorary doctorate

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers favourite Luke O'Nien is set to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Sport this summer.

The 31-year-old defender will be presented with the award by the University of Sunderland during graduation ceremonies at The Fire Station in July.

It is an award that will honour both his on-field achievements and his impact in the community.

While O'Nien is now widely regarded as a modern Sunderland great, his journey to the top tier of English football was shaped in Buckinghamshire during a formative spell with The Chairboys.

He joined the Chairboys in 2015 after being released by Watford and quickly became a key figure under Gareth Ainsworth.

Across three seasons at Adams Park, O'Nien made more than 100 Wycombe appearances and tucked away 15 goals, managing to establish himself as an energetic and versatile midfielder.

He was also recognised for his character off the pitch, earning Wycombe's Community Player of the Season award in 2017.

His time in High Wycombe culminated in the 2017/18 campaign, when he played a crucial role in helping the club secure promotion to League One – a breakthrough moment that paved the way for his move to Sunderland the following summer.

O'Nien left Wycombe in July 2018 to join the Black Cats for an undisclosed fee, stepping into a side then playing in League One.

Since then, he has gone on to make more than 300 appearanc-

James Richings

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

es and has been a central figure in Sunderland's resurgence, helping the club climb from the third tier back into the Premier League.

Despite his success on Wear-side, the foundations of his career remain closely linked to his time at Wycombe, where his work ethic, versatility and connection with supporters first made him stand out.

Speaking after being awarded the honorary doctorate, O'Nien reflected on his journey.

He said: "I don't think I can find the words to express what it means.

"I came here to play football and get the club back to the Premier League, and every time people thank me, I'm like – no, thank you.

"You gave me the opportunity to grow as a player, as a dad, and as a person.

"I'm unbelievably grateful, and I'll continue to do my best to contribute to the Sunderland community."

Sir David Bell, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Sunderland, praised O'Nien's influence both on and off the pitch.

He said: "Luke embodies the very best of Sunderland's spirit – talented, hardworking, resilient, community-minded and relentlessly positive.

"Quite rightly, people refer to Luke as 'Mr Sunderland' and it is highly appropriate that the city's university now recognises his outstanding achievements."



Luke O'Nien joined Sunderland from Wycombe in 2018. Image: Sunderland AFC

Wanderers to play Premier League side in friendly

WYCOMBE Wanderers will welcome Premier League Ipswich Town to Adams Park as part of their pre-season preparations.

The Chairboys are set to face the newly-promoted Tractor Boys on Saturday, August 1, with kick-off scheduled for 4pm.

This will be their final friendly before the start of the club's competitive Division One 2026/27 campaign.

Ipswich secured their third promotion in four seasons, and their second to the top-flight, last spring.

The forthcoming fixture will be played one week before Wanderers play in the opening round of the Carabao Cup.

The last time the two sides met was on Good Friday 2023 at Portman Road, where high-flying Ipswich ran out 4-0 winners in a dominant performance.

The result came during a season that saw the Suffolk side subsequently earn promotion to the Championship.

Wycombe meanwhile, narrowly missed out on a play-off place in 2022/23.

However, Wanderers will take some confidence from Ipswich's most recent visit to Adams Park in December 2022.

On that occasion, Gareth Ainsworth's side claimed a 1-0 victory thanks to a superb solo goal from Brandon Hanlan.

Wycombe's pre-season fixtures:

Tuesday, July 21 (1pm): Queens Park Rangers (behind closed doors)

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

Saturday, July 25 (11am): Yeovil Town (behind closed doors)

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

Saturday, August 1 (4pm): Ipswich Town (H)