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CAMPAIGNERS FIGHT FOR PUBLIC LOOS



EXCLUSIVE: BURIAL SITE FOUND IN SHOPPING CENTRE WORK: P2

NEARLY 1,000 NEW HOMES APPROVED ON GREENBELT

By Lucy Batizovszky

A CHARITY has won permission to sell Green Belt land for a major housing scheme of nearly 1,000 homes in a Bucks town.

In a move that some fear could set a precedent for building on so-called protected sites around High Wycombe, the decision has sparked concern among campaigners and residents.

It comes just months after plans for 500 homes in Gomm Valley, between High Wycombe and Beaconsfield, were approved.

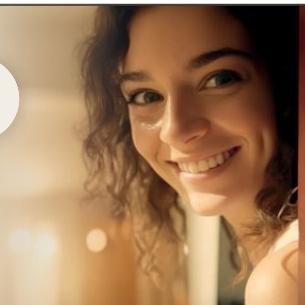
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Sport

Dunnett century as Oxfordshire defeated

CHARLIE Dunnnett hit a brilliant century as Berkshire defeated Oxfordshire by 94 runs at Wargrave last Sunday to reach the National Counties Trophy final.

They will meet Cheshire, who beat Cumbria by 27 runs, at the Copdock & Old Ipswichian club near Ipswich on Sunday, July 19.

Henley batter Dunnnett came to Berkshire's rescue after they had lost their first four wickets for 68, with seamer Hayden Rossouw taking three of them.

He and Ben Salter (76) added 168 in a Berkshire record fifth-wicket partnership, surpassing the 134 added by David Gorman and Kevin Murray, also against Oxfordshire, in 1987.

Dunnett's 104 came off 128 balls and included 12 boundaries.

Finchampstead's Salter made 76 off 98 balls, helped by one six and eight fours.

Dunnett and Salter departed in the space of three balls in the 46th over from Julian Laird.

They left Berkshire on 285 for five, a total that always looked out of Oxfordshire's reach.

After skipper Andy Rishton had struck early, the visitors reached 105 for two in the 23rd over, but then collapsed to 112-5 (Zach Lion-Catchet 41) with Wargrave off-spinner Rhys Lewis taking two wickets in the same over, both caught and bowled.

Laird, with a half-century, and

George Tait (16) staged a partial recovery before Tait fell to off-spinner Euan Woods, while Wargrave team-mate Toby Greatwood accounted for Sravan Konidena and George O'Connor in the space of four balls.

Laird was ninth out, and Oxfordshire were dismissed for 191 in the 42nd over.

Paceman Greatwood finished with tidy figures of 4-2-12-3, and Lewis 4-1-17-3.

Berkshire's win took them to their fifth Trophy final in seven seasons but their first since 2023 when they beat Cumbria for the fourth successive season at Wormsley.

With one final in the bag, Berkshire now turn their attentions to the

NCCA T20 this Sunday when they take on Bedfordshire at Luton Town & Indians CC in their final Group 3 double header.

Both counties, along with Buckinghamshire, are all level on eight points, with Berks boasting by far the superior run rate.

* Berkshire Women defeated Staffordshire by four runs in the Vitality Blast Women's League 3 Division 1 final played at Arundel Castle on Sunday.

They posted 108-6 in their 20 overs, with Yasmin Daswani scoring 31 and Ashneet Chahal 21 not out.

Izzy Storrar's team restricted Staffs to 104-9, with Naazneen Iqbal producing a brilliant four-over spell of bowling, taking five wickets for 16.

People in Bucks love playing darts

THE darts boom continues across Buckinghamshire as opportunities grow for amateurs, writes Kieren Hearn

One fibre board, two competitors and three arrows each – on the surface, darts is a simple game.

Yet over the past four years, the sport has experienced a remarkable rise in popularity across the country, and Buckinghamshire has been no exception.

Much of that growth has been driven by the emergence of teenage sensation Luke Littler, whose success has inspired a new generation of players to pick up a set of darts.

At the same time, the Amateur Darts Circuit (ADC) has created more opportunities than ever before for grassroots players to test themselves in organised competition.

The popularity of the ADC's Vault events has grown rapidly, with venues across the country now hosting weekly tournaments. Series 18.0 gets underway this week, including another season at The Riverside Club in High Wycombe, which is preparing to host its third Vault series.

As with every new campaign, players will be hoping to get off to a strong start and build momentum towards qualification opportunities later in the season.

The local darting scene continues to flourish, with several venues now offering regular ADC events. Alongside The Riverside Club's Monday-night competitions, players can also compete at Cressex Community Centre on Thursdays.

Meanwhile, Bradmoor Farm in Haddenham has become one of the county's leading destinations for amateur darts.

Often described by players as one of Buckinghamshire's best-kept secrets, the venue hosts events on Wednesdays and Fridays and has established a reputation for attracting strong fields from across the region.

With a 24-player cap and five guaranteed matches, it provides valuable competitive experience for both established players and newcomers.

The growth of the game can also be seen in local league darts.

When I first joined the Princes Risborough Darts League, there were 16 teams competing.

In just four years, that number has doubled, highlighting the increasing appetite for the sport at grassroots level.

At a time when stories about pubs struggling to survive are all too common, darts continues to play an important role in supporting many local venues.

Weekly league matches and competitions bring players and spectators through the doors, helping to create a sense of community while supporting businesses at the same time.

Even those who have been involved in the sport far longer than I have would likely admit they are surprised by the number of opportunities now available to amateur players.

For anyone looking to get involved, there has rarely been a better time to step up to the oche.

Two new signings officially confirmed for Chesham

James Richings

CHESHAM United have bolstered their attacking options ahead of the 2026/27 National League South season with the signings of forwards Hisham Kasimu and Craig Fasanmade.

The Generals have moved to add proven experience and goals to their frontline as managers James Duncan and Michael Murray continue preparations for the club's third consecutive campaign at Step 2.

Kasimu arrives at The Meadow from Southern League Premier South side Gosport Borough, bringing a strong goalscoring pedigree and experience ranging from grassroots football to the English Football League.

The 28-year-old forward first made his name at Team Solent, where he enjoyed back-to-back prolific seasons, averaging close to a goal a game before earning a move to AFC Totton.

His reputation continued to grow on the south coast, including a 30-goal campaign for Totton during the 2021/22 season.

That form earned Kasimu a move to National League South side Farnborough, where his goalscoring exploits caught the attention of Sutton United.

He completed a remarkable rise through the football pyramid when he made his EFL debut for Sutton against Gillingham in August 2023, having previously played university football with Team Solent.

After spells with Farnborough and Enfield Town, Kasimu returned to AFC Totton before joining Gosport Borough during the second half of last season.

He finished the campaign in impressive form, scoring nine goals in 18 appearances, performances that persuaded Chesham to bring him back to National League South level.

Kasimu joins a Chesham side looking to build on its established position in the division

and add greater firepower in the final third.

The Generals have also secured the signing of experienced National League South attacker Craig Fasanmade from Hampton & Richmond Borough.

The 26-year-old made 43 appearances for the Beavers last season, scoring nine goals and establishing himself as a key member of their attacking unit.

Fasanmade arrives with extensive experience at National League South level, having made more than 200 appearances in the division during his career.

An Oxford City academy graduate, he progressed through the ranks with the Hoops before moving on to Hungerford Town and later Wealdstone, where he gained experience at National League level.

Further spells with Hemel Hempstead Town and Chippenham Town followed, with Fasanmade earning a reputation as a quick, direct and versatile forward capable of operating across the front line.

His arrival gives Chesham additional depth and competition in attack as they prepare for another demanding season against some of the strongest sides in non-league football.

The double signing represents another statement of intent from the Buckinghamshire club as they continue shaping their squad for the forthcoming campaign.

Kasimu's proven eye for goal and Fasanmade's wealth of experience are expected to provide a significant boost to Chesham's attacking options as the Generals aim to build on their progress in the National League South.



Chesham United have boosted their attacking options with two new signings

Ex-striker gives his views on how the club must improve

FORMER Peterborough United, Ipswich Town, Hull City and Bradford City striker Aaron McLean has revealed what Wycombe Wanderers need to do to improve on 11th place finish last season.

The Chairboys finished 12 points off the play-offs place in what was a difficult campaign for the Adams Park side.

One league win between the start of the season to mid-September saw head coach Mike Dodds get sacked with the club just outside the relegation zone.

His successor, Michael Duff, has steadied the ship, but inconsistent results, below par performances, along with injury issues saw Wycombe stumble their way to a mid-table finish.

It was their lowest place in the division since 2019, but it means they have not finished out of the top 12 in League One since being relegated from the Championship in 2021, finishing sixth, eighth, ninth, fifth and 11th respectively.

Speaking to BetSelect.co.uk, McLean, who scored twice against Wycombe in his career, has revealed what the club need to do to improve on last season.

He said: "I think they need a better start to the season, first of all. I think that they probably need some fresh blood brought in."

"Their summer recruitment is what's going to enable them to go on and build. Last season, I never really looked at Wycombe and thought they would challenge for the playoffs."

"Michael Duff came in, and he has done a fairly good job. I think he's kept them in the top half of the table."

"But in order to take that next step, they need some recruitment in the summer."



Aaron McLean (pictured playing for Bradford City) has spoken about what areas Wycombe need to in to improve on

"They need some goal scorers and some creative players."

"Their away form is not great, and that will need improving."

"I think if they're able to do that, they stand a good chance of competing."

"The club's a big enough attraction for players to want to go there and want to be part of it."

At the time of writing, Wycombe have signed two players, goalkeepers in Conor Hazard and Matt Macey.

While that area needed improvement following the poor

displays from Mikki Van Sas and Will Norris, who has now joined Salford City, McLean believes the midfield is an area that needs to be looked at, as well as up top.

He said: "The middle of the park [needs improvement]."

"They need to add maybe one or two experienced players who are used to playing at that level."

!And I think goal scorers, like an out-and-out striker and maybe one either wide left or wide right, to add to what they've already got.

"They were brilliant at getting

deliveries into the box last season, so an out-and-out number 9 who's brilliant in the air would be great."

"That's very much their model, and they've been successful doing that."

"So, adding somebody in that department would be good."

Finally, on his playing days against Wycombe, which saw him score twice against the Chairboys in 2007 and 2009 while at Peterborough, he added: "One of my closest friends, Leon Johnson, was a centre-half for Wy-

combe, so I used to love playing against him."

"I always remind him that I always used to score against him, but it was always a difficult battle against Wycombe."

"They were just a really strong side. We were more about getting the ball down and being fluent in our play, and they were a lot more rigid but really solid. They played really physical back to front. It was always difficult games against them, but I'm happy to say that I'm pretty sure that I usually come out on top."

Wycombe confirm exit of winger

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that winger James Berry has joined Non League Forest Green Rovers on a season long-loan.

The 25-year-old, who joined the Chairboys from Chesterfield for roughly £400,000 in the 2025 winter transfer window, has only played three competitive games for the Adams Park side, featuring a grand total of 36 minutes.

These outings came against in a 1-1 away draw at Peterborough United and a 1-0 home defeat against Wrexham in March 2025.

His last appearance for the Chairboys to date came in a 0-0 home draw Shrewsbury Town in April of that year.

Berry spent the 2025/26 season on loan at his former club Chesterfield, scoring five goals in 38 appearances in all competitions.

He is reunited with Rovers boss Robbie Savage, under whom he played at Macclesfield prior to joining Chesterfield in 2023.

Another friendly confirmed

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed their pre-season fixture schedule as preparations continue for the new season.

The Chairboys will begin their summer programme with a behind-closed-doors practice match against National League South side Ebbsfleet United on Saturday, July 11.

It will be the first game of the pre-season schedule before Michael Duff's men face Queens Park Rangers in another behind closed doors on Tuesday, July 21, before travelling to face Farnham Town later the same day.

The latter will be open to the public.

A third closed-door fixture against Yeovil Town follows on Saturday, July 25 before Wycombe host Portsmouth at Adams Park later that afternoon.

The club will round off their pre-season preparations with a home clash against Ipswich Town on Saturday, August 1 (4pm).

Attention will then turn to competitive action, with Wanderers hosting Stevenage in the first round of the Carabao Cup on the weekend of Friday, August 8.

The Chairboys' League One campaign begins a week later with a trip to Blackpool.

Dodds joins Blackburn's backroom staff

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has been appointed assistant head coach at Championship side Blackburn Rovers.

Dodds, 40, takes up the role at Ewood Park after leaving Oxford United, where he had been working as assistant to ex-Chairboys midfielder, captain, coach and manager Matt Bloomfield since January.

Chairboys supporters will remember Dodds from his six-month spell in charge at Adams Park in 2025, where he won nine of his 31 games.

He was dismissed in September of last year after Wycombe won one of their last 11 league games, and was replaced by former Cheltenham Town, Barnsley, Swansea City and Huddersfield Town boss, Michael Duff.

Despite a mixed record in Buckinghamshire, Dodds has continued to build his coaching career and now links up once again with Tony Mowbray, having previously worked under him at Sunderland.



Mike Dodds. Image: Rhianna Chadwick

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Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper leaves for Salford



Goalkeeper Will Norris (left). Image John Walton/PA Wire

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the departure of goalkeeper Will Norris to League Two Salford City.

The 32-year-old, who joined the Chairboys from Portsmouth in February 2025, played 59 games for the Adams Park side, keeping 22 clean sheets in that time.

He was offered a new contract to remain in South Buckinghamshire, but the signings of Conor Hazard and Matt Macey earlier this month effectively ended his time at HP12.

Following his exit, the club said: "Everyone at Wycombe would like to thank Will for his contributions during his time here, and wish him every success for the future."

Speaking on his move up north, he said: "I am really excited to be part of this project and cannot wait to get started."

"The squad is in a great shape to compete already, and whatever experience the new players can bring in and the new management, I think we can go one better this year."

"I can bring a wealth of experience to the Club, and I think having a good goalkeeper is important, having a good striker is important. In these key positions you need players that can do it."

As well as Wycombe and Salford, Norris has played Burnley, Cambridge United, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Ipswich Town, Peterborough United as well as Hatfield Town, Royston Town and Braintree Town in the Non League.

Olabiya is determined to build on debut season

WYCOMBE Wanderers teenager Micah Olabiya has spoken of his determination to build on a breakthrough season that saw him become one of the club's youngest ever goal scorers.

The 16-year-old forward announced himself to Chairboys supporters in memorable fashion on May 2 when he came off the bench to score the winning goal in a dramatic 3-2 victory over Rotherham United at Adams Park.

The strike made Olabiya, aged just 16 years and 40 days, Wycombe's second-youngest goal scorer which capped a remarkable first season in senior football.

Speaking to Flashscore, the teenager described his last-minute match-winning strike as the standout moment of his campaign.

He said: "Scoring the winning goal on my league debut, which was also my first senior professional goal, made it an unforgettable night."

"Those are the moments you dream about as a kid."

Olabiya's rise has been built on a footballing journey that included spells in the academies of both Tottenham Hotspur and Crystal Palace before joining Wycombe.

Known for his pace and direct attacking style, the youngster admitted the jump from academy football to League One was a significant challenge.

He added: "The biggest lesson I've learned is that this isn't a boys' game anymore; it's a man's game."

"Physically, the jump was massive."

"I went from playing against kids my own age to facing seasoned pros who know every trick in the book."

The winger also paid tribute to his family, particularly his father, for supporting his football ambitions.

He continued: "I wouldn't be here without my family."

"My father is my foundation."

"From as early as I can remember, he has been the one driving me to training and sacrificing his own weekends so I

could chase this dream."

Olabiya also credited Wycombe manager Michael Duff for helping his development and for giving him the chance to make his breakthrough in the first team.

"He doesn't treat you like a kid just because of your age," he said.

"If you're training with the first team, he expects the same standards from you as everyone else."

The teenager's progress has also attracted international attention.

Earlier this year, Olabiya was invited to train with the Nigeria senior squad during their Unity Cup preparations in London, giving him the opportunity to work alongside established internationals and experience the standards required at the highest level.

The call-up was particularly significant for the youngster and his family, who have strong Nigerian roots.

Olabiya said the invitation filled his parents with pride and helped strengthen his connection to the country.

However, the Wycombe prospect remains eligible to represent both Nigeria and England internationally.

Born and raised in England but with Nigerian heritage, Olabiya could choose to represent either nation in the future.

While he admitted the experience of training with Nigeria made him feel more connected to the Super Eagles setup, he stressed that no decision has yet been made.

"England is my birthplace, it's where I grew up, and I love this country too."

"But that Nigeria invitation gave me a sense of identity and connection that I hadn't fully appreciated before."

For now, though, the teenager insists his focus remains firmly on Wycombe.

His main target for next season is to establish himself as a regular starter at Adams Park and continue the progress that has made him one of the Chairboys' most exciting young prospects.



Micah Olabiya scored the winning goal on his league debut when Wycombe defeated Rotherham on the final day of last season (PA)

'No shame in losing to opposition of this calibre'

GRAHAM Potter said there is no shame in losing to France as the 1998 and 2018 winners started to emerge as favourites to win this summer's tournament.

The former Wycombe defender saw his Sweden side outclassed to the tune of 3-0 in the last 32.

There was little criticism of the Sweden side, in which Yasin Ayari started, as Kylian Mbappe and company turned on the style.

Potter, who signed a long-term deal going into the World Cup, said: "As much as they (the players) don't want to hear it, there's no shame in losing to opposition of this calibre."

"Just look at how long they have been playing together and what they have achieved in their careers, both individually and as a team."

"Compare that to where we are. We are at the other end of the spectrum in terms of our development and our experience."

"You could say it's a size too big for us so we congratulate France for going through, they were the better team."

"We had our moments, but it wasn't enough."

"I'm very proud of the guys. I love this team. This is the start of something, but we're disappointed right now because we wanted to go through."

"We have to deal with the disappointment now and think about how far we have actually come."

"The challenge for us is to use this as a basis to make sure we qualify again for the championship and continue to develop."

"There are a lot of players making their debuts in the World Cup, and now we have to grow as a team and grow from this experience."