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ARMED POLICE LOCKDOWN



OFFICERS SWARM CAR NEAR GYM AND NURSERY

By James Richings

THIS is the dramatic moment armed police swarmed a car in High Wycombe, triggering a lockdown of a gym.

Officers surrounded a grey vehicle at Handy Cross roundabout after receiving reports of a weapon inside the car.

The incident happened at the top of Marlow Hill.

Local businesses said it locked its doors and kept youngsters inside after around 20 armed officers and up to 10 police vehicles descended on the site on Monday afternoon (July 6).

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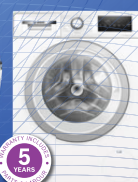
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Sport

School crowned national tennis champions

A school tennis team has been crowned National Schools Tennis Champions.

The Wycombe High School Under 14 team secured the title by winning the School Sport Magazine National Tennis Cup.

They produced a standout performance at the national finals to be declared the top Under 14 school tennis team in the country.

Their success in this competition adds to Wycombe High's growing list of sporting achievements.

It also highlights the talent, grit, and unity of the players.

Headteacher Nicola Renyard said: "This is an extraordinary achievement and one that every member of

our school community is incredibly proud of.

"To be crowned National Champions is a testament to the dedication, resilience and teamwork shown by every player throughout the competition."

"Our congratulations also go to the staff who have supported and encouraged the team every step of the way."

"They have been wonderful ambassadors for Wycombe High School, and this success is richly deserved."

This accomplishment concludes a successful season for the team and confirms their status as the leading Under 14 school tennis team in the country.



Wycombe High School under-14s are National Schools Tennis Champions

Honorary degree awarded to England rugby star Harrison

A Buckinghamshire-born rugby star has been recognised for her outstanding achievements after being awarded an honorary degree by Middlesex University.

Zoe Harrison, who grew up in Cheddington, was presented with the honour during the university's 2026 Graduation Week on Thursday, June 25.

The England international has become one of the county's most successful sporting exports, earning more than 60 caps and playing a key role in the Red Roses' recent dominance on the international stage.

Harrison was instrumental in England's victory at the 2025 Rugby World Cup, including their 33-13 win over Canada in front of a record crowd of more than 80,000 spectators – the most-watched women's rugby match in history.

She has continued that success into 2026, helping England secure the Women's Six Nations title.

Before rising to the top of the sport, Harrison balanced her rugby ambitions with her studies, graduating from Middlesex University with a degree in Sports Rehabilitation and Exercise.

Her journey from Buckinghamshire to the international stage highlights her determination to succeed both academically and athletically.

Alongside her international career, Harrison has also been a key figure for Saracens, competing at the highest level of domestic rugby.

Off the pitch, she has become an inspirational figure for young people across Buckinghamshire and beyond, particularly women and girls looking to pursue sport.

Speaking about the honour,

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Harrison said receiving the degree was "an incredible honour" and particularly meaningful given her personal connection to the university.

She said: "Having studied at Middlesex, it feels especially special to be recognised by a university that played an important role in my own journey."

"While rugby has given me opportunities I could only have dreamed of growing up in Buckinghamshire, this recognition reflects years of hard work, resilience and the support of so many people around me."

Harrison also praised the support she received during her time as a student, which allowed her to balance elite sport with education.

"My connection with Middlesex is very personal because I thoroughly enjoyed my time there," she said. "The university helped me develop both on and off the pitch and gave me skills that have benefited me throughout my career."

She urged graduates to embrace challenges and learn from setbacks, adding that resilience is key to long-term success.

Middlesex University Vice-Chancellor Professor Shân Wareing said the award recognised Harrison's inspiring contribution to sport and her role as a positive influence in the community.

Each year, the university presents honorary degrees and Middlesex Medals to individuals who have made significant contributions to their field and society.



Zoe Harrison last month received an honorary degree from Middlesex University

Berkshire double seals their T20 group on run rate

BERKSHIRE completed a double over Bedfordshire last Sunday to win Group 3 of the National Counties T20 competition, earning them home advantage in the Super 12s stage next month.

They and Buckinghamshire, who won both their games against Wales NC, finished level on 12 points, but Berkshire had the superior net run rate.

Their opening game at Luton was won by 69 runs. Berks, put in to bat, made 164-9 with Ben Salter hitting 80 off 51 balls and Beds were blasted out for 95, Euan Woods taking three wickets for 15.

The second match was much tighter. Beds' modest total of 116 for eight looked like a winning one when Berkshire slipped to 78 for six after 13 overs.

But Andy Rishton (26 not out) and Woods (22 not out) saw them home without further alarm, with four balls to spare.

Despite their defeat, Beds also went through to the Super 12s, where Berks, Staffordshire, Norfolk and Devon will host matches on Sunday August 9.

The venues and draw have still to be confirmed.

The winners of the four groups will then go through to T20 Finals Day at Wormsley on August 30.

Berks start their three-day NCCA Championship fixtures on Sunday (12th) when they host Oxfordshire at Falkland CC.

Bucks are also through to the next stage of the T20 competition after breaking a series of county records in their two victories over Wales at Marlow.

Their 235-7 in the opener was their highest total in the competition, and their 132-run win was their biggest by runs margin.

Rehaan Edavalath, with 89 from 57 balls, and Josh Lincoln (81 from 28 balls) pumelled 125 in nine overs in a Bucks-record fourth-wicket partnership.

In the second match, left-hander Matt Pardoe struck 112 not out from 56 balls to become the first Bucks batter to make a T20 century. He and Edavalath (46) added 123 for the second wicket.

Ollie Rayner (60) and Sam King (49) led Wales' chase with a second-wicket partnership of 61, but Bucks' spinners Conner Haddow and Bertie Foreman checked their progress.

From 127-2, Wales were dismissed for 179 and beaten by 24 runs.



A consultation has started on transforming Farnham Park playing fields and South Buckinghamshire Golf Course into a community sports hub

Wanderers' consultation over Farnham Park sports hub plan

WYCOMBE Wanderers have launched a public consultation on plans to transform Farnham Park playing fields and South Buckinghamshire Golf Course into a modern community sports hub.

The proposals are the latest stage in plans that have been in the pipeline for some time, after Buckinghamshire Council's decision to secure the long-term future of the site via a new lease and significant investment.

Residents, sports clubs and stakeholders are now being invited to help shape the scheme before a planning application is submitted later this year.

Under the draft proposals, Wycombe Wanderers would take overall responsibility for operating and managing the site, with investment aimed at enhancing sports and recreation facilities for the wider community.

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The plans include a new artificial playing pitch with changing facilities, upgrades to existing sporting infrastructure and a redesigned, family-friendly golf course. A new Performance Hub would also be created to serve as a training base for the club's first team and academy while supporting community outreach and school programmes.

The consultation follows more than a year of work on the future of the Farnham Royal site. Buckinghamshire Council has previously said it had been considering the site's future operating arrangements for some time, citing the need for investment and long-term financial sustainability.

Tim Davies, chief financial

officer and managing director of Wycombe Wanderers, said: "These proposals are centred on creating a lasting community asset that protects and enhances sport and recreation at this site for future generations.

"Our ambition is to deliver more accessible, inclusive and high-quality facilities that encourage people of all ages and abilities to get active, whether that's through grassroots sport, progression into competitive sport, informal recreation or community programmes.

"By investing in the site, we want to support healthier lifestyles, expand opportunities for participation, and create a welcoming environment that brings the community together, while building on the important work already taking place locally across health and wellbeing."

A series of public engage-

ment events will take place this month, giving residents the chance to view proposals and speak to the project team.

The consultation events are:

July 11, 10am to 1pm – Pop-up event at Farnham Park
July 14, 4pm to 7pm – Farnham Royal Village Hall
July 16, 4pm to 7pm – South Buckinghamshire Golf Course
July 18, 1pm to 4pm – Stoke Poges Village Hall

Feedback will be accepted until August 4, after which the proposals will be reviewed and refined ahead of submission to Buckinghamshire Council.

The club says community feedback will play an important role in shaping the final plans, with the ambition of creating a long-term sporting destination that increases opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to take part in sport and physical activity.

Ex-Wanderers striker finds new club in non-league



FORMER Wycombe Wanderers forward Josh Parker (above) has found himself a new club.

The 35-year-old, who had two stints at Adams Park either side of the 2010s, has put pen to paper with National League South side, Farnborough.

He officially joins the Hampshire-based outfit on a free transfer after his exit from Oxford City, where he has spent the last four years, scoring 48 goals in 164 appearances.

During that time, he helped club reach the National League in 2023.

Parker played on game for Wanderers while on loan from Queens Park Rangers during the 2010/11 season, before returning to South Buckinghamshire on a permanent deal in the summer 2019, following his exit from Charlton Athletic.

Overall, he played 23 times for the Chairboys across the two stints, scoring once.

That solitary strike came in a 2-1 away EFL Trophy fixture against Milton Keynes in November 2019, with the goal coming in the last minute.

As well as playing for Wanderers, QPR and Charlton, he has also had spells at AFC Wimbledon, Northampton Town, Oldham Athletic, Dagenham & Redbridge, Oxford United, Domzale, Red Star Belgrade, Aberdeen, Wealdstone, Gillingham, Burton Albion and Risborough Rangers.

On the international stage, he has earned more than 40 caps for Antigua and Barbuda, captaining his country through FIFA World Cup qualifying and CONCACAF Nations League campaigns.

The forward has scored six international goals for the Benna Boys.

Parker will wear the number 23 shirt for Farnborough.

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Wycombe Wanderers donate spare shirts to charity



The Wycombe shirts will be sent to Africa

WYCOMBE Wanderers have donated a number of surplus shirts to KitAid, helping the charity continue its work providing football kits to some of the world's poorest communities.

The charity thanked the Chairboys for the contribution on social media, saying: "A huge thank you to Jordan & JT [the club's kitmen] from Wycombe Wanderers for their fantastic kit donation."

"Soon, Chairboys fans across Africa will be wearing it with pride. Best of luck to everyone at Wycombe Wanderers for the new season!"

Wycombe responded: "Our pleasure to help out."

The latest donation is the latest chapter in a long-running partnership between the club and KitAid, a charity founded by Derrick Williams MBE in 1998 after a trip to Tanzania inspired him to help children who were playing football without proper equipment.

Since then, the organisation has distributed more than 1.25 million items of kit to countries across Africa, Asia and South America.

Earlier this year, Wanderers teamed up with KitAid as part of the Green

Football Great Save campaign.

Between March 15 and April 12, supporters were encouraged to donate unwanted football shirts and clothing at collection points around Adams Park, with hundreds of items destined for communities overseas rather than landfill.

The club's support for the charity stretches back more than two decades, with Williams previously telling the Bucks Free Press that Wanderers were among the first clubs to get involved with KitAid's work. In 2022, the Bucks Free Press also

helped raise funds for the charity after 15 rare Wycombe Wanderers shirts from the 1990s were donated at Aylesbury Vale Dynamos' Non-League Day fixture against Risborough Rangers.

The subsequent online auction attracted 185 bids and raised £1,140.85 for KitAid.

Speaking previously, Williams thanked Wycombe for its continued backing, saying the charity would not have reached its milestones without support from clubs like Wanderers.

Ex-Bournemouth and Forest defender signs

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of former Bournemouth and Nottingham Forest centre back Steve Cook.

The 35-year-old, who played 180 Premier League games for the Cherries and the Reds, arrives at Adams Park after leaving Queens Park Rangers as a free agent this summer.

He becomes the Chairboys' third summer signing following the arrivals of goalkeepers in Matt Macey and Conor Hazard.

Tom Stockwell, the club's Director of Football Strategy and Data Intelligence, said: "It's great to have Steve at the club."

"He's an experienced centre-back who has made the journey through the English leagues, and we hope he can pass on those experiences and help us on our journey."

"Steve was a key player for QPR last season and comes in ready to impact the team straight away. Steve has obviously enjoyed an outstanding career to date, playing in the Premier League with Bournemouth and Nottingham Forest, but when meeting with him it was clear he still has a hunger and drive to compete, win and achieve more in the game."

"I'm sure the fans will be excited to see Steve at Adams Park soon, and that's good enough for me."

Speaking on X, Cook, who won QPR's Player of the Sea-

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son award in 2024, said: "Really happy to have signed for Wycombe Wanderers."

"Good to get started today and meet everyone at the club. "Looking forward to the season ahead and seeing what we can achieve together."

Cook began his career at Brighton & Hove Albion, playing seven competitive matches between 2008/09 and 2011/12, with one of those appearances coming against Wycombe.

During those four seasons, he had five loan spells away from the Seagulls at Havant & Waterlooville, Eastleigh, Eastbourne Borough, Mansfield Town and Bournemouth.

He played nine times for the Cherries before joining permanently in 2012, spending the next decade with in the club, as he helped them achieve promotion to the Championship in 2013, and then promotion to the Premier League two years later.

In all, he featured 388 times and scored 21 goals, before joining Forest in 2022, achieving his second promotion to the Premier League.

After 18 months in the Midlands, he would sign for QPR in the summer of 2023, playing exactly 100 games.

Steve Cook, pictured playing for Queen's Park Rangers last January. Image: Ben Whitley



Two early Wanderers' fixtures to show on TV



TWO of Wycombe Wanderers' opening fixtures of the 2026/27 season have been rescheduled, after being selected for live coverage on Sky Sports+.

The Chairboys' Carabao Cup first-round tie against Stevenage at Adams Park will now be played on Friday, August 7, with a 7.45pm kick-off.

Meanwhile, Wanderers' League One trip to Leyton Orient has also been moved.

The match, originally scheduled for Saturday, September 12, will now kick off at 12.30pm.

The changes come as broadcasters confirm their latest round of televised fixtures ahead of the new campaign.

While the two fixtures have been moved to accommodate live coverage, the club says supporters can now plan with greater certainty for the opening months of the season.

Following the latest announcement, all other Wycombe fixtures up to the end of September are currently expected to remain unchanged after not being selected for television coverage.

After the encounter against Stevenage on August 7, Wycombe's league season will begin away at Blackpool, on Saturday August 15.