

# Bucks Free Press

Friday, August 7, 2026

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.80

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## ANGER AT PUB CLOSURES AS DEMOLITION BEGINS AT POPULAR OLD BOOZER



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## FEARS OVER FADED ROAD MARKINGS

# CHILD SERIOUSLY INJURED IN WINDOW PLUNGE

FULL  
STORY:  
PAGE 5

By James Richings

TRIBUTES and messages of support have been shared across High Wycombe after a one-year-old child suffered serious injuries in a fall from a window. Emergency services were called to Arnison Avenue at around 4pm on Wednesday, August 5, following reports that a young child had fallen.

Distress as one-year-old hurt



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Sport

Darts stars descend on farm for national event

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE will welcome amateur darts players from across the country when the final events of an annual tour return to a farm.

The ADC and WADC Winmau Tour South will reach its thrilling climax for 2026 at Bradmoor Farm Haddenham on 8th and 9th July.

This event is a major highlight in the amateur darts season, attracting up to 256 players, including many of the sport's rising stars.

The intriguing venue, dubbed "Buckinghamshire's best-kept secret" promises to be abuzz with the hopeful energy of those competing.

Special attractions this season include the celebrated women's events, which have seen entries from some powerful names in the sport, including the current women's world champion Deta Headman, and the "Queen of the Palace," Fallon Sherrock.

On the men's side, former world championship runner-up Kevin Painter will also be showcasing his talent.

Every player at these events shares a singular ambition - to secure wins that would qualify them for larger, prestigious competitions with more exposure and more attractive prize money at stake.

The ultimate top prize remains an invitation to the grand finals on the Modus Super Series stage, broadcasted live on television.

Like most competitions in the ADC the tour has its own points system with a £1,000 prize money for the winner.



These are exciting times for those involved in local darts

Bucks men edge home in Chesham thriller

BUCKS men boosted the chances of retaining their National Counties Clubberly Championship title with a nail-biting 16-run victory over Suffolk in a low-scoring Division 1 East match at Chesham on Tuesday.

On a pitch that batters were forced to work hard for their runs, despite the fast outfield, Bucks, who gained a first-innings lead of 32 were eventually able to set their visitors a target of 215 for victory.

At 116-1, Suffolk looked strong favourites to secure their second victory. But with the pitch increasingly taking spin, Conner Haddow and Bertie Foreman took all the wickets as the visitors were dismissed for 198 just after lunch on the final day.

Skipper Haddow claimed his 15th five-wicket haul in 25 Championship matches (a remarkable statistic) with 6-71 in 34 overs, while off-spinner Foreman returned 4-86 from 33.3 overs.

At lunch on the first day, Bucks looked in big trouble at 125-7 after choosing to bat first, despite a fluent half-century from Ewan Cox (66). After the interval Rhys Nicholas dug in and along with support from Ed Bragg and Haddow, helped Bucks reach a respectable 205 all out.

An inspired spell by seamer Tom Weymes soon had Suffolk reeling at 58-6 in reply. At 125-9, they looked like conceding a sizeable first-innings lead, but some lusty hitting from No 10 Dan Shanks took them to 173 - a deficit of just 32. Weymes finished with 5-42 from 12 overs, his second five-for on the ground this season.

In the second innings, the Bucks top order failed again and slumped to 67-5 - a lead of just 99. Happily, Cox, with his second half-century of the match, and another resourceful knock by Nicholas (37) helped Bucks to recover to 182 all out. Suffolk left-arm spinner Jack Beaumont took 4-16 in 16 overs (including being hit for a six) in a remarkable spell.

With 215 to win, Suffolk finished the second day on 80-1. As long as the patient Darren Ironside (55 off 156 balls) was at the crease, Suffolk had a chance. But the class of Haddow and Foreman saw Bucks home to a thrilling victory.

The result puts Bucks top of the group table with just their match against bottom team Cambridgeshire to come at Peterborough on August 23rd-25th.

This Sunday, Bucks travel to Exeter to take part in the National Counties T20 Super 12s, where they will take on Wiltshire in the eliminator, with the winner then facing Devon in the decider to reach the semi-finals.

NATIONAL COUNTIES CLUBBERLY CHAMPIONSHIP EASTERN DIVISION 1 LATEST TABLE

|                | P | W | D | L | B  | Pt |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Bucks          | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 48 |
| Northumberland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 41 |
| Staffordshire  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 28 |
| Suffolk        | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 28 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9  | 13 |

Holmer lose after Belstone show sharper scoring edge

BELSTONE have returned this season to the Combined Counties and are just one more team that confirms how difficult it is going to be for Holmer Green to get promotion back up to the Premier Division.

It was always going to be a competitive game and that is what it proved to be.

Two teams working hard to get the edge over their opponents and it was sadly Belstone that had just a sharper edge in front of goal.

There were a few changes from Saturday's starting team. Green, Majaya and Peck came into the starting line up having come on as substitutes on Saturday and Booker took up his role in the back line and as captain. On the face of it a strong line up.

It will come as no surprise to those that know Watchet Lane that it was parched. Despite the restrictions on watering several people have suggested we water the pitch. What they don't realise is that the volume of water that would be needed is huge and costly. However, given the low velocity of the supply we have pitch side all we can ever do is keep the goal mouths green on grounds of health and safety.

In the opening exchanges both teams could have opened the scoring. Brennan should have gone closer with a header and then Belstone hit the post. Saunders has taken on the free kick duties and does put over some tantalising balls into the box. Typical though on 15 mins no one was able to connect.

Another enterprising free kick from Saunders on 26 mins almost brought a reward for Peck but his run and shot narrowly slid past the far post. Belstone continued to threaten and they hit the woodwork again, the crossbar this time. Two chances fell to the hardworking Majaya in midfield but went high and wide and the other was wide of the post.

The Belstone goal, in the second minute of first half injury time, came about while the hard working Holmer full back

Rod Shed

Webster was off the field with a blood injury. Belstone played a short corner which wasn't picked up and from the resulting cross a looping header found its way over Bell in the Holmer goal.

HT 0-1

Holmer came out energised from their half time talk but Saunders shot was comfortably saved by the keeper. On 58 mins it was time to bring on Mangan returning from a three match absence. He replaced Majaya and immediately showed some of the intent that Holmer had missed. Holmer continued to work hard but the opening they needed just wasn't coming off. A thumping shot from Line was straight at the keeper. Holbrook showing his familiar commitment earned a YC for his endeavours on 72 mins.

Shortly after Belstone went 2-0 up. McNally was allowed to run at the Holmer defence and he provided a clever finish to fire past Bell from a tight angle. Esplund-Evans replaced Brennan on 81 mins and shortly after Holmer found the net. Another Saunders free kick dropped into the visitors penalty box and the loose ball fell to Peck who finished in the manner we came to expect last season. This promoted a flurry of activity from Holmer to grab an equaliser but unfortunately on an attack Belstone were given the benefit of the doubt that a shot had crossed the line. It was given by the assistant but given his position it is difficult to see how he could have given it?

Holmer continued to threaten but half chances were not converted and the game finished with an excited Belstone celebrating at Holmers expense. Once again the effort put in couldn't be faulted and it is hoped our fortunes improve on Saturday with the visit of Spartans Youth.



It wasn't Holmer Green FC's day as they lost 3-1 at home to Belstone

# Wycombe's 2026/27 season squad numbers confirmed

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed their first-team squad numbers ahead of the 2026/27 campaign.

The Chairboys have added seven new faces to the squad this summer, including striker Cauley Woodrow, who joined permanently from Luton Town after a successful loan spell at Adams Park last season.

Woodrow retains the No.12 shirt he wore during his time with the Blues in the 2025/26 campaign.

Among the club's other arrivals, Swansea City loanee Sam Parker has been handed the No.22 shirt, previously worn by Fin Back, while fellow loan signing Emre Tezgel will wear No.19.

That number was last represented by goalkeeper Shamal George in January 2025.

New recruits Silko Thomas, Steve Cook, Matt Macey and Conor Hazard have been allocated squad numbers 11, 27, 24 and 23 respectively.

Wycombe's full squad list for the new season is:

Wycombe's full squad list for the new season is:

- 1 Mikki van Sas
- 2 Jack Grimmer (C)
- 3 Daniel Harvie
- 4 Josh Scowen
- 5 Aaron Morley
- 6 Taylor Allen
- 7 Armando Junior



Wycombe's first-team squad numbers have been revealed to fans

|                     |                   |                    |                           |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Quitirna            | 17 Dan Casey      | 24 Matt Macey      | 45 Anders Hagelskjaer     |
| 8 Caolan Boyd-Munce | 19 Emre Tezgel    | 26 Connor Taylor   | Wycombe begin their       |
| 9 Bradley Fink      | 20 Ewan Henderson | 27 Steve Cook      | competitive campaign on   |
| 10 Luke Leahy       | 21 Jamie Mullins  | 30 Joseph McCallum | Friday, August 7, hosting |
| 11 Silko Thomas     | 22 Sam Parker     | 31 Stuart Moore    | Stevenage in the Carabao  |
| 12 Cauley Woodrow   | 23 Conor Hazard   | 44 Fred Onyedina   | Cup first round.          |

## Duff happy with Parker and Tezgel in Ipswich friendly



MICHAEL Duff was pleased with the displays of new signings in Sam Parker and Emre Tezgel in Wycombe Wanderers' 2-1 pre-season home defeat against Ipswich Town.

The Chairboys took the lead 10 minutes into the second period when a long-range shot from Parker was parried by keeper Alex Palmer, before Tezgel smashed in the rebound.

Ipswich then turned it around with two strikes from former Wanderers man, Cameron Humphreys.

Both Parker and Tezgel have joined on season-long loans from Championship outfits in Swansea City and Stoke City respectively.

Duff said: "I think you saw what Sam can bring. He's got electrifying pace.

"There was one moment where he drove down the right and went past a couple of Premier League players.

"He handles the ball very well, which you'd expect from the club he's come from, and if we can get him receiving on the front foot and driving forward, he'll give us a completely different threat."

On goalscorer Tezgel, Duff added: "He's a good player.

"He nearly scored in the first half and then got his goal in the second.

"We've described him as a fox in the box.

"He's a natural goalscorer who finds chances and that's exactly what he did today.

"That instinct in those moments is very difficult to coach."

## Ex-Wanderer in shock move to Europe

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers midfielder Freddie Potts has completed a permanent move from West Ham United to Belgian side Club Brugge.

The 22-year-old enjoyed a hugely successful loan spell at Adams Park during the 2023/24 campaign, making 42 appearances in all competitions and scoring twice.

His performances saw him named Wycombe's Player of the Year in 2024.

Potts, who joined West Ham at the age of six, played 32 first-team games for the Hammers, including 25 first-team outings last season before securing his move abroad.

The midfielder also spent time on loan at Portsmouth during the 2024/25 season, playing against the Chairboys in the FA Cup that campaign.

Club Brugge have signed Potts on a four-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

West Ham thanked the academy graduate for his "hard work, commitment and all-round contribution" and wished him every success in the future.

During his time at Adams Park, Potts impressed with his performances in the middle of the park.

His first, and what would be his penultimate strike for Wycombe, was in a 3-1 away loss at Charlton Athletic in September 23, which was an incredible first-time volley in front of the travelling away fans.

The final strike of his Wanderers career came a couple of weeks later, when he scored in a 4-1 away win at Fleetwood Town at the start of October.

That goal was second which came after 34 minutes.

The other goal scorers for Wycombe that day were Dale Taylor (2) and Luke Leahy.

Jack Marriott scored for Fleetwood.



Freddie Potts spent one season at Wycombe. Image: NQ

# SPORT

ISSN 0963-2336 £1.80



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## Goalkeeper suffers injury ahead of new season



Matt Macey (playing for Colchester last season) in action

**WYCOMBE** Wanderers goalkeeper Matt Macey is facing a lengthy spell on the side lines after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury.

The 31-year-old suffered the setback in last week's behind-closed-doors friendly 3-2 friendly victory against Yeovil Town.

Macey landed awkwardly while challenging for the ball and was forced off, with scans subsequently revealing the extent of the damage.

He now requires surgery and is

expected to miss a large chunk of the season, if not, all of the campaign.

In a statement, the club said: "We're right behind you, Matt."

ACL injuries are among the most serious setbacks in football, with recovery times typically ranging from six months to a year depending on the rehabilitation process.

The injury is a bitter blow for Macey, who only arrived at Adams Park at the start of June alongside fellow goalkeeper

Conor Hazard.

Macey began his career at Bristol Rovers before joining Arsenal as a 19-year-old in 2013.

He spent seven years with the Gunners, making two senior appearances during the 2017/18 campaign, while also gaining experience on loan at clubs including Accrington Stanley, Luton Town and Plymouth Argyle.

A move to Hibernian followed in 2021 before he returned to Luton and later joined Portsmouth, initially on loan and then

permanently.

After falling down the pecking order at Fratton Park, Macey revitalised his career at Colchester United, where he made 98 appearances.

Macey's long-term injury means Mikki van Sas, whose future at the club had been uncertain, now appears set to remain at the club as Wanderers prepare for the new season.

He is expected to be second choice behind Hazard, with Stuart Moore being third choice.

## Duff hopes to boost his attacking options

MICHAEL Duff says Wycombe Wanderers are still hoping to bring in at least one, and potentially two, new players before the transfer window closes, despite being pleased with the club's summer business so far.

The Chairboys have been active in the market ahead of the new League One season, adding experience and depth across the squad.

Goalkeepers Conor Hazard and Matt Macey have arrived, although the latter is expected to miss most of the campaign after suffering an ACL injury in a behind-closed-doors friendly against Yeovil Town last month.

The Adams Park side have also strengthened with the signing of former QPR defender Steve Cook, winger Silko Thomas following Leicester City's relegation to League One, and Cauley Woodrow on a permanent deal after his successful loan spell from Luton Town last season.

Further additions have come in the form of Sam Parker and Emre Tezgel on loan from Swansea City and Stoke City respectively, while several players have departed, including goalkeepers Shamal George and Will Norris, who joined Bromley and Salford City.

Fin Back and Laurie Shala have also said their goodbyes, while Jack Matton, James Berry, Arthur Gregory, Jahiem Dotse, Declan Skura and Alex Lowry have all departed on loan.

Duff believes there is still room to improve his squad before the deadline.

Speaking ahead of the new season, the head coach said: "I think we've been sensible, but we've definitely got to add one, and possibly two.

"It's not been a window where we've tried to be the Galactico's at Real Madrid.

"We wanted to be selective and make sensible decisions.

"The signings we've made give us a good balance.

"You've got experienced players coming in and players who offer dif-

**James Richings**

ferent attributes.

"We're still looking to add, but we're not in a position where we're desperately scrambling around needing six, seven or eight players before the season starts."

Duff indicated that any further recruitment is likely to be focused in attacking areas, where he feels the squad remains slightly short.

"It won't be a case of just bringing anybody in," he said.

"We're probably still looking towards the top end of the pitch because that's the one area where we're slightly short.

"If something comes up that's too good to turn down then we'll look at it, but we're not bringing bodies in for the sake of it.

"I think we've got good quality and good depth in most areas."

The Wanderers boss also suggested there could still be movement in the market, although he is not actively expecting players to leave.

"I don't really see one or two leaving, but I don't really see that," he said.

"That'll be up to the players as much as anything else."

Duff's comments come amid what he described as an increasingly inflated transfer market, with clubs across the EFL demanding significant fees for players. We've made big bids for players and gone under the water. I'm talking about bids of over a million pounds," he said.

"It's not a lack of ambition. The market has just gone mad. Every centre-forward in League One that we've looked at has effectively been quoted at over a million pounds, and then you've got the salaries that go with it. I've spoken to managers at all levels and they're saying the same thing."



Michael Duff is hoping that at least two more players can be brought in this summer. Image: PA

## Boss 'nearly threw up' looking at leg injury



WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff has admitted he 'nearly threw up' when looking at Josh Scowen's latest leg injury.

The 33-year-old was hurt in the opening 20 minutes of the Chairboys' 2-1 pre-season home defeat against Ipswich Town on August 1.

After a coming together with one of the opposition players, he sat down before getting back up and playing for a few more minutes.

He was eventually taken off just before the midway mark of the first period, being replaced by Ewan Henderson.

Scowen suffered an ACL injury in April 2025 and only returned from his lengthy stint on the side lines in March of this year.

Speaking on the injury, Duff explained: "He's got quite a significant gash on his shin.

"It's a typical impact injury but looks horrible.

"I nearly threw up looking at it because I'm not very good when it comes to blood.

"The good news is that it's nothing to do with ligaments or soft tissue.

"It's just one of those nasty knocks. "The fact he wanted to carry on tells you everything about him."