

Bucks Free Press

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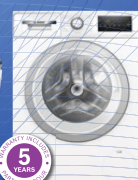
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Sport

Beaconsfield dumped out of FA Cup

BEAconsfield 0 Penn & Tylers Green 3

Beaconsfield once again were dumped out of the FA Cup at the first round.

Beaconsfield came into the game into their first competitive game of the season with almost an entirely new squad up against a settled Penn team on an impressive unbeaten run who were already in their third competitive game of the new season.

Despite an early close encounter Beaconsfield fell behind early in the first half after Jamie Essex gave Penn the lead. Things quickly went from bad to worse for the hosts who fell 2 goals behind when Lennon Moore doubled Penn's advantage before halftime with a well taken

goal.

The break gave time for Beaconsfield to make changes, some enforced due to injury. However, despite the difference in personnel, they struggled to create much in the way of a meaningful chance and the game begged to ebb away from them. They had one notable chance but that was well over the bar, before they fell to a 3-goal deficit late on with Penn's James Keeley piling on the misery for the hosts.

At the time of writing due to Marlow's FA cup draw with Newport Pagnell, Beaconsfield will now return to action with their first league game on Saturday facing Waltham Abbey rather than the schedule league game away at Marlow.



Beaconsfield lost at home to Penn & Tylers Green 3-0 in the FA Cup

Bucks men beaten by Devon in T20 Super 12s decider

BUCKS men's hopes of reaching the finals day in the National Counties T20 competition were dashed when they lost by 86 runs in the Super 12s decider at Exeter on Sunday.

Having beaten Wiltshire by three wickets earlier in the day, Bucks were in confident mood going into their clash against the hosts.

Choosing to bat first, Devon got off to a flying start with 17 runs from the first over bowled by Matt Pardoe. Despite losing regular wickets they kept going at ten an over and at 100-4 in the 11th over, they looked like topping 200.

But fine spells from Archie Dodds (3-13 off 3 overs), Teddy Fleming (2-23 off 3) and skipper Conner Haddow (1-25 off 4) restricted them to a still challenging 178-7 off their 20 overs.

Bucks raced to 31-1 off 3.3 overs and were still in the hunt at 59-3 in the seventh over. But then disaster struck as they lost five wickets for four runs in ten balls to slump to 63-8. They were eventually dismissed for 92 in 13.3 overs. So Devon will progress to the finals day at Wormsley on Sunday August 30th.

In their first match of the day, Bucks were always on top against Wiltshire, who made a calamitous start, losing their first four wickets for just one run in the first 11 balls bowled by Pardoe and Archie Dodds.

After a slight recovery, Fleming (3-10 in 15 balls) mopped up the tail and Wilts were dismissed for 107 in 18.3 overs.

Bucks batters also struggled and eventually got home with three wickets and 4.4 overs to spare thanks to Ryan Friend's 33 off 24 balls.

GOLF REPORT

A Buckinghamshire teenager played an important role in England Boys' recent four-country victory.

Ben Sessions, from Gerrards Cross, who is 16, helped the team secure wins over Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, in a tournament at Monifieth Golf Links in Scotland last week.

The teenager was part of the only set of pairs in the Boys region to win all of their doubles together with George Cooper.

Sessions won five of his six games overall.

This helped the Boys squad win their section after securing three wins.

They are the first team to come out successful in a tournament which includes the leading players from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, all put together.

Following this, their coach Jamie O'Connor praised them, adding that the coaches are "proud" of the players.

He said: "The coaches and staff are incredibly proud of the players this week. There were so many close and hard-fought contests but it was great to come out on top.

"It was a really successful week for the Boys, winning all three matches and winning the team title - only dropping 1.5 points in the doubles.

"A massive well done to all our players and everyone involved on a brilliant week - a specific thank you must be given to our national coaches, Steven Orr and John Watson."

Holmer Green share four goals with Spartans Youth

Martin Mahoney

HOLMER Green 2 Spartans Youth 2 YET another hot day and with no rain forecast it's becoming harder to maintain a pitch that now resembles a harvested corn field as are most real grass pitches at our level around England.

After a WLWL start to the league season it was time for a draw although it should have been a win.

A great start for Holmer as after three minutes a long Mangan throw was headed on by Fowler and eventually found its way via a lay off from Esplund-Evans to Saunders whose shot hit the post and rebounded via the Spartan's 'keeper and a defender over the line, well, according to the assistant referee over the line and technically an OG, but not at this level and Ollie Saunders will quite correctly claim it.

After some more Holmer pressure and, thus, against the run of play, Spartan's equalised through a well taken goal from Reid-Warden: a looping shot from outside the Greens' box and just out of reach of Bell. A volley just off target from Butters, a shot from Saunders tipped around the post, a rare well saved shot from Webster and another from Bell all occurred before the first half hydration break as Holmer continued to dominate.

A surging run from Carlo Paul almost resulted in a superb goal having run past three Spartan's players but was gathered by Ford in the Spartan's goal. Defences were on top for the rest of the half as the temperature increased. HT: 1-1.

The early part of the second half saw the away side gain some territorial advantage with some high balls over the Holmer defence and



Holmer Green play their games at Watchet Lane

Bell had to punch away a Spartan's chance. Brennan had a chance of a header from a Holbrook cross which looped over the opponents' bar.

The diminutive Abedi came on up front for Spartans and soon had a shot blocked for a corner. On 59' one of the aforementioned long balls caught out Butters and Bell as they almost collided and the ball ran loose after what looked like it had been kicked out of Bell's hands; the loose ball fell to Abedi who scored into an empty net for his second touch.

The referee called over the Holmer captain for a chat, presumably to explain his decision? A period of Holmer domination arose as the visitors sat back and on 66' Whit-

burn replaced Esplund-Evans just before the second half hydration break.

A chance for Mangan who saw his shot from 20 yards go just wide preceded the Holmer equaliser on 81': Mangan and Paul combined in midfield as the latter ran towards the opponents' box, the ball broke to Whitburn whose shot was blocked and fell to Paul who stroked the ball wide of the 'keeper's left into the net for his first First Team Holmer goal, a well-deserved goal reflecting his consistent efforts since coming into the side.

As Holmer pressed for the winner the only opponents' outlet was the long ball and on 85' Majaya replaced Brennan. Chances for Butters and

Holbrook from decent crosses saw their headers either go wide or straight to Ford.

Before a very late corner to Holmer could be taken the previously warned Mangan and the Spartan's defender were both booked for holding. After seven minutes the referee brought the match to an end.

Once again the Greens determination could not be faulted but the final third play can be frustrating; all the skill and positional play is there along with the aforementioned endeavour and it feels that once it can all be put together the goals will come.

Holmer visit Spartans Premier side Risborough Rangers in the FA Vase on Saturday.

Wanderers concede late to crash out of the League Cup

WYCOMBE Wanderers crashed out of the Carabao Cup after Josh Magennis' stoppage-time winner earned Stevenage a dramatic 2-1 victory at Adams Park.

The Chairboys made the brighter start and almost took the lead inside three minutes when Ewan Henderson met Dan Harvie's cross, but the midfielder's header drifted wide of the target.

Henderson was at the heart of much of Wycombe's early attacking play, linking well with wide men Fred Onyed-inma and Silko Thomas as Wanderers looked to seize control.

The hosts continued to press, with Harvie testing Filip Marschall with a header that the Stevenage goalkeeper gathered comfortably.

Although the visitors showed plenty of attacking intent, they had rarely threatened debutant goalkeeper Conor Hazard before taking the lead on 27 minutes.

A long ball forward found Jamie Reid, who brought it down and teed up Dan Kemp.

A lapse in communication between Hazard and Connor Taylor allowed the forward time and space on the edge of the area, and Kemp took full advantage, firing a low effort beyond the goalkeeper at his near post.

Wycombe responded well and were rewarded 12 minutes later through their standout performer of the first half, Henderson.

A slick passing move culminated in Thomas delivering a cross into the box, which Henderson controlled before calmly slotting home.



Wycombe have not won their opening game of the season since 2022

The goal was the Scotsman's first at Adams Park since arriving last season and only his second for the club in all competitions.

Lifted by the equaliser, Wanderers finished the half strongly, but it was Stevenage who came closest to scoring before the interval

when Kemp rattled the crossbar with a powerful strike from distance.

The second half proved a much tighter affair, with both sides largely cancelling each other out in midfield and clear-cut opportunities at a premium.

As the contest appeared

destined for a penalty shootout, Stevenage struck with virtually the last action of the game.

Phoenix Patterson's corner was met by sub Magennis, who headed home on his debut for a dramatic winner to send the visitors through.

The defeat extends Wy-

combe's long wait for a League Cup victory at Adams Park inside 90 minutes.

The Chairboys have now gone 22 matches without achieving the feat, with their last home win in the competition coming in August 2003.

Attendance: 2,510 (324 away supporters)

Former Wanderers winger targeted by a fan

AN ex-Wycombe Wanderers winger found himself at the centre of dramatic scenes after an angry supporter ran onto the pitch to confront him.

The incident happened during Dundalk's away League of Ireland clash against Shamrock Rovers, which involved former Chairboys man, Daryl Horgan.

The Irishman converted a penalty to level the scores at 2-2 on 27 minutes, and celebrated his equaliser in front of the Shamrock supporters, prompting a furious reaction from one fan, who invaded the pitch and attempted to confront the Dundalk player.

Rather than escalating the situation, Horgan initially acted as peacemaker, raising his hands to calm matters down. However, tensions grew, with the former Wycombe winger trying to hold back and protect his enraged teammates.

The supporter appeared to attempt to throw a punch before stewards quickly intervened and escorted the fan away, although he continued trying to make his way towards the Dundalk players before being removed.

The unsavoury scenes overshadowed an entertaining first half.

Shamrock Rovers took the lead after just three minutes when Dylan Watts converted a penalty. Dundalk responded 12 minutes later through Robert Cornwall, who bundled home following a Horgan corner.

The home side regained the advantage shortly afterwards when Michael Noonan headed in just three minutes later, but Horgan restored parity again on 27 minutes from the penalty spot.

It was that equaliser which led directly to the crowd trouble.

Despite Dundalk's fightback, Shamrock Rovers would have the final say before the break as Jonathan Afolabi scored what proved the winning goal shortly before half-time.

The former Republic of Ireland international joined the Chairboys from Hibernian after the club's promotion to the Championship in 2020, and went on to make 101 appearances, scoring three goals in his three years at Adams Park.

His first strike for Wanderers came on his debut in a 1-1 EFL Cup draw against Brentford in September 2020, the first competitive fixture at Brentford's Gtech Community Stadium, with Horgan the first opposition player to score at the venue.

He later scored in a thrilling 4-3 League One victory over Morecambe in October 2021, netting his final Wycombe goal in an EFL Trophy match against Peterborough United in October 2022.

After spending the closing months of his contract on loan at Stevenage, Horgan left Wycombe permanently in summer 2023.

Duff takes positives from League Cup exit

MICHAEL Duff insisted Wycombe Wanderers would win "eight times out of 10" if they reproduced their performance against Stevenage despite suffering a dramatic late 2-1 League Cup defeat.

The Chairboys were beaten by Josh Magennis' stoppage-time header after creating a host of opportunities throughout the evening.

Dan Kemp gave the visitors the lead in the first-half before Ewan Henderson equalised just before the break.

Duff felt his side were unfortunate not to progress and pointed to several key moments that went against them.

He said: "I thought we were good. Were probably two, three or four goals away from winning the game.

"We should have put the game to bed in the first half. We had four or five big chances.

"We've had a perfectly good goal disallowed, a penalty not given and the game should have been over before they scored their winner."

Despite the disappointment of conceding in the dying moments, Duff refused to be overly critical of his players.

"Individual errors happen. They're human beings.

"If we create that many chances, we'll win more games than we'll lose.

"On another day we'd probably win that game eight times out of 10."

The Wycombe boss believes the performance provides encouragement ahead of the League One season.

"There are loads of positives to take.

"If we play like that every week, we'll win a lot more games than we'll lose."



Wycombe Wanderers manager Michael Duff

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Duff hails 'monster' Ewan Henderson after display



Ewan Henderson, pictured playing against Fulham last season. Image: John Walton

MICHAEL Duff revealed Ewan Henderson's transformation on the training ground has been one of the biggest positives of the summer.

The midfielder was one of Wycombe Wanderers' stand out players in the club's 2-1 home loss against Stevenage in the League Cup, where he scored the Chairboys' equaliser just before half-time.

Dan Kemp gave the Hertfordshire-based side the lead on 27 minutes before Henderson's leveller.

However, in the final seconds of the contest, Josh Magennis netted a

header from a Phoenix Patterson corner to snatch the win for Stevenage.

Despite the loss, Henderson shone as he was also orchestrating attacks throughout the opening 45 minutes while helping defensively.

The 25-year-old's display continued an impressive summer that has caught the attention of his head coach.

Duff said: "I don't know what's happened to him this summer.

"I had a few conversations with him during last season about challenging him a little bit more in terms of the way he trained.

"He's always been a good player, but he was a bit easy-ozy.

"He got married in the summer and shaved his hair off, so I don't know what's happened.

"But we like this version.

"He's trained like a monster since the first day of pre-season."

Henderson's goal was his first at Adams Park since arriving at the club in 2025, which capped a performance that saw him repeatedly switch play and create openings for Silko Thomas and Fred Onyedimma.

Duff believes the midfielder's

improvement is a direct result of his work on the training pitch.

"Hopefully he sees the benefit and the by-product of that because when you train like he is at the minute, then you play like he did tonight.

"The only disappointment is that he probably should have walked off with the match ball."

During the contest, Henderson had several good chances to give Wanderers the lead.

Wycombe's league season will start against Blackpool at Bloomfield Road on August 15.

Boss says the summer's recruiting almost over

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Michael Duff says the club is close to finishing its summer recruitment ahead of the new League One season, but admits supporters should not expect any new arrivals before Saturday's trip to Blackpool.

The Blues travel to Bloomfield Road for their league opener looking to begin the campaign on a positive note after an encouraging, if ultimately disappointing, performance against Stevenage in the Carabao Cup.

Duff revealed the club has completed the majority of its transfer business and is keen to build on the stability created during the summer.

"We've probably done 95 per cent of the business now and we've done it quite early," he said.

"There hasn't been wholesale change like there had been in previous windows. One of the things we wanted was a bit of continuity and to build relationships within the group."

While recruitment discussions remain ongoing, Duff confirmed no deals are close to being completed.

Asked whether there were any imminent arrivals, he said: "No, nothing close yet. Not through lack of trying.

"There's always conversations. I had recruitment meetings yesterday with the owner, so there's lots of things going on.

"But in terms of anybody walking through the door in the next three or four days, no."

Attention now turns to the challenge of facing a Blackpool side that finished last season strongly under Ian Evatt and will be targeting a push towards the top end of the table.

Duff expects a difficult opening fixture and believes the Seasiders are beginning to resemble their manager's preferred style.

"They're looking more like an Ian Evatt team," he said.

"They play with a back three, play really good football and finished the

James Richings

season really well.

"They had a difficult start last season, as did we, but Ian really got them going. They only finished three points behind us in the end."

The Wycombe boss knows Evatt well, having regularly come up against him during his managerial career, and is anticipating another closely contested encounter.

"I know Ian well. I think he's the manager I've probably managed against most in my career, so we both know each other pretty well," Duff said.

"We've had some good battles over the years.

"I'd imagine it'll be a good game of football."

Despite the defeat to Stevenage last weekend, Duff took plenty of positives from the display and believes his side deserved more from the game.

"I'd take that performance all day," he said.

"There were lots of good things at the end of a tough pre-season. We lost the game, which was the only negative.

"I think we should have won the game. We created loads and loads of chances."

Now, with the real business beginning, Duff is hoping Wanderers can carry that attacking threat into the league campaign and return from Blackpool with all three points.

"The difference this week is that we want to play good football and win the game," he said.

Wycombe have played Blackpool 31 times in all competitions.

Wanderers have won seven of those games, Blackpool eight, with there being 16 draws.

The last seven meetings between the two sides at Bloomfield Road have all ended in draws.



Sam Parker joined Wycombe Wanderers on loan from Swansea City earlier this month

Duff heaps praise on to new signing Thomas

MICHAEL Duff believes Wycombe Wanderers are already showing signs of becoming the attacking side he wants them to be despite going out of the Carabao Cup against Stevenage.

The Chairboys regularly carved open their League One opponents, but fell to a 2-1 home defeat on August 7.

Dan Kemp gave the visitors the lead on just before the half-hour mark after poor defending from Connor Taylor and debutant Conor Hazard, before Ewan Henderson equalised 12 minutes later.

But with virtually the last action of the contest, Josh Magennis headed home on his debut in second-half stoppage-time to send the Boro into the second round.

Despite the loss, Duff was encouraged by the way his side implemented the patterns worked on throughout pre-season.

"When we play, we look a much better team," he said.

"I was pleased with a lot of the patterns we've worked on.

"When it's done with speed and intensity, it's incisive and it looks good."

The Wanderers head coach also singled out summer signing Silko Thomas for praise after the winger's direct running caused problems throughout the contest.

The winger joined on a free transfer from Leicester City and assisted Henderson's strike.

"What we like about him is that he's direct," Duff said.

"In the final third I want my wide players to keep taking people on.

"If they lose it, I want them to keep trying to beat their man.

"He was really positive.

"He went down the outside, he came inside and it was one of a lot of good performances."

Duff added that if Wycombe continue creating chances at the rate they did against Stevenage, positive results will follow.

"I'd be really worried if we weren't creating chances.

"If we create that many chances, we'll win more games than we lose."