

Premiership newboys headline friendly dates

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play Leicester City in their first pre-season friendly this summer.

The match against the newly-promoted Premiership side at Adams Park on Monday, August 1 (ko

7.45pm) is the only friendly date to be confirmed so far.

Blues are set to have a second home fixture on Saturday, August 6, as well as a string of away games.

Leicester beat Derby County 2-1 in last season's Division One play-off final at

Wembley to earn their place in the top flight. They are expected to bring a strong squad.

Wycombe drew 2-2 with Swindon Town, also newly-elevated to the Premiership, in the corresponding friendly date last year.

Radio aims to give Blues more time

I WRITE in answer to Paul Homer's letter to the Bucks Free Press regarding coverage of the Wycombe Wanderers versus Preston North End game on Saturday, May 28, and why we "didn't cover it".

We did actually cover the game with match reports and goalscorers as is the norm for the current Saturday afternoon sports programme.

The decision not to broadcast the whole match was a programming consideration that had been taken earlier.

Although there are financial considerations to broadcasting live coverage, it was not the major one, as was reported earlier in the week in one local paper. We were aware that other stations had planned to broadcast the entire match, notably BBC Berkshire.

The BBC has a different agreement for coverage to commercial stations and we are currently looking into costings and negotiating a sponsorship package which will enable us to achieve our objective in bringing extended coverage for next season now the Blues have elevated themselves to the Second Division.

Alan Thompson
News Editor/Director
elevenSEVENTY

Stadium parking needs rethink

I REFER to the letter from J Johnston (Bucks Free Press, May 27) regarding the parking proposals from Buckinghamshire County Council, in Sands.

I can assure Mr Johnston that Wycombe District Council has objected to the proposals due to the effect on the local residents, for similar reasons as he gave.

As regards his other comment

about this council and its attitude to parking and the football club generally, we have in fact already looked into possible ways of helping with parking along the lines he suggested.

At the time we were investigating, the crowds at Adams Park were in the region of 3,500-4,000. The numbers of away supporters were also comparatively low. That may well now change and we do need to look into the position again.

Well done the Wanderers. I am looking forward to Second Division football. My aim as a councillor for West Wycombe and Sands is to help both the club and the local residents.

Councillor Andrew Green
Wycombe District Council
Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe

SANDS

Mr M Grey
High Wycombe 452646

AS we had forecast in this column the County Council has responded to well-orchestrated criticism and is now proposing new parking restrictions in Sands on Wycombe Wanderers' match days only.

The proposed changes would prohibit waiting between the hours of noon and 6pm when there is a Saturday afternoon event at Adams Park and would 'prohibit waiting on any day between the hours of 4pm and 10pm when there is an evening event at Adams Park'.

The order would affect certain lengths of Arundel Road, Bookerhill Road, Chapel Lane, the private section of Hillbottom Road, Hylton Road, Lane End Road, Pinewood Road, Progress Road, Stanley Road and Toweridge Lane.

Existing restrictions during events at Adams Park on evenings and weekends along Arundel Road, Carisbrooke Road, Rydal Way and Warwick Avenue would remain in effect.

There would be some exceptions to the order, eg for people to board or alight... and the waiting of disabled persons vehicles in accordance with the Orange Badge scheme.

Please send grounds for your objections to: I Crookhall, County Secretary and Solicitor, Aylesbury HP20 1UA. Mark the envelope Attention Mrs P Hennessy. The deadline for comments is July 8.

INSPECTOR John R Frears in the Department of Environment has decided to allow an appeal by the Wycombe Wanderers Football Club that permits the club to run a 100-stall Sunday market in its car park.

The decision dismayed the Sands Residents Association alarmed at additional Sunday traffic and disappointed the District Council. The council had given the club a temporary three month permit to assess further the impact of the market on the Sands community. The club was appealing having only a temporary permit.

Supporters get a kick in the teeth Restrictions plan is quite illogical

IN the last week, notices have been posted in many of the roads around Adams Park listing the proposed parking restrictions specifically targeting football fans. This is yet another illogical and over-zealous action on the part of a local council (this time Bucks County Council) and will merely serve to cause further frustration for Blues' and visiting supporters.

The problem is that people have to park somewhere and making more draconian parking restrictions (relating to football only) will merely mean people will park elsewhere.

Are these council officials then going to tour round and place further restrictions in the roads where people are then forced to park?

The football club is a real asset to the town, but the actions of Bucks County Council are merely those of an ostrich. I have every sympathy with residents who get blocked in by inconsiderate motorists on match-days but this could be alleviated by the club employing parking stewards in problem roads on match-days. There must be a bit of give and take by everybody especially when the club gives so much pleasure to so many.

Two examples spring to mind; when I first lived in Chesham, it was difficult to park during the day because of two factories at either end of the street.

When both these firms closed down, parking became infinitely easier... but 150 people had lost their jobs. Similarly, my business premises are right next to Chesham United's ground and on match-days, the place gets packed with cars.

It would be very easy to block it off and let somebody else have the problem, but what does this achieve?

By discriminating against the much-maligned football supporters, Bucks County Council will be making it almost impossible for elderly people to go to games given the distance they will have to walk.

A D Worboys
Poles Hill
Chesham

THE proposal by Bucks County Council to impose further parking restrictions on roads near Adams Park, when a match is on, is completely illogical.

They cite improving safety to pedestrians and easing traffic flow as their reasons, but all they are doing is shifting these problems to a new set of residents in surrounding roads.

With restrictions now stretching to the West Wycombe Road, where will it all end - no parking within three miles of Adams Park?

The club and the town council have been working together to resolve the problem of the severe traffic congestion and the club will shortly start building a new car park at the ground.

Perhaps a park-and-ride scheme needs re-investigating,

but what we do not want are ill-advised schemes which merely sweep the dirt under the carpet and benefit no-one in the long term.

Anyone who believes in common sense should strongly object, by July 8, to Mr I Crookall, The Country Secretary and Solicitor at County Hall, Aylesbury.

Steve Peart
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High Wycombe