



Smart Alex chase Burnell

CHESHAM striker Danny Burnell, above, is expected to go back to Crewe Alexandra for another trial after bad weather stopped play at Gresty Road this week.

Burnell was pencilled in for a reserve and training game, but freezing conditions and snow meant he only had a few training sessions to show off his potential.

The League One club have not written him off though and when it suits them and Chesham will invite Burnell north again.

Chesham manager Andy Leese said: "He's our player so it has to suit us, but I've told him we won't stand in his way.

"Unfortunately Crewe didn't have any formal games to watch him in, but he's been training with them and the feedback I've had is that he has done ok in that environment."

Burnell has scored 19 times already this season and was the top scorer in his division last year with 27 goals.

Leese said: "His record speaks for itself. His work ethic is excellent and he deserves his chance.

"I've been in the game a while and there aren't many things that make me say 'wow', but he was full of it at training last Thursday night, there were balls flying in the net from everywhere and some of his finishes were incredible.

"Crewe have obviously done their homework and you never know. Danny could end up living the dream as a full-time footballer."

Meanwhile, Chesham's game at Sudbury did was a victim of the weather on Tuesday night as Leese's team were frustrated in their attempts to build on Saturday's 8-1 thrashing of Barton Rovers.

The result came just ten days after Chesham had lost 8-1 on the same pitch in a cup game, and eased the pressure on Leese after some sections of the support had been calling for his head.

Leese said: "I was pleased with the performance. Barton aren't one of the better teams in the league, but it just gives us the bit of confidence back again, that belief that we can move the ball and score goals.

"You've got to play the same 1-0 down as you do 1-0 up, and at the moment we're not. We're panicking and it's very hard to get into the psychology of people. We're trying really hard and on Thursday we spent a lot of the time just talking to them."

Eight different scorers registered against Barton, but the pick of the goals came from Liam Farrell, a second-half substitute who had barely touched the ball before setting off on a mazy run that took him past four defenders and then round the keeper as he scored a goal that will live long in memory.

Leese said: "It was a hell of a goal, and it's his 19th birthday as well. I had him at Potters Bar and brought him over from Cheshunt about six weeks ago.

"He's been playing in the reserves and banging the goals in, so with Danny away we thought we'd bring him in and get him involved."

Chesham are due to play Atherstone Town tomorrow.

Blues defend their undersoil heating after having another game called off

WANDERERS insist their undersoil heating at Adams Park is a plus – despite having had three matches called off at the stadium in the past 18 months.

Blues' match at home to Barnet on Tuesday night was the latest to fall victim to the weather even though, on this occasion, the undersoil heating did its job and the pitch was perfect.

The heating had been on for two days at a cost of around £1,000 but concerns about supporters' safety were the reason for the decision to stop the game.

It is the second match

Wanderers by Dave Peters

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Wanderers have lost to the snow this winter.

Their League Two game at home to Macclesfield in October was abandoned after just 22 minutes when a blizzard struck.

The Adams Park undersoil heating also failed to help Wasps last season when their Guinness Premiership fixture at home to Sale was frozen off with less than an hour to go before kick off.

But Blues say the heating is worth having. They say it saved their January 3 game against Bury and say it has been invaluable this week giving the players somewhere to train when their training pitch is frozen.

They have also defended the system arguing that the snowfall which hit the Macclesfield game was freakish and added that the weather which Ko'd Tuesday's fixture was the worst in 18 years.

● Wanderers had to apply to the Football League for permission to change their shirt sponsors' name on a one-off basis during

Saturday's win over Accrington.

Club sponsors Dreams agreed to drop their name for one match to allow the club's chosen charity for this year, Scannappeal, to have their name on the shirts instead.

Blues are now inviting written applications from charities who want to be adopted by the club as their charity for next season.

Blues' raised £33,000 for the Iain Rennie charity the previous year and are hopeful of matching that this season.

Applications should be addressed to club secretary Keith Allen.

Saints cross fingers for clear skies to Wembley

Will the snow stop Chalfont booking their place in the last eight?

**Chalfont St Peter v
Christchurch
FA Vase
Tomorrow, 3pm**

CHALFONT St Peter are preparing for the most important game in the club's history tomorrow, but manager Danny Edwards has plenty to concern him ahead of their home FA Vase last-16 clash with Christchurch.

The weather has played havoc with his team's fixture list in the last six weeks and Edwards fears a spring backlog similar to that which cost them so dearly last season.

They are already four games behind their rivals in the South Midlands Spartan League and the prospect of playing three or four times a week is now becoming a very real concern.

Edwards said: "I'm worried about the backlog in March and April. Obviously that's what caught us out last year and already next week we're due to play Tuesday and Thursday. Playing four games in seven days is insane.

"It happened last season. We got six points from nine and lost one of the cup games and I think that was when people started to lose faith. But I'm hoping because we went through it last year we'll be better prepared now."

Last year they looked certain league winners until they flagged in the final weeks to allow Beaconsfield to come up on the rails and pip them to the post. Going one better is a priority this year, but they have to reconcile their league ambitions with the knowledge that a dream trip to Wembley is just three games away.

Having gone further in the FA Vase than ever before in their



BIG CHALLENGE: Chalfont St Peter are three games from Wembley but also have league ambitions

history, they are now favourites to land the coveted trophy and Edwards' men can take another huge step forwards tomorrow when Christchurch are the visitors.

Weather-permitting, of course. Tuesday's match with Holmer Green had to be postponed and the arctic weather this week means Saints have been building for Christchurch with only half a focus.

Edwards said: "We have to prepare as if the game is going to be on, but you look outside and it's just a blanket of white. If it snows again later in the week and temperatures don't get above one or two degrees, then the pitch is going to be very hard.

"The problem is we haven't had much time to work on the pitch, so I think we'll need a weather shift if the game is going to go ahead."

The Saints have already seen off

Totten and Eling 5-2, Clanfield 2-0 and Selsey 2-0, and in the last round won an extraordinary game against Dunstan Federation 6-5.

Charlie Strutton netted one of the goals in that game and is the form striker in the competition with 15 goals in his last nine games, but if the tomorrow's game does go ahead he will have to sit it out after picking up five bookings.

Saints remain 5/2 favourites to win the trophy.

Marlow on the march as Roche fires Blues to third victory

MARLOW were denied a chance to win their fourth league game in a row on Tuesday when their game at Bedworth was postponed due to snow.

The Blues are making steady progress up the Southern League Midlands Division; Saturday's 2-0 victory at Bromsgrove Rovers was their third win in a row and leaves them sixth and in the play-offs.

Jermaine Roche got the Blues on their way with an opening goal

after 19 minutes, before Alex Stewart made certain of the points ten minutes from time.

Weather-permitting, they can close the gap on one of the teams above them when second-placed Nuneaton Town visit Oak Tree Road tomorrow.

Meanwhile, in Division One South and West Beaconsfield edged bottom club Winchester City 1-0 thanks to Stuart Swift's goal.

The Rams remain fourth before Saturday's trip to North Leigh.

In the South Midlands Spartan Premier Division, bottom side Holmer Green are winless since September after losing 2-1 at Leverstock on Saturday.

They get another chance tomorrow when Oxhey Jets are their visitors.

Elsewhere, Hellenic Premier Division side Chalfont Wasps drew 1-1 at Milton United, Marlow

United lost 3-2 against Witney and Flackwell Heath edged Shrivvenham 1-0 thanks to Rino Sepede. Tuesday's games were all off, but Wasps are in action tomorrow at Harrow.

In Division One East, Chinnor beat Henley Town 1-0 and Thame United were 3-1 winners over Englefield Green Rovers. Tomorrow Thame go to Bisley, Chinnor host Binfield, Ascot visit Penn and Prestwood are at Kilburn