

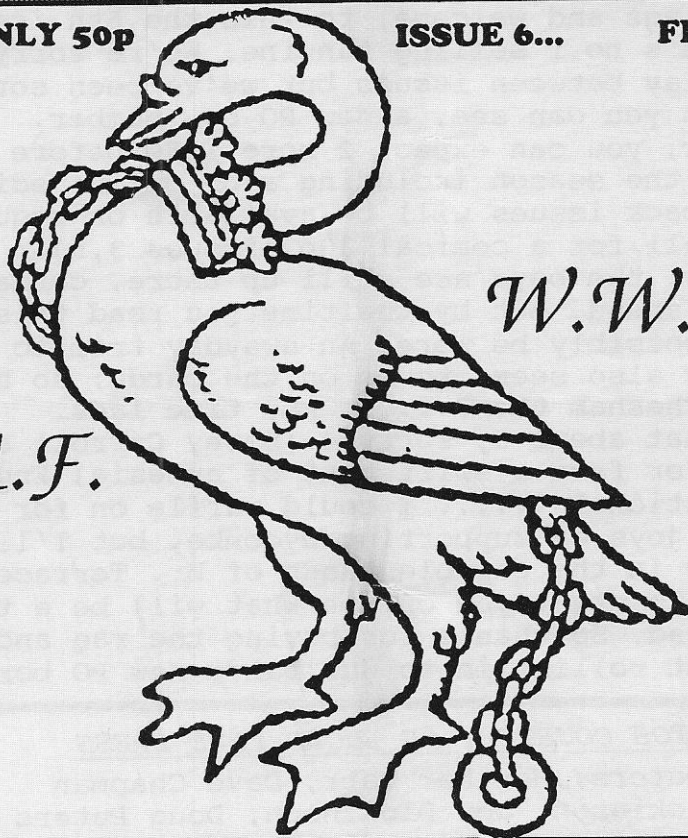
THE ADAMS FAMILY



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ISSUE 6...

FEB 93....



T.A.F.

W.W.F.C.

Inside
Crossley Tribute, A-Z Cont, Terrace Tattle,
Haircut, Haircut, Whatever Happend To,
and much much more

WYCOMBE WANDERERS FANZINE

THE ADAMS FAMILY

**P.O. BOX 394 HIGH WYCOMBE
BUCKS HP13 6HT**

Greetings and welcome, to this the 6th issue of Wycombe's no.1 selling fanzine. We're sorry about the delay between issues but we've been sorting out, as you can see, a new PO box number. However, you can expect 2 more TAFs before the end of the season including a champions edition. Also, back issues will be available on request at our stall for a comical 30p (issues 3,5).

Anyhow, the boys are still up there, currently 9 points ahead, but by the time you read this it could possibly be more. An awayday trip to Wembley also seems to be on the cards; so how's about Chesham then? Any time lads.

And what about 5, sorry 4 (Davey Carroll seemed to suffer from a swift bout of amnesia) England internationals..... I could waffle on for ever on the joys of supporting Wycombe, but I'll leave you now in the capable hands of Mr. Terrace Tattle to start you off on what will be a truly fine read. So thanks for buying the rag and keep the post rolling in to our fancy new PO box.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUCKS FREE PRESS

Contributors; Heather Carr, Dave Chapman
Andy Dickinson, Jon Dickinson, Doug Peters
Neil Peters, Paul Van Walwyk.

Many thanks to; Stuart Brown, Stuart Lloyd

Outlets; From our new address (50p + SAE) or from Wycombe's finest emporium of alcoholic beverages WYCOMBE WINES, Crendon Street, High Wycombe.

Next Issue; Without doubt 3rd or 10th April '93

TERRACE TATTLE

I can't believe it! After years of seeing quality individuals in Wycombe shirts ignored by the England semi-pro hierarchy, in favour of talentless workhorses from either Enfield or Sutton, four of our lads have been called up to do their duty for queen and country. The likes of Andy Kerr should have been in that squad years ago, cruelly overlooked for Nigel Golley, an absolute joke.

I can't think why there has been such a change of heart in the England camp, this time it seems that they were so desperate to pick Wycombe players, even Scottish ones were considered!

However, a considerable amount of outrage should be expressed at the decision to pick Dagenham's Paul Cavell instead of guru Keith Scott. I know I have called him an overweight loser in the past but just look at those goals, after all where's Cavell in the GM scorers list? Actually they probably thought Scotty was Irish what with all that Guinness he drinks.

THE BERKS AND BUCKS CUP.

For me the B&B is somewhat like a "Caution Wet Paint" sign, you know you shouldn't touch it, but you always do just to check it out. I went along without any expectations but I have to put it on record that it was the most abysmal performance from any team in a football shirt, let alone a Wycombe one. In fact it was so poor I left after 65 minutes. I know it may have been our youth team but Flackwell are hardly the A.C. Milan of Diadora 3. All I can say is, if that's the standard of what's coming up through the ranks, then I hope Wycombe don't run out of money for transfers in the future.

Could I ask what Steve Guppy has ever done to the detriment of the youth of Wycombe? For some reason the ones I always stand near seem to hate him. At the Kidderminster game, when the tannoy man said "Number 11 Dennis Greene," a bespectacled 14 year old in front of me punched

the air with delight and exclaimed to his spotty mates "Brilliant, Guppy's out!" It's not the first time I've heard the kids slate the man, throughout the season I've heard such mutterings. Add these to the tragic old men I've written about in the past and it seems the wizard of Wycombe's wing is not universally loved. Strange for a player who is without doubt Wycombe's most skilled.

A couple of weeks ago I had a most fulfilling evening discussing the world of non-league football with a Slough Town fan. I tell you "sour" would not do the man justice. Among his tall claims were these pearls:

1. Wycombe have a 40 man squad.
2. Wycombe's chairman personally funds transfers from his own pocket.
3. Steve Thompson wouldn't get in Slough's team anyway.
4. With all the breaks Wycombe get, it's a disgrace they haven't won the league already.
5. Martin O'Neill is on over 100,000 pounds a year.
6. When Slough play their games in hand, they'll be level on points.
7. Slough play attractive football.

It was hilarious. If someone from BBC2 had been there, they'd have given him his own comedy show. I rounded off the discussion by stating that I have never felt so unthreatened by another football team in my entire life, to which he scowled "Well we'll soon see." Yes, I'm sure we will.

It's good to see loan man Rob Dewhurst fitting in so well at the back, full marks to Mr. Parry for his work there, but for all his quality we're still going to miss Crease in these latter stages of the season. I felt truly numb when I heard he was out for the rest of the season, because the man has been at the top of his game this season without doubt. But battle on we must and I'm sure Glyn will be consoled with the thought that he will undoubtedly lead the blues to the third

division title and the Leyland/ Wavy Line stores cup final next year!

Finally, I'm hoping that by the time you read this Mr. Commuterbelt himself Kim "stripy pants" Casey will have restored himself to the front line. Either that or a goal from Dennis or "local hero" (Yes the video's still available from us - just send us your address for God's sake) but I suppose that's somewhat unlikely. The rate those two are going we might even have to resort to Keith Ryan up front!

----- Frankley ... It's a rip off-----

After witnessing the heart-wrenching match at West Bromwich, like many other wanderers fans we stopped at the services on the M62. Frankley services, the last outpost before Oxford not only managed to close the shop just as everyone was arriving, but caused irreversible financial damage in the so called "Restaurant" (by name only, really a glorified teabar).

Why close the shop when many Wanderers fans were only too happy to pay out the extortionate prices for meagre items, rather than face the journey home hungry. It would have been worth paying the staff a bit more to hang on for half an hour and do loads of business, maybe Frankley services doesn't realise there is a recession on. Maybe it was all a cunning plan to get people to the "restaurant" where the real rip off could start.

Prices ranged from the expensive to the extortionate, even the Adams Park teabar looked reasonably priced. Just sample a few of these outrageous prices:

A stale Danish Pastry:	1.20p
A portion of baked beans:	94p
200ml Appletize drink:	1.15p
A rancid scone:	98p

Many other items are unprintable due to both quality(or lack of it) and price. All that is left to say is a good time was NOT had by all!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

SIR MATT CROSSELEY

a five year tribute



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

When most people talk of loyal servants to the club, the name to crop up on one's lips is that of "local hero" Sir Mark West. But what about Matthew John Willian George Crossley, who on the 6th of February celebrated 5 years of stirring service to WWFC. Yes how many of you were present when the leggy 19 year old donned the famous blues shirt for the first time? The game was vs Wealdstone, the date 6th of Feb 1988, the result 1-0 to the Blues. A star was truly born, and the popularity of Matt Crossley rises by the week. Indeed, matchday mascots have even been known to cite Matt as their favourite player on the back of the programme, thus possibly making Matt the best player outside the football league through many youngsters eyes. Why? Well there are many reasons and qualities that make Matt the non-league colossus he is:

1. Matt is the model pro - never flustered, always keen, quiet temparement and more than happy to take responsibilities.
2. Determination: Matt has had injury set backs, he missed the start of the 88-89 season, but he returned... a real man. He was also thick skinned enough to ignore sour cries of "donkey" in his early years (when the real donkey was surely Nigel Taylor.)
3. Versatility: An ability to play in any shirt coupled with the brain to adapt to new rules. (As we all know Matt was the king of the back pass but in the light of new rules has adapted his game superbly.)
4. Patience: A childhood prodigy (and rumour has it, once a lethal striker), Matt slumped it for 2.5 years with Basingstoke, Newbury and Overton,

finding his feet at grass roots level before stepping up to the big boys league in '88 - for it was then he realised he was man enough for it. 5. A sense of fair play: Forget Barnet's Andy Clarke running into Matt's outstretched arm, Matt is the Alan Hansen of non-league football; cool, calm and with a deft pair of boots. Insiders tell us he was choked about the aforesaid sending off, as at the time he was close friends with Trevor Brooking, who subsequently severed their long friendship.

So here's to another 5 years and who knows Matt, in 1998 you could be leading the Blues out in their debut premier league game, however, if A.C. Milan moved in with a multi-million pound deal, I for one would hardly be surprise. Matty.....You're a star!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

~~~~~**LETTERS**~~~~~

Dear T.A.F.

I write as a man intrigued as to the future of the Woodlands Terrace at Adams Park. I'm a loyal Blues supporter and get to most of the home games and some away games with my three young lads. Anyway, this is beyond the point as all I want to say, hopefully to any club official that may be reading, is that I want the Woodlands to go all seater next season, as I believe it's the only way forward for the club.

I have had a good response from fellow fans and was wondering where you the fanzine stand on this. At many larger games I merely feel that the number of seats is inadequate.

Yours
Martin Norriss,
Stokenchurch.

Can't say I agree with you Martin, but if anyone else has any different views let us know.



GRORTY DICK

the independent WBA Fanzine

Dear Adams Family:

A few disconnected thoughts that made up the bulk of a letter I sent to a Wycombe supporter. Thought you might be interested.

Wycombe are an exceptional Non-League team and could quite easily have won. Had you had Andy Kerr for the first match (incidentally he was a schoolmate of our co-editor Steve Carr.), Taylor and Garner would not have had so much space. From a selfish survival point of view I was relieved that Casey was out of the action so quickly (though I don't wish pain on the guy). As a former semi-regular at Kidderminster Harriers, I knew exactly what Casey could do. Equally, Baggie people could argue that we were without five first choice senior pros for the replay - Garner, Hackett, Fereday, Burgess and Shakespeare so these things equal themselves out.

I was so worried about the prospect of defeat before the first match that I didn't sleep the night before. Neither did my wife. The butterflies were insistent and permanent. Four of us drove down together and we'd all got pre-match nerves. That doesn't happen very often these days I assure you. Not since Bristol Rovers - and we lost that one!

I suspect most Baggie people were of the same frame of mind and relieved their fear in a positive manner by getting behind the team far better than normal. Despite being outnumbered three to one at your place, I felt that we made far more noise. (It was rather closer at the Hawthorns because we were getting frustrated with our team.)

You know, I was ecstatic and then furious in the same match. We would have been delighted to have been offered a draw before kick-off and we got one but it was just the manner of it that was so annoying. We have a Latin motto at Grorty Dick Towers - *Semper Te Fallant* - "they always let you down". And they do!

I'm sorry the Hawthorns ground facilities weren't to some Wycombe supporters liking. Yet they are amongst the best in the lower Divisions - if not the best!

Albion franchise the catering so any blame for food shortages lie with Stadia Catering. But the Wycombe

following was huge ! - bigger than any Second Division visitors to date and so maybe they were just taken unawares. I expect that only Stoke will bring greater numbers this season.

Any other season and you would have had a roof. Unfortunately, the local Council - who do so enjoy meddling - told us that the roof was unsafe and had to come down. Most clubs only bring a few hundred supporters and so they are all given seats and charged terrace prices. At the end of the season, WBA will start work on a 6000 seat stand at the Smethwick End so when you visit again (League Cup?) the conditions will be rather more agreeable.

Are you sure that you want promotion to the pro ranks? Going in the cage at Doncaster? The flat asphalt area at Halifax? Massive fences at Scarboro? Seats only at Walsall? Home ends at most ground? On the other hand, I accept that a club like Wanderers has to go forward or stagnate.

WBA supporters have huge respect now for Wycombe.

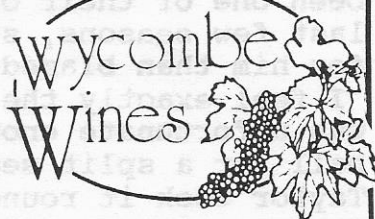
Simon

SIMON WRIGHT Co-EDITOR

PS Please pass on our thanks to the Bucks Free Press for their complimentary words about GD!

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GUPPY - GURU OF WYCOMBE



When Des Walker headed the ball into his own net to give Spurs the FA cup, how many Forest fans really held it against him or blamed him? He had been one of their outstanding players for the last few seasons, surely more people felt sorry for him than blamed him.

I feel exactly the same about Steve Guppy. He was unfortunate enough to lose control of the ball for a split second at West Brom, and Rob Taylor took it round Andy Kerr and finished well. Steve must have felt awful, but how could anyone blame him. Over the two games he was one of our exceptional players. He attacked superbly, put in quality crosses and worked very hard when he came back to defend.

I remember when Guppy joined Wycombe under Jim Kelman. He seemed to float past defenders and put in inch perfect crosses when there seemed to be no room (shame Lambert couldn't put them away). Since then he has got stronger, wiser, and has a few more tricks in his repertoire.

Why is it then that some overweight, pipe smoking fans, who couldn't even match Matt Crossley for pace or Steve Rutter for close control, have taken it upon themselves to abuse one of the best players in the Conference? Granted, he is not exactly Lee Chapman in the air, and he doesn't always go on the overlap as often as he should, but that does not warrant cries of "It must be his birthday" after he has been on another great run. Those saddos in the Woodlands who abuse him would (if they ever made it to an away game) have been toasting him at Woking or Slough on boxing day. Or what about at home to C*1 U** last season when he equalised with a goal of George Best proportions. Without Steve Guppy, Wycombe would not have such a great goal difference as he creates a plethora of chances for the forwards (we certainly missed him at home to Kiddy recently). So fat whingers on the terrace, until you can find a better left winger (I mean realistically, not John Barnes or Anders Limpar) I suggest that you shut your faces and give our players some encouragement and support.

W.W.1 T.A.F, 0

In the last issue of T.A.F. I wrote about how poor the organisation of the F.A. cup W.B.A. ticket sale was. I said when they went on sale it would be unfair and end in chaos. Well I can only apologise to those involved in the sale of those tickets. W.W.F.C. have excelled themselves again in the professional stakes, the system used to sell the tickets was quick, safe, fair and efficient. Everyone who turned up, even those who we laughed at for being what seemed too late, went away with a ticket, probably laughing at us. In my previous article I suggested a couple of ways to sort out the sale of tickets for a big match but as long as the club carry on with the system they opted for, we should all be happy. ||

Haircut, Haircut

We here a TAF like to get to the bottom of issues that really concern you, the supporters. So here we present a study on the main reasons why Wycombe Wanderers have always trod a little cautiously in the transfer market - what could be called "the ropey barnet factor."

Back in the 40s and 50s hairstyle was not a problem. All players had the near compulsory 'short back and sides' with a good dash of Brylcreem to keep it down. The arrival of the Beatles in the 60s certainly spawned a few 'Mersey mop-tops' but nothing too outrageous appeared, and even looking back to your old 70s soccer videos, shapeless scruffy barnets and preposterous sideburns were the order of the day for virtually every player.

It was only with the advent of new-romantics in the early 80s that the breakaway occurred. Players started experimenting with new lengths, styles and colours of hair and the football ground soon became catwalk for crap haircuts. WWFC has however, always clamped down on sub-standard hairdressing and this is one of the many reasons why I believe the club is so well supported. The following comprehensive list should leave you in no doubt:

1. KEVIN COLLINS: It always baffled me why Kev even came into consideration for selection in the days of his flowing Terry McDermott perm - he would wander aimlessly around in midfield looking for a purpose in the game, Kev, however, found a new lease of life when management forced him to 'lop it off'. The man started taking people on and even scoring occasionally! His past misdemeanours though were too much for the Blues board to handle and mid-way through the 86-87 season he was evicted to Australia.

2. BARRY SILKMAN: Barry arrived in a blaze of glory during our record breaking 86-87 season in the Vauxhall Opel league. Undoubtedly a man of valuable experience and outrageous talent Barry never fitted in well with the other Wycombe players, his appearance being more suited to that

**OH
NO!**



Kevin Keegan

**OH
YES!**



Dave Carroll

of a casino owner in Ibiza than a non-league footballer. After a handful of appearances he was sadly forced to pursue his career elsewhere, his lavish perm in close pursuit.

3. RICK COLLIER: Concrete proof that beards and football don't mix. In his one and only appearance for Wycombe at Croydon's comical sports arena, this on loan 'keeper' (I use the word loosely) made one unforgivable cock up of a cross which led to the game's only goal. Westy then deliberately got himself sent off rather than continue playing with this clown.

4. MIKE BRADY: A mate of the godlike Johnny Kerr, sadly he never possessed the talent of the said cult striker. His shoulder length perm always drew frowns from the management team and maybe judging him on two performances is a little harsh, but if you can't impress against ruddy Marlow in the B&B cup, then I'm afraid there's little hope for you. They couldn't get him back stateside quick enough.

5. DAVE CARROLL: A current example of a player who has cropped for the better. When he arrived from Ruslip Manor in 1988 Dave looked like the type of bloke who would read gas meters for a living; unkempt collar-length wave up, wispy tash and a chirpy cockney accent. However, when the board forced him to "get with it or get out" Dave obliged. Gone was his tash, along with a good 3 inches of his tussled barnet and while he still retains a natural curl, donkey Dave as he was affectionately known on the terraces, soon blossomed into a thoroughbred stallion, and at the same time a big hit with the ladies.

6. SEAN NORMAN: The most recent genuine left-back at the club, Sean was a regular and popular member of the team for some time, until one appalling barber shop gaff at the end of the 1989 season. Away at Sutton he decided to sport what can only be described as 'custard yellow curls'. From a distance it looked as though a giant caterpillar with chronic jaundice had settled on Sean's head. He was obviously relegated to the subs bench and never played again. Despite two convincing attempts to re-sign for Wycombe the

directors have stood firm; we can forgive Sean, but hardly forget.

7. Nicky Evans: What ever you may read in books, magazines, programmes etc the hype simply wasn't true! Nicky was signed for a considerable fee from, appropriately enough, Barnet, against the wishes of many officials at Wycombe. He was the ultimate beach bum and his glowing tan was for all to see even on the coldest winter evening, a constant source of embarrassment for the pallid Dave Carroll. In addition, he possessed a poofy dishwater blonde bouffant which never went down well. The club fobbed off the press with stories that Nicky was always injured but in fact he was locked in the physio room and tortured by directors until his golden locks reverted back to the Lord's chosen hue. They never did of course and Nicky was sent back to from whence he came.

Lest we forget....highlights king (or should it be queen) Roy Fairchild who suffered the ultimate indignation of a free transfer to Flackwell Heath, and Pete Johnson who impressed on loan from Peterborough last season, but who refused to cut off his curly rats tail and was promptly sent packing back up the A1.

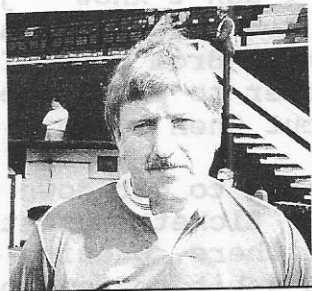
The message is clear, if you're the sort of chap whose footballing image is based on Brian Kilcline, Terry Hurlock or Mark Hughes then Wycombe certainly isn't the club for you. Try Macclesfield or Altrincham instead where cack players with cack haircuts are accepted with open arms.

A-Z OF NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

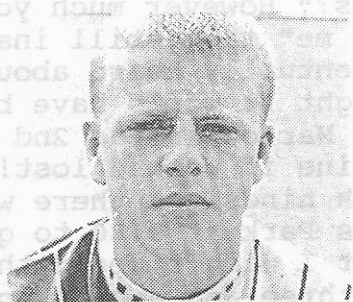
In this my final listing, you should now have the definitive A - Z of sad non-league faces, places and folklore. If you missed a few, then read the complete listing supplied in the next issue.

W: Peter Wragg: There is no bigger goon in non-league than tragic gippo Peter Wragg, Macclesfield boss and collector of talentless

apes, who disguise themselves as footballers for a few hours a week. I read recently in 'Team Talk' - the anti-Wycombe magazine, that Martin O'Neill is a huge admirer of Macclesfield. I really can't believe this. Every negative aspect of football is found in this greasy eleven, and who's at the helm.... Wragg, an utter disgrace.



PETER WRAGG



Stefan Xavier

X: Stefan Xavier-Hendon: Footballer with a stupid name (well you try finding a bloody X)

Y: Yeovil Town: One time bitter rivals, now a truly sad club who try to survive by issuing charity buckets at every home game. Oh dear lads, remember when you used to beat us every game, remember how smug you all were. What ever happened? Yeovil fans must now be truly gutted when they see the might of WWFC, because it could well have been them.

Z: Joseph 'Zacharius' Blochel: Who can remember our friend from beyond the iron curtain who arrived in a blaze of glory in 1985 and swiftly bogged off to Bognor of all places. If the name doesn't ring a bell, picture an oppressed looking Euro wearing a number 10 shirt and doing absolutely sod all. Yes that man was Blochel, a man who never, ever so much as got mud on his socks. A man who would have at least 10 shots a game (5 of which would go off for throw-ins) Ultimately Joe was a player who disgraced the hallowed turf of Loakes Park, as his performances were nothing short of farce.

W.B.A. Reflection

Why is it that when someone hears the draw for a F.A. cup match and you ask them who the Blues have got, they never tell you straight out (especially Alan Hutchinson). They always have to be smug by saying "Well it's at home they're a big club, they're in the 2nd division, guess who it is?" However much you say "I don't know - just tell me" they still insist on you guessing. When I eventually heard about the West Brom game, I thought it would have been better to play someone like Marlow in the 2nd round but then again, imagine if we had lost!

With hindsight there was no need to get down to Adams Park at 9.30 to queue for tickets but at least I didn't spend the night there. Queuing up for three and a half hours was a bit tedious but at least as there were 5 of us, we could take it in turns to look round the Sunday market, what a treat! It was bitterly cold standing still for hours. So cold in fact that 3 of us went into the club shop and bought tacky ski-hats to keep the winter chill out.

We got down to the ground at about 10am on the day of the game to sell the fanzine. Loads of Baggie fans (not Happy Mondays' fans, West Brom fans) arrived early and we had a good chat with a few of them. They were a decent bunch of lads and lasses, except for one of them who said "I've just been to have a look at your ground, it's a great set up you've got here" I nearly screamed.

The atmosphere inside the ground was electric. Even the Woodlands were singing their hearts out. We were standing near the Brom. fans and you could sense their relief when they scored their first and then their second goal. By half time I was thinking that there was no chance of an upset and that we were going to lose. All I wanted was one goal so that we could go nutty.

Then it came, Creaser rising up like the sword Excalibur out of the lake to make it 2-1 and erupt 6,000 into scenes of ecstasy. Suddenly I started believing we could do it. Next thing I know Thommo goes and equalises. I must have

hugged about 20 people I'd never even spoken to before. I just couldn't believe it. It took me a few minutes to catch my breath. Up until then the West Brom fans had been singing "Are you watching Bobby Gould?" Now it was our turn to sing the same song back at them. Bobby must have been chuckling in his commentators box as 1500 Baggies fans fell silent.

There is no doubt that at the end of the game they were the more relieved side to hear the final whistle. It was great to see the 2 sets of supporters applauding each other at the end. Me, well I was too knackered to even climb over the perimeter fence onto the pitch let alone lift my arms to clap.

I went to the replay expecting to lose by 2 or 3 goals. As in the first game I just wanted us to score so we could go mad.

When we arrived at the Hawthorns I was really impressed. It was obviously a "purpose built ground". The terrace we were on had an excellent view, shame it didn't have a roof (apparently it's being replaced). It was great to see 4,000 or so Blues fans there singing their hearts out. If we'd had a roof over us we would have out sung the Albion fans for most of the game. After about 15 minutes I really thought we could do it. We matched them in every department. Every member of the team played exceptionally. Most notably Andy Kerr and Steve Thompson. At half time I was expecting the next 45 minutes to produce either an onslaught from Albion or a giant killing act from the Blues.

With 10 minutes to go I was hoarse and getting ready for extra time. And then it happened. It was unfortunate that Steve Guppy gave the ball away (See elsewhere in this issue for my views on that) and Bob Taylor beat the outstanding Kerr and put an unstoppable shot past Paul Hyde. Only once before have I felt as gutted at a football match, when England lost the semi-final of the World Cup to West Germany. As in that occasion, I

had tears in my eyes and a lump the size of Mt. Everest in my throat. I tried to chant and encourage the Blues but I was just too exhausted. I stood there in stunned silence then, I sung louder than I ever had before. In the dying seconds Hutch crossed, Scott got a touch and Guppy was just inches away from scoring and that was it, the dream was over.

I left the ground feeling thoroughly dejected and disillusioned with football, I was inconsolable. Then I came to my senses and realised that I had gone to the Hawthorns expecting us to get trounced and we ended up nearly causing a huge upset.

I take my hat off to Martin and the team. Thanks for two great games and some magic memories which will stay with me for the rest of my life.

West Brom are a very good side and deserve to gain promotion this year. They have some excellent players, most notably their captain Darren Bradley, yet Wycombe very nearly beat them. We should be proud of our team.

I will leave the last few words to Martin O'Neill when he said "We're sick of being gallant losers, we want to come out as winners." Believe me Martin, we will.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Flashback..... Bognor 87

Whilst it may be a bit presumptuous to think about winning the league title this season, something pretty dreadful will have to happen to stop the Wanderers bandwagon claiming its rightful place as outright winners at the end of the season.

Of course league winning has been experienced by long time supporters before, but how many of you remember that foggy night in April '87 when the Blues triumphed over Bognor Regis to gain promotion to the GMVC, and condemn Yeovil Town to another season in the Vauxhall Opel League.

Season 86-87 was above all things, immense fun.

Wycombe won 32 of their 42 games, losing only 5 and triumphing 3-2 over local nobodies Aylesbury Utd in the B&B final at Wolverton. Every game could be approached with an air of invincibility. Players like Noel Ashford, Kevin Durham, Declan Link and Keith Barrett were years ahead of the witless clowns that inhabited most teams in the VOL. Alongside the suave elder statesman like figure of Kirk Corbin, the guile and goals of Jason Seacole, Westy's tap-ins and Andy Graham's amazing floating crosses, the Blues could rarely lose. Even when Gary Lester fell off the bus and did his leg in, midfielder Graham Bressington played a whole 90 minutes between the sticks against Farnborough, and kept a clean sheet!

But back to the night of April 13th 1987. As a schoolkid I used to travel on the supporters coach and duly bunked off double physics to catch the 3.30 departure. However, one person didn't bunk off school and paid the price. Teacher, mid-fielder and general 'Tefal-head' Andy Graham missed the coach and the match! Could you imagine that happening now?

Travelling on the coach was a nightmare for a penniless 15 year old. Not only did you have to find the coach fare, but also you'd pretend to be asleep when the raffle ticket sellers came round and always have a supply of 2p's for the drivers collection.

The match itself is a blur to me now, but after 20 minutes Declan Link won a penalty. The celebrations started but Declan went and missed it and soon after Bognor went 1-0 up. As the match crept into the 2nd half the frustration mounted on the terraces. Not that it really mattered about winning because we still had 4 games left to gain the 3 points, but everyone was expecting it tonight.

With 15 minutes to go Kevin Durham burst through and somewhat mis-hit a shot to the right of the Bognor keeper, which just crept in to equalise. I along with many others flew onto the pitch only to be grabbed by the arm of the law who asked me, "Do you want to see the end of this match, if so stay off the bloody pitch or you're out."

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The tension mounted as Noel Ashford launched attack after attack, when with 2 minutes to go substitute and local hero of the future Mark West directed a weak header at Simon Steele the Bognor keeper. The Wycombe contingent groaned as the ball floated harmlessly towards his hands, when suddenly a Bognor defender hit his panic button and dived in to head the ball clear. Somehow the ball skimmed off his greasy hair and into the net. A 2-1 victory and the title was ours. Everyone was on the pitch dancing, singing and swigging beer with the players and manager Alan Gane, resplendent in his lucky sheepskin coat. Eventually we got back to the coach for the most horrific journey I have ever experienced. Mr. Misery, the coach driver refused to stop for the call of nature, and with all the beer being consumed by some supporters, the floor of the coach was soon a rolling sea of urine, most of it ending up on my coat, which was on the floor. I left it behind on the coach as a present to the driver. But even these foul scenes could not ruin one of the finest footballing nights in Wycombe's recent history.



Congratulations to the fab four on your achievement. If you can represent your country as well as Wycombe you'll do well. GOOD LUCK from T.A.F.



What Ever Happened To.

THE BLUEBIRD GIRLS

The Bluebird girls were introduced to sell raffle tickets etc on the general premise that sex sells. For a period such things as the 'Leagueline' launch, and various other promotions, were always draped with gorgeous pouting blondes dressed scantily in replica kits. However, from such grand and sexist beginnings standards soon began to fall, and the last set of Bluebirds were merely aging housewives demeaning themselves for part time cash.

THE CARAVAN TEA BAR FOLK

When crowds were rising in the latter days at Loakes Park it became obvious that existing refreshment facilities were inadequate. Hence a family of workers (including a cockney spiv who rather annoyingly repeated your order loudly in your face for no particular reason) arrived in a caravan, selling the finest wares for public consumption. But what became of this family of culinary geniuses? Well fear not, as we have found they still live in their caravan and serve their fine food at various new age traveller bashes, where they are welcomed as the honorary gypsies we already knew they were.

THOSE CRAP PENALTY TAKERS

Until mentioned in this journal's last issue the penalty takers at half time were an utter disgrace. Now even Pele himself couldn't hold a candle to them. Oh well! it'll teach me to keep my big mouth shut.

TREVOR ROFFEY

As Chuck's injury raged onwards, an unknown goalkeeper appeared on the scene and played a couple of minor games. Chuck then got fit and Martin O'Neill signalled the start of a "battle royale" between Chuck and Trev for the goalkeeping contract. Trev lost and so packed his bags and left. So why on my Sky TV video of the WBA match at Adams Park is he in the dressing room with a Wycombe Wanderers blazer on, grinning smugly as if he had single handedly saved the game. They wouldn't let supporters in there would they? And Trevor I'm afraid that's all you are.

FLACKWELL FARCE.....

Well it was wasn't it? I mean I didn't expect the first team or anything - but those names: Waitman, Giamattei, Possley - Who? Exactly.

However, the match gave me food for thought as it just highlighted the lack of any kind of decent reserve team down at WWFC at the moment. A couple more injuries at this stage of the season and the Blues will truly be up the proverbial creek. I say this, as I don't see any youth team players breaking through, and as for the capital league team, well it's basically the youth team with the odd celebrity thrown in for good measure ie: Mark West. For fringe players with big potential like Keith Ryan, Chuck Moussadik and pre-season wizard Ty Gooden, it must be truly depressing playing with gangling school kids. But what can be done about it...?

Well firstly I suggest next season we join a legitimate reserves league where these lads can blossom by playing regular league football. Secondly, how about getting in a few local talents on the cheap, for example Marlow's impressive Anzil Bushay or Beaconsfield's Andy Humphrey's (to name 2 of many). I'm sure it wouldn't be too presumptuous to think that these lads would be absolutely gagging to don a Wycombe shirt, so why not give them a chance to impress? I remember a few years back at Loakes Park that a Capital League match would draw a healthy crowd of around 400. How many punters do you get now, perhaps 50 if you're lucky. However, if Wycombe had a decent squad I'm sure this figure could rise dramatically.

Coming back to the youth team, briefly. Is it really the cream of the local talent? Well on what little evidence I've seen I'd have to say no. What's the recruitment policy? How do you become a Wycombe youth player? Also, why is the team all-white in what is a multi-cultural area? I remember well at school that the football team was always racially mixed, so surely we should encourage more under represented groups into football at this level. I know I'm merely skimming the surface here, so if anyone has any views for a more serious article in a future issue, then drop us a line.

Pseudo Fan File

NAME: Darren "Daz" Spittles

AGE: 17 3/4

OCCUPATION: Y.T.S. Forecourt Attendant

SUPPORTER SINCE: I went to the Wembley final and as we won, I became a fan. If we had lost I'd still support Liverpool, but they're not doing too well these days, so the choice was obvious.

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Mark West (cos he's got a tash like mine)

QUESTION REPHRASED

BEST PLAYER: Mark West

BEST WYCOMBE WANDERERS PERFORMANCE: Wembley trophy final.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: Being "spot the bawl" in the Star newspaper. It was taken at the Wycombe vs. Colchester Charity Shield match.

FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Away what?

A ground which isn't Adams park, where you saw Wycombe play.

Oh, Wembley

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THIS FANZINE: I've never seen it, you should have been selling it at Wembley or the Charity shield match.

FAVOURITE SPORTS PERSONALITY: (Apart from Westie!) Gary Lineker, Steve Davies and Nigel Mansell, cos he's got a tash like mine.

ALL TIME FAVOURITE WANDERERS TEAM: Granville, Crossley, Creaser, Kerr, Cash, Carroll, Stapleton, Ryan, Guppy, Scott, WESTIE.

FINAL COMMENT. I hope John Granville's thumb gets better soon, we miss him. Why did we drop Cash, he was good enough to go on better things.

SLOW TRAIN COMING

Well it seems that at last the Blues will get the vital training pitch that they have been applying for since the move to Adams park. I can't believe how obstructive the beaurocrats at Wycombe council have been in every thing WWFC have ever done. The Blues are the one thing the town should be really proud of (not the chair museum!). Half the town went to Wembley and we look set to gain league status this season, however, the council try their utmost to prevent the club having any success.

One of the council's reasons for turning down an application for a floodlit all-weather training pitch was that the floodlights would decrease the local peoples living quality. why? Don't they have curtains? I would just like to put one thing to the council. Adams Park is at the end of an industrial estate, not next door to a housing estate. How can the council say the Adams Park floodlights would be offensive to people when they have just opened an astro-turf pitch, with floodlights , across the road from a housing estate in Cressex.

Call me cynical but could it possibly be that the council are being awkward about the training pitch because the club plan to hire it out to the public, thus maybe taking away the revenue generated by Handy Cross and Cressex. No surely not, how could I think of such a thing?

If anyone from the council reads this, I have four things to say to you:

- 1) There are enough people in wycombe to use three astro-turf pitches.
- 2) I'd rather play on a ploughed field than on that sandpit of a pitch at Handy Cross.
- 3) Try supporting the club, just because you don't get a financial cut, doesn't mean you can't get behind them.
- 4) I may be sounding cynical, but how else do you expect me to feel, judging by your track record?