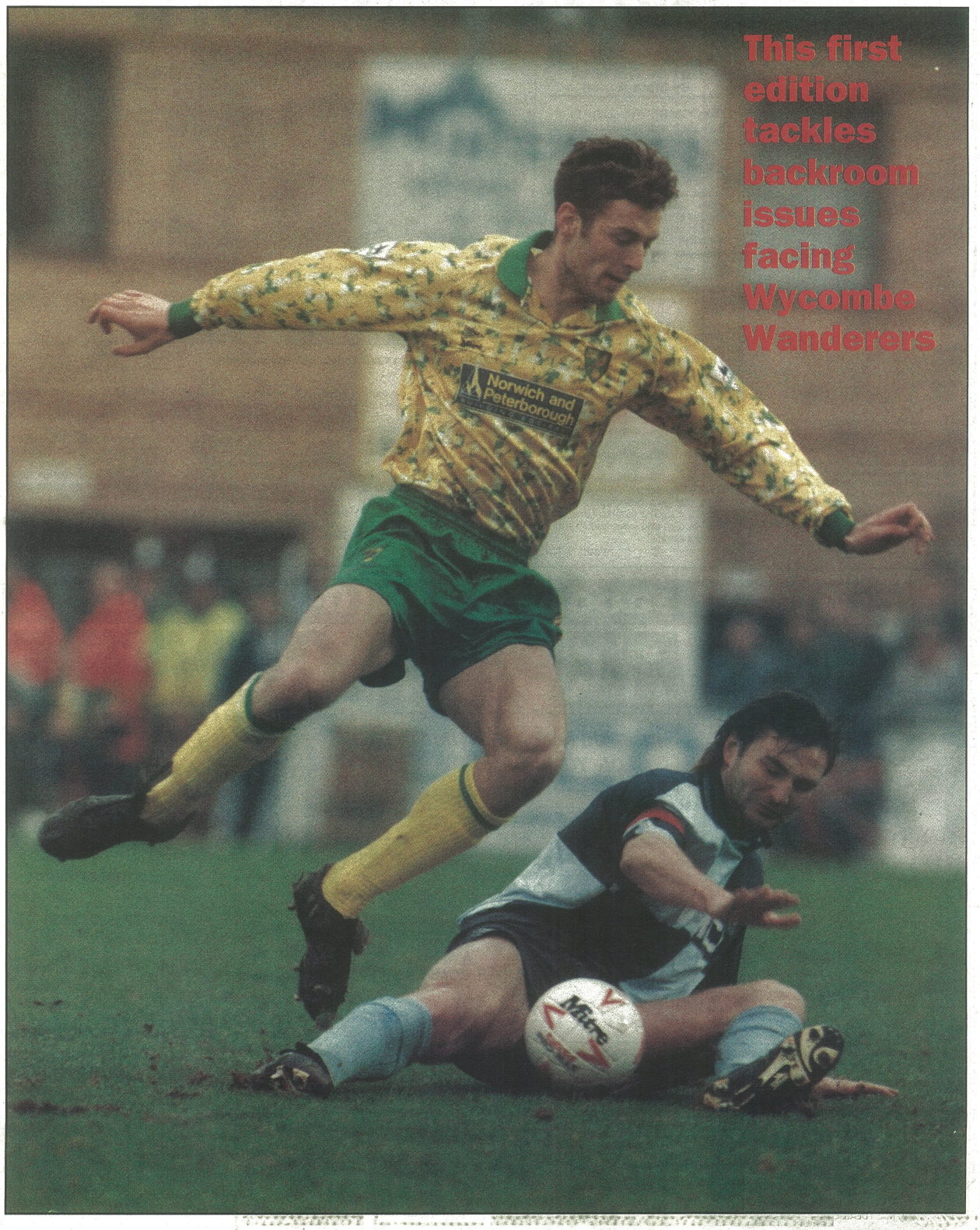
The BLUES NEWS

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



This first edition tackles backroom issues facing Wycombe Wanderers

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Pictures for The Blues News are supplied by Brian Southam and photographers from the Bucks Free Press

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe. Telephone: (0494) 472100. Fax: (0494) 527633.

Here is how Blues News was born

OUT OF THE BLUE
By Mark Austin

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club is delighted to launch the first ever edition of The Blues News in conjunction with the Bucks Free Press.

The idea for The Blues News originated at the Commercial Managers Association meeting at Adams Park in September 1993.

The club used to attend the Vauxhall Conference Commercial Managers meetings but now it attends with all the Commercial Managers from the Carling Premier League and the Endsleigh Insurance League on a regional basis – Southern, Midlands and Northern.

Different clubs host the meeting every time, and being the "new boys" everybody wanted to come to Adams Park.

Anyhow at the meeting, Paul Lamonde of Brentford F.C. explained how his club had successfully launched the Griffin News last year. The newspaper fitted into their family and community policy and 25,000 free copies are distributed monthly with the Middlesex Chronicle.

This started us thinking at Wycombe Wanderers, "Why don't we start our own newspaper, as our gates are similar to Brentford, and our family and community aims are the same?"



Fans now have more to read about their favourite club

Several titles for the newspaper were thought of, such as simply The Blues. We could not call it the Adams Family in deference to our fanzine friends, or Blue News for obvious reasons, so the Blues News was born.

We then had the problem of who would produce and distribute it, so we approached our good friends at the Bucks Free Press.

At first they were cautious, but at the same time very keen on the idea, and we had a lot of discussions until both sides agreed to proceed with this joint venture, building on the excellent foundations of the relationship that developed out of the Bucks Free Press Stand major sponsorship.

The club was very keen, that as at Brentford, the official newspaper of the club, should be available free in a highly popular and well established paid for publication.

Our tremendous advantage that this new Wycombe Wanderers newspaper has over Brentford Football Club (apart from having Terry Evans to write about!), is that is has no other professional clubs in its vicinity competing for space.

Being the only club in Buckinghamshire in the top five divisions, does give us an edge over London clubs.

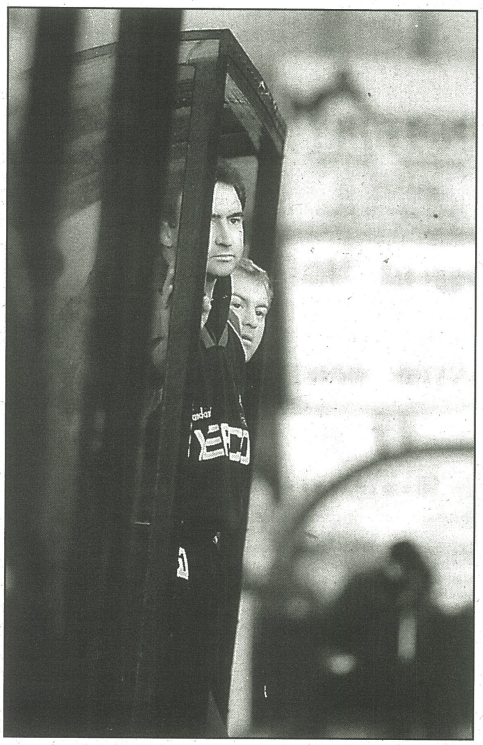
Also the weekly circulation of the Bucks Free Press is around 35,000 which promises a substantial readership.

Only the free Star has a greater distribution than the Bucks Free Press, both local newspapers conveniently covering our immediate catchment area, another exclusive advantage that most clubs don't enjoy.

The whole idea of the Blues News is to provide more detailed and inside information to the tens of thousands who support the team, and also to anyone who has not yet been to see Wycombe Wanderers play at Adams Park or Wembley.

Hopefully the Blues News will provide an insight into what is really one huge family at Adams Park, and demonstrate how keen the club is to get more and more involved in the local community. We hope the Blues News will encourage you to want to be part of the "Adams Family".

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O'Neill's Eye View: Martin watches intently from the dugout

We need luck as well as skill

VIEW FROM THE BENCH
By Martin O'Neill

WE played very poorly against Northampton but still managed to win the game and, remarkably, reach the highest position ever in our long history.

I have often been told by greater men than myself that good luck and illfortune tend to level themselves out by the end of the season.

Perhaps Saturday's fortunate victory makes up for the last minute equaliser by Gillingham at Adams Park earlier in the season or for the away game against Wigan Athletic when we absolutely pulverised them but only managed to gain one point.

However, I hope that those of you who support Wycombe Wanderers on a regular basis will accept the occasional poor display if we manage to scramble a victory. After the game, I was in conversation with a couple of Northampton directors, and the following day I met Ray Clemence who has just taken over as manager of Barnet F.C.

Both the aforementioned directors and Ray had one theme in common for the hopes and aspirations of their respective clubs just to win a football match regardless of how well or how badly the team has performed.

> But as long as we're winning I'll be happy

Indeed Northampton have gone a staggering 18 matches without a victory. Judging by the occasional rumbling of discontent – and that's after we've won – I am certainly not convinced that you would allow me 18 attempts to win a game. The P45 would have been in my hand a long time ago.

However, if we continue to play like we did on Saturday for the foreseeable future then promotion at our first attempt will remain a distant dream.

Despite all this, the players have done magnificently this season and we have already had some terrific highlights – our CocaCola Cup game with Coventry when we led against the Premier League side with just 6 minutes to go in extra time, will live in the memory for a long time to come and our FA Cup and Autoglass Cup exploits (where we still have a chance of Wembley) have been really excellent.

Still the priority this season is promotion to Division 2 of the Endsleigh Insurance League and that would be utterly sensational for us, if we could achieve it at the first attempt.

The results in the first half of the season have given us a good chance, but we still have much to do. Eighteen games (54 points) as I write these notes suggest there is still miles and miles to go.

Although Crewe have opened a small gap at the top of the table we are one of at least nine teams capable of sustaining consistent form, obviously a crucial element for the second half of the season.

We have just signed Lee Turnbull from Doncaster Rovers for £20,000. If he performs half as well as our other £20,000 buy this season Terry Evans we will have a bargain in our midst. I don't think any one has won three consecutive "Player of the Month" awards from the supporters' votes since such things began. I have already bought two of the cutglass pieces from him for my own cabinet. Trouble is, I haven't bought the cabinet yet!

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I am so glad I came to Wycombe

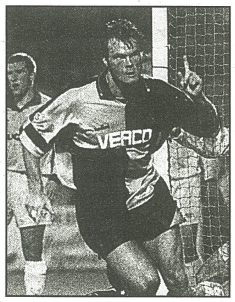
Terry Evans talks to Alan Parry

MOVING to Wycombe Wanderers was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Naturally it was real wrench to leave Brentford after so many happy and successful years at Griffin Park, but I am loving every minute at my new club.

I'd never really thought about leaving Brentford. Ever since I left Hillingdon Borough to become a professional, Brentford had been my only club. I broke into the first team in 1985 and was more or less first choice for the next eight sessions.

I captained The Bees through some memorable triumphs and I'll never forget winning promotion from the old Third Division as champions in 1991.92. Brentford will always play a very special part in my life.

However, things changed when David Webb became manager. He didn't see me as part of his first team set up and a parting of the ways became inevitable. I'd always stayed in touch with my old pal, Jason Cousins, since he left Brentford to join Wycombe and Jason was always telling me what a great set up it was at Adams Park. When the opportunity came



'We all miss Scotty'

to join Wycombe on loan, I jumped at it.

I'm the first to admit that I didn't do too well in my first couple of games on loan and the gaffer, Martin O'Neill, has told me that he was ready to send me back to Brentford. Fortunately, I began to find my form and the team hit a good spell which certainly helped me to settle.

When the loan period was over, the gaffer told me he was keen to sign me permanently, but I think Brentford were asking for a lot of money. I returned to Griffin Park for a brief period, but it was clear that I still didn't figure in David Webb's plans.

Oxford United's new manager, Denis Smith, came in for me and I went over to talk to him. The terms he was offering were pretty good and, of course, Oxford is a First Division club. But in my heart it was Wycombe I really wanted to join.

I was absolutely delighted when Wycombe and Brentford finally agreed on a transfer fee and now I am a Wycombe man through and through. In many ways, the set up here is even better than it was at Brentford. The club is run in a really professional manner and the spirit in the dressing room is fantastic.

All the lads get on well and we often see each other socially. There are no prima donnas and everyone sticks together.

As you know, there's a lot of competition for places now and the gaffer has shrewdly built a squad which I believe is as good as any in the Third Division. Sure, we've missed Scotty the dressing room is a lot quieter for one thing! but the recent arrival of Lee Turnbull gives us another option.

I am excited about our prospects for the rest of the season. With a little bit of luck and your fantastic support a bit more noise at home games, please! I am convinced that we'll be in the shake up for a promotion place at the end of the season.

This club is going places and I want to be a part of it for as long as I can.

Snap up a free car sticker

ANYBODY who visits the Homes of Football Exhibition at the Guildhall, High Wycombe will receive a free car sticker.

The exhibition, which is being supported by Wycombe Wanderers, Wycombe Museum and Wycombe District Council and P.K.Graphics opened on Thursday January 13, 1994, and runs until Saturday March 5, 1994.

Admission is free to the Homes of Football Exhibition which is open: Monday to Saturday 11am to 4pm.Thursday, 11am to 7pm.

Every person that visits the exhibition at the Guildhall in the High Street, will be given a free I'd rather be watching Wycombe Wanderers car sticker. The exhibition of photographs and memorabilia by Stuart Clarke is sponsored by Hall & Co, who also sponsor Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park.

Do visit the exhibition when you are next in the town, especially as it is completely free to all members of the general public.



Great partnership: Manager Martin gives team captain Terry a celebratory hug

Didn't we have a lovely time?

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE
By Adrian Wood

I ALWAYS look forward to the Christmas fixtures – there's always a great atmosphere and they give one a welcome few hours break from the turkey and the same old films on the television!

In recent seasons we've had trips to the likes of Sutton, Slough and Woking, places you can still travel to after an early lunch and still be home for a late tea.

This season however its away to pastures much further afield to Torquay, some 200 miles away, down there on the English riviera. Rather fortunately, for many supporters, Boxing Day this season was the 27th which, after two days of Christmas festivities, made one's absence from the customary family gatherings somewhat easier!

Anyway, I somewhat doubted my sanity when I forced myself out of bed at 7.30am. It was a bitterly cold morning and as I travelled to Adams Park I rather envied the vast majority of the population who were enjoying their Bank Holiday from the warmth of the beds!

On arrival at the ground I met up with the other eighty or so hardy souls who were to spend their Boxing Day travelling over 400 miles to see 22 grown men kicking a ball for 90 minutes. The two Motts coaches duly arrived, were soon filled, and a frosty Wycombe left behind just before 9am.

Minor problem – due to the extremities of the previous night's weather, the coffee machine was frozen up!



Away day Army celebrate success

The thermos flasks were thus called into early action, but at least Chris Perrin was saved from early serving duties!

The coaches lapped up the miles and were soon on the M4 speeding through frosty Wiltshire where we saw both Swindon and Arsenal fans descending on the County Ground for a midday kickoff. Good luck Scotty was our wish but today was not one of his happier outings, his new club being on the wrong end of a 4-0 score line.

Rena, coach organiser supreme, soon produced the film 'The Last of the Mohicans', the coach video equipment was working well, and most eyes on the coach were soon focused on the little screen. We were now on the M5 and pulling into Taunton Deane services for a journey break at about 11.15am. We stopped for some 45 minutes, ample time for those (wealthy enough!) to purchase a meal, or for others just to freshen up and stretch the legs. 12 o'clock it was back on board to enjoy the rest of the film. An hour or so later we were drawing into Torquay no problems finding the ground and by 1.15pm we were enjoying the Devon sunshine. Indeed it had turned out to be very pleasant weather fairly mild, and Wycombe's arctic temperatures of just a few hours before seemed a long, long, long, time ago.

Arriving nice and early gave ample time to either enjoy Plainmoor's social activities, or to stroll around the local area. There were ample hostelries in close proximity to the ground and some energetic supporters, I am informed, managed the considerable walk to the seafront. On entering the ground, I could not help be impressed by the developments which had occurred since my last visit some 10 years ago. One end of this compact friendly stadium had been transformed into a seating area, incorporating the family enclosure, with the executive boxes above. A superb development, costing some £700,000 which I am sure is the envy of many Premier/Division 1 clubs.

Inevitably, the travelling Blue Army was out in force and contributed towards the bumper gate of just under 5,000 – Torquay's best for a couple of years. As for the game, well all I want to say here is that our performance won't remain too long in the memory.

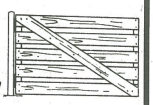
Thanks though to the skipper's head we escaped with a point, and I have always said that any point gained away from home is a good one.

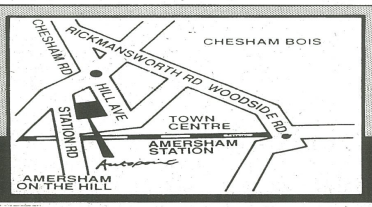
After the game it was back to the waiting coaches parked conveniently just outside the ground. A bit of inevitable post match traffic and we were soon back on the A38 leading to the M5. Good news (or bad news for Chris Perrin!) the coffee machine had thawed out, so it was soon hands in pockets for that loose change. The coach radio was tuned into the day's football results one of the loudest cheers of the day coming when Slough's defeat at Woking was announced!

The return trip was as smooth as the outward journey. Rena produced another film A.W.O.L plenty of nonstop action to wile away the miles.

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Gift of the gab helped me to get on board

WHY WYCOMBE?
By Alan Parry

NO business background, no personal wealth, no influential friends on the local council and a tendency to support the team rather too enthusiastically.

What hope did I have of becoming a football club director?

Weren't directors those respectable chaps in sober suits, captains of local industry, pillars of local society? Weren't they supposed to attend boring board meetings and dispense bonhomie to visiting directors even when their team had just stuffed your team? – Didn't sound like my cup of tea.

However, as we all know, once your devotion to a football club has taken a firm grip on you, logic goes out of the window. I could have carried on just watching the team play and enjoying a free drink without any responsibility. But that didn't seem right. Football has given me so much enjoyment – and a good living – that I wanted to put something back.

And so it was that I became a director of Wycombe Wanderers. Well, not quite that easily. First, I had to stand for election – and was horrified to discover that three other people were vying for the same vacancy on the board. Good men, decent types – with all those qualifications which I didn't possess. And we all had to be vetted by the club's shareholders.

Fortunately, being brought up in Liverpool has given me the gift of the gab, so I was able to convince the meeting that I was the right man for the job. A place on the board was mine. Then came the next problem – what role could I fulfil?

Mathematics was my worst subject at school, so I couldn't get involved with the balance sheets. I can boil an egg, but that hardly qualified me to run the catering operation. How about liaising with referees? Enough said.

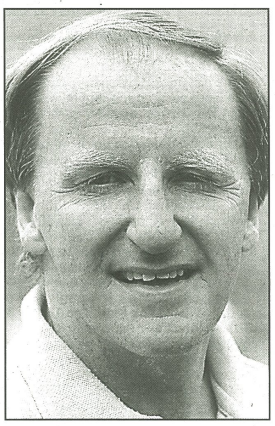
"You can be in charge of press and publicity," said our esteemed chairman, in a manner which suggested that this was more of an order than an idea.

Now, asking a sports journalist to be a press officer is a bit like asking Long John Silver to do a spot of tapdancing! Cynical 'hacks' like myself have always been taught to treat press officers with a great deal of suspicion. We regard them as similar to car salesmen – people trying to persuade you that you need something YOU know you don't want.

However, the chairman had spoken and a press officer I became. My first task wasn't as easy as it might sound: improve our coverage in the Bucks Free Press. Our manager at the time had fallen out with the local reporter, a previous chairman had fallen out with the whole newspaper, and our supporters had fallen out of the habit of expecting much news on the club.

Enter the scouse version of Henry Kissinger, a role to which I was hardly suited. Throughout my life, I seem to have been the type who causes trouble rather than smoothes it over. Yet, here I was, the benign mediator getting everyone around the table to sort out their differences.

Well, it worked – and this splendid publication is proof. The club's relationship with the Bucks Free Press is now excellent and the newspaper has even become one of our major sponsors. Wycombe Wanderers receives first class coverage in the BFP and Midweek – and Blues News is the next, exciting step forward.



Media maestro Alan

Indeed, the amount of publicity we get has grown out of all proportion. Once the rift has been repaired between club and newspaper, I set about establishing Ringing The Blues. I felt that our fans had a hunger for information about the club which could only be satisfied by the provision of an exclusive phone line. It proved an instant hit and my successor on the microphone, Alan Hutchinson, has improved the service to a level that I never imagined possible.

The next step was to produce a professionally-made video reflecting the club's achievements. I persuaded an old pal, John D Taylor, to help me out – and I reckon we now produce a product as polished and entertaining as anything on the football market. John, once a BFP reporter, used his knowledge – and contacts in the industry – to lovingly produce those gems telling the stories of our two trips to Wembley and last season's promotion.

The next hurdle was much harder to overcome – getting Wycombe Wanderers onto television. Naturally, the country's major clubs steal most of the TV limelight and there's not much time left for the minnows. I called in a few favours to persuade programmes like Saint & Greavsie and Football Focus to feature us occasionally, even in our nonleague days. But it was a slow process.

Then came the breakthrough: – the appointment of Martin O'Neill as manager. I cannot state too strongly how important Martin is in getting publicity for the club. He was famous in his own right as a player, has a charming and easy manner with the press, and comes across as intelligent and articulate on radio and TV. Media people love him.

Martin's main job, of course, was achieving success on the field. He has done that in magnificent fashion. But he has also been a tremendous asset to the club in helping to raise our profile to the level where we have already become one of the best known names in the lower divisions.

Thanks to the efforts of Martin and the players, my job in helping to promote the club through the media has become so much easier.

Swap shirts and save some cash

FOR a limited period only, anybody who still has one of the old Brooks Wycombe Wanderers replica shirts can part-exchange it for any one of our three current replica shirts.

All these shirts currently sell for £24.99 Childrens and £29.99 Adults.

By trading in your old Brooks Wycombe Wanderers replica shirt you will be entitled to £5 off any Adult Replica Shirt or £3 off any Children's Replica Shirt.

This means an Adult Shirt will only cost you £24.99 and a Children's Shirt will cost you £21.99.

This special offer is only valid until 5.30pm on Monday February 28, 1994.

You can trade in your old Brooks replica shirts at either the Cornerflag club shop or our club shop in the Octagon opposite Littlewoods, Wanderers in Town.

Put the Boot in your diary

A NEW car boot sale started Sunday. Rickshaw Fairs are organising a Car Boot Sale every Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

You can contact them on 081 847 2298 for further information.

There are 120 hard standing spaces at a cost of seven cars, nine vans and two trailers with setting up from 8am.

Hot refreshments are available and don't forget the Centre Spot Public House and Restaurant is open from noon until 3pm, every Sunday for Sunday lunch.

The Cornerflag Clubshop will be open as usual from 10am to 1pm.

It's your views that count

PLEASE write in to the Editor of The Blues News with your views. The club values your opinions of its supporters and requests you write in about any pet hates, constructive criticism, praise and suggestions.

We intend to publish your views in the Blues News each month. Write in with your comments on the facilities, teabars, toilets, players, Vere Suite, CentreSpot, Blues Club, coverage in the BFP, Away Travel anything you like. The intention is to devote a full page of The Blues News to the views and opinions of Wycombe Wanderers Supporters. Write to: The Blues News Editor, Wycombe Wanderers F.C., Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 4HJ.



Heads we win: Scotty showed us the way and now we must shape our destiny in the Football League

We must head for the top

The best is yet to come as the Blues start the long haul up the leagues to the Premiership

HALF-TIME REPORT
By Steve Peart

WE began the season apprehensive but quietly confident and a top four position at the end of the year probably surprised no one.

In fact, according to the bookies who made us pre-season favourites to win the league, we have underachieved in that respect. Of course our league progress is what really matters but what has made the season such a joy for all supporters is our success in the cup competitions.

Of the twelve matches played so far, only two have resulted in defeats, both at the hands of Premiership clubs. All seven games against Division Two opposition have been won, a staggering achievement and one which bodes well if promotion is won.

We have even beaten a top table team for the first time ever and that 4-2 win over Coventry City is almost certainly the best ever performance from a Wycombe team.

Up to that October evening, the most atmospheric match at Adams Park had been the Slough game the previous season when the crowd played such a big part in the 1-0 win.

But against Coventry not only was the team magnificent but the crowd was the noisiest ever and even people in the stand were joining in the songs!

But for me it was not the most enjoyable match, simply because we did not win the tie.

Perhaps the happiest memories this season have all been away from Adams Park when the grounds have all been new, the away support has been the biggest ever and we have really all felt part of a mission, Martin's Mission to take us to the top and make EVERYONE in this town proud of the club.

I don't think that I have ever felt so nervous before a match as I did on the opening day at Carlisle.

As our first ever league match, the team performed remarkably well under the pressure of the situation. It would have been all too easy to freeze on the day and turn in a substandard performance but a draw was the least we deserved.

The team had yet to gain its full time legs, which probably cost us the win. You might ask why on earth we were sent to our farthest away game for our first ever league fixture.

The club had requested a home game and had been led to believe by the Football League that they would get one. Perhaps they were worried that our away support would be too big at a closer ground but in the event 1,500 still managed to make the tortuous trip.

The following Tuesday saw a wonderfully exciting win at Leyton Orient in the CocaCola Cup, a win which relaxed any fears about playing these so called bigger clubs. The atmosphere at Brisbane Road brought back memories of that match with West Bromwich at the Hawthorns last season but this time we got the result right.

The match at Wigan revealed the down side of the football league, a club struggling to survive on tiny gates in the face of Rugby League neighbours, and a stadium in urgent need of redevelopment.

The away supporters were locked away in their cage without any cover, charged exorbitant prices for food and drink (£1 for a cup of tea!) and saw a rather disappointing game.

The match at Hereford three days later was a wonderfully entertaining response although sadly we later heard that one of our supporters had been beaten up after the game.

After the friendly atmosphere of nonleague football, the incident increased fears that we had entered a more violent environment but so far those fears have been largely groundless.

A reminder that a presence in Division Three largely means failure, at least in Football League terms, came at Bury when, after our 2-1 win, home supporters staged a sit down protest on the terraces, which required soothing words from their Chairman. Perhaps we should be thankful that we do not have a Manchester United on our door step.

The match at Northampton was notable for our 2,000 support, a very strange ground which we will probably never play on again, and a very kindly steward at the away end who, spotting any families, would let the children in for free.

A nice gesture which might in some way explain why they are in such financial difficulty.

The trip to Scunthorpe gave us a first look at one of the newer grounds and the general opinion of the travelling fans was that it was rather drab and soulless. Certainly the grey colour of the stadium and the drab day did not help and Walsall's near identical ground, but a bright blue, emphasised how much colour can liven up a place.

The location of Scunthorpe's ground was not too inspiring but then I often wonder what sort of impression the drive through Sands Industrial Estate makes on away supporters, probably not a good one.

The other new stadium at Chester is much like our own, although again in rather bleak surroundings. Chester are perhaps a good example to all other Division Three sides in that they have built a new ground and are solvent. They are currently up for sale at 400,000 which, given the quality of their side, seems a good buy.

However, all of those three new grounds lack the off-the-pitch facilities that we have at Adams Park and it is the income from the social side which has to fund our climb.

The short trip to Brentford only made us look forward to future league meetings, maybe next year. For sheer entertainment the match was hard to beat and, coming on top of the visit to Orient, I think that many Wycombe supporters are glad that we are playing at Fulham next month when, hopefully, another glorious night in London lies in store.

Craven Cottage is also many people's favourite ground in the Capital. Another reminder that different rules apply at this level of football came when, for the first time ever at a game, I had my pockets turned out by a policeman, at Brentford!

That win at Griffin Park on November 9, was the first of five consecutive wins, a real purple patch when we won at highflying Bristol Rovers, dispatched league leaders Crewe and Preston and beat Cambridge to earn that glamour match with Norwich.

Funnily enough the visit to Twerton Park was the third time in recent years on a Sunday and it was all ticket for away fans. Our reputation is growing!

The match was not a classic but who cares when you win. The afternoon's proceedings were not helped by a real pain in the Col***ster of an announcer who didn't know when to shut up. The win against the style kings of Crewe was very satisfying, surpassed only by that sublime moment at Preston the following week when Haky's last-minute bender, unleashed from somewhere near Blackpool, produced that delicious moment.

The ball enters the net, silence reigns for a second as the away fans on the side don't realise /can't believe what has happened and the away fans behind the goal feel that quickening sickening sensation (the real test of whether you support a club is if your stomach churns over when the other side score!).

Somebody described our victory at Deepdale like putting down a sick animal, the game on plastic I hasten to add, Not Preston North End!

There were some disturbing moments there – why were the home supporters allowed to move behind the away fans and start spitting and throwing objects. Why, after the game, were home and away fans allowed to leave at the same time through adjacent gates, crossing over each other and resulting, thankfully, in abuse only?

Unfortunately some of our supporters were attacked on the way back to the town centre. The midday temperature at Torquay at Christmas was warm enough for people to be playing on the beach and our point there probably qualified for our daylight robbery performance of the season.

One thing I did learn that day was that a top referee like Roger Milford takes the trouble to call Third Division players by their first name (unless there is something we don't know about Jason!).

Since moving to Adams Park, we have been pretty near invincible, but the opening home games of this season were understandably rather nervous affairs.

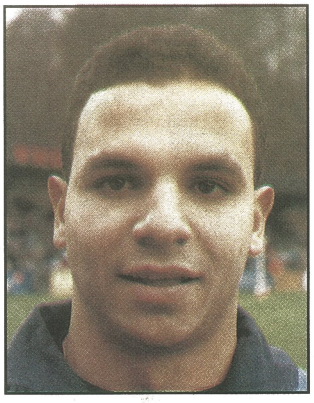
The best of the Blues take a bow



MARTIN O'NEILL, Manager



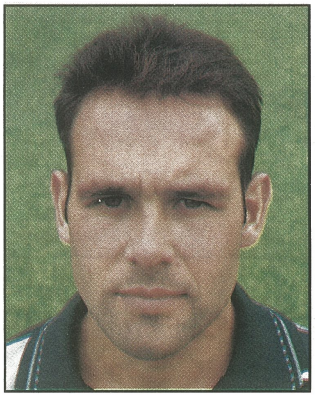
PAUL HYDE, Goalkeeper



CHUCK MOUSSADDIK, Goalkeeper



GLYN CREASER, Defender



DUNCAN HORTON, Defender



DAVID TITTERTON, Defender



DAVE CARROLL, Midfield



SIMON STAPLETON, Midfield



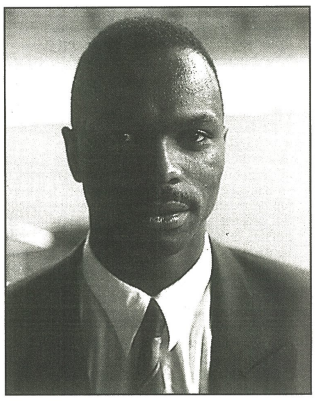
HAKAN HAYRETTIN, Midfield



PAUL SHEPSTONE, Midfield



MARK COOPER, Midfield



TONY HEMMINGS, Forward

MARTIN O'NEILL
Manager
Northern Irishman Martin has the highest possible pedigree in football. He signed for Nottingham Forest in 1971 and during the next nine years won most of the game's top honours at home and abroad.

With Forest, he won a League Championship medal in 1978, League Cup winners medals in successive seasons at Wembley in 1978 and 1979, and then the supreme honour at club level a European Cup winner's medal when he figured in Forest's victory over the West German club Hamburg in Madrid in 1980.

He became the most capped player in Forest's history being selected 64 times for Northern Ireland and gaining the ultimate honour of captaining the Irish team in the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain when, against all odds, they captured the imagination of the football world by reaching the quarter finals.

Shortly afterwards he was awarded an MBE for his services to football. Martin made over 300 appearances for Forest before his Football League career continued with Norwich, Manchester City and finally Notts County where a serious knee injury ended his playing days in 1985.

He then turned his attention to management, joining Grantham Town in the Beazer Homes League Midland Division and finishing third in his first season behind the champions Merthyr Tydfil.

He gained further experience with Shepshed Charterhouse in the HFS Loans League before business commitments forced him to quit.

Martin became Manager at Wycombe in February 1990 and, in his short spell at the club, he has won the Vauxhall Conference, the FA Trophy (twice), the Bob Lord Trophy, the Vauxhall Championship Shield (three times) and the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup. He is also a familiar voice as a summariser on BBC Radio Five.

PAUL HYDE
Goalkeeper
Born 7/4/63, Hayes. Joined from Hayes in August 1991 for a fee of £15,000 and has now made over 100 appearances. Played in over 450 games for Hayes in eight years after beginning his career at Hillingdon Borough. Has represented the FA and the Isthmian League and was voted Supporters' Player of the Year in 1991/92 and included in the Conference Team of the Year last season.

CHUCK MOUSSADDIK
Goalkeeper
Born 23/2/70, Morocco. Joined three years ago from Wimbledon after beginning his career as an apprentice at Tottenham. Has made 19 first team appearances and has represented England Schools and the Moroccan U21 side.

GLYN CREASER
Defender
Born 1/9/59, London. Moved to Wycombe from Barnet in September 1988 for a then Club record fee of 15,000. Signed for Barnet in March 1985 following previous experience at Kettering Town and Northampton Town. He has made over 200 appearances. Has represented the FA XI and has twice been included in the Conference Team of The Year. He led the side in the FA Trophy win in 1991.

MATT CROSSLEY
Defender
Born 18/3/68, Basingstoke. Signed by Wycombe in February 1988 from local football in Hampshire after playing in Aldershot, Basingstoke Town, Newbury and Overton United. He has now made over 200 appearances for the club and was an FA Trophy winner in 1991 and 1993.

JASON COUSINS
Defender
Born 4/10/70, Hayes. A summer 1991 signing from Brentford where he spent four seasons making a total of 28 appearances. Scored the first goal in the 1993 FA Trophy Final and was included in the 1992/93 Conference Team of The Year. Has made over 100 appearances for the club.

TERRY EVANS
Defender
Born 12/4/65, London. Signed from Brentford in October this season for an initial 20,000 after a six week loan period. Made 229 League appearances for Brentford after signing from Hillingdon Borough in 1985/86. Currently the team captain.

ANDY KERR
Defender
Born 7/4/66, West Bromwich. Moved to Wycombe for a small fee at the end of August 1988 from Telford United. Began his career with Shrewsbury Town in 1983, where he made 10 appearances. He then joined Cardiff City, making 31 Fourth Division appearances in 1986/87 before moving to Telford. Has represented the FA and made his England semi-pro debut against Wales last season. Included in the Conference team of the Year for the last two seasons and was FA Trophy winner in 1991 and 1993, scoring a goal as captain in the final last May. Has now made over 250 appearances for Wycombe.

DUNCAN HORTON
Defender
Born 18/2/67, Maidstone. Joined in July 1993 from Barnet where he spent two seasons, captaining the side to promotion from Division Three last season. Began his career at Maidstone United and then Charlton Athletic before making over 200 appearances for Welling United.

DAVID TITTERTON
Defender
Born 25/09/71, Hatton, nr Warwick. Moved to Wycombe at the start of this season from Hereford United where he made over 50 league appearances in two seasons. Previously spent one year at Coventry City, playing in two league games and representing England Youth, before an 8,000 transfer to Hereford.

STEVEN PRINDIVILLE
Defender
Born 26/12/68, Harlow. Left back, signed in January this season, after being released by Doncaster Rovers. Previously with Leicester City (1 app), Chesterfield (43 apps) and Mansfield Town (28 apps) before joining Rovers in 1991.

before their army of spectators



MATT CROSSLEY, Defender



JASON COUSINS, Defender



TERRY EVANS, (Captain) Defender



ANDY KERR, Defender



KEITH RYAN, Midfield



STEVE GUPPY, Midfield



SIMON HUTCHINSON, Midfield



STEVE THOMPSON, Midfield



TIM LANGFORD, Forward



MARK WEST, Forward



ALEC NORMAN, Forward



LEE TURNBULL, Midfield

DAVE CARROLL
Midfield
Born 20/9/66, Paisley. Signed in the summer of 1988 for a four figure sum from Ruislip Manor following a short loan spell the previous season. Started out as a Fulham Youth Player before joining Wembley FC. Has represented England Youth (3 caps), the FA and was a FA Trophy winner in 1991 and 1993, scoring a goal in the final last May. He has now made over 250 appearances for Wycombe, scoring over 50 goals, and can play anywhere in midfield or up front.

SIMON STAPLETON
Midfield
Born 10/12/68, Oxford. Joined in August 1989 after one season at Bristol Rovers, where he made 8 appearances in all after beginning his career at Portsmouth in 1985. Has played in every position in midfield and defence while at Wycombe and has made over 200 appearances, including the 1991 FA Trophy Final win. Made his England semi-pro debut against Wales last season and was included in 199293 Conference Team of the Year.

KEITH RYAN
Midfield
Born 25/6/70, Northampton. Arrived from Berkhamsted during the 1990 close season after making some reserve appearances the previous year. A central midfielder who can also play up front and has now played over 100 times for the club. He scored on his debut for Wycombe and was an FA Trophy winner in 1991 and 1993.

STEVE GUPPY
Midfield
Born 29/3/69, Winchester. Left sided winger who was released by Southampton at the end of 88/89 season and has now made over 200 appearances for Wycombe. Has played for the FA XI and made his England semi-pro debut last season against Wales. A member of the 1991 and 1993 FA Trophy winning sides, he was voted Conference Player of the Year by the other managers last season. He became the first Wycombe player to score a Football League goal, at Carlisle on the opening day.

SIMON HUTCHINSON
Midfield
Born 24/9/69, Sheffield. A right winger signed from Eastwood Town in the HFS Loans League at the end of August 1990 for £7,000. Previously with Manchester United (three years), spent a year at the FA School of Excellence, Lillishall and has represented English Schools. He has played in more than 100 games for the club and was an FA Trophy winner in 1991 and 1993.

STEVE THOMPSON
Midfield
Born 12/1/63, Plymouth. Signed in February 1992 from Slough Town for a substantial fee. Began his career at Bristol City, scoring one goal in 13 appearances. He also played one game for Torquay before moving on to Saltash United. Joined Slough in March 1988 and went on to make 195 appearances, scoring 64 times, and won an Isthmian League championship medal. Has represented pro-debut against Wales in March last year and has been included in the Conference Team of The Year for the last two seasons. Scored in the 1993 FA Trophy Final and can also play up front.

LEE TURNBULL
Midfield
Born 27/9/67, Stockton. A January 1994 signing from Doncaster Rovers for an initial £20,000. Started with Middlesborough in 1985, scoring 4 goals in 16 appearances then, after a brief spell with Aston Villa, signed for Doncaster Rovers (123 apps) in 1987. Signed for Chesterfield in 1991 before rejoining Rovers earlier this season. Can also play up front.

HAKAN HAYRETTIN
Midfield
Born 4/2/70, London. Signed in March last season from Barnet. Started his career as a trainee with Leyton Orient in 1988, joining Barnet in 1989. He had a loan spell at Torquay last season and played in the FA Trophy final last May.

PAUL SHEPSTONE
Midfield
Born 8/11/70, Coventry. Signed in December this season after being released by Scottish Premier Division side Motherwell. Began as a youth player at Coventry City and Birmingham City before making his league debut with Blackburn Rovers, playing 26 games. Joined Motherwell at the start of the last season.

MARK COOPER
Midfield
Born 18/12/68, Wakefield. January 1994 signing, following his release from Fulham. Previously with Exeter City (50 apps) and Birmingham City (39 apps) before joining Fulham last season and has also played for Southend and Huddersfield on loan.

TONY HEMMINGS
Forward
Born 21/9/67, Burton-on-Trent. Joined the club in September this season for an initial fee of £25,000 from Northwich Victoria, where he scored 40 goals in 114 appearances. Began at Burton Albion and then Rocester who transferred him to Northwich in March 1991 for 8,000.

TIM LANGFORD
Forward
Born 12/9/65, Kingswinford. Signed in March last season for £15,000 from Telford United whom he joined in March 1991 from Halesowen Town. Previously Dudley, Tividale and Stourbridge.

MARK WEST
Forward
Born 12/2/66, High Wycombe. Joined Wycombe in December 1984, following spells at West Ham and Reading. Has now made over 380 appearances for Wycombe, scoring over 170 goals.

ALEC NORMAN
Forward
Born 14/2/75, Reading. Signed a full-time contract at the start of this season and became the first player to come through from the recently reformed youth team. Made his Conference debut at Stafford last April.

Youth Team is on the ball



The Wycombe Youth Team take a bow in their PK Graphics-sponsored kit

MOTOLEC
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Dial M for a mobile strike force

Board of the Month

MOTOLEC is a successful local company supporting a successful football team.

Wycombe Wanderers Football Team supporters come from all around the surrounding counties and Motolec has branches in most major towns within easy reach of High Wycombe.

These are Slough, Reading, Oxford and its new venture in Swindon.

The company specialises in car auto, so the supporter can listen to team results on their car radios.

They also supply and fit car security systems.

You can be sure if your car is left at the Football Ground it will be secure with an alarm fitted by Motolec.

The firm is also a cellular phone distributor for British Telecom, even if you are at the match, you will be contactable with a hand portable phone, but you will have a problem hearing it ring when Wycombe Wanderers score.

So remember Motolec and Wycombe Wanderers, the wining combination.



Wycombe take the intiative in the first leg against Millwall

By Geoff Gray, of PK Graphics

WHEN Wycombe Wanderers Youth Team went into the Lions Den recently and came away with a 2-2 draw against the YTS lads of Millwall, it was probably their best result to date.

Having gone behind twice away from home against full-time professionals, those two goals, from Troy Johnson and Stuart Wilson, were just reward for all the time and effort put in by so many people particularly coming at the end of the month when all the team's competitive matches had been postponed.

The boys have already done well in beating both Sutton United and Croydon Athletic away from home in previous rounds to appear in this FA Youth Cup third round proper for the second year in succession. Last year, of course, after gallantly coming from behind at Adams Park to earn a replay at Brighton and Hove Albion, The Wanderers were defeated on a very wet night at a Goldstone Ground only fit for synchronised swimming.

This year, they earned the draw away from home and, had legs not been so exhausted, they would probably have won but the effort of beating defenders to get through on the keeper was too much to allow much power to be packed into the final shots on a couple of occasions in the dying minutes.

There has been a gradual rise in fortunes for the Youth Team since its formation. Under its sponsorship by PK Graphics, the Club's programme printers, the team has left behind Shelley Road and the East Berks League where so many of the opposition could have been the Wycombe boys' Dads.

How many times did a good footballing move break down when a leg was put in the way of a flying winger? And with only club linesman close by, this was so often allowed to go unpunished.

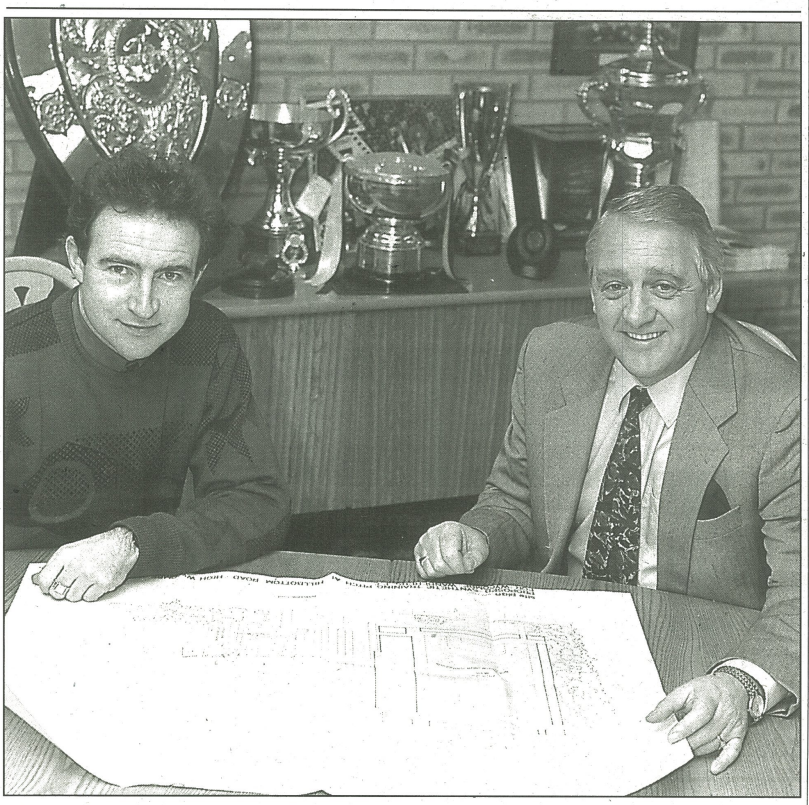
Sadly, Adams Park was only the home league ground for two seasons, seeing crowds well in excess of those for Capital League games coming to watch highly entertaining Allied Counties League matches.

Even now, with the team playing home league matches at Beaconsfield United's ground, there is always a sizeable crowd which rarely goes home disappointed either at the entertainment on the hot dogs

Youth Team Coach, Jim Melvin, Trainer, Dave Meli, and Secretary Alan King, have all put a great deal of time and effort, along with each squad of players, to achieve more each year.

The financial support of PK Graphics over the last five seasons has allowed the club to provide excellent facilities for the team to reach these heights.

Should the team manage to overcome Millwall at the second attempt, the reward is a chance to avenge that defeat at the Goldstone Ground. Now that would be an excellent way to measure how far the squad has come.



Wycombe Wanderers Chairman Ivor Beeks: "We have climbed mountains"

We have come a long way

By Ivor L. Beeks, Blues chairman

SIX months into our first season in the Football League and we are currently 2nd, in the semifinal of the Auto Glass Trophy, beaten by Coventry on a night we and they will not forget and recently knocked out in the 3rd round of the FA Cup by Norwich, who only 10 days previous were playing in Europe.

All this achievement in six months and Blues News asked me to give my view on our progress. The foregoing certainly speaks for itself, we have climbed mountains.

The spirit at this football club is unbelievable and the expectations are as well, so we must not expect to just turn up and programme the club into success, it has to be worked at and earned in all areas.

I do believe since our move from the slopes of Loakes Park that we have equipped ourselves gradually for our elevation into the Football League, and that we are enjoying our new found status.

There is still a great deal to do and achieve, but with good management both on and off the field our aspirations can and will be achieved one day.

Vital to the foregoing is the support of all you, attendance has increased in large proportions over the last few years, but if we are to make headway, changes will need to take place for both your comfort and the expected increase in spectators.

I recently visited as a guest a London Premier League side playing in the FA Cup. The quality of spectators' comforts, bearing in mind the size of the club, was not too far in front of us in relative terms.

You will realise from these few notes that we believe that changes will be required and an all-seated stadium will need to be implemented at Wycombe for the future.

Currently we are talking to many companies with a view to making an application for the first area in due course.

The Football Trust have set aside funds for all seating stands, to help 2nd and 3rd division sides and we should take every opportunity to be involved.

There is so much we wish to prepare for off the field and it will take time, patience and understanding, but I am sure we will be able to fulfil all of our dreams one day. After all, only eight years ago we were dreaming of a new stadium and the Football League.

The piece of hallowed turf where all the action takes place does not just happen by magic. Our groundsman Jim Gardner has, over the last few years, meticulously prepared the surface for the playing staff. However, even in this area we are talking with Jim about ways of improving the surface and distribution of water on those rare sunny days.

Having seen the pitch of our competitors over the last few months, I believe we do have a very good surface prepared by an expert.

The replacement for Keith Scott has not happened over night and yet our results have been outstanding.

Martin, quite rightly, has refused to sign players to make up numbers, or pay figures in excess of his judgement or our capabilities. This strategy at the football club is well documented, and I do believe right.

We will however, continue to make finances available for purchases as and when they are available, taking into account sound financial advice.

Youth Development has over the last few years been very evident, the development of Wycombe Wanderers Lions, Wycombe Wanderers U18s, Centre of Excellence and Coaching in the Community.

These young players will be tomorrow's stars, and we will need in the coming years to ensure that the Youth Policy is on a solid foundation producing our own stars.

In this respect our new Centre of Excellence recently bestowed on us by the Football Association will I trust bring forth young players from the local community, but it will take time for these young players to establish themselves and come through.

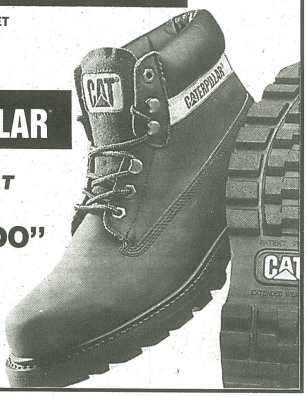
This club prides itself on the publicity we receive in both local and national media, and recently we have asked Alan Hutchinson to become our Press Officer.

I am sure you realise the time he spends obtaining stories for ringing the bluesline, and match days the organisation of the press box and passes. Alan, like so many of our match day staff, would be difficult to replace, long may their blue blood continue.

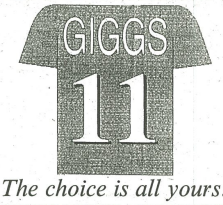
We can all be justly proud of the position the club has achieved today and long may it continue.

Finally these notes would not have been possible if Mark Austin had not had the wisdom to invent this fine idea of the Blues News, he typifies all the staff at the Wanderers who are always looking to strive for better ideals and ideas, my thanks to you all.

John Hearn
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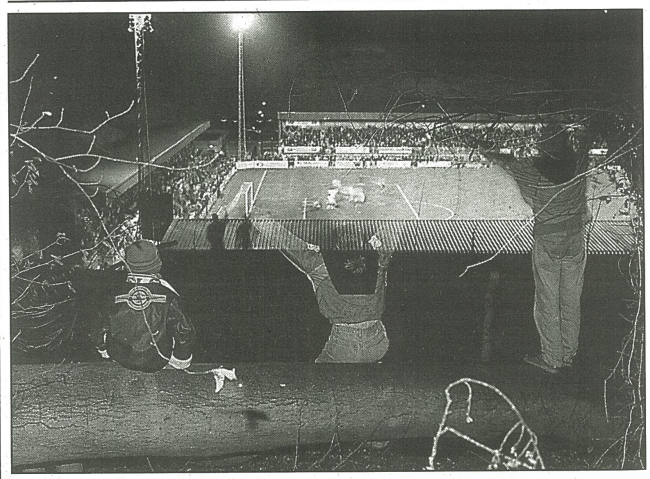


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Dream scene at Adams Park as youngsters watch a game from the trees

Welcome to the Field of Dreams

By Stephen Lee

MIDSUMMER Night's Dream, the title for one of Stuart Clarke's evocative images of football.

His Home's of Football exhibition focuses the camera at the supporters, presenting the image that we, the fans, can immediately associate with. This regular column will attempt to achieve the same thing.

Each month I shall relate stories that bring a different dimension to the phenomenon that is the Blue Army.

Basically my job will be to report on our experiences as we support the Blues. Please write, or tell, if you have something to say.

In February 1994, we have six months of league football to look back on. Memories of weekend trips to Carlisle and Hereford were early highlights. I remember playing pool in Carlisle with a local who calmly informed me he had just been released from prison for stabbing a football supporter. But I didn't have to worry, he couldn;t be bothered causing trouble now. I let him win the game!

Our first away victory in the league came at the end of an exhausting weekend spent at the Barrels Beer Festival, Hereford. The locals were amazed at the size and passion of our support. Possibly around 1,000 were present, an impressive figure for such an awkward midweek trip. It was easy maintaining constant noise with such an incredible match.

The size of our away support is something that I shall continually refer to, because we want to make an impression off the field as well as on. For instance, the 500 or so fans at Bury in September also included two members of the northern supporters club!

Following the match I was sitting in my car, when a middle aged man and his ten-year-old son, decked in Wycombe colours, approached me. Incredibly, both had broad Lancashire accents! They wanted to purchase my car mini kit. I was so amazed I could not charge them for it. Thanking me, they explained the Police wouldn't let them in the away end because of their accents, but they travel to see most of our northern home games. Clearly, the success story called Wycombe Wanderers has a wide audience.

Coventry City away, was a great night out. The noise produced by 2,500-plus Wycombe fans was exhilarating. In their Pub afterwards, the huge bouncers patronised us by chuckling like Frank Bruno and saying 'never mind lads. You don't play class everyday'. In defence I put my tongue firmly in cheek and said 'You won't be laughing when we put four past you at home!' Football is, after all, a funny old game.

The return match was surreal, where else but in a Dream could we be 4-0 up against a Premier League Club. Adams Park really is the original Field of Dreams.

Preston North End's ground is not quite a field of dreams, more a beach party that went wrong, for them! They supplied the beers, at £1 a pint, the sand, and the music, a bugler and drummer with marvellous repertoire.

Their goalkeeper was the most hospitable though, being transfixed by Hakan's late, late winner. The party continued outside in the car park, with their fans condemning us as 'nonleague rubbish'.

The obvious response of 'long ball rubbish' was replaced by 'we'll be back again next year'. I can't wait.

How easy life is being a Wycombe supporter. We turn up in our thousands to watch a cup match against a team in a higher division, Cambridge, expecting us to win comfortably.

Elsewhere, a victory over such a club would be considered a shock. Not here, at the field of dreams, we expect success. Nothing less will do after our rapid climb from 'obscurity' to national recognition.

How far can we go? Who knows, but of one thing I am sure, we are going to find out.

The trip to Walsall on News Year's Day was not a hangover cure. Coming back to consciousness somewhere in south west London was a terrible start, especially as it was gone midday before I left.

Possibly the highlight of the day was our support completely filling the away end, and spilling slightly along the side, We weren't exactly vociferous, so perhaps it's best if we forget about the whole Bescot Stadium experience.

Did we really expect to beat Norwich on 8th January. Well, yes! For the first time away supporters swamped the Hour's Glass before the match, developing new songs to vent their displeasure with Mike Walker.

I watched two matches between Wycombe and Norwich that day. In one, we were never outclassed, and played some brilliant football infront of a vociferous crowd. In the other, edited highlights on television, Norwich were always comfortable, and should have scored more than two. It was played in a subdued atmosphere, at a nice little ground.

Then there was the victory over Colchester!

The locals hospitality was overwhelming, as usual.

They spent most of the game abusing everything and everyone, particularly our manager.

Outside the atmosphere was tense and threatening. I remember our first meeting in 1985, when it was considered a real shock that a high flying 4th Division club was knocked out of the cup by nonleague hopefuls. Just over eight years on, and we've passed them by.

I am always looking to the future



Youth Team Coach Jim Melvin talks to some of the local youngsters who could be Wanderers' stars of tomorrow

By Jim Melvin

IN the last 18 months, there has been so many things happening at the football club, that you really have to sit down to catch your breath.

In terms of the Youth Team and Youth Development, I have carried on as before, given that essentially we are still part time.

From the initial trials of over 200 boys in the summer we brought the numbers down to a squad of 21, half of which are available to play both this year and next.

The club is actively looking at the whole area of Youth Development and the taking on of YTS or Apprentice professionals.

There is obviously a hefty financial undertaking and hopefully I will be visiting two or three clubs who have good long-standing reputations in youth development, in order to put together a project report for the board to consider.

On the playing front, congratulations should go to Shaun Stevens and Troy Johnson who have now got through to the last 30 for the England under 18 trials at Lilleshall.

I thank the team who played on Monday against Millwall in the 3rd Round Replay, even though they lost.

The team fought magnificently in the first game to come back at Millwall twice and gain a 2-2 draw.

We are out and about in the local community

ON the community front, I was delighted to agree and accept the joint sponsorship of our 'Learning Through Football' scheme by The Midland Bank and the Bucks Free Press.

This type of major company involvement really does allow the club to continue to develop the Community Service and, therefore, my grateful thanks is due to Fred Mullin and Rod Armitage at the Midland Bank and to Ron Christ at The Bucks Free Press for their considerable help. We have also undertaken recently to do some more coaching work with the Local Youth Justice team and hopefully nearer the summer with Disabled Groups.

At present, the club is also trying to win an award from The Jewson Family Awards and, therefore, once again, I would ask that all our supporters vote for your club by completing the forms that appeared in the Matchday Programme.

For your information, again I will list the areas that we currently work in:

A)Learning Through Football: A cross curricular theme in which the schools spend a day at the club doing their normal days lessons but based around football and football clubs.

B)Soccer star coaching courses: A six-week course for 1.4 hours per week on a day decided by the schools where the children are coached on a variety of skills.

C)Funweeks: Similar to the courses above except that the children are with us from 10am-2.25pm for five days. These Funweeks are run on most school holidays.

D) Minisoccer: We were hoping to start this in January but just as soon as we have a pitch, it will be announced through the press. Essentially it is sixaside soccer for children, which will take place on a Sunday and be based on a pay and play system.

E) WWFC roadshow: Available at no cost to all schools and basically involved a one hour question and answer session, quiz, video show and chance to win tickets to a game,

F) Saturday match club: This takes place on a matchday and is for organised groups of around 25 people. They arrive early at the ground, have a tour of the stadium, snack lunch, programme and tickets for the game at an exceptionally low cost.

G) Endsleigh question of sport quiz: We will be announcing details of this quiz which is for 16-18 years at all our local senior schools and hopefully will become an annual interschool competition.

With all these schemes and new ideas (such as the possibility of a match day creche), there is plenty going on for you to get involved in. For details and costs of all these schemes, please contact me here at the football club.

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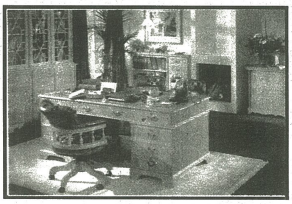
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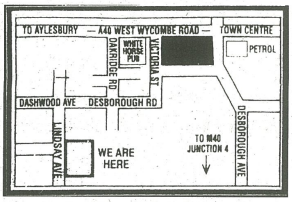


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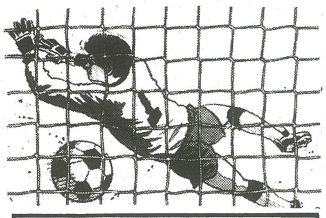
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Some 150 boys between the ages of eight and 16 are now attending each week and they come from as far afield as Southampton, Oxford, Watford and Milton Keynes to participate although the vast majority are local to High Wycombe.

The club also fields seven playing sides from its membership which compete in the local Star League and the Hayes League on Sunday mornings. Members also play for other clubs if they prefer and simply enjoy our training sessions.

The club plans to extend the number of sides it has next season and is currently to launch a large fund raising programme to try and get sufficient money to establish its own playing fields and training facility. It is hoped that this will become a joint project with the Amersham & Wycombe College at their Daws Hill Lane site so that the facility can be used during the week by the college to support their programme and the community service.

The club produced its own programme for members called Life with the Lions and features match reports and news on a regular basis.

This is a vital link for the club to publicise fund-raising events.

The club depends upon these for their income as it is totally self sufficient financially receiving no funds from the senior club. The club's president is Alan Parry, who is also a director of the senior club, and its Chairman is Colin Smith who founded the club along with Gordon Anning and Mick Wethered, who are keen Wanderers supporters.

The club has already achieved some marvellous results in competitive football but still believes its best to date was seeing no fewer than five of last year's Under 16s side be chosen for the senior club youth team. Three of those, Robert Smith, Gary Lansdown and Peter Jupp, all played in the recent FA Youth Cup game at Millwall. The highlight to their playing was an appearance for the winning side in a Star League Cup final at Chesham FC.

To join the Wycombe Lions, write to Colin Smith at Wycombe Wanderers Football Club Ltd, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 4HJ.

Jim'll fix it if they cut up rough

CLIPPINGS
By Jim Gardner

WELCOME to my first article in what I am sure will prove to be a very popular newspaper and I am sure even Wycombe Wanderers fans will want to read it! Blues fans have always been keen to be kept informed on everything that happens at their ground 'Adams Park'.

The wonderful success of the Bluesline, one of the top football phone lines in the country, proves that Blues fans like to keep in touch and this paper will help give even more inside information.

It was with that in mind, that I was asked to write some notes about my job as Groundsman at Adams Park.

Of course my main job is the maintenance of the playing surface, but there is more to my job than just that.

Litter: the clearing up both inside and outside the stadium is a very large part of my workload. With the ever increasing numbers now watching the Blues, this part of my job takes up a great deal of my time.

Kit: laying out the kit for home matches, packing and unpacking for away games, and laying out training kit for the boys.

Dealing with the ever-increasing numbers of tradesmen who work at the ground, carrying out repairs and improvements.

But I am sure if you asked the lads what I do all day,



Groundsman Jim, right

they would tell you it's to just make sure that a pot of tea is ready morning, noon and night.

Repairs to the pitch start immediately after each game. If the weather is suitable, I start by rolling the pitch. Early in the season August/ September it would normally be too dry for the rolling to have any effect. After Christmas, it would either be too wet or frozen, so I would then leave the rolling and begin divoting.

It takes three hours to roll the pitch, I use a Ransome's Mastiff 36 Cylinder Mower and I walk around six miles, so you may well ask why am I so fat and unfit. The CentreSpot is where the problems lay, or at least that's what my wife tells me.

Each time I roll or cut the pitch I change direction, this helps to keep the surface flat. If you were to roll always in the same direction you would soon end up with humps and hollows.

Also if you cut in the same direction each time you lay the grass down and you do not get a good cut. On the subject of mowing you must keep the blades sharp and correctly set. If not, you tear the grass blade which leads to damaged grass, liable to disease etc.

If you are amongst the last to leave a game you may have seen the 'divot gang' walking in line up and down the pitch, buckets in hand. No we are not looking for any odd bits of the visiting teams body left laying around.

In fact we are using a sand seed mixture to fill in the divots caused by the players turning sharply or slide tackles, or maybe the odd police horse, which tear out the turf. 'Sods' yes that's what I say.

Many of the divots may be trod or forked back but some break up into small pieces, then we fill with the sand seed mixture.

Depending on the time of year and the weather, 48 days before I need it I place five barrow loads of sand in a shed and mix in the grass seed.

This is to get the seed germinating early so that when I use it on the pitch it is almost shooting. This fills in the repair quicker and helps fill in the sward. This process is called 'chitting' careful now I said chitting.

During dry and hot periods I need to keep the seed moist. Next issue I will begin with irrigation.

How to programme ahead

THE PROGRAMME
By Geoff Gray

WYCOMBE Wanderers won The Vauxhall Conference and look set for a very high position in The Endsleigh Division Three in 1993/94. Most people will not find that startling news. But in this instance we are not considering the onfield activities but the matchday programme, which won The Wirral Programme Award for the GMVC last season and looks likely to be highly rated again this season.

This season's effort has evolved over the last ten years; yes, that really is how long the imprint has read Printed by P.K.Graphics. How many people can still recall the 12-page issue, printed from typewritten copy in dark blue and light blue paper? Visitors to The Homes of Football exhibition currently at the Guildhall in the town will be able to see several of the variations that have gone between then and the current 44-page colour programme.

Next June, when The Wirral Awards are made, we hope there will be cause for a quick smile at P.K.Graphics in West End Street, before hopefully, getting back to the business of aiming for a higher position next season!

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The video also includes highlights of the Autoglass Trophy matches against Barnet and Brentford, and all four legs of the Coca-Cola Cup matches against Leyton Orient and Coventry City.

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16 THE BLUES NEWS

I want to lead us to victory

CAPTAIN'S LOG
By Terry Evans

FIRSTLY I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for the fantastic support you have given the team, especially away from home.

I hope you are pleased with our present position. We are within striking distance of an automatic promotion place which is what our season is all about. However, if this is not possible a play-off place in our first season of league football would be a great achievement.

You may be aware that I captained Brentford when they won the old 3rd Division Championship in the 91/92 season but you may not know that previous to this I played for the team which reached the play-off's and were knocked out on the away leg to Tranmere.

The long silent drive back from Merseyside can never compare to the elation at Griffin Park which went on into the early hours after beating Peterborough.

I know which feeling I want to experience with Wycombe, hopefully these memories will help me to encourage the team until the end of the season.

I have been told that this is going to be a regular feature in the paper, space permitting I will try to let you know what is happening within the team which is where I would ask for your help.

Your letters of encouragement have been great, but if you write to me with any of your questions, I will try my best to answer as many of them as I can within this column.



Terry in action against Norwich in the FA Cup

A golden chance to earn some extra cash

Do you have a few hours a week to spare?

Extra cash would come in handy? Wycombe Wanderers Chiltern Gold Lottery is a door to door operation and this is where you could help.

We are looking for fit, flexible and sociable people to form a team of canvassers to develop our existing rounds and to create new ones as the need arises.

Experience has taught us that the best canvassers and agents are those who have the football club's interest at heart, as well as their own!

For every ticket that you sell you will earn 50 pence. It's as simple as that. On average 30 tickets are sold in a two-hour period.

Work for two hours per evening, four nights a week and you would earn £60 per week.

Join the Wanderers Canvassing team today. For full details, call Mike Phillips on (0494) 472100.

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