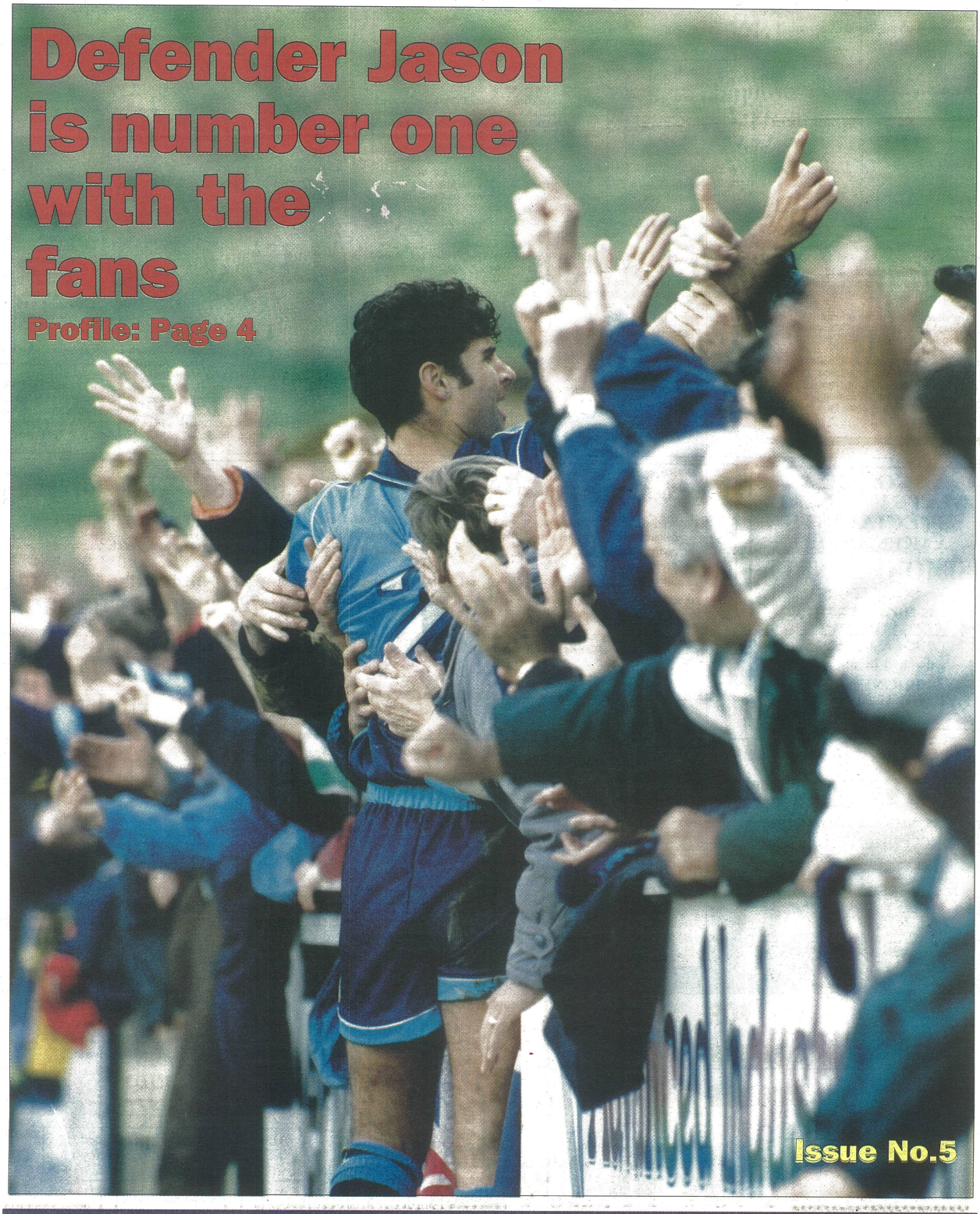
W.W.F.C.

The BLUES NEWS

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



Defender Jason is number one with the fans

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Issue No.5

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

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Blues are up to the challenge



by Mark Austin
Sales and marketing manager

WYCOMBE WANDERERS faced the play-offs on and off the pitch for the first time in their 109-year history.

This means coming to terms will all the new rules and regulations.

The players are having to adjust to a season that will possibly be extended by three weeks and all the new rules, such as away goals counting double after extra time of the second leg of the Semi-Final play-offs. The players deserve high praise and great credit for creating so much entertainment for the fans.

Without their efforts, the season could have ended without success. They have already achieved 4th position in Division Three, reached the 3rd round of the FA Cup and beaten eight second Division sides during the season.

Their most recent success was winning the Evening Standard five-a-side competition at Wembley Arena at the first attempt, beating four Premier League sides, (Chelsea, QPR, West Ham and Wimbledon) without conceding a goal. Not bad for the only Third Division side in the competition.

The play-off match at Adams Park last Wednesday night was the 33rd home league and cup match of the 1993/94 season. During the season, 159,820 have visited Adams Park to watch Endsleigh Insurance League, Coca–Cola Cup, FA Cup, Autoglass Trophy and Berks and Bucks Senior Cup matches.

The average league attendance for the 1993/94 season exceeded 5,500 per match, with an average of more than 7,000 attending the FA Cup matches at Adams Park.

The growth in attendances over the past four seasons has been dramatic. In 1991/92, the average league attendance was 3,602; while in 1992/93, it was 4,601; with another 1,000 increase this season. Such large numbers have required additional stewards being hired, increased police costs, more car parking spaces and more matchday programmes than ever.

For the 33 matches staged at Adams Park this year, Wycombe Wanderers printed 113,848 matchday programmes, an average of nearly 3,500 per match.

Such large increases across the board would not be possible without our wonderful supporters, who have seen the club go from strength to strength over the last few years and are constantly helping Wycombe Wanderers reach New Frontiers.



Pulling them in: Average league attendance at Adams Park last season was more than 5,500 per match

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I've become older than my mother

By Martin O'Neill

At the time of writing we have not yet played Carlisle United in either of the two play-off games for the right to meet Torquay United or Preston North End at Wembley.

But we made a very successful trip to "Little Wembley" when we competed in the Evening Standard five–a–side competition for the very first time, and WON it.

All the big London teams were involved in the competition – Arsenal, with two of three players (including captain Tony Adams) from their victorious European Cup Winners Campaign in action, Spurs, West Ham United and Wimbledon also taking part.

It certainly turned out to be a marvellous evening for the Football Club with fantastic victories over Chelsea, QPR, West Ham and eventually Wimbledon to our credit. I think we not only surprised ourselves but also everyone else at Wembley.

The support we received not only from our own magnificent fans, but eventually from all the other defeated teams' supporters was immense, and the players responded splendidly to the occasion.

The seven – Chuck Moussaddik, Jason Cousins, David Carroll, Steve Brown and Mark West being the starting five, with Tim Langford and David Titterton excellent substitutes – were a credit to the club, and their achievement that evening will stand alongside the other great memories I cherish from this golden age of Wycombe Wanderers' history.

Chuck Moussaddik, the butt of many a cynical remark from myself, was sensational and justly deserved his man of the tournament award. What a memory to take to his next club!

Someone told me that it was exactly a year ago that we had defeated Runcorn in the FA Trophy Final. "Still unbeaten at Wembley" was the shout of most of the players that evening.

I suppose if promotion is to be achieved, the most exciting and exhilarating way to do it is through the play-offs.

I just think that someone up there wishes to shorten all our lives by a couple of years. I've managed to do that quite easily this season.

At some point in mid April – I think it was when Simon Stapleton missed against Rochdale – I actually became older than my mother!



Winners: Mark West and David Titterton enjoy their five-a-side glory

Wembley tickets go on sale

WEMBLEY tickets for the Division 3 play-off final against Preston go on sale today.

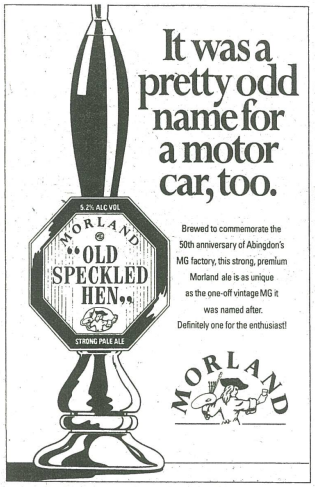
Wanderers' ticket office and clubshop are open from 9am to 9pm today, 10am to 4pm tomorrow, 10am to 2pm Sunday and 9.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday next week.

The tickets are priced as follows:

- **Seats – £24, £22, £19, £17, £15 and £13**
- **Olympic Gallery – £32 and £30**
- **Family enclosure (Lower North Stand) – £19 and £17 for adults, with children under 16 (accompanied by an adult) and senior citizens, half price.**

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, Visa and Access. The credit card hotline is (0494) 441118, open today 9.30am to 8.30pm, and next Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5pm.

Other outlets for tickets are: Wanderers At Town in High Wycombe's Octagon shopping centre – Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm (payments by cash and cheque only); and WH Smith, High Street, High Wycombe.



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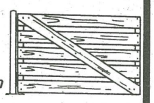
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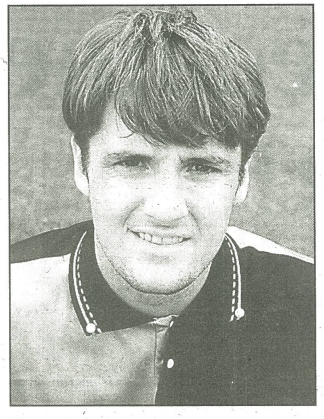
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4 THE BLUES NEWS

PLAYER PROFILE
Full name: Matthew John William George Crossley
Date of birth: 18th of March 1968
School: Brighton Hill, Basingstoke
Height: 6ft 2in
Weight: 13-stone
Home: Three-bedroom detached house in Basingstoke
Car: Ford Orion
Married: Getting married to Alison in June this year
Brothers & sisters: One sister Melanie who is a housewife
Dad's job: Commercial Manager at Wealdstone F.C.
Nickname at club: Sir Matt, Carlos, Costacurta or Larry

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
Who do you share a room with on away trips? Andy Kerr.
Does he have any annoying habits? He uses the phone far too much.
What was your ambition as a child? To be a professional footballer or cricketer.
What is your ambition now? To help Wycombe at the highest level.
Who was your boyhood hero? Ian Botham.
What has been your biggest thrill in life? Playing two cup finals at Wembley and winning them both.
What has been your biggest disappointment in life? It is very disappointing to me every time we lose a game.
What are your saddest moments in football? All the big disasters where people have lost their lives.
Which present-day footballer do you admire most? Bryan Robson.
Who is the greatest player there has ever been? George Best.
Who has been the greatest influence on your career? My father.

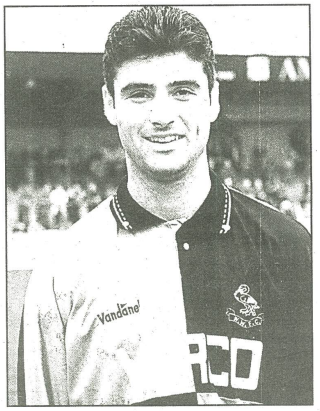


Who is the toughest opponent you have faced? Les Ferdinand.
Do you have any superstitions before a game? I have a few silly ones which I will keep to myself.
Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career? Martin O'Neill.
What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer? I was a bailiff before turning pro, so possibly I would still be doing that.
Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement? I scored a century for Basingstoke and North Hants Cricket Club.
What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch? It was in the '60s, Man Utd v Leeds, a fan ran onto the pitch and had a shot at goal from the edge of the box.
What was your most embarrassing moment in football? Everytime I watch or listen to myself being interviewed.
What is the oddest piece of training you have had to do? The under and over games we play.
Which team did you support as a boy? Manchester United.
What is your favourite ground? Old Trafford.
What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy? Cricket, tennis, basketball and golf.
Do you have any unusual food that improves your game? Weetabix.
Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman? Graeme Hick.
What is your most prized possession? All my winners medals.
Do you play any musical instruments? No. I once had an electric guitar, but could not be bothered to learn how to play it.
Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport? Play cricket for England.
What really annoys you in football? Losing.
What are your pet hates outside football? Doing the washing up.

FAVOURITES
TV Programme: M.A.S.H.
Pop star/group: U2
Food: I enjoy spicy foods
Drink: Lager and water
Film: Chinatown & M.A.S.H The Movie
Film stars: Jack Nicholson and Alan Alda
Holiday resort: California
TV stars: George Cole
Comedian: Tommy Cooper and Chuck Moussaddik
LP: The Joshua Tree
City: Paris
Soap: Coronation Street
Soap character: Reg Holdsworth

PLAYER PROFILE
Full name: Jason Michael Cousins
Date of birth: 14th of October, 1970
SchooL: Hayes Manor Comprehensive
Height: 5ft 11in
Weight: 12-stone
Home: Three-bed semi in Hayes
Car: BMW
Married: Single
Brothers & sisters: One sister aged 29 who is soon to marry Keith Scott
Dad's job: Airline Pilot for Air Canada
Nickname at club: Cuzzo

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
Who do you share a room with on away trips? Terry Evans.
Does he have any annoying habits? Never flushes the toilet.
What was your ambition as a child? To play for Arsenal.
What is your ambition now? To play for Arsenal.
Who was your boyhood hero? Kevin Keegan.
What has been your biggest thrill in life? Playing at Wembley and scoring the first goal in the FA Trophy.
What has been your biggest disappointment in life? Being pipped by Colchester to the GM Conference title on goal difference.
What is your saddest moment in football? The Hillsborough disaster.
Which present-day footballer do you admire most? Ryan Giggs, a genius.
Who is the greatest player there has ever been? Bobby Moore, pure class.
Who has been the greatest influence on your career? My parents for all their support and Martin for giving me a second chance (you all know about that).



Who is the toughest opponent you have faced? Brett Angell, a real handful.
Do you have any superstitions before a game? I never wear my match-day shirt before the kick–off.
Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career? Colin Lee my youth team manager at Brentford and Martin O'Neill.
What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer? Probably a bailiff as this was my profession before turning pro.
Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement? A break of 52 at snooker.
What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch? When the two streakers ran onto the Wembley pitch in the FA Trophy Final.
What was your most embarrassing moment in football? My first wage packet at Wycombe.
What is the oddest piece of training you have had to do? Colin Lee once took us pot holing.
Which team did you support as a boy? Arsenal.
What is your favourite ground? Highbury.
What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy? Snooker and golf.
Do you have any unusual food that improves your game? A Big Mac.
Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman? Jimmy White.
What is your most prized possession? My PFA and supporters player of the year awards.
Do you play any musical instruments? The drums.
Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport? Winning the World Snooker Championship and the US Masters in Golf.
What really annoys you in football? Referees.
What are your pet hates outside football? Prices of lager at night clubs.

FAVOURITES
TV programme: Auf Wiedersehen Pet
Pop star/group: Guns 'N' Roses
Food: Indian
Drink: Lager
Film: Silence of the Lambs
Film stars: Robert De Niro
Holiday resort: Malia in Crete
TV stars: Jimmy Nail
Comedian: Freddie Star
LP: Appetite for Destruction G.N.R.
City: Tampa, Florida
Soap: EastEnders
Soap character: Grant Mitchell

All the well wishers have given me a great boost

ON THE SIDELINES
by Terry Evans

DUE to the pressures of press deadlines, the writing of this took place on Sunday May 8, just after our draw with Preston.

We were all bitterly disappointed with the result away at Crewe, we only needed a win to be promoted, but for a side that was leading the third division for so long, Crewe proved very difficult to break down and luck was not on our side.

Preston also wanted to ruin the slim chance we still had by causing us a lot of problems, but even though we had plenty of opportunities to win the game, it was not to be.

People say that a great deal of luck is involved and we may have not had our fair share, yet looking back through the season there were also games when we did not deserve anything but collected all three points.

The sign of a good side is consistency, if you play well the results will come, and whether we have been promoted or not, this is what we must look for next season.

My last word this season must go to you supporters, with the exception of the Hereford game, when I was both unfit and unknown, the continued encouragement you have given me is nothing short of top class.

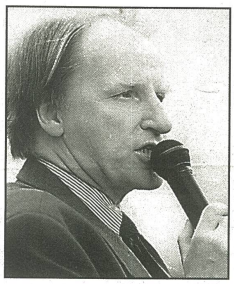
I have received so many cards and letters wishing me well, it was also good to meet a great many of you at the club disco on the 7th.

Your kind words and best wishes really have lifted me, especially when I was at my lowest point.

Whether we are in division two or three, I hope to be back playing at the start of the season, and hopefully the players will build on the experiences this year and give you all something to shout about next May.

THE BLUES NEWS 5

I've got a really hard Korea



By Alan Parry

WHILST Wycombe fans are packing away their scarves and replica shirts for the close season break, the football season has a few more weeks left to run for your intrepid correspondent from the boardroom.

I'll shortly be packing my bags for the USA. and this summer's World Cup Finals, which I'll be covering for ITV. Although England won't be there, both ITV and BBC are planning comprehensive coverage from the States. The World Cup kicks off on June 17 with the final one month later and every single game will be covered.

My personal schedule begins on the opening day in Dallas when Spain take on the commentator's nightmare, South Korea. My commentary could go something like this:

"Myung Bo Hong to Jung Yoon Noh. He finds Moon Sik Choi. Good pass to Jeong Hyeok Kim. There goes In Young Choi on the overlap. Great cross – and it's a goal! The scorer: Sang Bum Gu!"

You will gather from this why I was relieved to hear that the match kicks off at midnight, British time, I'm hoping that most of the audience will be fast asleep! My next live game is Spain v Germany four days later in Chicago, which has an 8pm start in Britain. No excuses for getting that one wrong.

I'm set to have the most bizarre World Cup itinerary of any commentator. As you may know, I also report on athletics for ITV and the World Cup clashes with the track and field season. After the first few games in America, I'm due to fly back to the UK for the first big athletics meeting – the European Cup Final in Birmingham – then jet back across the Atlantic for more football.

No sooner will I have recovered from my first bout of jet lag, than I'll be stepping on a plane to fly back again for more athletics. Amidst all the confusion, I'll probably have Linford Christie scoring the winning goal for South Korea against Spain!

Yes, I agree – it IS a wonderful job and I wouldn't swap it for the world, but it can get pretty hectic at times. Before I leave for the USA, I'll be commentating on the play–offs for the Endsleigh League, which take place over the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May. When I finally return from America, the athletics season is in full swing and doesn't end until early September – three weeks into the start of the new football season back home!

In between all the travelling and the actual events, there's no time to take a break and recharge the batteries. Like all commentators, I have to do a massive amount of homework and my head will be buried in various books so that I'm right up to date with all the facts and figures.

My personal view is that the Americans will make a great success of the World Cup. I don't go along with the theory that it was wrong to give football's most important event to a country that doesn't even play the game. Football is played in almost every major country in the world and I regard the USA as the final frontier in making the game truly global.

The Americans are first rate at organising major events, and with its enlightened attitude to public service and magnificent facilities, the country lends itself perfectly to staging a World Cup. I fear that days have long gone when Britain could take on such a monumental task and be confident of doing it successfully.

I know that I'll enjoy myself in America this summer, but I'm already looking forward to next season. Martin O'Neill and his players have given us four tremendous years at Adams Park and I see no reason why that can't continue.

My busy summer schedule might prevent me putting pen to paper for the next Blues News, so I'd like to close by saying a very big thank you to each and every Wycombe fan. Once again, your support has been magnificent and is greatly appreciated by everyone at the club.

You – the Wycombe supporter – are the paying customer, our lifeblood. Have a great Summer – think of me and those South Korean names – and I look forward to seeing you all down at Adams Park next season. "Come on you Blues ...."

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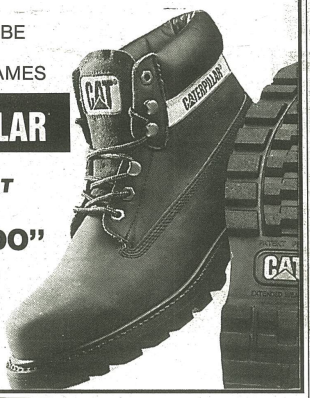
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6 THE BLUES NEWS

Ooh aah, we're



Medallion men: Steve Guppy, Terry Evans and Jason Cousins show off their medals at the PFA dinner

THREE OF THE BEST
By Steve Hayes

BEING a person fortunate enough to attend the PFA awards a few times before, it was with great excitement and anticipation when Sunday the 10th of April arrived.

Wycombe were informed that no players had made the divisional team. Even though this was somewhat of a surprise to me, it was still going to be a night of celebration for the newest member of the football league.

I arranged to pick up Big Tel and then to be dropped off at Jason's house for a minicab to take the three of us together with Dave Carroll to town.

There looked very little chance of getting a drink of any description. This was made clear after ten minutes when Jason proceeded to order a minicab.

The driver was outside within seconds. I can only assume that this had been pre-arranged to get us out of his house quickly.

As we stepped out, I could see a 1982 rusty blue Sierra with the mandatory plastic bag underneath the aerial base to stop it scratching the paintwork!

As the last person to get in, it did cross my mind that arguably over £1,000,000 of talent (not including myself) was in the hands of this chap who we had never met before, in a car that would have trouble passing a moped let alone an MOT.

He had only vaguely heard of High Wycombe so there seemed little point in trying to explain that three of his passengers played for the Wanderers.

Well at least he wore a tie. I could see it holding his trousers up as he lifted the side of his belly to push the seat belt into its housing. ''Where to lads?''

''Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane,'' came the reply.

''Is that in London?'' Never Again.

We had arranged to meet at a pub close to the hotel, but being Sunday and the fact that we had chopped up numerous drivers and taken every short cut possible, we had arrived too early and it was shut.

In previous years, we had met at a hotel on the Bayswater Road where a lot of northern players stay as the bar is open all day. Plenty were milling around and it was clear the proceedings had started much earlier for most of them.

Four drinks for just £14 seemed a bargain. We decided to sit down out of the way to watch the entertainment just until the Sunday licensing laws allowed us to move on.

As we arrived at the pub, we were greeted by Alan Parry who was having a drink with Ian Darke. It was the first time I had met Alan and it was a pleasure to listen to his views and comments. The real honest passion he holds for Wycombe Wanderers is a different class.

We were later joined by Steve Guppy, Keith Ryan, Paul Hyde and his brother Mark. There was hardly anyone in the pub in contrast to the Grosvenor which would have been packed so we chose to stay put until nearer the time of the meal.

> **'A simple photo could not prove too much trouble, could it?'**

As we came to the hotel, photographers and pressmen lined the entrance with plenty of autograph hunters looking for their favourite player.

The Grosvenor can comfortably seat some 1,500 people. Standing on the balcony we were level with the 20 huge chandeliers which immediately catch your eye.

As we walked down the wide open staircase leading to the table area, I could not fail to be impressed by this truly magnificent room.

We made our way to the table where Jim Melvin, Chuck and Hakan were already assembled. It was at this point that it became clear that three Wycombe players, all of whom were present, had won PFA divisional awards.

There was much congratulating within the confines of the table together with a great deal of surprise.

Terry had won an award two seasons before with Brentford. He felt this one meant far more to him and only wished that he had managed to play for the entire season. Jason and Steve were both very proud to have been awarded in their first full season of league football and could not hide their elation.

The meal was proceeded by Gordon Taylor, Chief Executive, proposing Grace after which the Loyal Toast was proposed by Pat Nevin. Pat then stood to speak in his capacity as PFA Chairman.

This was his first year in the chair and I listened with interest to his comments. He spoke of the financial assistance the PFA offers to players who have to retire early through injury, the youth training scheme, re–training, coaching and football within the community.

Terry has mentioned that he wants to take some coaching courses this summer if his plan for recovery on the injured knee stays on schedule. Jason is another Wycombe player keen to take advantage of the facilities on offer, having recently spent a summer coaching in Miami.

Terry Venables received an ovation as he stood to say a few words. There is a permanent air of optimism surrounding him. He seems to be the players' choice for the job and had no problem in holding their full concentration.

The evening's entertainment was supplied by Duncan McKenzie (the ex-Mansfield, Nottingham Forest, Leeds, Anderlecht, Everton, Chelsea and Blackburn player) and Mick Miller (the bald chap who appeared on the comedians).

Then it was down to Richard Keys from Sky Sports to take over the proceedings. The first honours were the third division awards.

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with Cantona



Ooh la la: Jason Cousins nips in to have his picture taken with Manchester United star Eric Cantona

A short clip of film was shown featuring Wycombe. There was also a shot of Martin going to work through the front door!

This was followed with a camera shot of Jason and Steve sitting at the table. I think Mr Parry may have had a little to do with this but oddly the shot was not cut from the highlights shown on Sky Sports the next evening.

There followed warm applause from the audience for all 11 players, but they were not asked to stand or even be presented with their awards. Instead these were to be collected after the formalities were completed.

This seemed very strange. Football is a team game and, therefore, a PFA divisional award is possibly the highest individual honour a player can ever receive. Yet as mentioned, Wycombe were not even informed that three players had been commended!

It surely cannot be that much trouble for the PFA to notify the clubs of players who have won awards to ensure they are in attendance, and at the very least ask them to be up standing to receive their justifiable applause.

However, this was followed by the announcement of the other three divisional teams in the same format. Then Peter Beardsley was invited onto the stage to announce the award for the Young Player of the Year.

Guests around us were convinced that Andy Cole should be presented with this award.

It was, therefore, fitting that Beardsley read out his name, the man who has been mainly responsible for his excellent season.

Bryan Hamilton then announced Billy Bingham as the recipient of the 1994 Merit Awards for his contribution to the Northern Ireland team.

Which left just the main prize. The six nominees for the award for Players Player were Beardsley, Cantona, Cole, Giggs, Ince and Shearer.

It was Terry Venables who announced the winner and again it was no surprise when Eric Cantona was named.

The Frenchman said a few well chosen words of thanks before Keys concluded the evening's formalities. A swarm of photographers and pressmen then mounted the stage to try to get the best shot of Eric.

In previous years, a team of photographers had toured the tables to take group pictures for whoever wanted them. This year, nothing has been arranged, so it looked as if there would be nothing other than the programme to record the players' awards.

I therefore suggested that a freelance photographer was approached to take some pictures after they had finished with Cantona and Cole. A gentleman was picked who I felt would possibly do as he was told.

He was busy taking pictures of Eric. I told him where we were and with the threat of me returning to give him more problems than he already had, he promised to come over once he has finished.

The players had by now picked up their awards. I overheard Jason saying that he would really like to have had a photograph taken with Eric, a view echoed by Steve. But they felt there was little chance of this with all the pushing and shoving taking place on stage.



Model players: Wanderers' strip

Now, as a person who can broadly be described as a touch pushy, I said: "Let's go and try." After all we were representing Wycombe, a club that has had many achievements and has a habit of ignoring people who say 'it can't be done', so a simple photo could not prove too much trouble could it?

My belief was not shared by Jason or Steve, but they followed me anyway, as we came close it looked impossible to even get onto the stage let alone stand next to Eric.

So I just grabbed hold of Jason and pushed my way through. The photographers and camera crews were incensed with this. I chose to ignore their protests but instead carried on pulling Jason through and pushed him into a position right next to Cantona, at this point. I got behind our elected photographer and shouted as loud as I could 'ERIC'. As he turned, we got the shot, and all that was left was to repeat the exercise with Steve, much to the disgust of all on stage accept Eric himself.

As you can see, we did get what we wanted together with two other pictures, so there was nothing left to do other than proceed to enjoy the remainder of the evening with some obligatory red juice.

On the way home, clutching the crumpled programme in my hand with the telephone number of the photographer scribbled onto it, I did reflect that there really is nothing that Wycombe cannot achieve.

When I telephoned the photographer on the Monday, he confirmed that all our pictures had come out and looked good but he sounded somewhat disappointed.

He explained that even though he had taken three film reels of Cantona, only the pictures featuring Jason and Steve had Eric looking directly into his camera.

I expressed my deep sorrow at this but suggested that next year when Wycombe players receive their divisional awards, if he wants some good pictures, he should come and find us.

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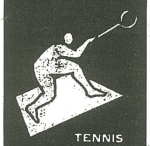
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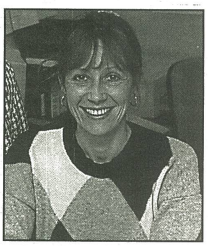
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8 THE BLUES NEWS

Female fans flock to see the lads



By Diane Medcraft

ONCE upon a time I think I used to be quite a nice person.

I've always taken great care not to swear at old ladies when they gash great chunks out of my ankles with their shopping trolleys, nor to walk past those old blind accordion players without slinging some loose change in the cap.

Somehow, without noticing it, I (along with the rest of the girls in the office) appear to have sprouted a pair of horns and knocked on the head any slight chance I ever had of reaching the right set of gates when my time comes.

However, well prepared we are for the onslaught of hatred that will pour over the phone and the counter from a minority of the public, it still comes as something of a shock to see pure venom in a pair of eyes not 12 inches away from your own.

Having survived through a few more of them since then, I can sum up what we are all tempted to do at the first mention of these situations in the future. It involves a stick of gelignite and four first-class British Airways tickets to join Ronnie Biggs in the sun.

I must add at this point, that we are also blessed with a majority of supporters who don't leave their sense of humour at home when they call in the office.

We have all met some lovely people since working here. The days of Loakes Park are long gone and I don't think there is any doubt that our supporter base has widened in a vast way over the last few seasons.

Unless you happen to come to Adams Park wearing a pair of blinkers, most of you will have be aware that female support is probably rising higher than in any other category.

I don't know whether this is a national trend or just peculiar to Wycombe, but I can't let an opportunity go by without putting forward a few suggestions as to why:

1.The newlywed syndrome. Fresh from the honeymoon these women have read all the '90s articles on how to keep their man. Togetherness is the key word and they are determined to stick with this at all costs. Any attempt by the poor bloke to suggest he could make up a car load with all his old mates is met by a flood of tears and interrogations of the 'don't you love me any more' variety. You can spot them a mile off. He is the one looking miserable when we score because she's holding his hand so he can't even clap.

2. The born-again housewife. After spending ten years trudging round Sainsbury's on a Saturday afternoon with two kids and a buggy, she has finally rebelled. While scraping the last burnt dinner in the bin, she looked in contempt at his pathetic figure slumped in a post-match coma on the settee. Rallying her friends from the playgroup committee around her, they secretly booked their own tickets, bought a pair of jeans and turned up to the next game on their own. Life has now improved no end. He's happy, because he can send her down to queue for tickets and suddenly he can stay in the pub all Saturday night without any grief. Little does he realise that while he is out she's writing love notes to Jason Cousins that she will never send...

3. The woman with a mission. These are the most easy to spot. Hairstyles vary, but must involve a huge amount of hairspray. Earrings are of the two to five-inch dangling variety and the outfit must involve something leather and incredibly high-heeled boots. The most determined are prepared to freeze in January by exposing their sun-bed tans in a white skimpy T-shirt. They don't often move their heads during play, but chewing gum intently, fix a smouldering stare on their player when in close proximity while crossing and uncrossing their legs.

4. The 'I want to be taken seriously' type. Often from a family of brothers, she is suffering from an identity crisis. She hates make–up, wears men's jeans and sinks pints like no tomorrow. Sadly, try as she might she just can't quite fit in. Always on the edge of the circle of the boys she will try in vain to impress with her vast knowledge of football trivia and dirty rugby songs. You will have seen her, belting out Blue Army from behind the goal – standing alone.

We are men for all seasons

CLIPPINGS
by Jim Gardener

JUST why is it the British are so preoccupied with the weather. Maybe it is not uncommon in this country to have all four seasons' weather in one day?

After weeks of panic and loss of sleep worrying if the pitch will be able to take the vast amount of rainfall we have had this winter, I now find myself having to telephone Wycombe Fire Station with the request to loan some high-pressure hose to supplement my existing irrigation system.

A recent dry spell – nine days, coupled with high winds and sun, have dried the top which has meant I have had to put on a lot of water so that the pitch will take a stud and allow the ball to ping off the surface.

No matter how you plan the following weeks' work, I more often than not have to change these plans due to the weather. The only certain thing in groundsmanship is that you can never beat the weather; you learn to work with it. In fact, the weather is so important to my job that one of the few numbers I can remember is the local weather station, 0891 500 406, which I phone daily.

It was while I was down at the fire station picking up the hose that I met Andy, John and Mike, all great Blues fans who have all left their phone numbers for me to call whenever I need help. Bob Smith, who looks after my car, is another who just needs a call and he will come along with Steve and help. These along with Jack Sprake, Mick Higgs, Dick Harris and my two boys, Steven and Barry, have all helped whenever I needed them.

Local firms also react helpfully when I say Wycombe Wanderers. Of course, I have yet to phone the council, but I live in hope that I will never get that desperate. How true many of the old sayings are, e.g. one volunteer is worth any amount of conscripts.

What a great welcome you gave the lads up at Crewe when they took the field. The pitch at Crewe was in excellent order but you should remember they were playing only their 21st game, whilst at Wycombe we have had more than 40 and Rochdale, who share with a rugby club, will have more than 60 at the end of the season. Nevertheless, well done to John, Crewe's groundsman.

The Jewson Groundsman of the Year will soon be announced. Gillingham, Leyton Orient and Arsenal would be my choice with maybe Arsenal coming out the winner.

THE BLUES NEWS 9



Crunch match: Blues battle against Crewe

Trauma is our destiny

I BELIEVE in destiny. We should have known from the start. In our first season in the league, we have to experience the fullest trauma and tension possible at this level.

That can only mean play-off games on the telly with the incredible emotions of despair and ecstasy that accompany each goal. Now it's our turn!

Of course, by the time you read this, it could all be over. Immediately after the Preston game, our thoughts were, that after starting the season at Carlisle, we would now end it there too. Rather strangely, I still have the address of the B&B just down from the ground. At the time I thought we might be back as a Second Division team, because all their fans I spoke to after the match said we'd go through the division like a dose of salts.

Equally, by the time you read this we could be at WEMBLEY!! But what a way to go there.

It will be like no other cup match we have experienced, playing one match to decide what division we compete in next season.

The only comforting thought is the venue, which we have experienced. So if we're there, let's take the whole town (and most of Bucks!) and lift our club into Division Two.

Last season, Crewe experienced the despair of losing at Wembley on penalties to York, in front of 23,000 fans. This season, the three best-supported sides are involved in the play-off mayhem.

I'm sure Crewe's failure last year motivated them that little bit extra to get past us and secure promotion at Chester. At the end of the day, all the old cliches are appropriate: it was in our own hands, but we didn't get the rub of the green; the referees' association declared it's secret war against us. We won one of our last six games, and finished fourth, an incredible

SUPPORTERS VIEW by Stephen Lee

achievement in our first season as a professional outfit; but for a while after the Preston match, we were as sick as a ...!

With draws against Rochdale and Scunthorpe at home, both games we should have won, the meeting with Crewe took on epic proportions. With only 1200 tickets available to the Blue Army, a new distribution idea was announced, i.e. go by coach or risk queuing for the few tickets that remain.

The Terrace Tattler in the Adams Family described it as the Great Wycombe Coach Con, believing the motive was purely greed.

My understanding was that it aided police control of the day. The club did announce that anyone organising their own coaches would be guaranteed tickets. Although that seems an unlikely occurrence, our coach was actually organised by the Wycombe Bus Company. Clearly, most away

> **'It will be like no other cup match we have experienced'**

dayers prefer to use their own transport, myself included, but on this occasion I thought being part of a 20-strong convoy of coaches would give the day that feeling of inevitable success. How wrong I was!

It all started so well. We left Wycombe Bus Station at 9.30, after our driver told us the police wouldn't allow us into Crewe until 2pm, so we would stop in Coventry to break the journey. With a remarkable talent for timing, we arrived in Coventry at 11am, just in time for the Cathedral's opening!

The sky blues weren't playing on the day, so there were a few City fans roaming the streets with nothing to do. The second invasion of Coventry this season by the real Blue Army was greeted with complete bemusement.

An hour later, we joined the northerly queue of traffic on the M6, mostly due to football supporters' cars and coaches it seemed. There were a fair few Wycombe fans in cars. We managed to reach a service station south of Crewe before our bladders burst. It seemed most clubs in the country were represented there in some way.

By this time, we were convinced the day would end with a party. It seemed we were the last to arrive at the ground, as the away end was heaving with a mass of light and dark blue.

Now, normally when the away support swamps a ground (we even had fans in the home end), and passion (they're still clearing up the balloons and ticket tape), it's supposed to lift the players to even greater effort. As the balloons were still settling down on the pitch, they scored a goal.

I'm still not sure how our equaliser went in, suffice to say delirium reigned amongst the Blue Army. A point would have been more than acceptable, and no less than we deserved. Perhaps if Philip Don had refereed the match we would have had an extra ten minutes to reply following their second goal. Or perhaps if Brandwood were in charge, one of their defenders would have been penalised in the penalty area for looking at Simon Garner in an aggressive manner. If only.

So our best chance of automatic promotion ended in failure. I'd imagined that the vast convoy of coaches would travel south with its occupants celebrating a famous success.

That was half right, for as far as the eye could see, a procession of coaches sped southward. Unfortunately, the occupants were in sombre mood, having suddenly developed an appreciation for Chester City.

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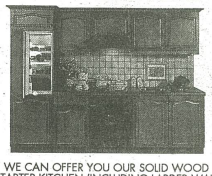
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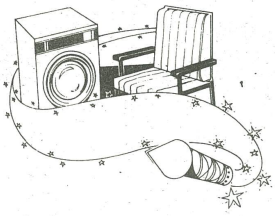


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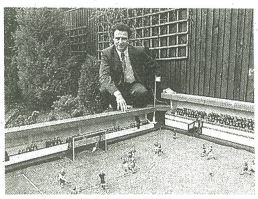
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Frightening: Crowd trouble erupts at Colchester

Let's take the heat out of the hate

WHATEVER happens in the play-offs, it has been a wonderful season, one that most other clubs would love to have. But I will leave the other contributors to wallow in the many enjoyable memories. Instead, rather perversely, I will look at one or two of the less agreeable aspects of the season.

The only place to start of course is Layer Road, Colchester, for our league meeting in March. Everything on the pitch was most satisfactory, our first league win there crowned by a Pieman goal. Everything off it was most unacceptable, summing up all that is bad in the game.

The intense rivalry between the two clubs is out of all proportion to the short time that we have been playing each other. So intense is it, that when one Colchester 'fan' invaded the pitch and made for the away end, he had no concern for being arrested, charged and having a criminal record.

I will never forget the sheer hatred on his face, a truly frightening sight, and maybe it is time to take a little heat out of the rivalry. United's player/manager Roy McDonough probably would not agree as he is a master on coming out on top in antagonistic situations.

Actually I have to admit, rather sheepishly, that I have always rather admired him as a player – definitely one to have on your side and not against. But I note his comment before that game that if he had Wycombe's money, he too could build a successful side and achieve success.

Well Mr McDonough, we find ourselves in such a healthy position because of

AND NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS
By Steve Peart

the foresight of previous club officials and the skill of current officials and playing staff. This club started out life with nothing, playing in a public park.

But I digress, because the most serious incident in that Colchester game occurred at the end when the homes fans were let out at the same time as our fans, in spite of advice from the steward.

They rushed around to the away end, forcing the Wycombe fans back inside what must be the most claustrophobic passage in any football ground. Those inside were immediately crushed by the pressure at both ends, panic ensued and the Hillsborough disaster flashed through everyone's minds.

Luckily, no one was seriously injured, this time, but I am firmly convinced that

> **'I will never forget the sheer hatred on his face'**

Colchester's away end is unsafe for the 1000+ it now holds.

We were obviously an unknown quality to Division Three clubs but at least two of them must have thought a little fleecing was in order. This club was informed by Doncaster Rovers that it would cost Wycombe supporters £5.50 to stand in the terraces at Belle Vue. Lo and behold, when we get there the price has mysteriously risen to £6.50.

Chester City also informed us beforehand that their car park would be free up to 2pm and £2 thereafter. However, on the day, anyone arriving before 2pm was still charged £2. Maybe Northern clubs think that the streets of the Home Counties are paved with gold.

The football league say that they have been embarrassed by some of the recent conference champions. Not half as much as by many of their ailing members.

One of those ailing members are Swansea City, if the state of their toilets is anything to go by. As I entered the men's urinals (no cubicals, of course), I thought that I had stumbled into a condemned part of the ground. It just so happens that Standing Room Only, the BBC2 fanzine, conducted a survey of League clubs' toilets and Swansea came out bottom.

Swansea gave us our worst fright on the hooligan front. Their behaviour at Adams Park was extremely intimidating and what they would have done had they lost does not bear thinking about. Actually, there has been little violence this season, less than we feared, although Preston away had a problem after the game.

Surprisingly there was trouble at Gillingham when, in the absence of any police escort, home fans set upon Wycombe supporters at the station.

Our exceptionally good reputation is born out by the many letters praising our supporters sent in by the police and other clubs. If the Football League really are so embarrassed by new recruits to their cosy club, it will be interesting to see if they can be bothered to spare us any praise. Don't hold your breath.

Our fans are the best in Britain

Dear Blues News Editor,
Following the recent match against Swansea City at Adams Park I contacted SCFC by telephone to voice my concern over some event we had witnessed en route to Adams Park and also just inside the complex.

I spoke to a Mr David Healey who was distressed to hear my complaint – but in no way surprised and assured me mine was not the first call he had received that day from Wycombe supporters. He was truly sorry for events which had in particular distressed my seven-year-old daughter, (now in her third season supporting Wycombe). His apology was not only verbal, his generosity extended to inviting my family to be his guests for the day (if we dare!).

The events in and out of the ground the day Swansea came 'to play' are probably best forgotten – their supporters are their problem, and look set to cause the club a lot of financial problems.

But Wycombe surely have the finest supporters in the land. I would feel entirely safe coming to any match on my own or with my enthusiastic daughters.

The family atmosphere and the encouragement of the younger supporters make this the club everyone wants to be part of.

Mrs Julie Snowcroft

Dear Blues News Editor,
I went to your Octagon shop Wanderers in Town' yesterday (21/5/94) to buy my son a much-wanted Wycombe Wanderers Strip for his tenth birthday this week. Unfortunately, they had none in his age left, so I bought what I could for him in your green away colours spending £36 in total.

I understand it's the end of the season and I know the team will be altering its strip for the coming year, but as a Mum of one football-mad ten-year-old, I was not happy that even the promised FA Trophy scarves and caps were out of stock – enclosed the article in your latest edition of Blues News! Spending so much I would have thought a small item could have been given away free (even if it was a 50p item) for my son's birthday.

This is not a complaint, really a letter for expressing my viewpoint to say there should be more items for children – possibly a pocket money section ...

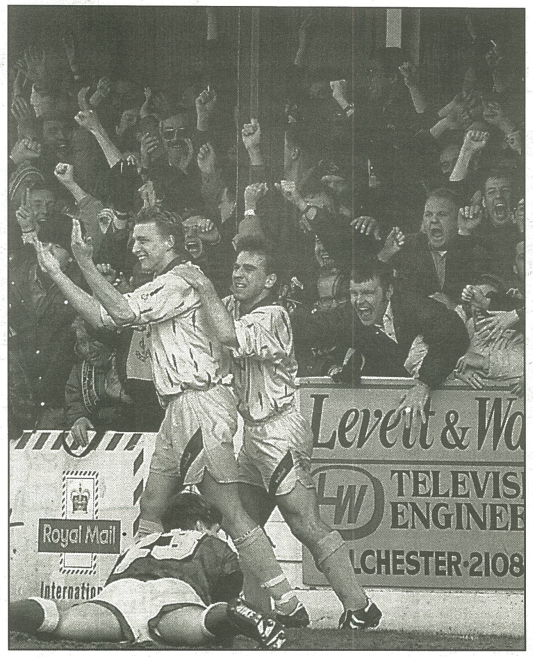
J.Goldsmith

Dear Blues News Editor,
As the Blues' southernmost supporter in Britain, may I congratulate you on the publication of the first edition of The Blues News. The journal was sent on to me by friends and I am sure that it will prove to be the ideal means for my wife and myself to stay in touch with events surrounding the club.

I thought that you might be interested in my family links with the Blues. My wife Jacky (nee Moring) is the daughter of Jim Moring who captained the legendary Wanderers team of the mid 1950s. In latter years, Jim became a local publican and a stalwart employee of the Bucks Free Press; he is now enjoying retirement in West Sussex.

My son (by my first marriage), Mark, is an Adams Park regular, and as an accountant at Seymour Taylor, one of the Club's audit team!

Jacky and I moved to the Island from High Wycombe almost 13 years ago and I have since done my best to see the Wanderers play whenever possible, usually when visiting family or friends. Such arrangements can have their disappointments, like the cancelled Rochdale match over the Christmas period. Another low moment, also in December, was when, visiting Manchester on business, I rushed across to Chester only to witness Wycombe suffer their first away defeat in the League!



Fans-tastic: Blues supporters cheer another goal

A definite high-point came last May, when we travelled over especially for the Wembley experience of Wycombe's superb double achievement. The party lasted all weekend.

Barry E Hobson

Dear Blues News Editor,
This is a letter I thought I would never have to write – one of complaint!

1) Knowing Swansea City supporters' bad reputation, why were they allowed to spill onto the pitch before the game, kick balls into our goal, run around the pitch and delay the start etc? Where were the police? There seemed to be quite a delay before anything was done!

2) It was obvious from the Bucks Free Press stand that they had cameras – how is it they can use them and we're not allowed to? (Although they did only seem to be taking pictures of their mindless heroes).

3) Then at the end of the match they were allowed to invade the pitch yet again, despite mounted police etc?

This is not sour grapes because we lost the tie, this letter comes from a female fan who has watched The Blues since 1972, and will continue to do so.

Hopefully, when we meet them again next season in Division 2, the crowd control will be more appropriate – maybe that particular element of the support should not be allowed to travel to away matches? I feel sorry for genuine fans and players of Swansea City and I hope they enjoy their day at Wembley.

On a final note, I am very proud to say that I support Wycombe Wanderers, even in the hotbed of Arsenal/Spurs support that endures in this part of Hertfordshire! And after witnessing such behaviour of last night, I know why!

Lesley J James (Mrs)

Dear Blues News Editor,
I would like to comment on a suggestion from a listener to Alan Parry's radio programme a couple of weeks ago, that the buses should not be held back but given priority to leave ahead of everyone else.

As one who regularly walks down Hillbottom Road after the final whistle, I feel that all traffic should be stopped for the whole length of the road until the crowds have cleared. At present, cars are leaving the parking facilities of the local factories and trying to drive through the crowds, some quite recklessly. More than once, I have seen an irate pedestrian confront a car driver. I feel that if this is allowed to continue, it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident.

Perhaps you could take this up with John Goldsworthy (and ask him to continue is writing for the programme as well).

David Chandler

Dear Blues News Editor,
As Alan Parry appears to have been the only director to have stood on the terraces (Bromsgrove Rovers) and seems to appreciate what the football fan has to put up with on his travels home and away, I feel I must write to you with regard to the dismal toilet facilities at Adams Park with reference to Entrance 5 (supporters end).

The toilets are dirty and have never been cleaned in weeks, the walls are dingy and the black painted trough minus toilet blocks are so outdated.

Having travelled to Walsall recently, how pleasantly surprised I was to find very good toilets for away supporters, painted walls, stainless steel trough with freshener blocks. Bearing in mind both grounds were built at approximately the same time, the toilet facilities are light years apart. Wycombe Wanderers boast of spending over three million on building a purpose-built ground, to take us into the 21st century and the club cannot provide hot water or soap for even the home fan. What a joke! No hygiene, so who forgot about the fans' requirements?

The only conclusion I can draw is that as the directors/wives and sponsors have never used or ever likely to use the toilets, then anything is good enough for the fans.

If, as I can guess, that it must have been some kind of cost-cutting exercise, I would like to suggest that as the local college bears its name above one of the stands, try contacting them for an artist who would put a mural or two on these bare walls for a token fee.

Come on Wycombe Wanderers bring these feeble facilities up to date so even your directors and families would be proud to use them.

Your face on the terraces is much appreciated Alan.

Roger Cutter,
Dismayed season ticket holder with family

Dear Blues News Editor,
I feel I must write to enquire the reason behind the allocation method for tickets for the Crewe game.

I should firstly point out that as a season ticket holder for only a few months I would certainly not expect to get a ticket for a match with an allocation of only 1100. However, in spite of this I cannot understand why people who will travel to a game (ie coach) should receive priority to tickets.

I do not intend to go to any away games by coach due to early starts, stopovers with friends/family etc., and I am sure there are many others like me. Surely a fairer allocation method would have either been a totally random sale or a Bristol Rovers style draw for Leagueline members and Season Ticket holders (preferably the latter as surely part of the advantage of being in such a scheme is priority on all–ticket matches).

S Redfern
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke

Dear Blues News Editor,
Whilst I have applauded Wycombe Wanderers FC allocation of tickets for all-ticket matches in the past, I was extremely disappointed by the club's recent distribution of the 1,200 tickets for the away game at Crewe, the penultimate in the season.

I feel let down by the club's decision to allow priority to those travelling in this instance, by the club's arranged coaches, rather than allocating tickets in order of customer loyalty to Leagueline members, season ticket holders and then to the general public in turn.

Consider this: A garage has a number of limited edition cars in stock, which it is guaranteed to sell with ease. A major fleet customer, who buys 50 new cars a year from the garage, is interested in purchasing one of these models. The garage–owner, instead of allocating a certain number of the limited editions to fleet customers and a certain number to private individuals, has thought up a special, money-spinning promotion. He tells the fleet customer that the limited models will only be available to customers also buying a set of leopard-skin seat covers and furry dice from him on the following Saturday.

Result: the fleet customer, who has no interest in leopard-skin seat covers or furry dice, and disappointed at the treatment from his usual retailer, makes a decision to buy next year's 50 cars from another dealer.

But, of course, football is not like that. Next season, I (a season ticket holder who has been to virtually all home and away games this season) am not suddenly going to become a Slough fan next year, just because I have been unable to get my ticket for the Crewe game. And the club knows this. But that is no reason to take advantage of the situation. The club has a responsibility to its fans and customers to look after their interests, and not just profiteer when it sees a money-making opportunity. In the long-term customer care applies equally to a football club as to any other industry. Just as our garage-owner is about to find out ...

Phil York
Brands Hill Avenue
High Wycombe

Break is just the ticket

AS the club ended up in the Division 3 Play-offs, it has not yet been possible to advertise season tickets.

However, if you are currently not a season ticket holder or on our mailing lists and would like details sent to you about season tickets for next season, please write to the commercial office with your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Whichever division we are in next season, the club will be providing an accommodation voucher for Classic Break for all season ticket holders. All season ticket holders purchasing a season ticket before the deadline (to be announced), will receive free entrance to four league matches, a voucher which entitles two people to three nights FREE accommodation in more than 250 hotels throughout the UK and a FREE 1992/93 Commemorative Brochure.

All 1994/95 season ticket holders will be given the Wycombe Wanderers Classic Break brochure and accommodation voucher. The main condition of the Classic Breaks scheme is that each person has to pay for breakfast and dinner each day. Further details contact the Classic Break Helpline on 061 929 0605.

Next season, all terrace season ticket holders will be able to choose their favoured stand (except the Amersham and Wycombe College Stand) and be guaranteed entry every match into that particular stand.

OFFICIAL Club Reply to letters of complaint about distribution of Crewe Tickets:

Firstly, the Club wanted to have a postal ballot for Crewe, but unfortunately there was just not the time between Crewe Alexandra declaring it all-ticket, and the actual match.

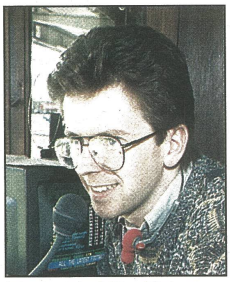
Secondly, every executive coach seat for the last five away matches had been reduced by £3 to encourage more people to watch the team. This reduction was subsidised by both the club and the coach company, Motts Travel. One can hardly call this profiteering, especially as the club did not make a penny from selling the Crewe tickets.

Thirdly, the club ensured that the Blues Travel Club members who had travelled to all the away matches during the season on the official club coaches were given priority. Ticket allocation and distribution is always discussed at length to ensure the fairest method is employed. The club would like to please everyone, all the time, but we know this is not easy. We like to hear your views and welcome constructive criticism, as we are always looking to improve the service for our valued supporters.

Don't miss out, tune in



Radio team: Dick Croxon and Tessa Ware at Adams Park



Announcer: Julian Hicks

THE hospital radio has been broadcasting commentaries of Wycombe Wanderers games for more than 20 years.

It all started from the back of the stands at Loakes Park using a very old-style black phone with the large dial.

Some years later, a purpose-built cupboard was sited at the far end of the ground, and from there, the move to Adams Park, a Claridges Suite was made available.

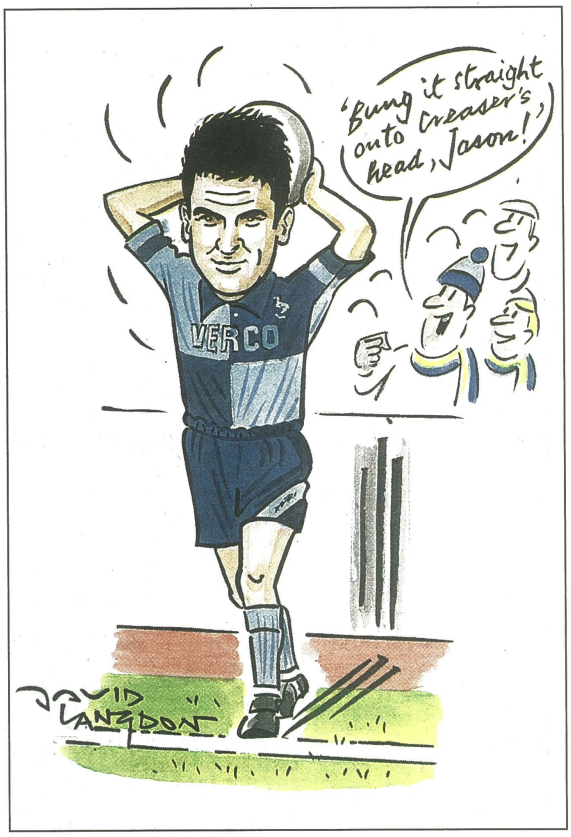
Some of the earlier broadcasters can still be heard at Adams Park, either on Chiltern Radio or calling the Blues, your very own Alan Hutchinson and also Philip Barker, he of the TV and video.

The Wycombe radio sports team are now responsible for relaying the game live to both Wycombe and Amersham hospitals and for the commentary for the blind supporters. The PA has been manned by a number of the sports team since the second season at Adams Park, and, of late, two of the commentators can be heard on the video.

Apart from covering all the home games, the sports team also go to some of the away games. Like the trip to Carlisle and most notably to the two recent trips to Wembley.

The sports programme comes second in the listeners ratings next to the request programmes and on many occasions has brought the match to people who would have otherwise missed it.

The whole of the sports team and indeed the whole of the hospital radio service is carried out by volunteers. If anyone would like to join the team, please contact Tessa Ware either after the game or on the hospital studio number 0494 734377/425500.



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