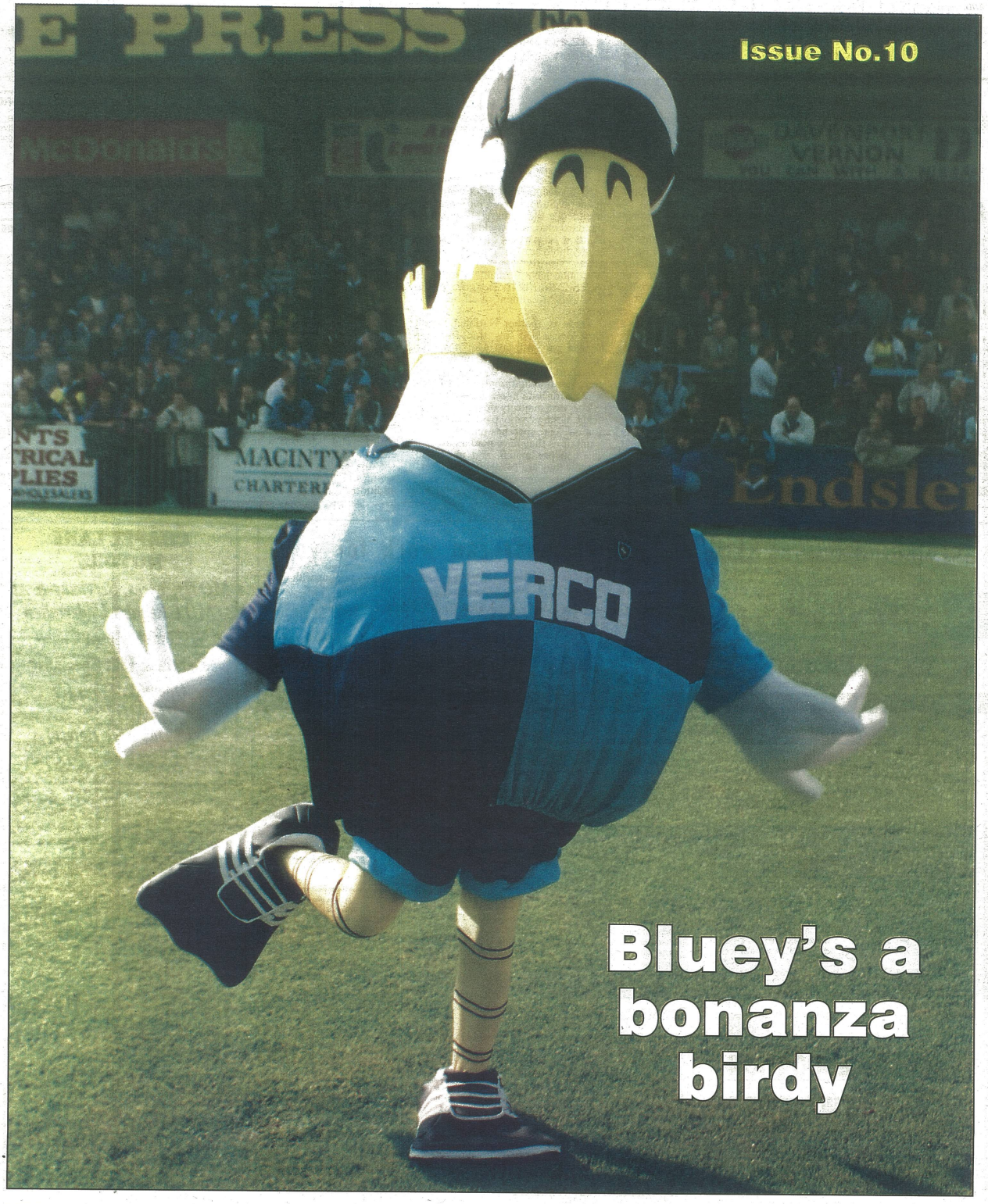
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The BLUES NEWS

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

Issue No.10



Bluey's a bonanza birdy

CONTENTS

Page 2
Bluey's a bonny bird

Page 3
Alan Parry lauds the genius of Regis and Garner

Page 4
Learning through football

Page 5
Letters

Page 6
Stapleton and Langford profiles

Page 7
Player tells of son's battle with leukaemia

Page 9
Walford's wannabees

Page 10
Arnold announces himself

Page 12
Captain's Log with Terry Evans

Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by 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.

Bluey spreads the fun word on matchdays



By Wycombe Wanderers Marketing Manager Mark Austin

WE introduced our new official club mascot Bluey the Swan, who has gone down extremely well with all the children, at the recent Swansea home match at Adams Park.

Our Bluey has a sweet tooth, and has been giving away thousands of goodies, as well as footballs, at every game since. The idea for a mascot came from looking at other club's such as Watford (Hornet), Brentford (Bee) and Birmingham City (Blue Nose).

Before tomorrow's match against York City, Bluey will give away thousands of sweets and, once again, 50 Wanderers footballs etc, all gifts from the club, and also 100 McDonalds Squad 94 T-Shirts and dozens of McDonalds World Cup footballs, courtesy of McDonalds Restaurant in High Wycombe.

If you would like to join Bluey's 'signet ring' of supporters, you only have to pay £1 if you are under 16 to see Bluey and Wycombe tomorrow. The club is letting every child (both home and away) on the terraces tomorrow for only a quid.

The quid-a-kid scheme was first introduced by the Football League on the first ever National Family Day in September. Wycombe were at Bradford City that day, where no one will forget the £7 per child they charged our fans, when their own supporters got in for only £1.

At a recent meeting of the Independent Supporters Club, which I attended, a Blues fan felt this double-standard charging would lead to segregation, as parents or children may be tempted to go into the wrong area, simply to save money. Wycombe have formally complained to the Football League about Bradford's treatment of all our away fans.

There is another National Family Day organised by the Football League on Saturday, March 5, next year, when Wycombe are at home to Stockport County. We will participate in the national Quid-A-Kid scheme for both home and away fans.

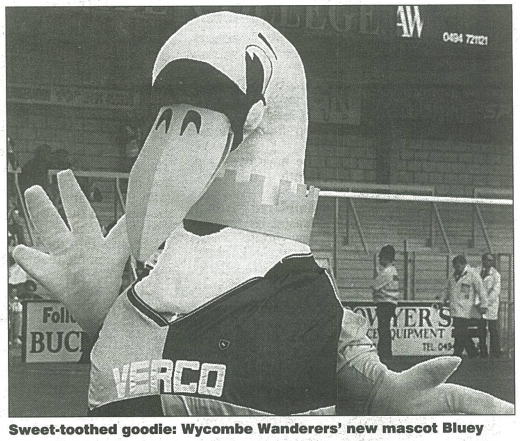
The vast majority of junior season ticket holders who paid £76 for 23 home league matches may think this is unfair as they have paid an average of £3.30 per match, and may think initially they are £4.60 out of pocket.

As there were two National Family Days, it seems only fair to families in this area, that a truly family-oriented club like ours, enter into the spirit by having two special days for under-16's.

A junior season ticket costs £92.00 but the club reduced it to £76 for early payment.

Every junior who paid £76 is still saving £11.40 and still gets plenty of additional benefits such as priority booking for all League, Cup, and friendly matches if all-ticket; a Classic Break Holiday voucher; guaranteed entry to stand of choice, up to 15 minutes before kick-off; and exclusive turnstiles.

Not a bad deal considering additional discounts are available if a child is a member of the Junior, Senior, True or Family Blues club.



Sweet-toothed goodie: Wycombe Wanderers' new mascot Bluey

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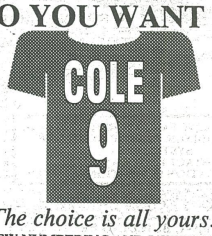
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Golden oldies rule OK

WHICHEVER players Martin O'Neill signs for Wycombe Wanderers in the years ahead, I will always regard the capture of Simon Garner and Cyrille Regis as the best piece of business the manager has ever done for this club.

To secure two players of such ability, experience and enthusiasm for the cause – without paying a single penny in transfer fees – was an incredible deal.

'Garns' and 'Big Cyrille' are both absolute gems. It is often the case that players who have performed at the highest level find it difficult to adjust when they drop down a couple of divisions. But not these two.

Their displays for Wycombe have been top drawer and – just as importantly – their attitude has been superb.

There have been many examples in the past of quality players being released by leading clubs and then finding a new 'home' lower down the scale. All too often, these adopt a rather half-hearted attitude to their new surroundings. They get frustrated at being in a less-accomplished team, playing in front of smaller crowds, lose interest and tend to 'go through the motions'.



Enigmatic elder statesman: Cyrille Regis's comittment and goalscoring prowess is respected by team-mates



By Wycombe Wanderers Director Alan Parry

Contrast that scenario with the performances of Garner and Regis for Wycombe. Their class and ability is there for all to see and has never been in doubt throughout their marvellous careers. But, just as pleasing for me has been their willingness to toil as hard as anyone to achieve results. They have both run themselves into the ground in every game and shown a commendable desire to 'sweat blood' for the team.

I think we are very fortunate to have two such excellent pros' – and I'm not alone in that opinion. Every time I cover a game for Central TV in the Midlands, fans come up to me and ask: "How's Cyrille doing for you?" or: "I see Garner's still knocking them in!"

> "They have run themselves into the ground and shown a commendable desire to sweat blood"

Both players were hugely popular at their former clubs – and it's easy to see why.

The magnificent Alan Shearer may be the fans' current favourite at Blackburn Rovers, but he's got a long way to go to replace Garns in the affections of their supporters. Did you realise that Simon holds the Blackburn club record for scoring League goals?

In his 14 years at Ewood Park, Simon chalked up 168 League goals and that's a record that even Shearer, or £5 million man Chris Sutton, will find very hard to beat.

Cyrille was never quite so prolific for his former clubs West Brom, Coventry, Aston Villa and Wolves, but as every striker who's played alongside him will tell you, he's made countless goals for others.

I will never forget what was arguably the finest goal that Cyrille has ever scored. The year was 1982 and I had just moved from BBC Radio to commentate for Match of the Day.

I was sent to cover a game between West Brom and Norwich in the FA Cup Fifth Round. In a tense, tight match the deadlock was finally broken by a certain C Regis.

A long kick downfield by West Brom goalkeeper Mark Grew was controlled first time on his chest by Cyrille (he can control the ball better with his chest than some players can with their feet - did you see his goal for us against Leyton Orient?).

Turning instantly goalwards, Cyrille brushed aside two defenders and went on to hit an unstoppable shot from outside the penalty box past Norwich keeper Chris Woods, later an England international, and high into the net.

I said in my commentary: "That has to be one of the goals of the season!" and for once, I was right. The BBC panel of experts and millions of viewers voted it best goal of the season 1981-82.

It was one of 28 goals Cyrille scored for West Brom that season. The next highest scorer, Steve MacKenzie got just seven, and Cyrille went on to win his first England Cap later that month.

Incidentally, as an interesting postscript to that story, the Norwich team that day included our manager, Martin O'Neill, and our youth development officer, Steve Walford.

Further painstaking research (!) reveals that in the 1981-82 season, Simon Garner was once again leading scorer at Blackburn with 18 goals; two young defenders were still to make their debuts for Watford – Paul Franklin (now Martin's assistant manager) and Neil Price (remember him?) Wycombe finished third in the Isthmian League behind champions Leytonstone and Ilford and runners-up Sutton United.

But back to our famous double act. The partnership of Garner and Regis is officially the oldest striking duo in the country with a combined age of 70.

Cyrille is the senior partner at 36, Garns a mere 34, but you'd never guess. At the time of writing, Cyrille has figured in every single game for Wanderers this season and Garns has missed just one. You hardly ever see either of them on the treatment table.

The lovely thing is, they both WANT to play. When you've seen what they have seen, and done what they have done, you could be forgiven for not fancying a trip to Rotherham on a cold afternoon in January. But Garner and Regis want to be involved in every game.

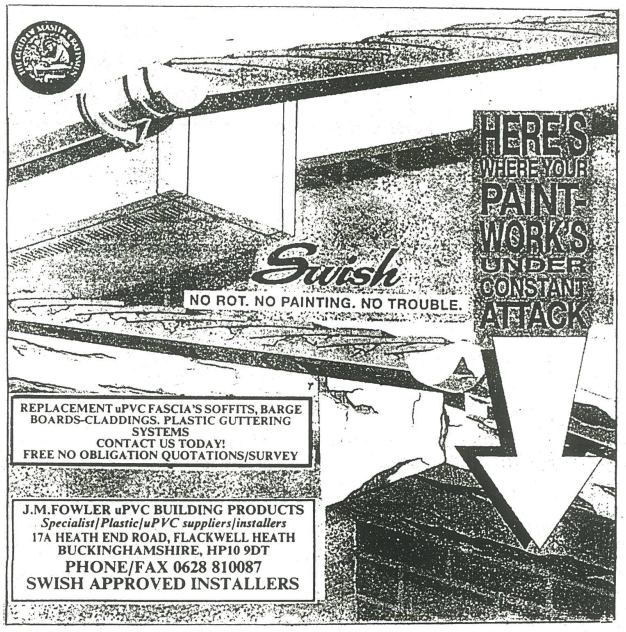
Their appetite for playing is as strong as ever. They have gelled together so well both on and off the field. In our home win against Brentford, they scored and made goals for each other and looked as though they had been playing together throughout their entire careers.



Wise cracker: Wily Simon Garner is always hungry to plunder more goals

Off the field, they get on really well even though they are entirely different characters – Garns being the wisecracker with the cheeky grin, Cyrille so serene and dignified. The rest of the players like and respect them both very much.

I hope that Wycombe's very own Morecambe and Wise – I'll leave you to guess which is the one with the short, fat hairy legs, are entertaining audiences at Adams Park for many years to come. Keep bringing us sunshine lads!



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Listening bank helps kids learn



We're having a great time: Pupils from Loudwater School show their appreciation to Wanderers' community officer Jim Melvin and Midland's Heidi Meier for their day out at Adams Park

MIDLAND Bank has in recent years decided to channel a large part of its sponsorship funds away from national events to support locally-held community events instead.

Regular readers of the Bucks Free Press may already be aware of Wycombe Wanderers' Learning Through Football scheme, co-sponsored by both Midland and the newspaper.

For those not familiar with the scheme, Learning Through Football is a cross-curriculum scheme whereby local schools send a class of pupils along to Adams Park, home of Wycombe Wanderers.

Here, Jim Melvin, community officer, plans lessons around a footballing theme. The lessons are popular with girls and boys alike, and, contrary to what one may at first assume, no passion for football is needed.

An example of a typical question posed to youngsters might be: How many rectangles are there on the football pitch? Or they may perhaps instead be recording their pulse rates while running around the pitch, and then discuss why the heart beats faster.

"We are delighted to be in partnership with Wycombe Wanderers and the Bucks Free Press in this initiative. The children enjoy it immensely and comments from teachers and parents alike have been very positive," says Fred Mullin, Midland's area service and sales manager.

Sponsorship of schemes such as Learning Through Football not only provides fun and education for youngsters, it helps the club keep its costs as low as possible, thereby allowing more people to benefit from its facilities.

But the Learning Through Football scheme is not the only involvement that Midland has with the Chilterns community.

LEARNING THROUGH FOOTBALL

Time is often a more valuable asset than simple cash donations and Midland actively encourages its staff to volunteer for local charities and organisations.

Time off work is given for one such charity, Young Enterprise.

Young Enterprise is an educational charity formed in 1963 to forge closer links between business and education. Groups of young people form their own 'limited company', raising capital by selling shares in the company to relatives and friends.

A board of directors is elected to manage the business and they are encouraged to identify an article which they then manufacture or market. Their success in financial terms is monitored by the production of a business plan and regular financial accounts for the business. At the end of the school year, all companies are wound up and annual accounts prepared.

> "Sponsorship of such schemes allows more people to benefit from the club's facilities"

Midland is a national sponsor of the scheme and helps at a local level by providing experienced staff to act as business advisors for Young Enterprise companies.

Last year, seven Midland advisers were involved with the 19 Young Enterprise companies formed within local schools. The bank also provides additional help by way of business banking facilities on special terms.

A national competition is held to find the Young Enterprise Company of the Year and all participants have the opportunity to sit an exam, a useful addition in their Record of Achievement.

Last year, First Impressions, the Young Enterprise company for the John Hampden Grammar School, won through to the South and South West Divisional Final.

Midland also assists schools by providing volunteers for the Banking Information Service, an independent organisation funded by the Government and financial institutions. Volunteers attend school lessons and give advice on a variety of subjects, from the workings of the Stock Exchange to interview techniques for job hunters.

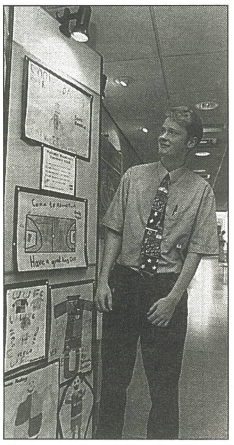
Young people and sport are two worthwhile causes to support. Since 1983, the bank has sponsored a national schools tennis team competition. A number of local schools took part in the Midland Bank National Schools Tennis Coaching Programme and receive plaques this year commemorating their involvement.

However, schools around Wycombe excel not only in sports. Pupils at John Hampden, Wycombe High and Royal Grammar schools were successful entrants in the Midland Bank Charity Art Challenge.

The youngsters had to design the colour scheme for a minibus and the overall winner received a minibus for his or her school. A 14-year-old pupil at the Royal Grammar School won the divisional prize of the bank's National Charity Art Challenge.

Midland also sponsors the Amersham Swimming Gala and the Chiltern Junior Golf competition.

But it was the recent Wycombe Half Marathon and Fun Run which had bank staff strutting their stuff once more! It was all in good cause though, as funds raised went toward the Paul Vaughan Appeal. Paul needed a motorised chair to give him mobility.



Picture this: Midland's Nigel Simpson looks at paintings by children who have participated in the scheme

Midland is identified within High Wycombe by personal representation with the Education Business Partnership, Citizens Advice bureau and The Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In house, Midland also operates a £1 for £1 charity scheme whereby it matches funds raised by staff for the charities of their choice. In an age where there are so many good causes to support, Midland believes its 1994 sponsorship plans have been a success and look forward to forging even closer links with the Chilterns community in 1995.

Seats will stifle spirit

Dear Blues News

I AM responding to Alan Parry's recent Blues News article. I am a long-standing supporter and season ticket holder (I tend to use the Woodland Terrace) and really enjoy my football with Blues and follow them all over the country.

I would agree with his contention that the club should strengthen the team first, and that increased revenue will then enable ground improvements to be made. Having suffered poor conditions at soccer grounds for years, it is refreshing to come to Adams Park as the ground now provides reasonable comfort. So we can wait for further developments.

However, I would like to debate the future of the Woodland Terrace. I am not familiar with the full details of the Taylor Report and existing requirements of the Football League.

It would be interesting to hear the views of the regular supporters who use the Woodland Terrace, but I would wager that the majority would rather stand than sit down. I would have thought that control of numbers, plus sufficient crush barriers, would provide safe conditions without the expense of seating in this area.

I presume that the club would need to increase gate prices to fund this seating, so neither club nor fan are happy! The question is, therefore, 'why do it at all?' I cannot believe that possible crowd trouble can be used as a reason. While it must be commendable that the safety of us all is a high priority, my friends and I feel that some of the regulations introduced following the Taylor Report are over the top. At present, there are only two main problems with the Woodland Terrace.

(i) We who stand near the touchline get wet at times.

(ii) All of us in this area cannot hear the PA system.

Number one cannot be solved without great expense, but surely the PA systems can be improved. We can clearly hear announcements in most competitors' grounds, so why not in ours?

Forgive me if I use this occasion to make a few other comments to do with spectator improvement at Adams Park.

(i) I would be prepared to pay a reasonable parking fee if I could use a car park near to the ground. I usually arrive at noon, have something to eat and drink and spend time in the Vere Suite. It is very galling to see the mostly-empty car park at that time, and then watch late comers driving straight into the ground.

During a full season I must spend more money than most supporters – I am a Leagueline member, a Lucky Letters contributor and Vere Suite member – but get less consideration than (say) sponsors' guests who maybe only come once. I understand the need to attract funds from all sources, but feel that further thought is required to ensure fair play to the really loyal fans who are there in bad times as well as good.

(ii) I believe that the club is looking for ways to entertain the crowd, particularly at half time. It has been a complaint of mine for many years that football does little for the spectator apart from the game itself, and yet there has been scant improvement in this area even now. I feel that there has to be some entertainment before the match, extra to the training and the players' warming up, and most certainly at half time. Hopefully the pathetic penalty shoot-out is a thing of the past.

> "Further thought is required to ensure fair play to the really loyal fans who are there in bad times as well as good"

I wonder if we could gain something by studying the proceedings at American sports events, where the atmosphere is generated into one of the high excitement and anticipation. It provides a whole day of entertainment.

I have a few suggestions. My friends and I were impressed with the junior football matches played at Crewe recently, and the high skill level shown. I am involved with the coaching of junior cricketers who now use plastic equipment to play Kwik Cricket. You may have seen these youngsters playing intervals at Test matches, and the crowd love it.

A comedian? As long as we can hear the PA system, this would get the crowd into a good mood. A good singer? There is a problem with backing maybe, but this could be solved. A live singer is better than the recordings we hear over and over again.

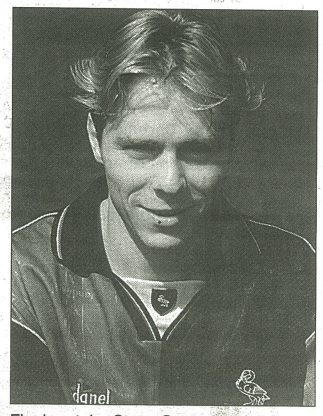
Periodic talks about the club, or football in general by someone like yourself would be interesting. Maybe officials of the club could take a turn, the chairman? an injured or rested player? an articulate supporter?

What about the organisations around the town? Could they provide something? What about schools? Martial Arts displays? Gymnasts? Bands? Sports displays? etc.

I think that more entertainment could be cost effective, with more fans attending, particularly youngsters.

Despite all these suggestions and apparent criticisms, the club is doing well and is a credit to all those involved.

Best Wishes
David Oxley
Main Street
Bishopstone
Aylesbury



Final curtain: Steve Guppy's last photo-call before joining Newcastle United

Ode to a departed dynamo dreamboat

Steve Guppy,
His stunning blue eyes,
His gorgeous blond hair,
The way his crosses fly through the air,
His spectacular corners,
His skill in defence,
His runs in the left wing keeps us all in suspense,
His significant left foot,
His dazzling technique,
And now it is know,
He really is unique,
Luv,
A heartbroken Steve Guppy fan,
Gemma Adnitt

Green Kit Day Wanderers In Town

On Monday 7th November 1994, Wanderers in Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre, opposite Littlewoods, will be holding a Green Kit Day.

This will involve a special 20% discount off our Green Replica Shirt, Shorts and Socks. The Green Car Mini-Kits will be only £1.99 and there will be many other special offers.

There will be lots of other special offers, to mark the launch of our Christmas Campaign. **To launch this event the players will be present for a signing session from 3pm -5pm at Wanderers in Town.** No purchase is necessary to attend this promotional event.

As an immediate incentive, anybody visiting Wanderers in Town can collect a free 1992/93 Souvenir Brochure. Again no purchase is necessary, all you have to do is visit Wanderers in Town, located between the Bus Station and Littlewoods in the Octagon.

Make the Players Signing Session a date
Monday 7th November 1994, 3pm - 5pm

Everybody is welcome

The big question everybody is asking is will Bluey the Swan be there!!

Player profile - Simon Stapleton

PERSONAL DETAILS
Full Name: Simon John Stapleton
Date of Birth: December, 10, 1968
School: Cherwell in Oxford
Height: 6ft
Weight: 13st
Home: Four-bedroom flat in north Oxford
Car: Vauxhall Astra SXi
Marital status: Single
Brothers and sisters: One brother Mark who is 18 months older
Nickname at club: Stapes or Juice

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
Who do you share a room with on away trips? Keith Ryan.
Does he have any annoying habits? None whatsoever, he is the perfect gentleman.
What was your ambition as a child? To be a professional footballer.
What is your ambition now? To enjoy making all my dreams reality.
Who was your boyhood hero? Bryan Robson, inspirational for over 13 years at the very top.
What has been your biggest thrill in life? Beating Paul Hyde to the bar.
What has been your biggest disappointment in life? Missing Wycombe's last two Wembley appearances through injury.
What is your saddest moment in football? Being pipped by Colchester to promotion on goal difference.
Which present-day footballer do you admire most? Paul Ince, a winner amongst winners.
Who is the greatest player there has ever been? Pele was the master with Best, Moore and Beckenbauer very close behind.
Who has been the greatest influence on your career? Graham Poddon.
Who is the toughest opponent you have faced? Paul Ince, he never would concede defeat.
Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career? Martin O'Neill for his belief, motivation and never-say-die attitude.
What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer? Good question. I guess I would have been involved within sport but I did run my own property business.
Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement? Winning the 1500 metres in the District meeting and knowing my record still stands some ten years later.
What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch? Seeing a ref panic after our cross-eyed goalkeeper took a bang on the head. He looked at him and immediately called for a stretcher.
What was your most embarrassing moment in football? Passing wind whilst clear through on goal during a school game and then collapsing with laughter together with everybody else.
Which team did you support as a boy? Manchester United
What is your favourite ground? Wembley
What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy? Swimming, reading, art, dancing and alternative medicine.
Do you have any unusual food that improves your game? A bag full of vitamin pills.
Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman? Seb Coe, an incredible athlete.
What is your most prized possession? My one England semi-pro cap 1991-92.
Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport? To have pursued my athletics and run 1500 metres for England.
What really annoys you in football? Losing and politics.
What are you pet hates outside football? Pessimists and racists.

FAVOURITES
TV programme: Don't really watch it
Pop star/group: Luther Vandross
Food: Pasta and steak
Drink: Cider
Film: 9½ Weeks
Film stars: Kim Basinger and Jaclyn Smith
Holiday resort: USA
Comedian: Rowan Atkinson
City: Washington DC.
LP: Anything from Luther

Compiled by Steve Hayes



Midfield major: Simon Stapleton puts some muscle into retaining his favourite position

Player profile - Tim Langford



Striking out: Centre forward Tim Langford wants to continue to play at the highest level possible for as long as possible

PERSONAL DETAILS
Full name: Timothy Langford
Date of birth: September, 12, 1965
School: Kingswinford in Dudley
Height: 5ft 6in
Weight: 11st 10lbs
Home: Three-bedroom semi in Kingswinford
Car: Vauxhall Nova GSi
Married: To Julie for six years
Dad's job: Runs his own business as an electrician
Brothers and sisters: One brother who is an electrician
Nickname at club: Bonnie, Punters Pal and Bear

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
Who do you share a room with on away trips? Dave Carroll.
Does he have any annoying habits? Always complaining about being too pale and constantly talking about his greyhound that would be lucky to beat a three-legged yorkshire terrier even if given a ten-yard start.
What was your ambition as a child? To be a professional footballer.
What is your ambition now? Play at a higher level as possible for as long as possible.
Who was your boyhood hero? Kenny Dalglish.
What has been your biggest thrill in life? The birth of Adam.
What has been your biggest disappointment in football? Being released from Aston Villa, not playing in the play-off final last season and not being named as substitute.
What has been your biggest disappointment in life? Diagnosis of Adam's illness and the murder of James Bulger who was the same age as Adam.
Which present-day footballer do you admire most? Peter Beardsley.
Who is the greatest player there has ever been? Pele.
Who has been the greatest influence on your career? My parents who always supported every decision I made.
Who is the toughest opponent you have faced? Any centre half with pace.
Do you have any superstitions before a game? Not really, but I do like to wear the number eight shirt.
Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career? While at Dudley the ex-Wolves player Barry Stobart spent a great deal of time helping me to be more composed in the box.
What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer? Possibly at the Post Office dealing with enquiries.
Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement? Scoring 70 not out at cricket aged 14. I also used to always win all the sprint races at school.
What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch? Aged 14, one of my team mates got into a scuffle on the pitch. The father of the opponent ran onto the pitch and kicked him.
What was your most embarrassing moment in football? I was running into the box and took the ball round the keeper only to tread on it and proceed to fall over.
What is the oddest piece of training you have had to do? We used to train on a shop car park which was concrete. We had to wait until the shops were shut and the cars had gone before starting.
Which team did you support as a boy? Aston Villa.
What is your favourite ground? Villa Park.
What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy? Horse racing and golf.
Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman? Ian Botham and Carl Lewis.
What is your most prized possession? My family.
Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport? To win an Olympic Medal in athletics for my country.
What really annoys you in football? Inconsistent referees.
What are you pet hates outside football? Smoking in restaurants.

FAVOURITES
TV programme: Question of Sport
Pop star/group: Nothing particular, just anything I like at the time.
Food: Steak
Drink: Lager and lime
Film: The Fugitive
Film stars: Clint Eastwood and Arnie
Holiday resort: Florida
Comedian: Frank Carson
City: Orlando
Soap: Dallas
Soap characters: JR Ewing
Compiled by Steve Hayes

Player thanks Blues fans for their love and good wishes

Tim tells of son's brave battle



TIM LANGFORD interviewed by Steve Hayes



Precious pride and joy: Julie and Tim Langford cuddle three-year-old son Adam who is on the road to recovery after triumphing over the first hurdle of a gruelling recovery from leukaemia

TUESDAY the 23rd of August 1994 is a date that I am never likely to forget.

I had played a game for the reserves on the Monday night and then stayed in a hotel in Wycombe to save travelling back to train the next day.

My three-year-old son Adam had looked pale before I left home. Although a little tired, he seemed fine in himself but I suggested that my wife Julie should take him to the doctor just as a precaution.

She rang me at the hotel to say that the doctor was not unduly worried but an appointment had been made for him to have a blood test in the morning. I went training not thinking too much of it.

On my return to the club one of the girls in the office gave me a message stating that I needed to ring Julie at home.

Nothing could have prepared me for what she had to say. Our little boy had leukaemia.

I sat in the manager's office and cried. My world had fallen apart.

Julie had already had one miscarriage, together with an ectopic pregnancy, so my first thought was that we were going to lose Adam as well.

The club kindly paid for a taxi to take me to the Birmingham Children's Hospital. The drive seemed to take hours with so many different thoughts running through my head, not knowing what to expect when I arrived.

Julie and her parents were waiting for me at the hospital which was very emotional. I was trying to be strong for her but it was just so difficult to cope with.

We spoke with the consultants who confirmed that Adam indeed had leukaemia but we would have to wait until the following morning, when the results of further tests had come back, before they could determine which form of the disease Adam had.

We were shown to the ward, where he was to spend the next nine days, to see him.

That night he lay asleep in his bed looking innocent and harmless, completely unaware of his illness. He looked fine, just as he did every night when he was in his own bed at home.

But what made the news harder to understand was that he had always been such a healthy and lively little boy. I couldn't remember him having a cold or even suffering during teething.

Julie and I stood next to the bed holding each other all through the night. Looking at our son and crying uncontrollably, we kept asking ourselves why Adam? Why this little boy?

The night seemed to last an eternity, it was just so difficult to accept or even understand.

As morning broke we began to prepare for the meeting with the consultant.

Perhaps they were going to tell us a mistake had been made and he would be able to come home today with some pills to make him better. Or maybe they would say he had only days to live.

We were just so frightened to hear the results of the further tests.

The consultant told us that Adam had the most common form of the illness, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, for which there was a 70 to 80 per cent chance of curing him.

If there was any good news, this was it.

The next day Adam went into theatre to have a central venous line fitted. This is a silicone rubber tube that prevents the necessity of further needles being put into him during treatment.

> "The question we keep asking ourselves is why Adam? He did not deserve this but has shown great bravery for such a little lad"

He was closely monitored for the next seven days until discharged. Adam did however have to return every other day for an injection into his leg until he had received nine.

We managed to coax him through the first three but he is a clever little three-year-old and when he knew what was coming he cried and was quite restless which made it even more difficult.

Five weeks after he had first been diagnosed he was again admitted for a block of treatment which would severely knock him about.

The consultants had warned us of diarrhoea, sickness, mouth ulcers and hair loss. Once the treatment had been completed, he would be very susceptible to infection as all his white cells would have been killed by the chemotherapy. It is these cells that normally kill infections within our bodies without us even knowing.

We were told that around 95 per cent of children return to hospital within ten days with an infection. Adam had gone nearly a week when he developed a temperature so he was admitted on Tuesday, October 4.

As he had no white cells to protect him, he was quite ill until the weekend when his temperature finally stabilised. This was the position at the time of going to press.

The consultants are pleased with his progress but he has a long hard road of treatment ahead. He is due to spend 15 out of 33 days in hospital, starting from last Sunday.

But the one question that we keep asking ourselves is why Adam?

He did not deserve this but has shown great bravery for such a little lad and just wants to carry on like any other three-year-old.

Little things which used to annoy us now seem so insignificant compared to what Adam has to go through.

Julie and myself need to be strong for him which has drawn us even closer together. With the help and support of family and friends, we are determined to beat this disease.

During the spells in hospital we have both tried to carry on as normal a life as possible. Football has been a release for me.

Getting back with the lads and training has definitely helped.

Recently I have had a good run in the reserves where I was playing well and scoring. I am working hard to get back into the first team which is not only important for myself but also for Julie and Adam.

I would be no use if I was to just stay at home all the time moping around but there are certain times during his treatment that it is important for me to be with them both.

> "The lads have been cheering me up no end. They organised a collection for Adam and gave him a bike together with a remote control car"

The lads have been great, cheering me up no end. They organised a collection for Adam and presented him with a bike together with a remote control car which he enjoys playing with.

Julie's employer has been very understanding. She has had to spend a great deal of time at home for obvious reasons.

I have received many letters of support and good wishes from Wanderers fans which we read together. It is very comforting to know that people are thinking of us.

Others have contributed to an Leukaemia Research appeal fund that we have set up which we are also very grateful for.

My previous clubs Halesowen and Telford recently played each other in an early round of the FA Cup. They had heard what had happened to Adam and decided to raise money at half time.

Fortunately the game had to be replayed so in total two collections took place, raising £500 which was a great achievement. The gates were only around 700 each.

We hope to raise further funds at a forthcoming home game at Adams Park which still needs to be organised.

But in the meantime should anybody wish to send contributions, please feel free to do so by marking them to the attention of The Adam Langford Leukaemia Appeal Fund at the club.

Your letters have really given both Julie and I a lift, especially when we are feeling low.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your concern, support and kind words.

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Walford helps lay foundations for full-time youth squad

Shake-up is tonic for future talent



Grit is a good starting point: Stuart Wilson battles away in last season's 2-2 draw against Millwall in the FA Youth Cup

THE CHANGING FACE OF YOUTH
By Darren Bignall

WYCOMBE Wanderers has often been the home for footballers in the autumn of their playing careers.

It is a competitive arena within which they can tread the turf for those final games, and long may it continue, particularly if those autumns are like the stunning Indian summers that Cyrille Regis is experiencing at the moment.

One such wily veteran is Steve Walford, formerly of Arsenal, Norwich City and West Ham, who filled Wycombe's left back position during 1990 and 1991.

After hanging up his first-team boots, Steve returned to Wycombe to take charge of all things youth, looking to ensure that the Little Blue Army can both match the success of their professional counterparts, and provide a vital supply line of young talent for the team.

He took over in the summer from community officer Jim Melvin, who steered the youth team to the Allied Counties League double and the FA Youth Cup third round last season

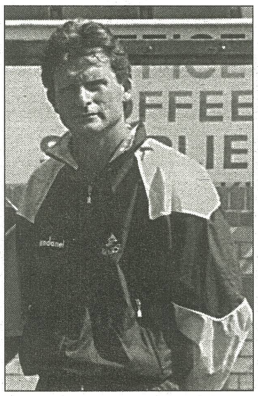
Steve's official title is youth development officer, which encompasses the managerial and coaching positions for the youth team, as well as running the School of Excellence for 15 to 16-year-olds.

Basically, from a little office somewhere in Adams Park, and armed with a bag of footballs, Steve has to be all things to all men, as far as the junior side of Wycombe goes.

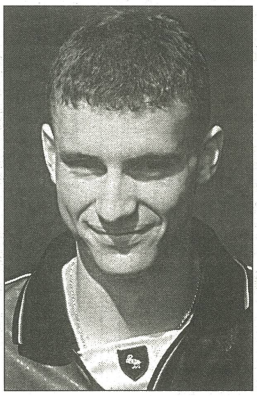
He admits that isn't easy. "The youth team is struggling to cope with the pace and quality of the South East Counties League," he says.

"It's difficult because it's a good standard and we're only part time."

The South East Counties League involves most of the other clubs in the region, and features the youth teams of Premiership clubs Tottenham, Wimbledon, Southampton and Crystal Palace and Division Two Brighton, among others.



Steve Walford: The man with the youth mission



Breakthrough: Shaun Stevens, who is in the first-team squad

"The problem is that our opponents are employed on a YTS basis, whereas I only see our lads for two evenings each week," Steve says.

This is where plans for the future come in, and a solution to the current problem.

"We've applied for a PFA licence, and we'll be taking on players on a YTS basis from July 1995," Steve reports.

In addition, the School of Excellence will be expanding next season to include three new age groups, ranging from 11 to 13-year-olds.

It is in this area that Steve is appealing for help.

"We're looking for Wycombe supporters with a basic knowledge of football, preferably a footballing background, to act as scouts for these young players," he explains.

"The scouts are essential because the talent that would go to other clubs – the county and district players, for example – should be coming here."

With Wycombe now a professional Division Two, and rising, club, the youth set-up needs to be brought up to a level that matches the exploits of the first team. Steve is ideal for such a brief, having spent the last three years working at Tottenham's School of Excellence.

"I learnt a lot at Spurs about how things should be done, and they're keen to help if I need a few pointers," he says.

There will be no overnight transformation. But Steve is satisfied that the right wheels have been put in motion to give Wycombe's youth team a boost, and afford the manager an essential source from which to tap into new players. Shaun Stevens made the transition from the youth side to the first team squad last season, but it is hoped a higher number of graduates will break through with a YTS scheme.

"It's going to take time to get up and running," says Steve. "But the Board and Chairman are all very keen and giving their full support."

■If you are interested in becoming a youth team scout for Wycombe Wanderers, telephone Steve Walford on (0494) 472100.

Bluey's Bonanza Day!!

Saturday October 29th 1994

At our next home game, Bluey, the new official Wycombe Wanderers mascot, will be giving away 50 official Wycombe Wanderers Footballs plus loads of other goodies - sweets, balloons, T-shirts and mini footballs courtesy of McDonalds.

To encourage Blues regular supporters to bring a friend along, everyone under the age of 16 will only be charged £1 to enter the ground on the terraces.

a quid a kid!!!

Yes it will only cost anyone under 16 just £1 on Saturday October 29th when the Blues take on York City at Adams Park. Make sure you're here half an hour before 3 pm kick-off for the Give-Aways and don't forget it's a **quid** a **kid**.

Bring your friends along and join the "Bluey" Army!!

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10 THE BLUES NEWS



Role models: Jason Cousins and his team-mates revel in the green away kit's first outing at Carlisle, a 2-2 draw, at the beginning of last season

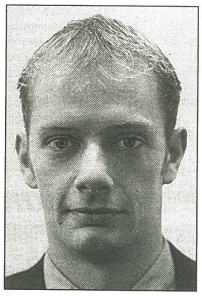
Greens are good for your wallet

PLAYERS will be signing autographs during a Green Kit Day which takes place at Wanderers In Town on Monday, November 7.

The sale, with prices for Blues' green away kits being reduced by 20 per cent, celebrates the shop's first anniversary since opening in the Octagon Shopping Centre, as well as marking the start of a Christmas sale. Many other items, including last season's play-off final scarves, have been reduced from £3.99 to 99p.

The players, accompanied by mascot Bluey the Swan, will be there between 3pm and 5pm.

Slick set-up helps you fit in



By Wanderers' Assistant Marketing Manager Tim Arnold

AS most people know, the first day at work is one of the most daunting and nervewracking experiences of your life. Mine was no exception.

I arrived early on the morning of Saturday, October 1, to be greeted by my new boss Mark Austin, the sales and marketing manager for the club.

He showed me around what seemed like an endless amount of corridors and function rooms, all of which were a hive of activity in preparation for entertaining guests and supporters for that afternoon's match.

Come 1.30pm, when the players had started warming up, and the sponsors were sitting down enjoying their four-course meal, everybody connected with the catering and entertainment side seemed a little more relaxed knowing that all the preparation had been done.

The only possible blemish on the afternoon could be the result.

As it was, Wycombe were much too strong for Swansea. Blues, as you know, won 1-0, the goal coming from a superb David Carroll strike.

The day seemed to go like clockwork – what was all the worry about!

During my first full week working for the club, I was asked to do all kinds of varied tasks. These ranged from writing match reports for the Bucks Examiner and Bucks Advertiser newspapers to buying 400 lollies from the local supermarket for the debut of Bluey, Wycombe Wanderers' new official club mascot.

The 8ft, rather porky, swan was a character I was not expecting to meet in a place of work!

On the next Saturday, Blues had another home league match, this time against Leyton Orient.

Again, everyone connected with the club became a little tense before the match, the aim being to run every hospitality department as smoothly as possible.

The match proved to be a much closer affair than everybody anticipated, but again Wycombe came through beating the O's 2-1.

With this result, it meant that fourth position in the League had been maintained with a quarter of the season now completed.

Everyone seemed extremely pleased.

Having now experienced a working week at Adams Park, one of the most encouraging features of this football club, I've noticed, is the emphasis and importance they put on attracting new and young spectators to Adams Park.

So many times in the past, football in general has suffered with the absence of young spectators due to hostile atmospheres.

But at Wycombe they are out in force. I also feel the stadium, in terms of its design and surroundings, encourages youngsters and their families to attend.

Having never attended a football match at Loakes Park, I am unable to compare the two sites, but Adams Park is certainly a tremendous attribute to the club.

It is a firm foundation with facilities that the club can constantly improve, and it offers an even brighter future.

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THE BLUES SUPER CASHLINE APPLICATION FORM

You must be over sixteen years of age

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I enclose a cheque for membership (complete section below) ☐

I would like my local agent to call each week (if available in my area) ☐

I am interested in becoming a Blues Super Cashline agent: PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

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12 THE BLUES NEWS

It's hard work but we can cut it

CAPTAIN'S LOG
By Terry Evans

I NEVER knew how Wycombe would fare in Division Two even though I have spent most of my career playing against teams at this level.

After looking through the fixture list for an easy game, it became clear that there are in fact none, just some that are even harder than others.

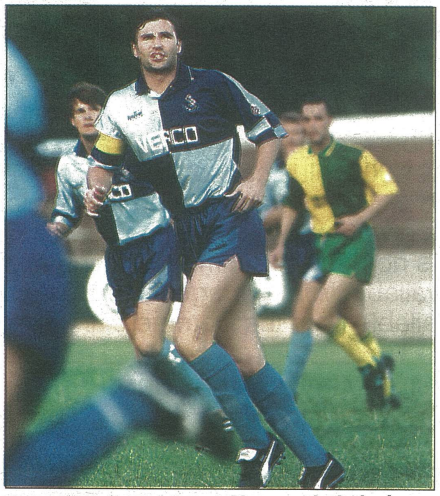
I felt we played well against Hull and deserved something from the game. We put that defeat behind us for the trip to Crewe and I was very proud of the lads. We played well and battled hard but if we thought we were coasting to a 2-0 win, we were brought down to earth by conceding a late goal which meant a tense last few minutes.

To me, Crewe was possibly our best performance of the season, yet in just seven days this was followed by definitely our worst. If Preston at Wembley saw eleven players all perform at the top of their game, Stockport saw just the opposite. We just did not compete and paid the price, going down 4-1.

A players' golf day was arranged at Chartridge Golf Club in Chesham afterwards. Franks (first team coach Paul Franklin) also played and once again I felt this was a good break for the lads and useful for team-building.

We did not need to be told how badly we played at Stockport but the lads bounced back for the home visit of Swansea. I felt we deserved to win by more than just 1-0. Of course, we did have a penalty saved but even without this, I felt we put them under a great deal of pressure for long periods.

I would mention that I felt Jason struck the ball very well and normally would have scored but an outstanding save denied him. You may be surprised to learn that not many players want the responsibility of taking a spot kick. Practising on the training field can in no way prepare you for the pressure during a game.



Upbeat: Skipper Terry knows Blues can do the business

We can all remember Fulham and the Wembley Five-A-Side tournament when Jason was under enormous pressure. But he stepped up to deliver telling penalties which I believe shows great character.

Orient was another good battling performance. Not always pretty, but once again we conceded a late goal when the game was basically won, to leave a very tough last 15 minutes.

There was much speculation before the start of the season as to how we would cope with teams in this division. I kept my own feelings quiet but these first 11 games have proved that we are capable of beating anyone but we need to become more consistent.

Personally I will not be satisfied with finishing mid-table. We have a good squad and must build on the results. There is no room for complacency.

During the winter months, when the pitches start to get heavy, is, to me, when hard-working teams show their mettle. I want Wycombe to come through this and be one of the sides challenging at the end of the season, together with the likes of Bradford and Stockport.

It does seem that other teams may emerge from the pack as so many of them keep beating each other which proves that there is no side that are clear favourites for promotion.

It was good to see both Ivor Beeks and John Goldsworthy back at work after recent illnesses and I hope that the recent results and our position in the table while going to press will aid their complete recoveries.

Timmy Langford has also suffered with his own personal problems through illness to his son. The lads have rallied round him but he has also shown great character by knocking goals in while playing for the reserves. We all really feel for him.

David Titterton is beginning to start light training after Mr Channon, who is an excellent surgeon and gentleman, operated on him to repair a ruptured cruciate ligament. He has to undergo extensive rehabilitation under the watchful eye of physiotherapist Dave Jones.

I can honestly say the latter is the best physio I have ever worked with and feel confident Titts is in safe hands.

On November 14, Jason and I have been kindly invited to the club's Sportsman's Dinner by our accountants CA Rackstraws. I attended the last one, where Tommy Smith was the guest speaker, which was a thoroughly enjoyable and well-organised evening.

I will unfortunately miss these nights later in the season due to the necessity for rest prior to midweek games. In the meantime it is a good opportunity to relax and be entertained because it is clear that there is not going to be much time to relax while playing in this division.

New children's room to be unveiled

THE Community Leisure Room is being opened at Adams Park before kick-off at tomorrow's York City match.

The room, which is sponsored by Wycombe District Council, was paid for by a £12,500 grant which Wycombe Wanderers won in the Jewson Family Awards last season.

It will be used as a children's room on matchdays, as a creche for three to six-year-olds, and on non-matchdays for the Learning Through Football Scheme.

Study

Schoolchildren will study and watch videos about the club's background during their day-long outings which take place every Thursday.

The opening is part of Wycombe's special Bluey Bonanza Day when all children under 16 can get in for only £1 to the terraces.

The club would like to thank Beatties toyshop in High Wycombe for donating £100 worth of toys for children to play with in the creche.



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