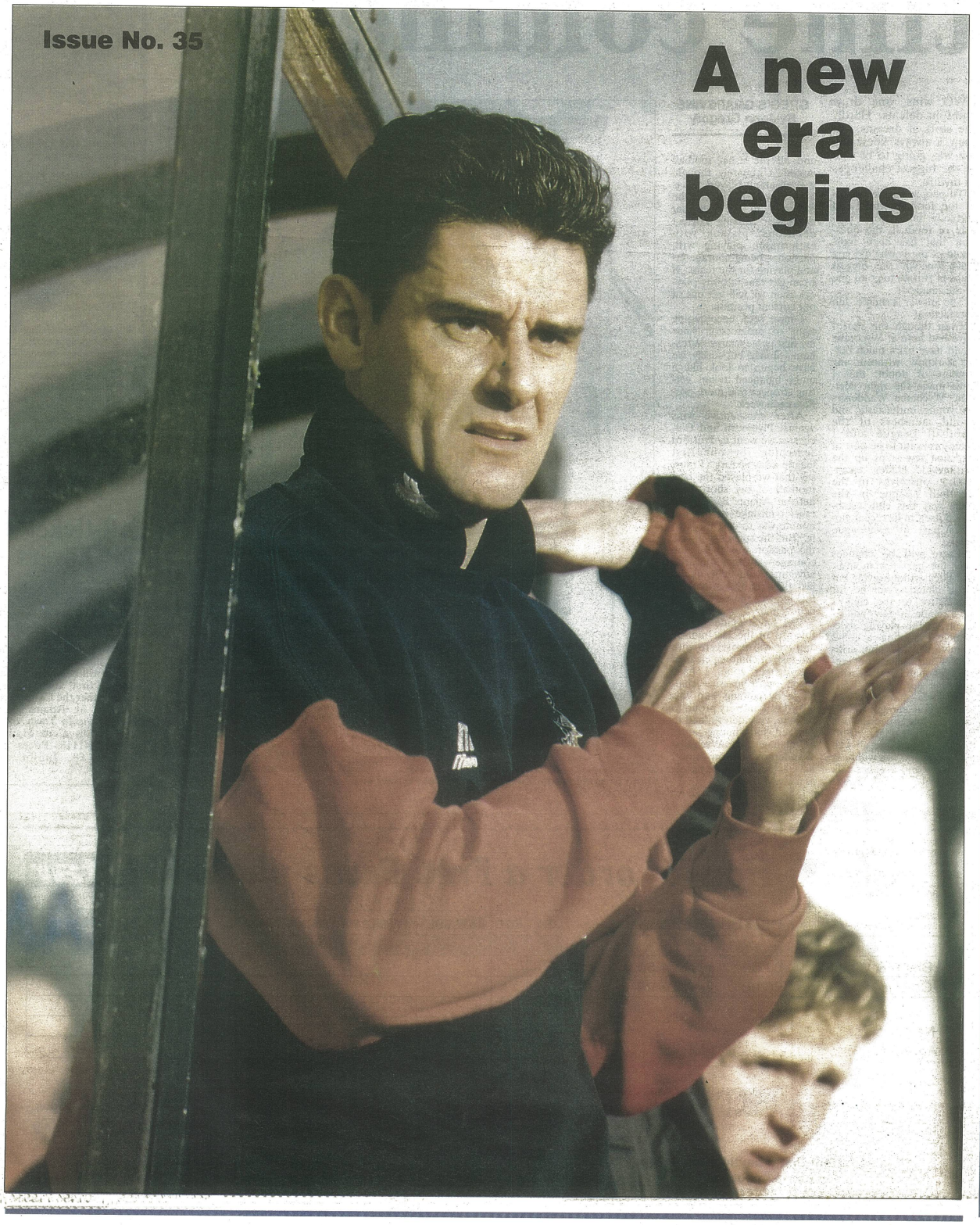
# The BLUES NEWS

*The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club*

Issue No. 35

## A new era begins

# There's a good time coming

TWO wins, one draw and four defeats. Hardly the stuff of dreams, but then I always knew the job was going to be one of the biggest challenges of my life.

To people on the fringes of the football world and certainly those people outside of football, the question that has been most asked of me is why did you leave one of the biggest clubs in Britain to go to one of the smallest?

The answer is simple. Job satisfaction!

Even though the start I have had here at Wycombe could have been much better I know without any shadow of doubt, that I have made the right decision. Wycombe Wanderers are young, enthusiastic and proud members of the Football League and I therefore want to be part of our first few steps up the Nationwide ladder, establishing ourselves in the Football League in the same way this club established itself in its recent glorious past at non-league level.

There will be changes over the next few months, that goes without saying but those changes will be for the better of the club. I have made a few adjustments to the playing style, namely, adopting a 3-5-2 formation. My only criticism is that we have not created enough goal scoring attempts during this time. Four goals in seven games is not good enough in any football club, especially one in our current plight. Formations though are all well and good, and you will hear managers and coaches talk about 4-4-2, 4-3-4, 5-3-2s and all the usual football jargon. Ultimately though, it is all about players. It is how they perform on the ball and off the ball that matters. Making correct decisions, playing with enthusiasm, playing with passion – being courageous and playing for the team. If I can get that into my players, then we will get out of our current position.

**GREG'S GRAPEVINE**
**By John Gregory**

I have seen encouraging signs of progression since my first game against Wrexham. Slowly, but surely, we have begun to look like a more balanced team, getting stronger and more positive each week.

After consecutive wins against Plymouth and Colchester we went to Watford searching for our first league away victory. I must say that we played the best football of my short time here at Adams Park but a crucial mistake in the last minute was to cost us dearly. But the spirit was there, the passion was there, the courage was there. Only the adventure and guile in the last third of the pitch was missing but that will come, believe me.

We have made strides forward in the last month, and we will persevere with the task of climbing clear of the danger zone. I have taken on a massive challenge by coming into this job – but I am very proud to be here, very determined to succeed, and winning games as manager of Wycombe Wanderers beats anything I have achieved before purely as a coach.




John Gregory leads the way forward into a new era

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Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by the Bucks Free Press and WWFC.

**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.**

## All-ticket for Rovers

THE match between Wycombe Wanderers and Bristol Rovers at the Memorial Ground on Saturday, December 21 is all-ticket. Blues fans are only being offered terrace tickets which will be sold on a first come, first served basis, from either the Commercial Offices at Adams Park, Wanderers In Town, or on the Credit Card Hotline, 01494 441118. Prices are; Adults £8, Junior and OAP's £4.


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# Rhino Ryan is fighting back

**Keith Ryan writes from the treatment room**

HAVING been injured for all of this season and most of last, I suppose I was the obvious choice to write a small insight into the goings on in the Wanderers treatment room and gym.

To start with, I would like to take you through a fairly typical day in the lives of us injured lads. The day starts at 9.30am sharp and any player who is not in full training kit and ready to start work, incurs a small fine. You have to put up with a few smug looks from the likes of Terry Evans, who is usually first in the gym with two bags of ice on his now famous fragile knees. Most minor injuries need plenty of ice on them to flush out any bruising, so there is often a scramble for the two comfortable treatment tables to ice up on.

When things settle down the radio goes on. We tune the dial to Radio One and for the next 20 minutes we all try to guess the year on the Golden Hour, or have a chat about last night's tv. The rest of the morning is taken up running through our respective stretching and strengthening exercises under the watchful eye of club physio Dave Jones. At about 11 am we have a 15 minute tea-break. This break gives us just enough time to talk over the last game and pick next Saturday's starting line-up. All this is in the company of Wycombe's biggest fan and excellent groundsman Jim Gardner.

Then it's back to icing and stretching until lunchtime. Around 1pm, just as the fit players arrive home and settle down to watch Ready, Steady Cook or Ricki Lake, with a cup of hot cocoa, the walking wounded prepare for a nine mile bike ride or a swim at Handy Cross Leisure Centre or both. The bike ride is not too bad for the first three miles but then you reach the dreaded Chips Hill, a road which stretches upwards for about one mile getting steeper as you reach the top. It is not very nice at the best of times, but at this time of year it's pretty awful. The thought of a swim sounds appealing but treading water for 45 minutes is not my idea of fun and by the end you are fit to sleep. Both swimming and cycling are ideal ways for me to keep some of my fitness without causing damage to my knee through the impact of running.




**Keith Ryan's injury nightmare, take-two, begins as he is stretchered off in a pre-season friendly against Queens Park Rangers**

If you get through all of that, then it's home for a kip and back in the morning for more of the same. One thing I must say is that there is always a great atmosphere in the gym, it's seen plenty of laughs and jokes but above all else a tremendous amount of hard work, sweat and pain. It is all overseen by Dave Jones (Jonah) who I already have to thank for one successful return to first team football after my right knee injury and for his patience during my latest spell in rehab with my left knee.

Believe me, being injured is no easy ride. At times you can feel very left out. It's difficult being told you can't do something you love, which for me is playing football. It is a time when you need to be strong minded and have a lot of self-motivation. I have been injured for long periods and I can assure you that everyone I have seen come in and out of the treatment rooms has worked extremely hard to get back to fitness and ultimately back into the first team. Anyway, you are probably wondering how someone who works so hard had enough time to write this piece. Well, I can tell you it wasn't easy but I managed to spare five minutes between my weight training circuit and my aerobics class.

# Out of the bath and into the Park

**By Richard Hill**
**Assistant Manager**

AS a player, I had no intentions of becoming a coach, but when my career ended prematurely with a serious knee injury, I had plenty of time to think.



**Richard Hill**

I'll be the first to admit my career could have been summed-up in four words: "Should have done better". Although, I felt I could have received more coaching, more guidance, more information and a lot more encouragement.

I decided to take the Preliminary Coaching Award and I really enjoyed it. It got me excited about coaching and soon I was helping at Oxford United's School of Excellence. I decided this was the career I wanted and went to Lilleshall to take the FA Full Licence Coaching Awards.

On the same course was a fella I had played against on a couple of occasions and had received the privilege of having his elbow down the side of my face plus the studs in the side of the leg. This fella was John Gregory who at that time was assistant manager at Leicester City. After the course we kept in touch and I often went to watch John work at Leicester, but although at this time I was doing plenty of coaching at non-league level and youth level, any spare time I had was spent watching other pro-clubs work, pinching ideas and trying to improve myself.

I was then offered the job as youth team coach at Reading and not wanting to sound big-headed felt I did a good job. Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding offered me the chance to step up from youth team to the first team as coach. Then one night at the end of October I was in the bath when the phone rang ... Who's that now, I thought, "It's John Gregory" shouted the wife. Dripping wet, I went to the phone. "Hello John, how you doing?" "Want a job?" came the reply.

I knew John had joined Wycombe and had heard what a good club Wycombe is. I'd played at Adams Park for Kettering and was impressed with the set up.

I felt honoured to be asked by John. He has played and worked for big clubs all his career and has worked with one of the best managers in the Premiership.

I am ambitious and want to be successful and working with John can only help. I had no hesitation in joining Wycombe.

Since I have been here everyone has welcomed me with open arms, the office staff are very helpful and the response from the players has been superb.

Hopefully John and myself can bring back the good times. Although we have made changes quickly it does not mean all will be well overnight. Both John and I realise patience is a virtue and if you the supporters can understand this, the future will be bright once more.

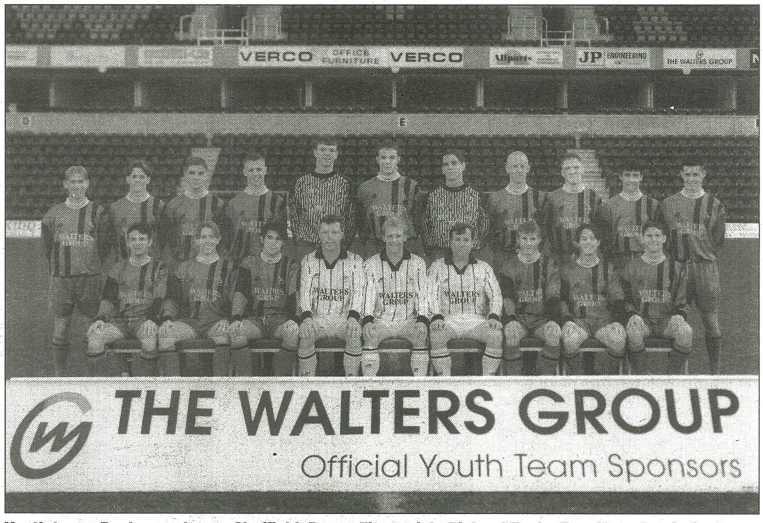


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# Smillie's back with the kids




**Youth team: Back row: James Sheffield, Danny Fitzpatrick, Richard Teale, Tom Keys, Lewis Craker, Matt Hodson, Alan Beeton, Andy Baird, Gary Wraight, Richard Dee. Front: Aaron Patton, Frank Brannan, Maurice Harkin, Steve Cook (physio), Neil Smillie (manager), Adrian Cole (YDO), Martin Rowlands, Lee Allen, Jeff Lamb**

**By Neil Smillie**

THIS article comes at the end of a very eventful month. With my spell as caretaker manager over I have returned to the youth policy.

John Gregory has arrived as Manager and I wish him and Richard Hill every success at the club.

The decision to go back to the youth policy was my own. I look forward to continuing the work which I started last year. My new role is to oversee the whole youth policy, with responsibility for everything from the youth team downwards, which also covers our Centre of Excellence, where we coach boys from under 11 to under 16.

Jim Melvin, who was the youth development officer, had decided to leave and I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for all his efforts over the last 18 months. In his place will come Adrian Cole whose role will be more specific whereas Jim was spread into the professional scouting side. I wish Adrian, who is our Under-15s manager at present, good luck and look forward to working with him on the development side.

Certainly we want to strengthen the scouting in our own area. We face much competition from clubs ranging from the Premiership downwards so we must forge strong links with schools and Sunday leagues if we are to capture the best boys. At Wycombe we certainly have the facilities to compete but we must spread the word that quality boys will have a better chance of becoming a footballer with us than by joining a Premier club, who on needing a player, look to the cheque book or foreign players.

On returning to the youth team my first game was against Luton who have a long standing reputation for developing players. We lost 1-0 to a twice taken free kick after missing a penalty but the performance was good and we deserved at least a point.

Then came our Southern Junior Floodlit Cup game at Tottenham which was played at St Albans where Tottenham play their reserve games. The boys played superbly and beat them 3-2 after being a goal down, the game was a real thriller and we were full value for our win.

On the Saturday we played Tottenham A again, this time with a couple of injuries we lost 3-1 to the second of the Tottenham sides, they have 22 YTS boys. Last Saturday we drew 0-0 with Oxford although if our finishing was better we would have won by a couple of goals. Now we look forward to our Southern Junior Floodlit Cup game with Birmingham on December 23, by then I hope to have Gary Wraight and Lewis Craker fit for selection after long injuries.

The youth team this year, have more boys playing in the reserves and this has been something they have just started to come to terms with. The demands are greater on them this year and they must break through into the reserves to become professional players. The job in the future is to continually increase our quality. I feel we have some promising boys and with the club looking towards Youth Team players coming through they have an excellent opportunity.

Throughout the scheme we have many coaches working towards improving our players from ten-years-old to 16. The job of increasing our strength will be a gradual process.

We have made a good start and the work must continue at every level which it will with the help of our sponsors The Walters Group of Companies and Alex Tuckerman of Servispak and we thank them for their support.

At the point of writing our boys have just beaten Corinthian 5-0 and gone through to the next round of the FA Youth Cup where we will meet Wolverhampton Wanderers in the next round on December 10 at Molineux.

Come and support the boys.

# Gregory's game keeps turnstiles clicking

**COMMERCIAL BREAK**
**By Mark Austin**

OVER 1,500 Blues fans turned up at Vicarage Road, Watford on a cold and wet night and sung their hearts out. Unfortunately all our hearts were broken with just one minute remaining.

The performance was very encouraging but could not take away the physical pain of defeat. In all our recent matches the fans have been fantastic getting right behind John Gregory and the team. In these times of financial constraint every fan is highly valued.

In the last three weeks we have seen some real ups and downs and plenty of controversy. The 2-1 win against Plymouth was John Gregory's first league win and saw first year referee Steve Bennett disallow, what appeared to be, two good goals. The referee's assessor John Martin, told Terry Evans after the match he saw nothing wrong with his first half header, disallowed for pushing. Anyone who watches the video will see for themselves. Neil Davis' goal was also disallowed.

Then followed a tremendous 2-1 win at Colchester in the FA Cup where the referee allowed Colchester's goal while a fan was in our penalty area.

Then came the heartbreak at Watford, losing to an 89th minute strike after playing extremely well. Finally last Saturday saw another referee in his first year in the Football League, Robert Styles, who sent off three players. I believe anyone who sees the video of the penalty incident will accept Matt Crossley was extremely unfortunate in being dismissed. My question is why have the League sent two new boys to Adams Park for successive matches?

Commercially the effect of the results are enormous. Having said that, attendances are up on last season, with the home gate at our last three matches over 4,000 on each occasion. This is a testament to John Gregory and the entertaining football he endorses. Since he started the atmosphere is very pleasant, a remarkable fact, given our league position.

Of the 20 executive boxes in the new ServisPak Stand ten have been sold on a four year basis with ten available for day let. Boxes one to eight are available for one, two, three or four year lease or day lets. Boxes 15 and 16 on the half-way line are only available as day lets. These start at £500 plus VAT for ten people, but do include a hot and cold buffet, matchday programmes, car parking and tea/coffee and biscuits at half-time. For only £5 plus VAT extra per head you can have a four course waitress served meal in the box before the match. Permanent boxholders are able to use their executive boxes during office hours for no extra charge.

If anyone would like to look over an executive box during office hours with a view to renting one for a match or longer period, contact Tim Arnold the assistant sales and marketing manager on (01494) 472100.

# A look inside Wanderers busy advent calendar

**Saturday, November 30:** First team away to Wrexham in the Nationwide League Second Division. Kick off at the Racecourse Ground is 3pm.

**Tuesday December 3:** First team at home to Millwall in the Nationwide League Second Division. Kick off 7.45pm. This match is not-all ticket for Wanderers supporters but is for Millwall followers.

**Wednesday, December 4:** Reserves away to Fulham in the Capital League. Kick off 2pm.

**Saturday, December 7:** First team away to Barnet in the FA Cup second round. Kick off 3pm.

Youth team at home to Wimbledon in the South East Counties League at Molins. Kick off 11am.

**Tuesday, December 10:** First team away to Swansea in the first round of the Auto Windscreen Shield. Kick off 7.30pm. The match must end in a result. If scores are level there will be 30 minutes of sudden death extra time.

Youth team away to Wolverhampton Wanderers in the second round of the FA Youth Cup at Molineux. Kick off 7pm.

**Saturday, December 14:** First team at home to Chesterfield in the Nationwide League Second Division. Kick off 3pm.

Before the match carol singers will entertain the crowd, song sheets will be handed out at the turnstiles and Miss Christmas will be walking around the ground giving away some early Christmas treats.

Youth team away to Crystal Palace in the South East Counties League. Kick off 11am.

**Tuesday, December 17:** Possible FA Cup second round replay at home to Barnet.

**Saturday, December 21:** First team away to Bristol Rovers in the Nationwide League Second Division. Kick off 3pm. The Match at the Memorial Ground, Bristol, is all-ticket for Wycombe Wanderers fans.

Wanderers have only been given terrace tickets for this match and they are available now priced £8 (no concessions) from the Commerical Offices at Adams Park and Wanderers in Town.

**Monday, December 23:** Youth team at home to Birmingham City in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup third round. Kick off at Adams Park is 7.30pm.

**Thursday, December 26:** Boxing day. First team at home to Walsall in the Nationwide League Second Division. Kick off at Adams Park 3pm.

**Saturday, December 28:** First team away to Luton Town in the Nationwide League Second Division. Kick off at Kenilworth Road is at 3pm.

Check with Wycombe Wanderers on 01494 472100 in case of cancellation or alterations.

## Blues fans are top of the league

THE Official Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Association warmly welcomes John Gregory to Wycombe Wanderers as the new team manager, writes the group's press office Elaine Butler.

After meeting John at the club's well attended forum last Thursday we can see he is a man with charisma, charm and personality and warms to the crowd.

If there is a manager who can get the club out of the position we are in we can all be assured he can do it. If you have not seen the Blues play this season why not come along to the next home game on Tuesday, December 3 which is against Millwall.

We are also pleased to announce that Alan Parry, Director of Wycombe Wanderers has accepted our invitation to become the President of our Supporters Association.

What a great win over our old rivals Colchester United on Saturday, November 16. The team gave a wonderful performance, perhaps the all red strip had a hand in it. Many supporters liked it, we hope we see it again.

What a shame a few of the Colchester supporters behaved like complete idiots, jumping on to the pitch, it was disgraceful, but what was amazing was that the police and stewards allowed them back into the crowd to carry on watching the game.

Colchester FC print in their matchday programme that any persons gaining unauthorised entry on to the field of play will be ejected from the ground and may be liable to prosecution – what a farce.

Congratulations to all our supporters who kept their cool. We surely must have the best record in all divisions for good behaviour, so we must make sure we stay in the division as we do not want to go back to that uninspiring place for a very long time.

The game against Watford was heartbreaking for the team and those many travelling supporters as we were beaten by a last minute goal, but we will pick ourselves up and get on with the next one. Things can only get better, and they will.

## Freddie truly bowls them over

THE sell-out Fred Trueman's Sportsmans Dinner was such a tremendous success that the Old Blues Association Ltd have booked him to come back in the Spring.

Anyone who missed him first time can see him again on April 17 in the Vere Suite at Adams Park, along with comedian Ronnie Stewart. Tables of ten cost £350, tables of 12, £400.

To book contact Mike Phillips of the Old Blues on (01494) 472100 Prices include a five course waitress served meal. Alan Parry will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Adams Park Events Ltd are also running three more Sportsmans Dinners this season in the Vere Suite. On January 27 Frank McLintock will be joined by Comedian Sid Tate. On March 17 it is Ian Robertson and comedian Denny Waters and on April 19 it is Jackie Blanchflower and comedian Mike Pugh. Tables of ten cost £350 or tables of 12, £400.

To book contact Mark Austin on (01494) 472100. Price includes a five course meal. Dress is Lounge Suits.

# Put your shirt on the big cheese

FIRST choice goalkeeper, John Cheesewright, is currently still unsponsored in the club's successful Mark Your Man scheme.

For the price of £200 plus VAT you could receive your name alongside a headshot of the new Wanderers glovesman which will appear in every edition of the Wycombe Wanderers matchday programme for the remainder of the season.

You will also be involved in the player of the month presentations if Cheesewright is chosen as the winner.

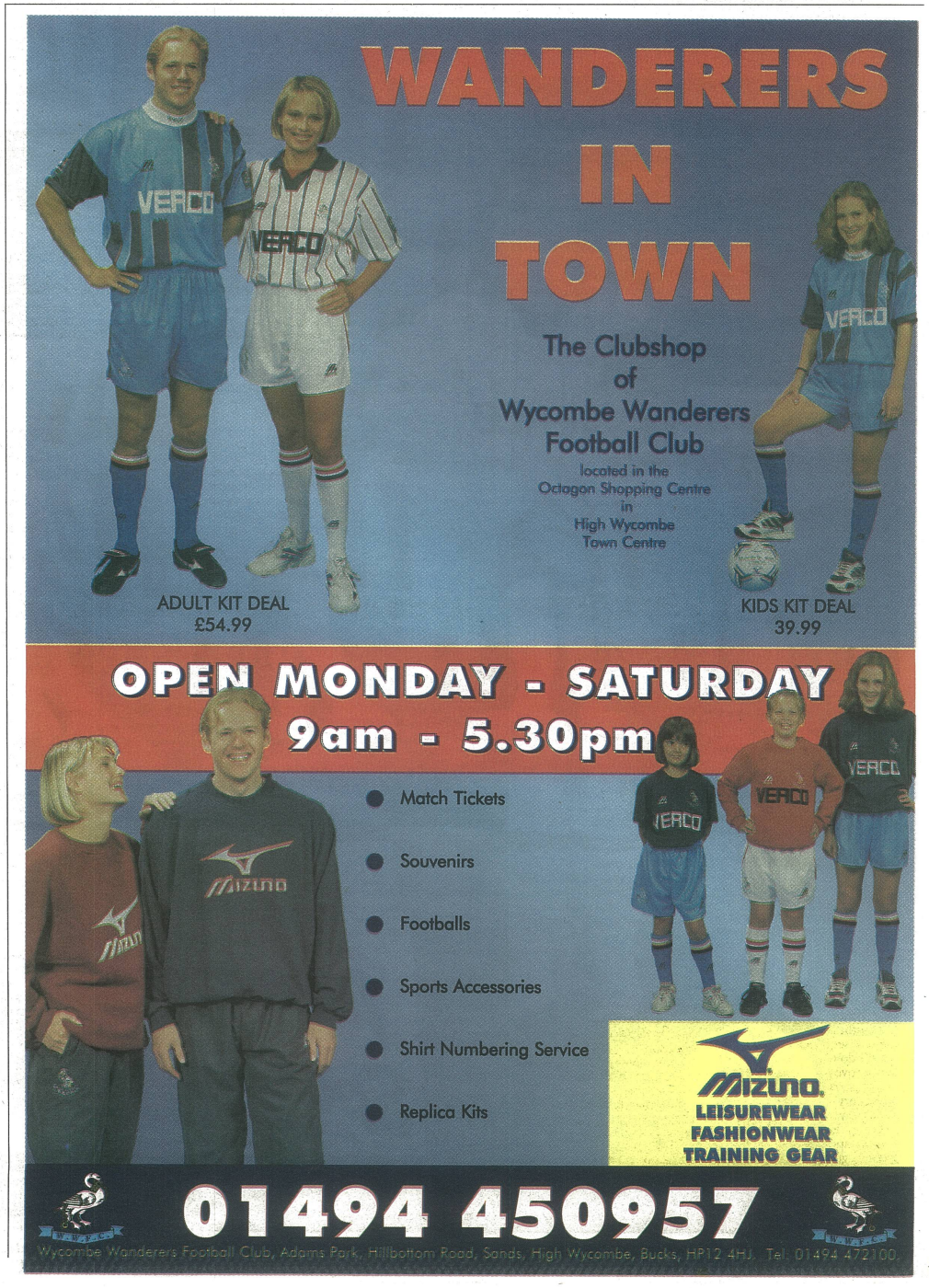
In addition you will receive a pair of tickets for the last home league fixture of the season.

And at the end of the campaign you will be presented with the football shirt that he has worn throughout the season, a complimentary 10" x 8" framed photograph of the presentation and an official signed Wycombe Wanderers football.

■Other players, that are still available for sponsorship throughout the remainder of the season include; Anthony Clarke, Brian McGorry and the youth team manager Neil Smillie.

■Players and staff that have already been sponsored for the 1996/97 season are: manager John Gregory by James, Harry and Victoria Sumner, Graham Hall by Sharon and Gary Trimby, Miquel Desouza by Hampden Saw Mills, Mickey Bell by Graphic Arts Supplies Ltd, Steve Brown by John Palmer, John Williams by Frances Carvell, Paul McCarthy by Denzil, Margaret and Andrew Ashcroft, Dave Farrell by Denzil, Margaret and Andrew Ashcroft, Dave Carroll by Mike Clark, Gary Patterson by The Adams Family Fanzine, Matt Crossley by Ann Cohen & Co Solicitors, (01494 677421), Damien Markman by Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club, Brian Parkin by Chairboys On The Net on 100746.232@compuserve.com, Terry Evans by Carvells Newsagents, Marlow, Matt Lawrence by Gerald Edelman Chartered Accountants, Keith Ryan by Link Precision Services (01844 347062), Terry Skiverton by City Index Spread Betting (0171 528 9887), Richard Hill (assistant manager and reserve team manager) by Francis Glenister, Salmon Brothers Int. Ltd, Jason Cousins by Liz Baines, Steve McGavin by Sharon Healey, Dave Jones (Physio) by The Smurfettes.

Ring Tim Arnold at WWFC on (01494) 472100 to Mark Your Man.






Back row (left to right): Anthony Clark, Matthew Lawrence, Paul McCarthy, Terry Evans, Matt Crossley, Gary Patterson, Terry Skiverton. Middle row: Adrian Cole (Youth Development Officer), David Farrell, Steve Brown, John Cheesewright, Brian Parkin, John Williams, Brian McGorry, David Jones (Sports Therapist). Front row: Jason Cousins, Keith Ryan, Dave Carroll, Richard Hill (Assistant Manager), John Gregory (Manager), Neil Smillie (Youth Team Manager), Miquel Desouza, Steve McGavin, Mickey Bell.

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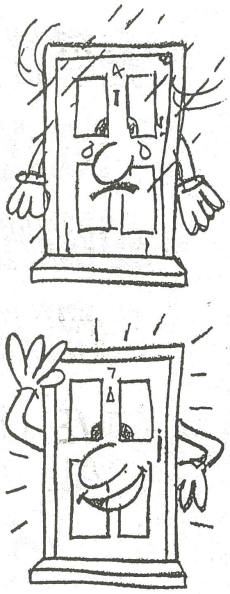
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## IN SHORT

### Ideal present for any true Blue

FROM December 16 you can purchase a season ticket at the revised prices shown below and the ticket will be valid from Boxing Day.

Prices for the Main Stand are down from £240 adults to £115 or for concessions down from £216 to £103.

The ServisPak Stand Upper Tier, blocks N, P and Q are down from £240 adults to £115. Or for concessions down from £216 to £103.

Prices in the ServisPak upper tier blocks M and R are also down from £200 to £96 and for concessions down from £180 to just £86.

Prices in the ServisPak Stand Upper tier blocks K,L,S and T are now down from £160 for adults to £76. And for concessions it is £144 down to £69.

There are also bargains to be had in the Bucks Free Press Family Enclosure. The adult ticket there is down from £160 to £76. For senior citizens it is down from £100 to £48 and for juniors it is down from £45 to £22.

Cheapest of the lot though is the AXA Equity & Law Terrace. The £140 adult season ticket there is now £67. The same ticket for senior citizens or students is down from £90 to £43 and for a junior it is down from £40 at the start of the season to £20.

### Blues bible hits the shelves

THE Official History of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club from 1887-1996 has just been released in hardback for £16.95.

The 260 page publication which has been produced by Yore Publications is available from the Programme Shop, the Cornerflag Club Shop and Wanderers In Town. Alternatively if you post a cheque for £20.65 Wycombe Wanderers will send a copy to your address. Please submit your name, full postal address and a cheque made payable to WWFC to: Tim Arnold, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, Bucks HP12 4HJAll.

Advanced subscribers who have not yet collected their copy must please do so before the end of the month.

### New style shop at Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers Cornerflag Club Shop has just been redesigned and reopened as an open plan styled shop.

It has been fully fitted with shelving, allowing the customer to walk into the shop to pick and choose products at will. The Shop is situated at the North East corner of the stadium and is open on matchdays two hours before kick off and for half an hour after the final whistle.

### Watch in comfort

WANDERERS In Town and The Cornerflag Club Shop are now selling Wycombe Wanderers seat cushions. The cushions which were specially produced in Italy fold in half and act as a programme holder. The cushions retail at £4.99.

# Examination has begun

**By Graham Peart**
**Club director**

DEAR Supporter,

It had to happen eventually. Our surging progress through the leagues could not continue indefinitely.

We paused, faltered and as in the way with life all the wheels fell off at the same time.

Not only are we bottom of the league we are seemingly anchored to it.

The events on the pitch during the Preston game were only an extension of the way things have been going for our club off the pitch. After the match against Watford at Vicarage Road a wise and very well known ex-football manager stated that the entire football world was watching us. He said that the recent setbacks were going to happen at some time. Our first real test of character since joining the Football League has now begun.

The actions of the players, manager, board and supporters over the next few weeks would determine which way our season would go. His view was that we would either be relegated or end up well clear of relegation, there being no middle ground.

This potted analysis from a very experienced observer made me feel very uncomfortable because it was based on inescapable truths. Several changes have recently been made. The most obvious and important being the appointment of John Gregory as manager. His style of management is not far different to his style as a player. He was not blessed with the natural flamboyance of a Ryan Giggs, so he worked hard on his game to rise from the basement with Northampton to the old First Division and the England team.

His positive attitude is still the same but now he uses charm, wit and encouragement to achieve his objectives. His background, experience and personality are ideal attributes to overcome our current inability to score goals and win matches.

I hope that you, our most valuable supporter, will show the same resilience and loyalty. Now is the time you are needed most. It is easy to be a supporter of a winning team but your most difficult task is to give your support to the Wanderers now. There have been a few recent occasions when some of our supporters wish that an alternative course of action had been taken by the board.

If you are one of those who feel frustrated because you would prefer a different style playing strip, or you wished last week's open forum had been held somewhere else, then I ask you to accept that I feel frustrated also, on your behalf. It is the task of the board to try to arrange matters to suit the wishes and needs of the majority.

As we now have around 5000 who regularly (but not always) come to home matches there is a healthy and wide range of views. There will always be a minority who will feel frustration.

The policy of the board is try to accommodate the preferences of the majority. A disgruntled supporter will feel the need to complain and unfortunately those cries tend to be heard above the silence of those who accept the policy. However, it is sometimes the case that the minority view is the one which turns out to be correct.

With that in mind any positive suggestion is listened to and carefully considered. What is not possible or sensible is to allow minor issues to take precedence over the battle against relegation. I have no desire to visit Hartlepool to watch the Wanderers. If you accept one drop as being acceptable then often a second one will follow.

A wet night at Welling is an unpleasant experience, as you may well remember. So I ask that you put aside any reasons for not visiting the Wanderers and join together with supporters of different views but equal passion and be there at home matches to cheer on the lads.

From one of my previous letters you are aware that our war chest of reserve funds, is very depleted. To be frank with you, it is empty. It needs topping up, urgently. The manager needs funds available to change things around. That money can only come from your support at home matches, in the restaurants and bars and tea bars and in our shop in the Octagon. Buy your favourite Aunt a Wanderers duvet for Christmas or your mum a jogging suit!

Local companies have responded to our plight magnificently by sponsoring matches, leasing boxes and donating equipment and cars. We have recently had an offer to sponsor each victory for a substantial sum of money, which was gratefully accepted (and others). It is very important for our community, our town, that the Wanderers remain a successful club. Each and every supporter has a part to play. Can you imagine what the effect that an attendance of 8000 would have in lifting our players against top of the table Millwall on Tuesday?

There are only 13 home Nationwide Division Two League matches left this season. We have to take each one as if it is our last and give it our best shot, on the field and from the terraces. All receipts are being channelled into team building.

The best Christmas present that you can give John Gregory is the price of your ticket to see the Wanderers against mighty Millwall and crafty Chesterfield. He deserves it and he will use it wisely.

Fingers crossed and lucky socks for Saturday please. Our luck will change if you make it.



**Lucozade Youth team player of the month Martin Rowlands is presented with his award by Chris Walters (left) of youth team sponsors Walters Group of Companies.**

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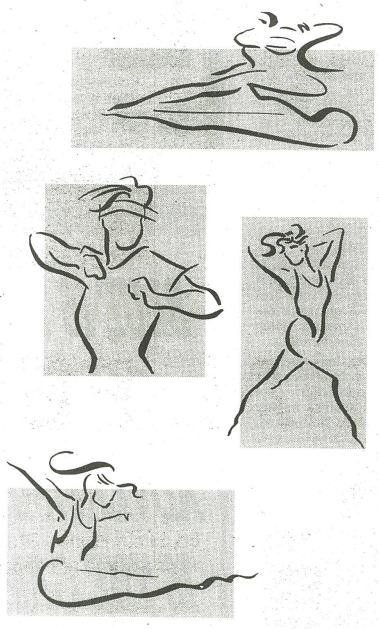
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# New boss, old face

THE arrival of the new manager was a well kept secret, so much so that we knew nothing until John Gregory was actually introduced to us as the new boss.

When I was a young lad playing for QPR in the South East Counties team I remember John playing for the first team, I did not really get to know him as the kids rarely spoke to the stars back then.

He has brought in Richard Hill as his assistant. Keith Ryan and myself met Richard this summer when he was involved with the running and marking of the FA coaching course that we both passed. He has a great deal of knowledge and will be an excellent appointment.

Since the boss has been here he has changed the style. Playing with five at the back suits the players we have. When under the cosh we look and feel more solid across the back with three midfielders in front, but when attacking the full backs move up into the wing back roles to support the attack. Yet should we lose possession, they are able to resume their defensive responsibilities. We played this formation last year but on a few occasions the full backs were a little too cavalier leaving us exposed down the channels.

I enjoyed the added responsibilities of working alongside Neil Smillie for a short time while the directors chose the new manager. I hope to have a long term future in coaching so this was good experience for when my playing days are over. I would prefer to concentrate on playing for the remainder of this season and assist Wycombe's climb up the league especially as my contract will then be up. I still feel I've got a few good years left in me and will continue to play for some time before looking for a change.

**CAPTAIN'S LOG**
**By Terry Evans**

Although we have changed our system the boss wants us to play good football. Training involves small sided games, working more on the individual techniques and shadow play (working on team formation), all of which are positive steps.

I felt we contained Crewe for the first half then in a mad 15 minutes we threw the game away. We learned a very harsh lesson. At 1-0 down we tried to chase the game straight away and left ourselves open and paid the price. There was plenty of time to get an equaliser, we needed more patience.

Colchester was very important for many reasons and the longer serving players knew its importance to the fans. Even though we have not played particularly badly this season our supporters have not had much to shout about, so beating Colchester was a little bit of pay back. We dominated for 70 minutes and were coasting at 2-0, but allowed them a goal which gave them confidence to come at us. I would like to look back and say Colchester was a turning point, we played confidently and need to build on that.

Unfortunately I have a sad note to finish on, the death of Keith Ryan's mum Jan. Both of Keith's parents entertained the lads on many occasions at The Chequers pub which they ran in Amersham. We were all welcomed with open arms and made to feel at home.

On behalf of all the lads we send our condolences to Jim, Keith and family.



**In command: Terry Evans lays down the law in the win at Colchester**


284656

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# Coaching with Motts

IF you've ever seen the Blues' coach zipping along the motorway as you're on your way to watch Wanderers you may well have wondered in what luxury the players travel.

The job of getting the team to away games has belonged to Motts Travel of Stoke Mandeville since the early eighties. They now transport the Blues in a state of the art coach which is the envy of many bigger clubs.

Even in the non league days, Motts always supplied the club with a full executive coach.

As the club progressed, the specification became more luxurious, culminating in the first Official Team Coach shortly after Martin O'Neill's arrival. It was equipped with rear lounge, kitchen area and wardrobe and six tables for 24 people to sit and relax. It also had separate video systems enabling a choice of films to be shown and a CD player in the rear lounge.

As the team progressed into the league and Division Two, Motts were asked to equip the coach with both a warming oven and a powerful microwave so that high protein food could be prepared in transit. This was accomplished for the 1995/96 season.

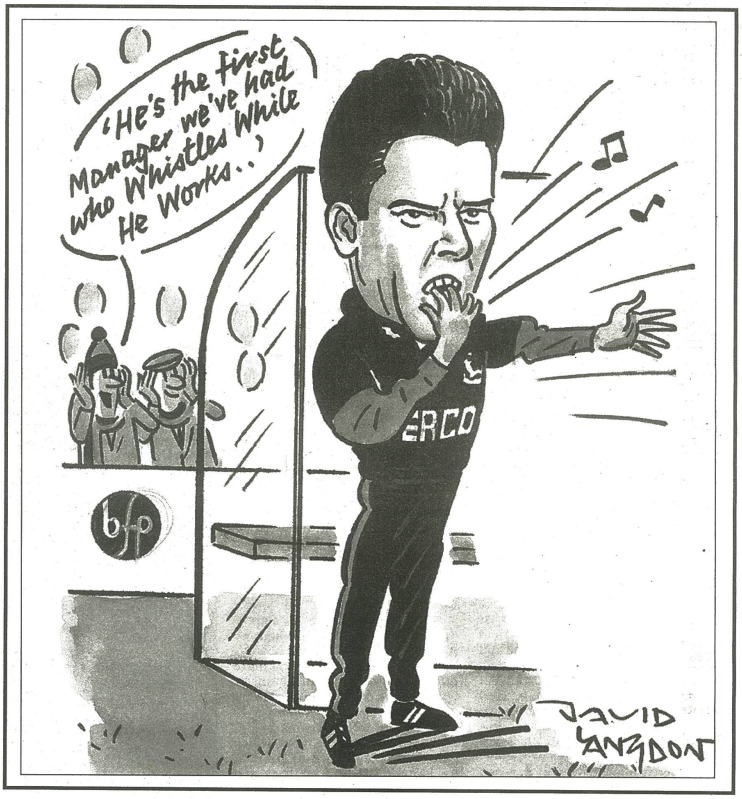
During the latter part of the season, negotiations took place culminating in




a contract for the next five seasons. One of the conditions was that a new team coach would be in operation for this season.

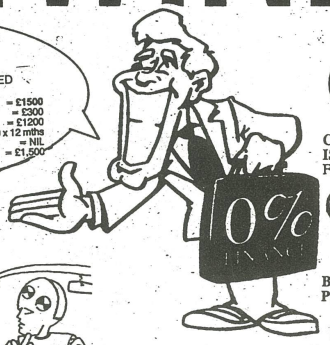
Team coach number two came into service for the first away fixture at Shrewsbury in August. Like it's predecessor, it is a Volvo with Jonckheere Deauville Coachwork, the interior layout has been completely changed however, with the kitchen and wardrobe area at the rear. There is no designated lounge area as it has seven tables with seating for the 28 passengers in two areas within the coach.

Motts Travel has a policy of placing personal registration numbers on its coaches and these 'MT' numbers can be seen on 13 of their current fleet. In 1993, Motts bought, at considerable cost, the number 90 WFC for the team coach. The final touch in this respect are the WWFC headrest covers provided by Motts.




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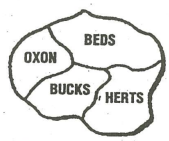
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