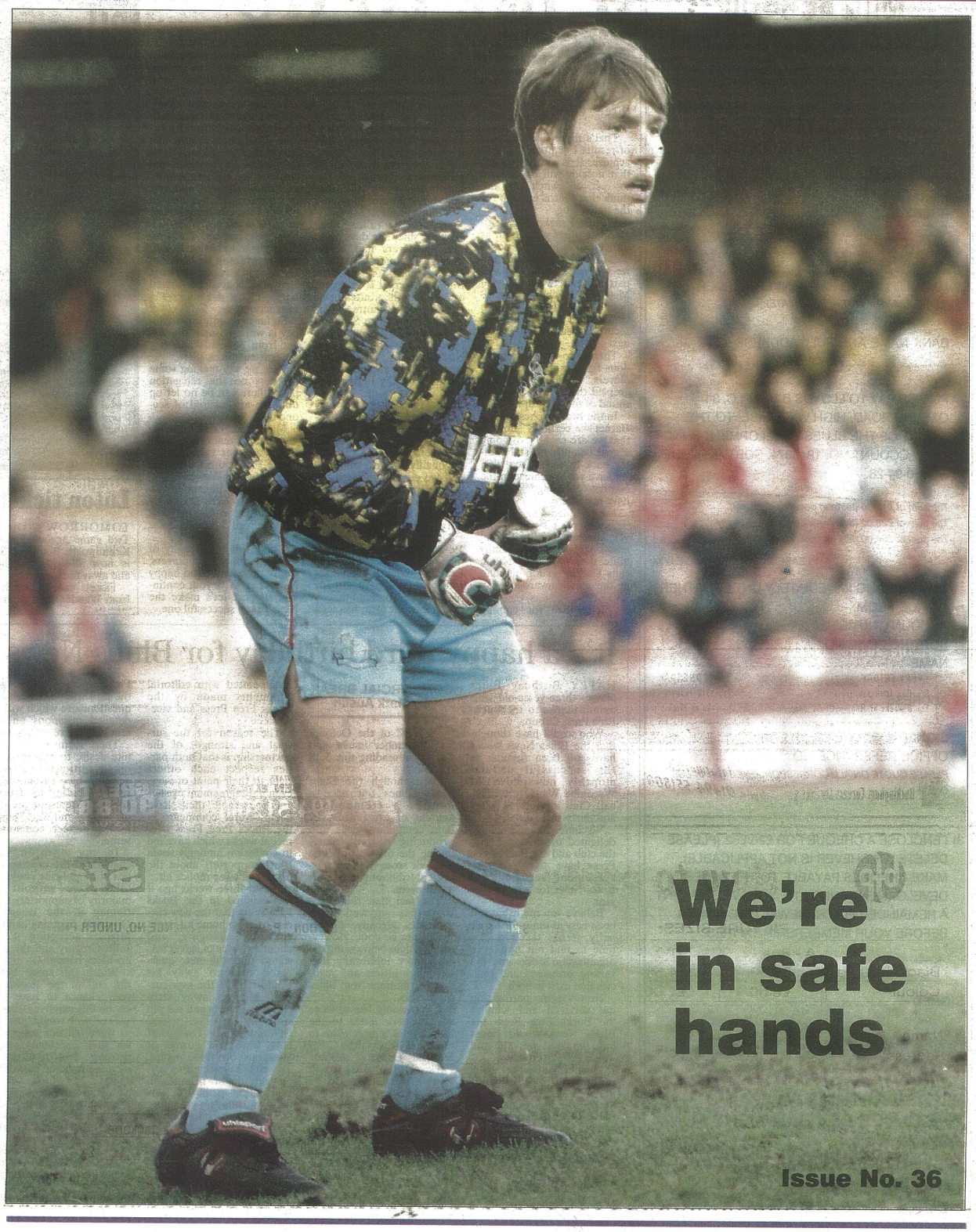
The BLUES NEWS

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



We're in safe hands

Issue No. 36

297794

The Blues SUPER CASHLINE weekly draw

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

SECTION ONE MUST BE COMPLETED AND SECTIONS TWO OR THREE, AS APPLICABLE

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.....

ADDRESS .....

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POSTCODE .....

TEL NO: .....

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BANK NAME AND FULL ADDRESS .....

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The sum of £13.00 (thirteen pounds) quarterly ☐
The sum of £26.00 (twenty six pounds) half yearly ☐
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There's still a lot to do

SINCE our last edition of the Blues News we have embarked upon a good sequence of results with three victories and a draw.

That's more like the kind of results I want this club to achieve. It is also important that nobody will be allowed to rest or switch off and think that that is enough for the time being.

We must make every single match that we play in as difficult as is humanly possible for the opposition and we will need every available pair of legs between now and May 3 to somehow amass 53 points, which I would like to think will be enough to secure Division Two football next season.

Thanks to some tremendous fighting spirit from the players, we have now progressed through to the third round of the FA Cup.

In the two matches against Barnet we certainly showed, that we are capable of going a goal behind and still coming back to win. A feat that we have yet to achieve in the Nationwide League since I have been here.

John Williams has continued to show his worth with yet another cup goal and must have cost his family quite a few quid in phone calls dialling in for his man of the match award on Sky TV!

Our reward for coming through two difficult away ties in the first two rounds is a home draw against first division Bradford City, where we have a chance of progressing through to the fourth round for the very first time in our long and illustrious history.

GREG'S GRAPEVINE
By John Gregory

Of course times have changed since the days when the Wanderers had to go through the process of having to qualify for the first round proper. It is as recent as 1990/91 when, after beating Clapton, Braintree, Harlow and Heybridge Swifts in the qualifying rounds, we beat Chelmsford City and Northampton Town after replays before succumbing to the then mighty Portsmouth 5-0.

Six years later, we now find ourselves firmly established as Football League members and therefore exempt from going through the qualifying process.

If we can get through the tough Bradford match, who knows, yet another achievement to add to this club's fairytale past.

Of course until January 4, 1997 we have a busy Christmas schedule of Nationwide League matches, some of which we will have already played when you read this.

Our current form has seen an improvement throughout the team with two major scalps in Millwall and Chesterfield.

It has been well documented about my aversion to players shooting from ridiculous distances. I would like to add that the options given to players throughout the week on the training ground and particularly in matches, is: "either give the ball to one of your own team-mates or put it in the net".

In this respect, the winning goals by Mickey Bell against Millwall and Miquel Desouza's thunderbolt against Chesterfield carried out the manager's instructions.

So far my positive psychology is working, miss the target from 30 yards and risk the consequences.

Now we are making some progress on the relegation pack, there can be no let up until we are assured of second division survival.

Many congratulations to our youth team who collected another valuable win in the FA Youth Cup when they defeated Wolves 3-2 at Molineux on December 10. They now meet Norwich City in the next round so well done to Neil Smillie and the boys.

I take this opportunity of wishing you, the supporters, a very prosperous and happy New Year. With your continued support let's make the New Year a successful one.

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Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by the Bucks Free Press and Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

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.

Luton tickets

TOMORROW's Division Two game against Luton at Kennilworth Road (ko 3pm) is now all-ticket for home and away fans.

Tickets can be purchased from Wanderers in Town.

It's a happy third birthday for Blues News

HAPPY Birthday Blues News, three-years-old this month thanks to the Bucks Free Press Group.

Who would have thought that the Blues News would have still been running as the successful official monthly newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club after three years and thirty-six issues.

Wycombe Wanderers are delighted to announce that the club and the Bucks Free Press have signed a new agreement securing the Blues News for yet another year.

Believe you me it has not been easy at times for either party, it has taken a long time to find out how each organisation works and the various pressures and policies that exist in both.

However, the partnership has survived and without the Bucks Free Press the Blues News would never have started at all and would not exist today.

I would like to personally thank Claire Hampson-Payne, the Advertisement Manager and Steve Cohen, the BFP Editor for their total commitment and support of the Blues News, and to the sportsdesk.

Hopefully regular Blues News readers will have noticed the improvements to editorial content supplied by WWFC of the October and November issues, and will enjoy reading this 36th edition.

COMMERCIAL BREAK
By Mark Austin

Even though the Blues News comes out once a month, a tremendous amount of extra work, by both companies, goes into producing it, particularly during the off-season when it is not so easy to encourage contributions from staff and players.

The fact that the Blues News has survived three summers already, proves that it can be done. However, the Blues News would be even more interesting if it had more letters and regular contributions from Blues supporters.

If you would like to write an article or letter to the Blues News, simply write to the Blues News at the Commercial Offices, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HJ.

The fact that the Blues News is in the Bucks Free Press has not meant the newspaper can only say nice things about Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and vice-versa.

In-fact the club has occasionally been very disappointed with editorial comments made by the Bucks Free Press and vice-versa.

The reason for the survival and strength of the partnership is that both parties respect each others right to their point of view, even if disagreement exists.

For example there have been several comments in the Bucks Free Press over recent weeks which have led to confusion amongst some Blues supporters about the home and away replica kit.

About three weeks ago it was implied in the Bucks Free Press that the new current Mizuno home kit might soon be changing; and about two weeks ago it was stated that the new quartered Mizuno away kit would replace the new current Mizuno away strip (white with navy and red pin stripes).

Wanderers in Town staff have since had dozens of questions on these issues. The club have acted to correct any doubt, printing an explanation in the Chesterfield matchday programme.

The new current Mizuno home kit will be retained for the whole of the 1996/97 season and beyond, the new current Mizuno white away kit will be retained until the end of the 1997/98 season.

Following the Manager's Forum with John Gregory the club will be publishing a questionnaire which will ask detailed questions on current and future replica kits.

There seems to be a definite desire to move back to our traditional quartered design, which I welcome, as re-introducing quartered replica designs at the manager's and fans request makes perfect commercial sense.

In my opinion, any changes to the existing replica shirt policies could not take place without the majority of supporters sanctioning it, the Board of Directors agreeing with it, Mizuno accepting it and John Gregory and the players being happy.

Watch this space before the end of the season for your chance to have your say on this emotive issue.

Finally, I would just like to thank all our supporters for their excellent support during 1996, with an increase in home gates since John Gregory took over and a higher current average league attendance than during the 1995/96 season (4,573). Up to and including the Millwall match on December 3, Wycombe Wanderers' average 1996/97 season league attendance is 4,771.

See you in the new year.

Just look at us now

THIS birthday edition of Blues News is a timely reminder of what an incredible three years we have experienced at Wycombe Wanderers since our own newspaper was first published in February 1994.

Digging back through my file, I managed to find a copy of that first edition with its front page colour picture of Terry Evans winning the ball off Chris Sutton.

It had been taken during the third round FA Cup tie between Wycombe and Norwich at Adams Park and Sutton later moved to Blackburn Rovers for what was then a British record transfer fee of £5 million.

We had just s ned Lee Turnbull from Doncaster Rovers for a rather more modest £20,000 to strengthen a team, which was then second in the Third Division after four successive league victories during January. Wouldn't it be nice if history was to repeat itself with similar results next month!

Flicking through the pages of the inaugural Blues News, I found articles by Ivor Beeks, Martin O'Neill, Terry Evans and from your's truly.

They all reflected the way the club had adapted so successfully to our first season in professional football. It was, of course, a season which was to end in glory with victory in the Third Division play-off final at Wembley.

I also have in my records the Christmas editions of

By Alan Parry

Blues News for 1994 and 1995.

The 1994 version features an action shot of Simon Garner and it's a suitable moment to send good wishes to 'Garns' and hope that he's back home for the festive celebrations.

Simon had just scored a hat-trick against Hitchin Town to send us through to the third round of the FA Cup and a home draw against West Ham.

That caused a few problems in the Parry household since my 'other half' Gill is a season ticket holder at the Hammers. In the event, West Ham won and I had to lock her out for the night!

The rest of that Blues News talked of Martin O'Neill's decision to say no to Leicester City and remain as manager of Wycombe. How ironic to find Martin helping to win games for Leicester in the Premiership just two years later.

Incidentally, the team were lying third in the Second Division going into the Christmas fixtures in 1994 and we ended the season in sixth place, missing out on a play-off place by just three points.

Optimism a year on, and with Alan Smith now in charge, Blues News for December 1995 reported the start of work on a magnificent new stand at Adams Park.

The paper also printed a letter from a supporter which read: "I am getting increasingly aggravated by some Wycombe fans ... there is often a pessimistic attitude and the atmosphere this season has been very gloomy. To look at the fans' faces, you'd think that Wycombe were in the bottom four".

With another huge irony, Christmas 1996, and this latest edition of Blues News does find us in the bottom four. But what a difference in the mood at Adams Park.

Despite our disappointing results, there is an air of real optimism at the Wanderers as another new year approaches. Everywhere you look, people are smiling and our fans are enjoying watching us play again.

John Gregory and Richard Hill have made a big difference in a short period of time. The manager has changed the team's style of play to a method which both players and supporters clearly enjoy.

We are not playing like a team near the bottom of the table and I sincerely believe that we won't be at the bottom for much longer.

We have made some excellent new signings and the transfer activity has by no means ended. The success of this club has been based on ambition and determination and in those respects nothing has changed. We will get it right.

I would like to wish all of you a marvellous new year and thank you once again for your unflinching, loyal support, throughout what has been a very difficult 12 months.



Fans favourite: Steve McGavin receives his award

Supporters say Mac's super

STRIKER Steve McGavin was happy to receive his award after being named October's Verco Supporters Player of the Month.

McGavin was presented with his award by Verco managing director Derek Vere.

But the presentation also proved a special moment for Sharon Healey, who got to meet the player she sponsors in Blues' Mark Your Man scheme.

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IN SHORT

Talkers are back

ANOTHER series of popular sportsmans dinners have been organised at Adams Park.

Talks by top sports stars have always proved popular and the club has lined up some great guests, with a lifetime of stories up their sleeves, for the coming year.

The first will be on Monday, January 27, with Frank McLintock as the guest speaker, he will be joined by comedian Sid Tate.

On Monday, March 17 Ian Robertson will talk at the club. Comedian Denny Waters will join him.

The following month on Thursday, April 17 Fred Trueman will be at the club with a few tales to tell. The comedian will be Ronnie Stewart.

On Monday, May 19 Jackie Blanchflower will visit the club along with comedian Mike Pugh.

To book any of the above, call (01494) 472100. Prices include a five course dinner and entertainment.

Happy shopping

Wanderers in Town, which is situated in the Octagon Shopping Centre, will continue business over the holiday period.

The shop opening hours will be as usual today and over the weekend, but next week the shop will only be open between 11am and 3pm on New Year's day.

The commercial offices will be closed today and for the rest of the weekend. They will re-open on Monday and Tuesday between 10am and 4pm. They will be closed New Year's day but open again on January 2 between 9am and 5.30pm.

■Wanderers in Town will be holding their new year sale from Monday, January 6.

Doors open at 9am.

Wanderers latest signing lets Blues News into a few secrets

Life's a lottery for Cornforth

FULL NAME: John Michael Cornforth
DATE OF BIRTH: October 7, 1967
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 13.5 stone
CAR: BMW 3 Series
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: John (five), Jessica 4 (four), Sam (two in January)
DAD'S JOB: Sports Editor for newspaper
BROTHERS & SISTERS: Four brothers
FAMILY PETS: No
NICKNAME AT CLUB: Corny

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD?
To become a footballer and be rich.

WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW?
To be rich and get back in Welsh Team.

WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO?
Glenn Hoddle.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE?
Seeing my son Sam born, and my Welsh debut.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE?
Not winning the lottery.

WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?
Losing to Birmingham in the area final of the Autoglass a year after lifting the trophy for Swansea. Losing to West Bromwich Albion in a play-off.

WHICH PRESENT-DAY FOOTBALLER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST?
Alan Shearer.

WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN?
George Best.

WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?
My Dad and Frank Burrows.



Cornforth: Believes kebabs give him a special edge on the park!

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED?
Stoichkov, Kinkladzee.

WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?
Frank Burrows.

WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER?
Working in McDonalds.

AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT?
149 break in snooker.

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A FOOTBALL PITCH?
Vinny Jones singing Welsh Anthem.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?
Missing a penalty away at Nuneaton in the FA Cup. We lost 1-0.

WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY?
Newcastle United.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?
St.James Park and Cardiff Arms.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY?
Snooker and golf.

DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME?
Kebabs.

AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN?
Steven Hendry, Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?
Welsh Caps, Autoglass winners medal.

DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?
No.

IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT?
Winning Masters Golf.

WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL?
Pre-seasons.

WHAT ARE YOU PET HATES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL?
Speed limits.

FAVOURITES
TV PROGRAMME: Crocodile Shoes
POP STAR/GROUP: Gary Glitter
FOOD: Ham & Peas Pudding Stottie
DRINK: Anything that's bought for me
FILM: Dumb & Dumber
FILM STAR: Jim Carey
HOLIDAY RESORT: Minorca
TV STAR: Timmy Mallett
COMEDIAN: Chubby Brown
CITY: Newcastle
SOAP: EastEnders
SOAP CHARACTERS: Grant Mitchell

Compiled by Steve Hayes

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297657

Win yourself a very hospitable day out at the Park

TO celebrate the opening of Wycombe Wanderers' new 5,000 seater stand, the club is running a special hospitality box corporate draw.

Each entry is guaranteed a VIP day out for two people at a Wanderers Division Two home game during this season and an autographed Wanderers football.

The winner will win exclusive use of an executive box for ten people at Adams Park, plus an advert in the relevant matchday programme.

The package includes: official car park passes in the Adams Park car park; a guided tour of the stadium; an exclusive visit by the Wycombe Wanderers manager; ten complimentary matchday programmes; a hot and cold buffet for you and your guests; ten seats directly outside the executive box; tea, coffee and biscuits at half time; access to a bar and the use of a private fridge; and ten official autographed Wycombe Wanderers footballs.

The VIP day out for two people includes: pre-match talk by the Wycombe Wanderers manager; an official car parking pass in Adams Park car park; a guided tour of the stadium; two complimentary matchday programmes; a four course waitress served meal in the Centre Spot restaurant; two premium seats in the main stand; tea, coffee and biscuits at half time in the Vere Suite; access to the players bar post match; company or individual name in the relevant matchday programme; and an official autographed Wycombe Wanderers football.

Entrants of the draw will be able to have their VIP day on any of the following match dates: Bradford City, January 4; Peterborough United, January 11; York City, January 25; Crewe Alexandra, February 8; Bristol Rovers, March 8; Shrewsbury Town, March 29; Blackpool, April 5, AFC Bournemouth, April 19, Bristol City, May 3.

The entry fee for the business draw is only £50 plus VAT, giving you the possibility of winning over £800 worth of matchday corporate entertaining at Adams Park.

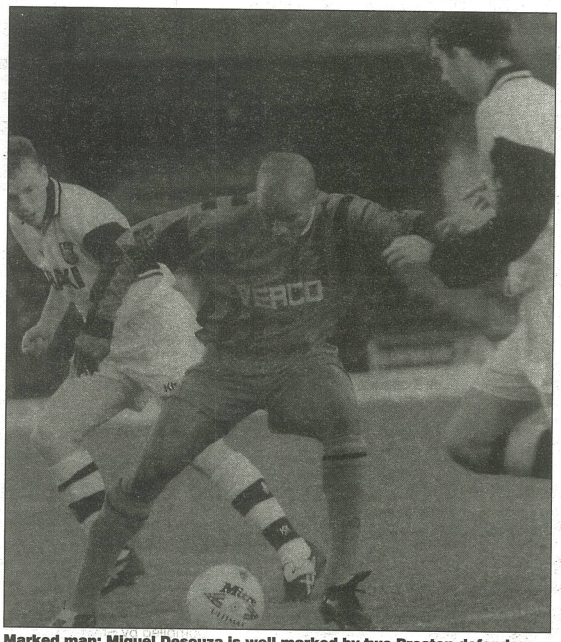
The draw will take place at half time on Saturday, February 22.

To enter send a cheque for £58.75 made payable to Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and the details below to Tim Arnold, Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 4HJ.

Details needed with your entry are: Name of Business (contact name if appropriate), address and day time telephone number.

If you wish to pay by Access or Visa card, make sure you include your card number, expiry date and your signature.

Get shirty with Mike



Marked man: Miquel Desouza is well marked by two Preston defenders and Hampden Saw Mills

NEW signing Michael Forsyth is currently unsponsored in the club's Mark Your Man scheme.

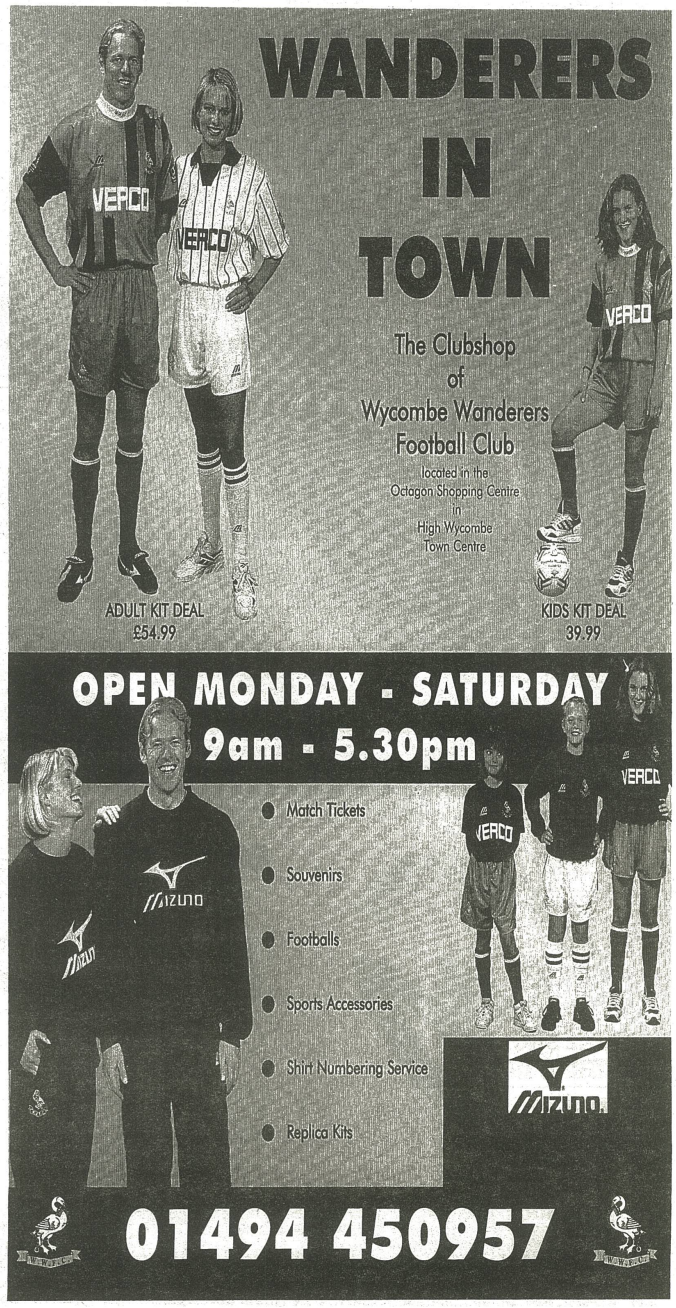
For the price of £200 plus VAT, you could receive your name alongside his headshot in next season's Wycombe Wanderers matchday programmes, involvement in the player of the month presentations, if he is chosen, and two tickets for the last home league fixture of the season.

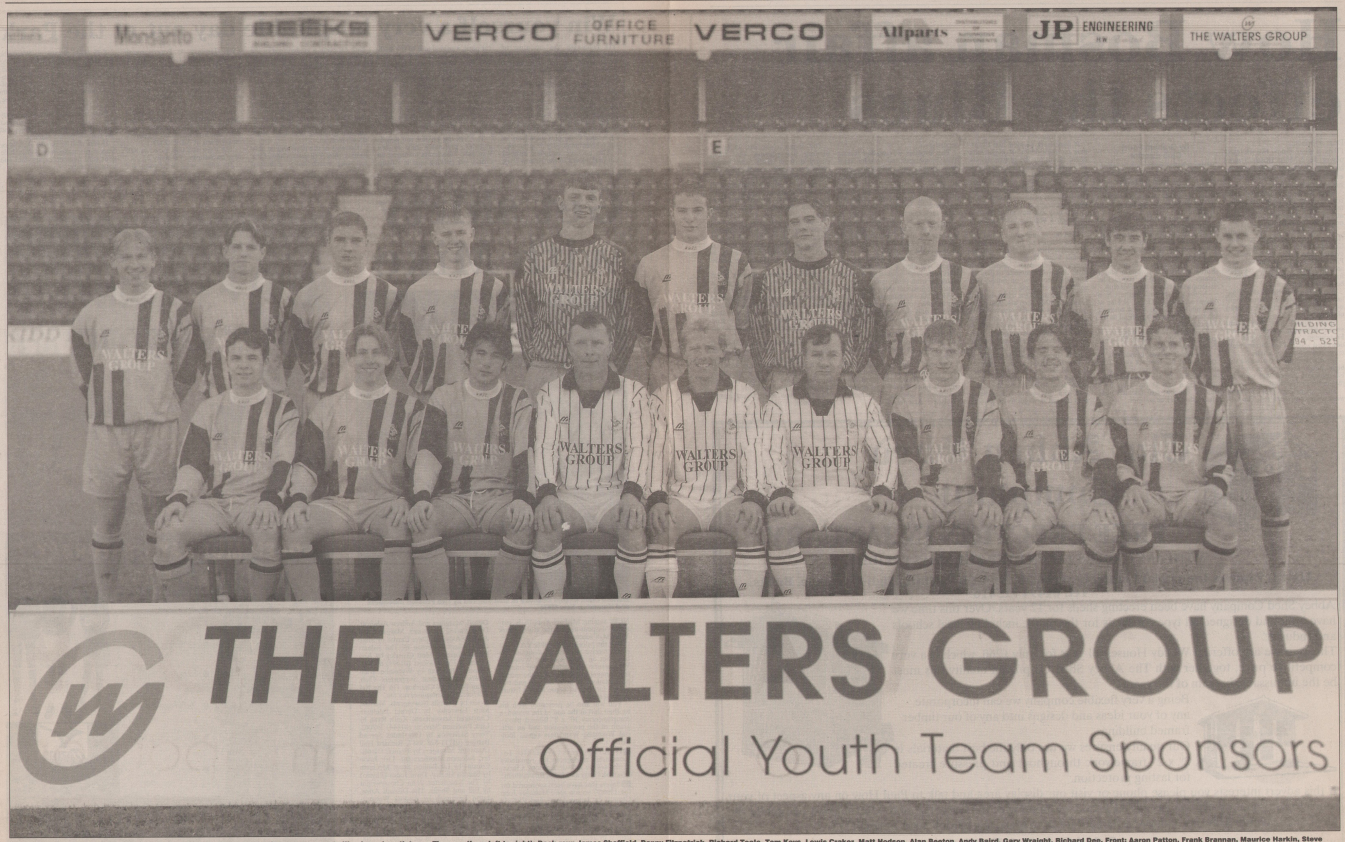
You will also be presented with his football shirt at the end of the season, a complimentary 10" x 8" framed photograph of the presentation and an official Wycombe Wanderers signed football.

■Other players available for sponsorship throughout the remainder of the season include Anthony Clarke, Brian McGorry and Jason Rowbotham.

■Players that have 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 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 Hall (Assistant Manager) by Francis Glenister, Salomon Brothers Int. Ltd, Jason Cousins by Liz Baines, Steve McGavin by Sharon Healey, Dave Jones (Physio) by The Smurfettes, John Cheesewright by Bill and Sheila, The Disraeli Arms, Jason Kavanagh by Andrea Webster-Brown, Neil Smillie by The Blues Supporters Club (01494) 563697, John Cornforth by Coach No.1 The Blues Supporters Club.

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





LAST month it was the first team, now this month Blues News devotes its centre pages to Wanderers' youth team. They are (from left to right): 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 (youth development officer), Martin Rowlands, Lee Allen, Jeff Lamb.

How Bosman affair effects the Blues

by Graham Peart
Club director

Dear supporter,
IT is a year since the Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman won his long battle to gain freedom to play for who he wished when his contract expired.

Much has been written about the consequences of this historic ruling for the greatest clubs but not much attention has been paid to the effect on the smaller clubs, like our own.

Several effects have been identified at the Wanderers already. Combined with the vast sums of television money due to be paid to Premiership clubs starting next season, the changes in the market place for players for Division Two clubs is bound to be significant.

Before Bosman, the wealthy English clubs had already started looking at the best mainland European players.

Spurs found that they could attract Klinsmen, Leeds a certain Frenchman, etc. Alan Sugar has described some of the foreign players as "transitory mercenaries".

In other words, if the wages are high enough then many of the best EU national players will come to play in the premiership.

There are no legal problems as no work permits are required. The cash paid to the foreign selling club as a transfer fee is money that only a few years previously would have found its way down to the smaller clubs in England.

In fact, the problem is now so great that there are virtually no players being transfered from Division Two or three clubs direct to the Premiership. Why has this sad state of affairs come about?

Well, it is simple. In mainland European countries when a player comes to the end of his contract he is completely free to leave his club.

At the present time in the UK, a player is not free to leave, as long as his club has offered a new contract on terms at least as beneficial as the old contract.

The difference seems trivial but is the crux of the problem for small Nationwide League clubs.

The foreign player is available at the end of his contract on a free transfer, the UK player is not. It is not difficult to see why clubs like West Ham and Derby, who have limited budgets, sign talented non-nationals on a free transfer.

It must have seemed like Christmas for these clubs! It might have been, except for the players agents, who quite reasonably argued that as his clients last club could not demand a transfer fee then some of that 'saving' would be paid to the player by way of a signing on fee and very high wages.

You may ask why all of this has had such a negative effect on your club.

Well the wealthy clubs found that they had an excess of players. Some of these worthy and talented professionals found themselves without a game and in order to display their skills they were prepared to play for Division One clubs, on similar personal terms of course.

The Division One clubs in turn found that they then also had a few good players available who would be prepared to play in Division Two. The problem is that very few Division Two clubs have sufficient average attendance figures and income to enable them to pay these willing players Division-One type wages.

Previously, transfer monies received when selling their better players to higher division clubs would have balanced out the equation. But this money is now being paid instead in wages to the foreign superstars.

That explains why market forces have intervened and transfer fees demanded by clubs selling to lower division clubs have dramatically reduced.

There are exceptions to all of the above situations of course. I would not describe Monsieur Cantona as being mercenary.

An added twist to this tale will probably come into effect next season. English players will also be free agents at the end of their contracts once over the age of 24.

The likely situation is that young players will sign a long term contract with their original club when changing from youth team status to senior professional at the age of 18.

All of these changes mean that our full time youth team which commenced only 18 months ago will become the focal point of the future of the club.

If we do not produce at least a half of the senior squad via our own youth policy we will not remain in business.

One very beneficial effect of this great upheaval is that to good young players the Wanderers youth team will be a more attractive proposition compared to joining big clubs like Chelsea or Arsenal.

The larger clubs are currently playing few players who have emerged from their own youth development system as they are filling up with foreign stars.

Therefore, unless a young hopeful is a budding Ryan Giggs he is more likely to progress to first team football with Wycombe Wanderers than Spurs.

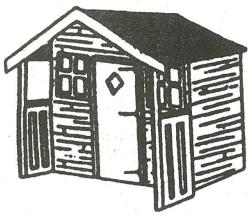
If he turns out to have exceptional talent it will still be noticed by the bigger clubs and he will still be able to progress. I just hope that the next master Beckham/Neville/Heskey is currently being trained at our centre of excellence.

Turning to other matters when Millwall came to town recently it was bottom entertaining top. Bottom won and came off the bottom whilst knocking top from the top.

Great game, but played in front of only 4,500. Were you there? And what a difference 45 minutes can make.

At half-time at Barnet, trailing 2-0 the world was definitely going to end. Three-quarters-of-an-hour later it was 3-3 and we're going to be in the hat for the third round draw. Great joy. Isn't it difficult to watch cup games and retain sanity.

Let the rush of new year games commence.



The Abbey Shed Company

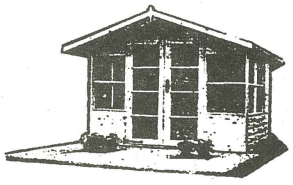
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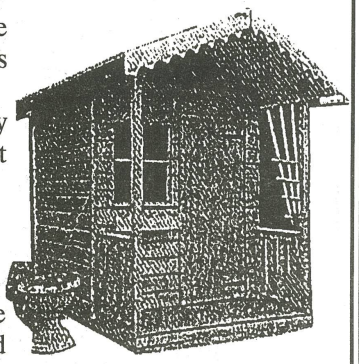
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If this advert interests you please phone or visit our display area and talk to Paul How on any aspect of your special requirements. All advice is FREE and we hope with our expertise and your help we can make the ideal Shed, Wendy House, Chalet or Summer House to grace any garden large or small.

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298767

Neil's cubs send Wolves packing

WYCOMBE Wanderers youth team's cup runs are still very much in the news.

Last month in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup we had a fantastic 3-2 victory against Tottenham Hotspur at St Albans to secure a home quarter final tie with Birmingham City.

And two weeks ago in the FA Youth Cup we travelled to Molineux to play Wolverhampton Wanderers. First half goals from Alan Beeton, Arron Patton and a Martin Rowlands penalty secured us another 3-2 victory. This was another excellent all round team performance.

In the third round we have been drawn away to Norwich City who beat Swansea City 6-0 last week. The game is due to be played early in January. The management and team were all extremely appreciative of the support we had at Molineux and it would be fantastic if we could attract similar support in Norfolk.

Youth team manager Neil Smillie was over the moon when young Mo Harkin was called up for first team action in the FA Cup at Barnet. From all reports when Mo came on he made a very positive contribution to the game. He also featured as a second half substitute in the replay which was televised live on Sky.

Youth team report

Let us hope Maurice is the first of many young players who will come through our youth team to make first team appearances at Wycombe.

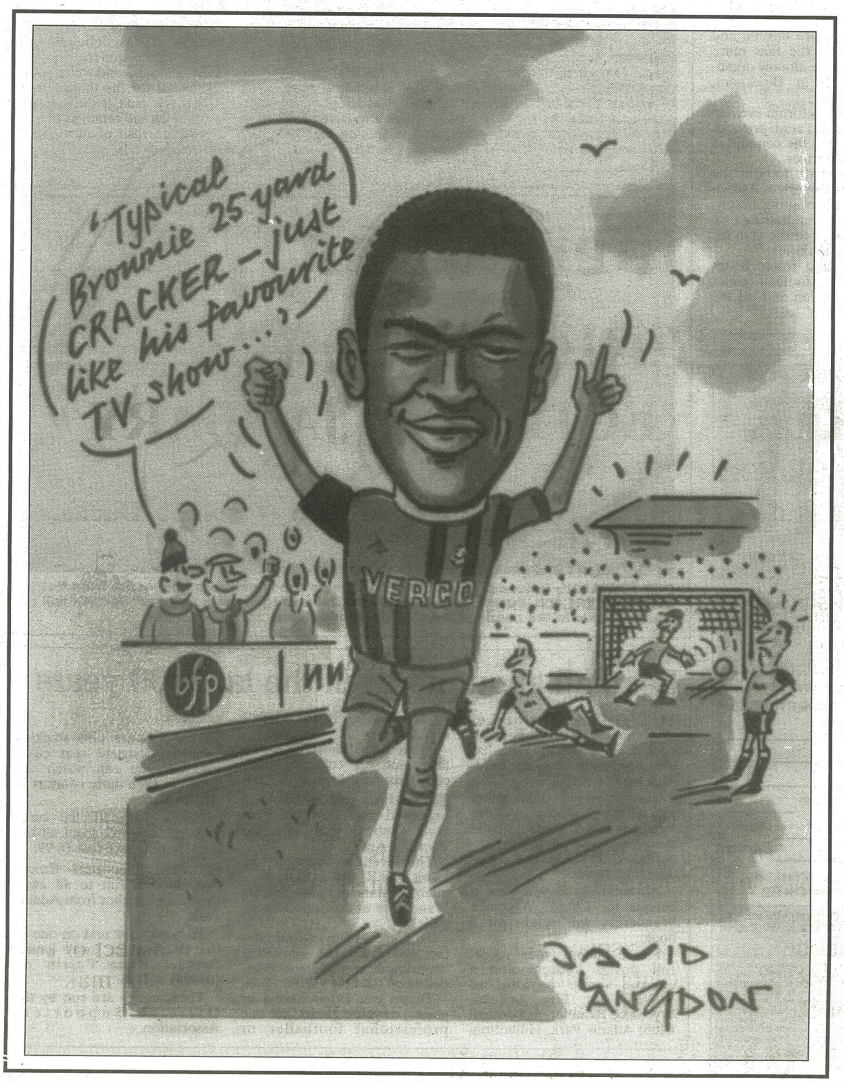
Big Lewis Craker has had his knee operation and is now back down at the club starting on his road to recovery. We all wish him the very best.

The November Player of The Month was won jointly by Alan Beeton and Tom Keys.

Neil Smillie and Adrian Cole (our new youth development officer) ran what will hopefully be the first of many mini-tournaments involving local schools representative sides from the High Wycombe area at Bisham recently, in their quest to get more involved in the local community.

Adrian who can be contacted at the football club on (01494) 472100 hopes once the boys have seen what Wycombe Wanderers have to offer, the best boys from the area will look to us rather than other football clubs. Training facilities at Bisham Abbey are second to none for our Schools of Excellence, you only have to ask the English national team.

Finally, Neil and the management team would like to send New Year greetings to all involved with the youth set-up, with special thanks to John Walters of the Walters Group who sponsor our Youth Team, Alex Tuckerman of Servispak who sponsor our Schools of Excellence and the Morgan Angel Foundation who also do work with our youth team.



Special buses running for Blues matches

FIVE special football services run from the areas set out in the following text. These specials pick up passengers at all the bus stops along the routes listed and take them to Adams Park.

Also detailed are the special buses arranged by Wycombe Bus Company.

These special bus services operate for all home league games.

Please note: Persons in possession of a concessionary fares permit, under 16s and senior citizens travel at half-fare. (All fares given are for a return ticket.)

Route A (operated by Classic Coaches) from:
The Common, Holmer Green, Saturday 1.30pm, Weekday 6.15pm, fare £2; Park Parade, Saturday 1.35pm, Weekday 6.20pm, fare £2; Hazlemere Crossroads, Saturday, 1.40pm, Weekday 6.25pm, fare £2; Tyzack Road/Totteridge Lane, Saturday 1.47pm, Weekday 6.32pm, fare £1.50; Hollis Road, Saturday 1.49pm, Weekday 6.34pm, fare £1.50; Hicks Farm Rise, Saturday 1.51pm, Weekday 6.36pm, fare £1.50; Micklefield Road, Saturday 1.53pm, Weekday 6.38pm, fare £1.50; Wycombe Marsh, Saturday 1.58pm, Weekday 6.43pm, fare £1.50; Homebase, Hatters Lane, Saturday 2pm, Weekday 6.45pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.15pm, Weekday 7pm.

Route B (operated by Classic Coaches) from:
Blind Lane, Green Dragon, Saturday 1.25pm, Weekday 6.10pm, fare £2; Bourne End, The Parade, Saturday 1.30pm, Weekday 6.15pm, fare £2; Cores End Road, Saturday 1.34pm, Weekday 6.19pm, fare £2; The Green, Saturday 1.39pm, Weekday 6.24pm, fare £2; Boundary Road, Saturday 1.42pm, Weekday 6.27pm, fare £2; Station Road, Saturday 1.44pm, Weekday 6.29pm, fare £2; Rayners Avenue, Saturday 1.49pm, Weekday 6.34pm, fare £2; Hatters Lane, Saturday 1.54pm, Weekday 6.39pm, fare £2; Hillary Road, Saturday 1.56pm, Weekday 6.41pm, fare £1.50; Totteridge Road/Healey Avenue, Saturday 1.58pm, Weekday 6.43pm, fare £1.50; Bowerdean/London Road, Saturday 2pm, Weekday 6.45pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.15pm, Weekday 7pm.

Route C (operated by Classic Coaches) from:
Mill Lane, Monks Risborough, Saturday 1.40pm, Weekday 6.15pm, fare £2; Place Farm Way, Saturday 1.42pm, Weekday 6.17pm, fare £2; Princes Risborough Market Place, Saturday 1.45pm, Weekday 6.20pm, fare £2; Lacey Green, The Whip, Saturday 1.51pm, Weekday 6.26pm, fare £2; Walters Ash, Prestwood, Saturday 1.55pm, Weekday 6.30pm, fare £2; Naphill Post Office, Saturday 1.59pm, Weekday 6.34pm, fare £2; Coombe Lane Bottom, Saturday 2.03pm, Weekday 6.38pm, fare £2; Hughenden Avenue, Saturday 2.06pm, Weekday 6.41pm, fare £1.50; The Pastures, Saturday 2.09pm, Weekday 6.44pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.25pm, Weekday 7pm.

Route D (operated by Classic Coaches) from:
Penn Post Office, Saturday 1.30pm, Weekday 6.20pm, fare £2; Church Road, Saturday 1.32pm, Weekday 6.22pm, fare £2; New Road, Saturday 1.34pm, Weekday 6.24pm, fare £2; Curzon Avenue, Saturday 1.36pm, Weekday 6.26pm, fare £2; Rose Avenue, Saturday 1.40pm, Weekday 6.30pm, fare £2; Hazlemere Crossroads, Saturday 1.45pm, Weekday 6.35pm, fare £2; Terriers, Saturday 1.50pm, Weekday 6.40pm, fare £1.50; Hamilton Road, Saturday 1.58pm, Weekday 6.48pm, fare £1.50; Hughenden Road, Saturday 2.02pm, Weekday 6.52pm, fare £1.50; The Pastures, Saturday 2.05pm, Weekday 6.55pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.20pm, Weekday 7.10pm.

Route E (operated by Classic Coaches) from:
Micklefield Road/Woodside Road, Saturday 1.40pm, Weekday 6.25pm, fare £1.50; Hicks Farm Rise, Saturday 1.45pm, Weekday 6.30pm, fare £1.50; Totteridge Drive, Saturday 1.50pm, Weekday 6.35pm, fare £1.50; Arnison Avenue/Walton Drive, Saturday 1.53pm, Weekday 6.38pm, £1.50; Totteridge Road/Morning Star, Saturday 1.55pm, Weekday 6.40pm, fare £1.50; Wycombe train station, Saturday 2pm, Weekday 6.45pm, fare £1.50, WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.15pm, Weekday 7pm.

●Return service departs from Adams Park 15 minutes after the final whistle. Single flat fare from the ground to any point en route is £1.50 with some concessions.

Football Specials
High Wycombe train station: Evenings 6.35pm (arr 6.50pm), 7.05pm (arr 7.20pm), Saturdays 1.55pm (arr 2.10pm), 2.25pm (arr 2.40pm).

High Wycombe bus station: Evenings 6.40pm (arr 6.50pm), 7.10pm (arr 7.20pm), Saturdays 2pm (arr 2.10pm), 2.30pm (arr 2.40pm).

●Buses return to the station ten minutes after the final whistle.

Further information from Classic Coaches, on (01494) 717818, or Wycombe Bus Company, on (01494) 520941.

10 THE BLUES NEWS

Give them a birthday to remember

ANYONE wanting to provide the perfect birthday gift for a Wanderers supporter need look no further.

With the construction of the new executive boxes in the Servispak Stand Wycombe Wanderers are offering a special deal on a birthday box as a trial offer.

The package will include: car park passes; tickets for a party of ten people; sandwiches pre-match; matchday programmes; tour of the facilities; half time happy birthday PA announcement; half time refreshments; and a Wycombe Wanderers signed football.

This special package is available on a trial offer and is open to children's parties celebrating birthdays of anyone aged under 16.

Each party can have a maximum of four adults attending the Wanderers match along with the children.

Price for the birthday box offer is £180 plus VAT, unless the birthday child is a Junior Blue, and in which case the cost is £150 plus VAT.

To make your birthday box reservation contact Mark Austin or Tim Arnold at the club on (01494) 472100.

The offer and bookings will be subject to availability.

Cup tickets go on sale

TICKETS for Wycombe's FA Cup third round tie with Bradford City at Adams Park on January 4 are now available.

They can either be obtained from the commercial offices at Adams Park, at Wanderers in Town in the Octagon shopping centre or by ringing the credit card hotline.

Quest continues to support the Wanderers on and off the pitch

We're your No1 fans

by Colin Strange
Chairman of the Official WW Supporters Association

AS the year draws to a close I thought I would highlight some of the things that have been happening in our association.

The year started productively with a meeting between the association, Ivor Beeks and Graham Peart in February. The members expressed their views about various matters concerning the club.

In April, we organised and supplied the prizes for the penalty shoot-out at our home game with Oxford United.

May saw our first end of season dinner where a trophy was donated by Dave Bassett for our annual Supporters Player of the Year award which was promptly presented to Dave Carroll.

At the beginning of this season, we took over the running of the supporters coaches from the club.

We felt we could be more flexible and respond to the wishes of the fans more readily. To this end we have already organised three extra events at Blackpool, Bournemouth and Wolves.

September saw us stage a forum evening with the players, chairman and previous manager and in November, the committee again met some of the directors.

An application was made to join the National Federation of Supporters Association, to which we are still awaiting a reply.

This month, through fundraising, we donated a fitter ski trainer to the club for the treatment of ligament injuries.

We continue to try and foster better relationships with other football clubs, while supporting our club on and off the field. Best wishes for 1997.



ONE TO WATCH: Defender Michael Forsyth joined the Wanderers this month from Notts County for £25,000. Described by Blues boss John Gregory as a "winner" Forsyth will no doubt feature in the coming issues of the Blues News.

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Read all about it – well the last 109 years

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

The 260-page publication, which was 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 you a book.

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 4HJ.

All advanced subscribers who have not yet collected their copy must now do so.

■A celebrity golf day has been organised at Chartridge Park Golf Club in Chesham for Tuesday, April 1.

The event, sponsored by Lewis DMR, will include Premiership stars and players from Wanderers and is open to all golfers.

To book a team of four contact the sales and marketing department at Wycombe Wanderers on (01494) 472100.

Teams can either have four guests, or three guests and one professional footballer or celebrity.

■The club are now stocking specially designed seat cushions, so you can watch the match in even more comfort at Adams Park.

Italian designed, the cushions are available from all the usual outlets, and cost £4.99.

■Official Supporters Executive Coaches run to all away first team matches from Adams Park.

To book your seat on one of the coaches for away games contact Rena Perrin on (01494) 882196.

The coaches are run by the Official Supporters Association.

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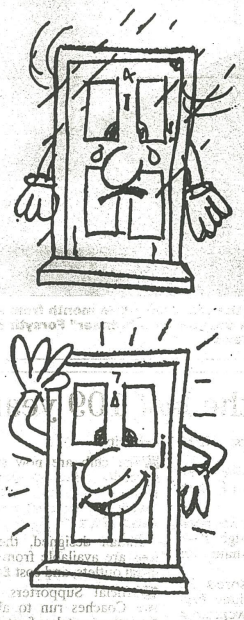
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Blues make fine Santa

THE game at Watford was one of the most depressing I can remember.

Many loyal supporters made the short trip to witness a game that until the final minute looked as if we were going to be unlucky to only collect one point. One lapse in concentration and we once again ended up with nothing.

I was to meet one of my good friends Keith Millen after the game. We were team mates together at Brentford for eight years and still keep in regular contact but it is fair to say that I am not the best person to be around when we lose and could not face going into the bar.

My sending off at home to Preston was my first for Wycombe, I know it was a late challenge but it looked worse than it really was. I personally feel that it was no more than a yellow card offence.

The sending off meant missing three games with the only plus being a little rest which gives time for niggling injuries to settle down ready for the hectic Christmas programme.

I did not agree with many refereeing decisions on that day, in my position it is difficult to criticise officials especially as further fines could follow. However, at least the children's ward at Wycombe Hospital benefited.

All players' fines are put into a pool to buy Christmas presents for those less fortunate than ourselves. The whole team visited the kids which was really worthwhile and humbling.

CAPTAIN'S LOG
By Terry Evans

When fines are deducted we are not best pleased but when you see children receiving presents because of our indiscretions then it is clearly an excellent idea.

The boss has acted quickly to strengthen the squad, Jason Kavanagh has now signed,for the club permanently together with John Cornforth from Birmingham, Michael Forsyth from Notts County, with Michael Simpson on loan also from Notts County. There is now more competition for places which can only be good for the club.

On Tuesday, December 10 we had our annual players' Christmas party, the theme being bad taste which was much easier for some than others. The lads made a really good effort, Migs brought a camera so hopefully some of the pictures may yet appear in this column.

I would like to congratulate Neil and his YTS lads on their excellent win at Molineux in the FA Youth Cup which sees them play Norwich away in the next round.

I am sure that you would all join me in wishing both Terry Howard and Steve Thompson the very best of luck for Woking in the next round of the FA Cup away at Coventry, especially as this is a game that I feel they can win.

I am sure supporters like to hear about ex-Wycombe players, one of the favourites to grace Adams Park, Simon Garner looked as if he was about to spend Christmas in prison. He was initially sent down for nine months for contempt of court over an issue of maintenance with his ex-wife.

Fortunately, an appeal on the Thursday before Christmas was successful and he was released. I must admit to not fully understanding the circumstances but whatever the reasons surely there must have been a better solution than to take away the liberty of a man who has given so much pleasure to people for nearly 20 years.

In a letter before his release he stated that Woking had cancelled his contract so he was eligible to play for the prison side and not surprisingly scored six times. He asked to be remembered to everybody at Wycombe and mentioned that even though it is tough being at the bottom of the league, it is far worse being locked up.

As I was still ineligible to play in the FA Cup replay, I took the opportunity of spending some of the game with friends in one of our executive boxes, the view was excellent even if you do not want to venture outside.

Over the years I have sampled hospitality at many grounds but can confirm that the facilities we have at Adams Park are as good as, if not better, than the best in the country. The performance by the lads capped a great evening. In previous games I felt we had not had the rub of the green, we rode our luck early on but in truth ran out comfortable winners even after a late scare.



Christmas cheer: Terry Evans and Matt Crossley play Santa during their visit to Wycombe Hospital

I was of course delighted to be named in the starting line up away at Bristol, it is always very difficult to watch games especially when fit so it was good to get back into action following the suspension.

This was easily our best battling performance under the boss, at 3-1 we could have fallen to pieces but we showed plenty of character to claw our way back into the game. It is always good to score but a late winner in a game that earlier had looked lost was especially satisfying. I felt the lads were in a different class, more performances like that will see us quickly climb the league.

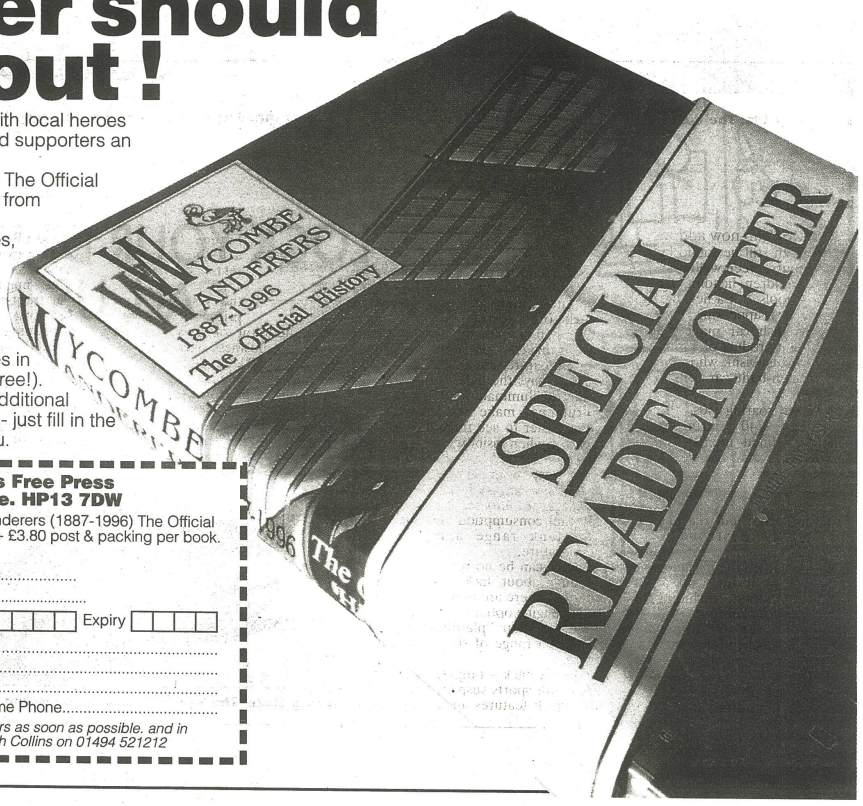
Finally, on behalf of all the lads I hope all supporters had a fantastic Christmas and will enjoy a very happy new year.

At last, the book no true Blues supporter should be without!

The Bucks Free Press has teamed up with local heroes Wycombe Wanderers to bring readers and supporters an exceptional and unique offer.

"Wycombe Wanderers FC (1887 - 1996) The Official History" spans a lifetime of the Blues right from the very first kick off, and is absolutely packed with snippets of information, tables, honours, stats, game records, pictures - everything you ever needed to know (and lots more besides).

A must for Blues fans of all ages, the book is exceptional value at £16.95 and available from the Bucks Free Press offices in Gomm Road (where parking is easy and free!). Alternatively we can mail it to you for an additional £3.80 to cover post and packing charges - just fill in the coupon below and we'll do the rest for you.



To: "BLUES" OFFER, Bucks Free Press
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Please send me.....copies of "Wycombe Wanderers (1887-1996) The Official History" by Dave Finch & Steve Peart, at £16.95 + £3.80 post & packing per book. I enclose payment as follows:-

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