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1884–1984



A History of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

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FOREWORD

By SIR STANLEY ROUS, C.B.E.



High Wycombe is well known for its industry and schools but its reputation during a hundred years has been enhanced by its football club —The Wycombe Wanderers F.C. In its long life the club has contributed much to the town and also to the history of the game and has been a valued member of The Football Association and the Berks & Bucks County F.A.

No doubt the highlights of the club's history will be recorded in this handbook. From my many visits and close connections with the club over the years, first as a referee, then as Secretary of The Football Association and now as a spectator, I recall its successes in the Isthmian League Championship which they won several times, the last being in 1982-83, in the F.A. Amateur Cup as well as some exciting F.A. Cup runs. Wycombe Wanderers toured many parts of the world and produced several amateur international players. The club is now a credit to the present non-league football structure.

Wycombe Wanderers F.C. have played on their ground—Loakes Park—since 1895, by permission of Lord Carrington at that time. In 1947 Loakes Park was given to them by one of their oldest and most distinguished players, Frank Adams, whose death occurred in 1981. His memorial service was held in the Parish Church; it might quite rightly have been held at Loakes Park, a shrine where he played and latterly attended regularly. The ground has been well-known for its sloping surface. Opponents wrongly claim that it is worth a two goal lead!

Wycombe Wanderers had other distinguished officials who have administered the club wisely and soundly. The visitors have always enjoyed the welcome and hospitality extended to them. Many will remember the large assembly in the town hall on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary and I am sure the members are all looking forward to the centenary celebrations.

I congratulate Mr. Brian Lee and his energetic committee on their hard work and dedication and wish them and Wycombe Wanderers F.C. continued success and prosperity in the unforeseeable future of football.

Stanley Rous

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES . . .

The celebration of a Centenary in any context is a remarkable milestone in the life of an organisation and Wycombe Wanderers has a history of which it can be justifiably proud.

I have been privileged to be involved in only the last few years but these years have seen some dramatic changes. They have merged in modern day society and, no doubt, there are many more to come, which makes this book even more important. The introduction of television, the increase in leisure time and shorter working week, floodlit football, the ease of travel for tours, the abolishment of the amateur status and fewer people watching the game. Through all these changes though it has been our forefathers who had the vision and set the standards at Loakes Park. They have proved themselves to be a band of men whose dedication and enthusiasm has carried the Club to its present celebration.

Wycombe Wanderers has been a name to conjure with in the football world for over a century. The preparation of this history has necessitated a tremendous amount of research and is so well documented in the following pages, we owe Stephen Daglish a debt of gratitude for the task he has undertaken so well.

The past merely sets the stage for the future. The Club has an enviable past but as long as there are games to be played, home or abroad, further honours to be won, we shall be around.

I further hope that you enjoy the history, that it revives memories and stirs enthusiasm for the future. Soccer is a wonderful game of opportunities, to play, to travel, to make friends, we have been set an excellent example.

BRIAN LEE.

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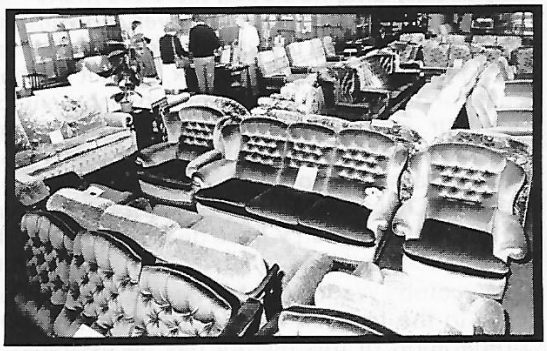
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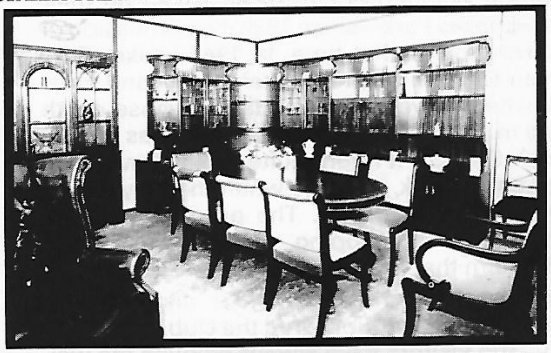
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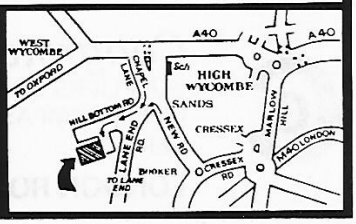
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INTRODUCTION

Before the formation of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, there had been several attempts to establish a football team in the town. Football had been flourishing in the town since 1863 on the Rye Mead, while Marlow—only seven miles away—had been represented at the inaugural meeting of the F.A. Cup in 1871 and had reached the Semi-Finals in 1882.

It is thought that the inspiration for the name of the club came fron the original Wanderers, five times winners of the F.A. Cup, who had visited the town in December, 1877. The occasion was a Second Round F.A. Cup match against the old High Wycombe club. The match was played on the Rye on the same day that Queen Victoria visited the town, and the Cup holders soundly thrashed the local team by nine goals to nil.

The Rye at this time was not the Rye we know today, but a boggy pasture used by the dairymen of the town for grazing their cows. The animals made the entrance deep in mud where they entered in the morning and left in the afternoon to return for milking and feeding to the cowsheds in different parts of the town. At this time there was an unwritten law governing the right to a pitch on the Rye. Goalposts must be put up immediately after the Parish Church clock chimed midnight on the Friday night prior to the game. Rivalry was intense and it was not uncommon to find goalposts uprooted and thrown in the Dyke.

The game of football, too, was very different to the modern game. The F.A. Cup had not reached popularity and the system of playing home and away fixtures in a league competition had not been established—indeed the Football League did not come into being until 1888. The pitch markings would be unfamiliar to the modern reader. These had been introduced in 1882 but only to mark the four boundaries. A half way line was then added, not only for kick-offs but also to mark the extent to which a goalkeeper could handle the ball. Incredibly the 'keeper was confined to handling the ball only within his own penalty area as late as 1912. By 1887 there was a centre circle, and two six-yard semi-circles in front of each goal from which goal kicks were taken. The penalty kick was introduced in 1890 and a line 12 yards from the goal line was added. Originally a penalty kick could be taken from anywhere on this line and the goalkeeper could advance up to six yards from his goal line. It was not until 1902 that the more familiar markings of today were adopted and have remained the same with just one addition—the penalty arc in 1937—ever since.

All sorts of peculiar arrangements could be made and it was not uncommon to see 12 or 13 players in a side by agreement. The referee often exceeded the time of the match by as much as 15 minutes. It has been said that watches were somewhat inaccurate, but one must also remember that in most matches the home side provided the referee and one umpire. At this time two umpires were on the field of play, each controlling one half, with the referee sitting on the touchline to decide in cases of dispute between them. In 1891 the referee was moved from the touchline onto the field of play with complete control over the match, while umpires were abolished in favour of linesmen.

It was into this very different world that the club which was to become Wycombe Wanderers was born. This handbook tells the story of the development of the club, and of the people who made it all possible—the officials, the players and, of course, the thousands of supporters who have watched "The Blues" over a hundred years.



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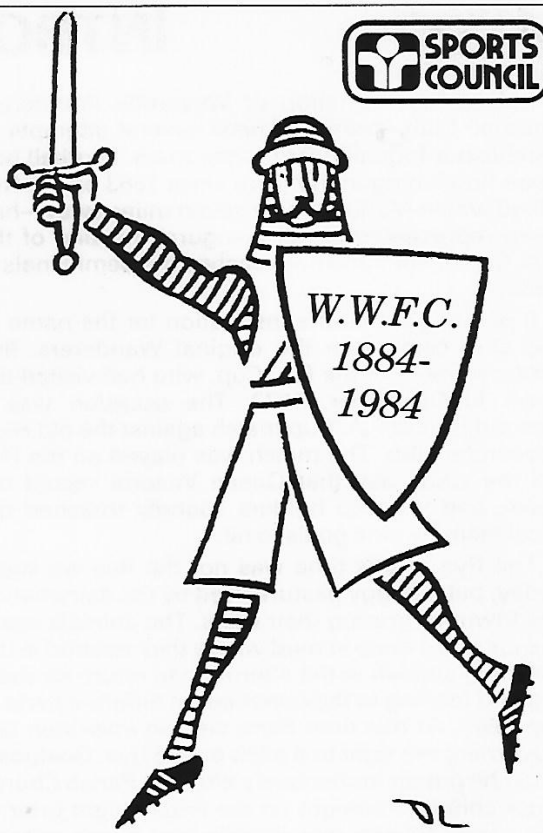
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THE EARLY YEARS

There are no surviving documents covering the early years in the development of the club that was to become Wycombe Wanderers Football Club. Our best information on this period cames from notes left by the late Ted Rolph, a former Vice-Chairman of the Club. In 1958 he discussed the events leading up to the formation of the club with John Randell, the first Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper, who was then 92 years old and the last surviving member of the original team.

He recalled how in the early 1880s a group of young men living in the Wheelers Field district of the town got together to talk of playing football. Wheelers Field included Duke Street, Slater Street, Totteridge Road, Railway Place, Easton Terrace and Saffron Platt. "Datchett" Webb, whose family lived at 29 Duke Street, got a ball from somewhere and charged the other boys who had left school and were working a penny each to play with it. Most of the lads worked in chair shops, a few in the paper mills, working long hours from early morning to late at night, Saturdays as well.

These youngsters began to learn the rudiments of the game on the Rye Mead. Harry Rolph, who had played for Marlow and was considered to be the best player on the Rye at the time, taught them many skills of the game. So in 1884 they decided to form a club to play against some of the villages.

The first meeting was held in the woodhouse at the rear of the garden to 29 Duke Street. "Datchett" Webb controlled the business which was, as far as we can tell, to force agreement upon the payment of 3d. a week contrubution. "Datchett" had a strong personality, was full of energy and enthusiasm, and played an important part in these early years. No records were kept, but we do know that in 1886 football requisites were purchased from Joe Norton, who had been the Secretary and Captain of Wycombe Rangers F.C. These consisted of two bars, four goalposts, six flagpoles with flags of orange and blue and a ball—all for 18/6d. Joe Norton became the first President of the Wanderers.

In 1887 the players felt they may do well if they went into Junior Football and play against better clubs. They had been playing up until then against scratch elevens from the chair shops or the village green. So a meeting was called by Jim Ray, who was a good writer, and "Datchett" Webb, now the star footballer among them, at the "Steam Engine" public house in Station Road. Billy Dimmock acted as Chairman and the first item on the agenda was the name of the club. Noel Curtis proposed North Town Wanderers—North Town was another name given to the Wheelers Field district. John Randell objected that whilst most of the players came from this area others, like himself, came from different parts of the town. He therefore proposed the name be Wycombe Wanderers Football Club. This was eventually agreed to after a heated discussion. It was also agreed to pay 6d. per week contribution and that the club colours should be the two blues. "Datchett" Webb was elected captain, with Jim Ray as Secretary and George Cook as Treasurer. They also decided to put a challenge in the "Free Press" to all other junior clubs and the first match arranged was against Wycombe Nose F.C. on 14th September, 1887.

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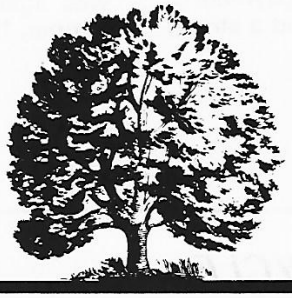
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First Cup Match

They also entered for the Wycombe Cup and the first match took place on 21st January, 1888. Their opponents were Wycombe Ramblers, a formidable side who had won the Berks. & Bucks. Junior Cup the previous season. Their Secretary at the time was Charlie Harper, a great player who was later to play an important part in the future of Wycombe Wanderers. The young Wanderers were beaten by 14 goals to nil and the "Free Press" reported:

"The first match in the Wycombe Cup series played on Saturday was little better than a farce, the Ramblers having the easiest possible task to dispose of the very unpractised team who opposed them."

The two teams were as follows; the Ramblers side contained a number of players who later came over to the Wanderers:

Wanderers—J. Randell, goal; (he remembered this game very clearly. He said: "A strong wind was blowing down the pitch, there was nobody behind his goal and he had to run a long way to retrieve the ball every time they scored as there were no nets at the time") E. Webb, J Hearne, G. Stallwood, E. Ball, J. Putnam, J. Ray, G. Bowles, G. Cook, G. Johnson, –. Grace.

Ramblers—A. W. Heath, G. Beckett, C. W. Harper, O. Ball, F. Free, F. White, W. Stone, F. Biggs, Syd. Morris, F. Moore, T. Thurlow.

The Wanderers used the "Steam Engine" as their headquarters for a year before moving to the "Masons Arms" in Saffron Platt and then to the "Nag's Head", opposite the Rye, where Bill Pearce was the landlord. He saw great possibilities for the club and his work and enthusiasm were to be an important contribution in the move towards senior football.

It was at the "Nag's Head" that a meeting took place in December, 1889. It was disclosed that by entering two teams under different names in the Wycombe Cup each team would be entitled to two representatives on the High Wycombe Football Association, who administered the Wycombe Cup competition. So with absolute secrecy they decided to enter the first team as "Wild West" (W.W.F.C.) and the second team as Wycombe Wanderers. Both sides reached the Semi-Finals. The Wanderers lost to the High Wycombe club by 6-1. In the other Semi-Final Wild West beat Birch's Factory and so qualified to meet High Wycombe in the Final. The match was played on Wright's Meadow, Wycombe Marsh on 15th March, 1890. The game ended in a draw; the re-play was also drawn, but in the third match Wild West won 2-0. The Cup was presented to the inimitable captain "Datchett" Webb who in his speech said that they were glad to have won the Cup for the Wanderers despite the name employed. For years afterwards the winning of the Wycombe Cup in this way caused heated arguments. The Club made application to have the name "Wycombe Wanderers" inscribed on the Cup; this was refused, the Association stating that the use of the name "Wild West" had hoodwinked them. The following season the club again entered two teams, referring to them as "A" and "B".

Results were beginning to improve and the nucleus of a promising side was beginning to emerge. In season 1890-91 the club reached the Finals of the Berks. & Bucks. Junior Cup and the Wycombe Cup. In the County Cup their opponents were Reading Albion at Maidenhead. The match finished in a 2-2draw, but the replay ended in a 6-2 win for the Reading side. There was also disappointment in the Wycombe Cup when Marsh defeated the Wanderers by three clear goals.

Tragedy struck in February, 1893 when Frank Howlett, joint Captain, died after receiving concussion after heading a ball.

The Move to Spring Meadow

At the start of the 1893-94 season Charlie Harper was elected as Secretary and Captain, and startling changes began to show. To start with it was decided to rent Spring Meadow to get away from the difficult conditions on the Rye where the Club had no control over crowds and where playing space was limited with fierce competition for a playing pitch. The club enjoyed a successful playing season winning the Wycombe Cup 3-1 against Marlow Reserves and the Maidenhead Charity Cup beating Windsor & Eton Victoria 5-1 in the Final at Maidenhead.

When Charlie Harper arranged a friendly match against Middlesbrough Ironopolis, a professional side, for a £21 guarantee many thought he had gone crazy. But he confounded his critics for 1,600 people paid 6d. each to see the game which the Wanderers lost 0-3. The club was now attracting much attention and some London newspapers began to report on the games at Spring Meadow.

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The Club Adopts Senior Status

In July, 1894 a special meeting was called to discuss the advantages of becoming Seniors. There was some opposition from the players which led to the Chairman, Alderman C. W. Deacon, saying that "should any be against it, he would remind them that there were as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it." This brought a retort from one of the players George Stevens (popularly known as "Bunny"): "Yes Mr. Chairman, but they want a lot of catching". Many felt that the County Junior Cup should be won first, but eventually a proposal that the club should enter the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup, the F.A. Amateur Cup and the F.A. Cup was overwhelmingly passed. It was also agreed to enter a team in the East Berks. & South Bucks. Junior League. Admission charges were fixed at men 6d., boys 3d., and ladies free.

The first game in the Amateur Cup was against West Herts. at Watford on 10th November, 1894 when the Wanderers were beaten 5-1. In the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup, Wycombe beat Slough 4-0 away and were drawn away to Wolverton in the Second Round. The match was switched to Spring Meadow following an arrangement between the clubs—a common occurence at this time. Wycombe offered a guarantee of £12; the "gate" amounted to £21/12/0d., but Wolverton won the match by the odd goal. The club again won the Wycombe Cup beating Maidenhead Norfolkians 5-0 in the Final.

George Stevens became the first Wycombe Wanderers player to represent Berks. & Bucks. at senior level when he played against Kent on 20th February, 1895.

From Spring Meadow to Loakes Park

An attempt was made to purchase a piece of land next to Spring Meadow, but this scheme was abandoned when the price became known—£600 with a further £200 to put in order for playing football. It was then decided to approach Lord Carrington to see if Loakes Park could be rented. An arrangement was reached that no rent would be charged for the first year after which discussions would take place on the terms of the lease.

The first match to be played at Loakes Park was a friendly against Park Grove on 7th September, 1895. The Wanderers team was: J. Ball, H. Turner, A. Hutchinson, F.C. Keen, R. Collier, G. Stevens, F. W. Abbott, W. Buchanan, W. Lloyd, F. G. Jennings, G. Wooster.

Loakes Park in those days was an open space for those who occupied the Abbey as a residence. There were two large fields separated by a fence running from Barracks Road down to a plantation of trees that hid the large gardens and greenhouses used to grow fruit and vegetables for the occupants of the Abbey. There was no Queen Alexandra Road in those days, and the view looking North from the ground showed only the green hills. The surface of the playing pitch was rough and stony with a gradual slope continuing down from Tom Burts Hill. Sheep grazed on it to keep the grass down. The players now changed at the Red Lion Hotel in the High Street although the club continued to use the "Nags Head" as its headquarters.

Season 1895-96 brought a good run in the F.A. Amateur Cup. After wins over Newbury (1-0) and the Scots Fusiliers (9-0) at Loakes Park, the Wanderers were drawn against the East Lancaster Regiment at Aldershot. Here the referee declared the ground unfit, but allowed the match to be played as a friendly which Wycombe won by 3-2. Then, without any application on the part of the Wanderers, the Football Association upheld the result as an official game and the Wanderers went into the "hat" for the First Round Proper. The reward was to be drawn away to Marlow, then a formidable side. The game took place on the old Crown Ground where a record crowd saw Wycombe put up a great show but lose by the odd goal in five.

Into The Southern League

On 21st May, 1896 it was announced that Wycombe Wanderers' application to join the Southern League had been accepted. With the exception of cup matches all games up until then had been friendlies.

The A.G.M. of 1896 heard that receipts in the first season at Loakes Park had been just under £408 compared with £114 at Spring Meadow.

Season 1896-97 saw Wycombe excused the qualifying rounds of the F.A. Amateur Cup and drawn at home to the famous Casuals in the First Round at Loakes Park. The game resulted in a tremendous struggle in front of a good crowd with the Casuals winning the match in extra time by five goals to the Wanderers three.

The club also reached the Final of the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup for the first time losing to Marlow by 1-2.

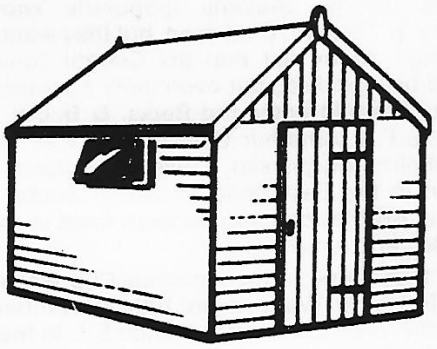
Team: J. Ball, A. W. Keen, Rev. A. G. P. Baines, F. C. Keen, R. Collier, G. Stevens, A. Green, J. H. Davies, F. G. Jennings, W. Buchanan, F. W. Abbott.

In August, 1897 it was reported that the President, R. S. Wood, had met Lord Carrington and an agreement had been reached to lease the ground for 14 years. It was now accepted that the headquarters must be changed and a small deputation called on Bill Pearce of the "Nag's Head" who had done so much for the club to explain the reason for the move. The Swan Hotel in Pauls Row was selected as the new headquarters. It was also decided to appoint a groundsman and Bill Trinder was the first person to occupy this important position. He did not stay with the club very long but certainly brought about some changes. He had no mowing machines and cut the grass with a scythe. Both ends of the playing pitch became very muddy and marking out was a difficult process because before a match started players and spectators alike would kick the ball about right up to kick-off. The same thing would happen at half-time. The following season this was stopped, and the players, who walked to the ground from the Swan Hotel, could practice without interference.

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Following a disturbance during a Southern League fixture against Portsmouth R.A., Loakes Park was closed for one week by F.A. ruling. The Portsmouth goalkeeper was suspended for two weeks after striking a spectator. Crowd disturbances and attacks on referees were not uncommon in those days.

Another fine run in the F.A. Amateur Cup gave Wycombe the chance to win the Cup in only their third season as seniors. On 29th January, 1898 they played the Old Westminsters at Richmond. Wanderers won 5-0, but before the start of the game they had protested that the crossbar at one end was 8½ inches short while the other was 5½ inches short from the ground. The Coldstream Guards were beaten 3-1 in the next round. Playing in the Quarter Finals at Uxbridge, Wycombe scored to equalise just on time. The draw for the Semi-Finals was made before the replay took place and so it read: Uxbridge or Wycombe Wanderers v Old Malvernians, match to be played at the Crown Ground, Marlow. But it was not be be; Uxbridge won the replay 4-2 at Loakes Park to shock the whole of Wycombe.

In June, 1898, F. W. Abbott, captain, joined the Metropolitan Police. This was a great blow to local football—he was a fine player and had been selected several times to play for the Counties. He later became Deputy Commissioner of the London Police.

Many friendlies had to be arranged to occupy empty Saturdays and make up a full season of football. It was felt that a local league might hold more interest, so Wycombe joined first the Bucks. and Contiguous League and then the Berks. & Bucks. Senior League but neither were successful and were soon abandoned.



WYCOMBE WANDERERS—1898-99
Back Row—Geo. Horwood, C. W. Harper (Secretary), E. Wheeler, H. Turner, Geo. Plumridge, G. T. Miles (Treasurer). Centre Row—F. C. Keen (Captain), R. White, R. Collier, W. Buchanan, G. Stevens (Vice-Captain). Front Row—A. Green, A. W. Keen, F. G. Jennings, J. Aldridge.



A view of Loakes Park during work on levelling the pitch in 1900

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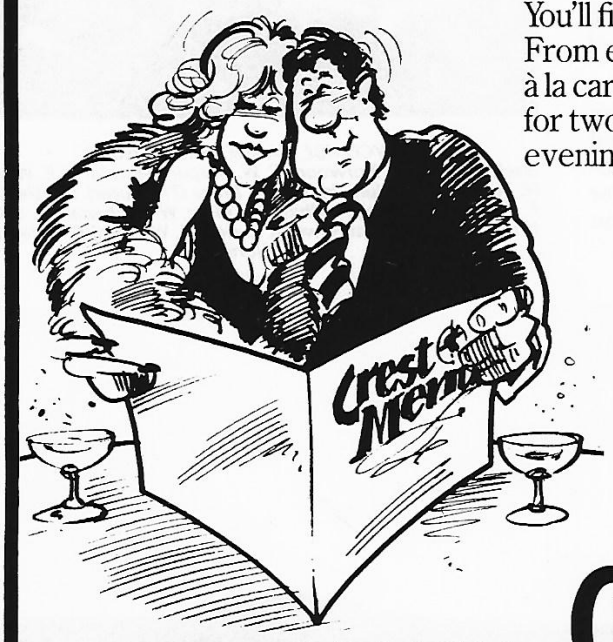
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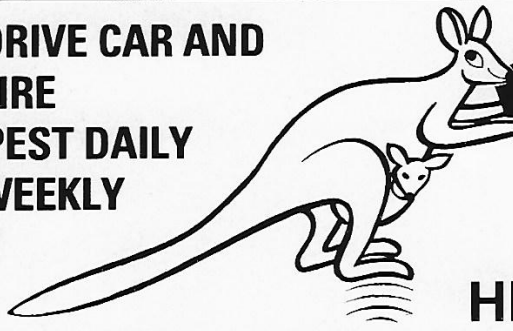
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Season 1899-1900 was to be historic in many ways. At the end of the previous season it had been decided to level the pitch. The contractor had advised that the work would be done quickly and without much interference to matches. An approach was made to the military authorities for permission to play on the Barrack Meadow directly opposite Loakes Park while the work was being carried out. But in October the club recived a shock when they were informed that there could be no charge for admission to games played on the Barrack Meadow. Once again Lord Carrington was approached who offered the Wycombe Abbey Park free of rent. This raised another problem for the club as His Lordship would not allow the normal entrance to be used. Instead a bridge would have to be constructed across The Dyke from The Rye. This was built in less than a week, a tressle bridge made from soft timber which stood until after the First World War.

Again Wycombe reached the Final of the County Cup and once again their opponents were Marlow. The match was played at Maidenhead on Saturday, 14th April, 1900 and ended in a 1-1 draw after a very clean game. The replay took place on the following Saturday at Maidenhead, and this proved to be a very different game. Following the referee's decision to disallow a "goal" for Marlow both E. Shaw (captain) and H. G. White (goalkeeper) of the Marlow team were leaving the pitch in protest when Mr. R. A. Lunnon, President of the Berks. & Bucks. Football Council, came on to persuade them to carry on playing. The game was stopped for a considerable time with Wycombe leading 2-1. Eventually the players were persuaded to continue and right on full-time Wheeler in the Wycombe goal caught tha ball but was slow in clearing and was bundled over the line still holding the ball to make the score 2-2.

A touchline meeting was called between the officials of the County F.A. and the representatives of the two clubs to discuss the playing of extra time. The argument became heated but the County officials insisted that extra time be played. The light was bad and it was clear that play could not continue for long. A ding-dong struggle developed with Marlow scoring twice and Wycombe once. At 7.35 p.m. when the spectators had struck matches all around the ground, the ball was kicked onto the railway embankment and could not be found. The referee abandoned the match with seven minutes left to play and Marlow leading by four goals to three.

The Berks. & Bucks. F.A. came to a curious decision that the seven minutes remaining should be played the following Friday at Maidenhead. It was alleged that had Wycombe Wanderers gone out to play extra time immediately after the completion of normal time there would have been ample time to complete the additional period. The Wanderers said in reply that had it not been for the President of the Association going onto the field to stop the two Marlow men from coming off there would have been no interference with play and the normal time would have been completed without interruption. The Wanderers demanded another hearing but although arrangements for playing the seven minutes were postponed this did not satisfy Wycombe who refused to play the additional time. The Cup was awarded to Marlow with the score standing when the match was abandoned.

This remarkable series of events was talked about for many years afterwards. It was the last occasion that Marlow won the County Cup. The Wanderers did not enter the competition the following season which resulted in the County Association changing its rules to require all affiliated clubs to enter the County tournament.

Team: E. Wheeler, W. J. M. Probert, C. Buchanan, F. C. Keen, A. W. Keen, G. Stevens, A. Green, W. White, E. Carter, W. Buchanan, T. Barlow.

Wycombe continued to play at Daws Hill Park for the 1900-01 season before returning to the newly levelled Loakes Park the following season. The first match played was a friendly against a combined Marlow/Maidenhead team led by Ted Shaw, the Marlow captain. It was hoped this would help overcome any bad feelings left by the incidents of the 1900 County Cup final.

Wycombe Win First Senior Trophy

In 1901-02 Wycombe won their first Senior trophy by winning the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup against Slough at Maidenhead by 3-0. All the goals were scored by F. W. ("Sonny") Rouse, an opportunist centre-forward who became the first player from the club to go professional joining Grimsby and later playing for Stoke, Everton, Chelsea and W.B.A.

The match was watched by a crowd of 7,752 and there were emotional scenes at High Wycombe Railway Station where thousands had gathered to welcome the team and the Cup. The celebrations lasted for several days as the Cup was taken around many of the local hostelries.

In 1902-03 the Southern League had shrunk to only six clubs following the departure of amateur sides Maidenhead, Shepherds Bush and West Hampstead. To combat this it was decided that with effect from 1903-04 Division One clubs in the league could enter a reserve side in Division Two.

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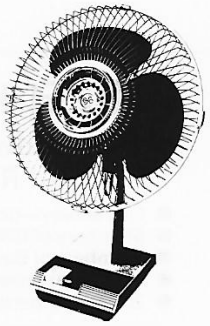
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A match in progress at Loakes Park in April, 1903

The First Stand

In 1903 the first Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup final was played at Loakes Park between Aylesbury United and Slough, the latter winning 3-0. A crowd of 6,000 watched the match with a further 1,000 viewing free from Tom Burts Hill. For many years this "free gallery" had been a problem for the club and in October, 1903 Mr. Harry Browning of the Red Lion Hotel initiated a scheme to build a stand on the upper side of Loakes Park. Mr. Thomas Thurlow submitted plans to erect a pavilion costing £400 and a meeting of supporters resolved that shares of £1 each be issued with 4% interest to be paid until such time that the invested money be repaid to the shareholders. Holders of 10 shares to have free use of the Pavilion until such time as it became the property absolute of Wycombe Wanderers. The building was to be 150 feet long with four tiers capable of accommodating 400 people. There were to be dressing rooms at each end, the room at the eastern end to be ornamented with a thatched roof to blend with the character of the district. A tender from H. Flint, builder from Easton Street, was accepted and work began on 11th November, 1903. The work proceeded at a rapid pace and the new stand was ready by 9th January, 1904 when Southampton Reserves were the visitors in the Southern League.

In 1904-05 following the departure of Chesham Town and the decision by Southall to turn professional, Wycombe Wanderers found themselves the only amateur team in the Southern League. Results continued to be disappointing and the club finished second from bottom in the table.

One of the worst accidents ever to happen at Loakes Park occured in November, 1905 during a Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup First Round match against Chesham Generals when the Chesham right back, A. Bone, broke his leg which was later amputated. A benefit match was played and Wycombe Wanderers paid for the player's twelve weeks board in hospital.

Another unusual story from this season came in January, 1906 when Fulham Reserves visited Wycombe during the General Election campaign of that year. Both political parties were keen to be represented at the match and arrangements were made that Mr. Seddon Cripps, Tory, would start the match by kicking-off and Mr. Arnold Herbert, Liberal, would re-start the second half. Herbert eventually won the seat.

Poor results continued in the Southern League and the Wanderers finished bottom of the table in three consecutive seasons between 1906 and 1908. Season 1907-08 was a particularly gloomy time with Wycombe losing their first 13 league matches and managing only one win and one draw all season. It was really no surprise when the club decided to withdraw from the Southern League and join the Great Western Suburban League.

The A.G.M. of July, 1908 received with sadness the resignation of Charlie Harper, Secretary, who had seen the club rise from juniors as a player, captain and administrator. It was accepted that his position as a schoolmaster in London made it impossible for him to continue. His contribution to the club and to local football had been tremendous. Born in Hereford in 1862 he moved to High Wycombe to teach at the Priory Road school. He played for three leading local clubs—Wycombe Alexander, Wycombe Ramblers and the High Wycombe club—before joining the Wanderers. He got the club away from the Rye and pushed for the adoption of senior status. He was also a good cricketer and played for many years for High Wycombe C.C.

At the start of the 1908-09 season it was reported that Tom Gilson, who had played for Aston Villa, Brentford and Bristol City, was interested in playing for Wycombe as a re-instated amateur. He was to make an important contribution to the skill and sportsmanship of the club before he tragically died of cancer in February, 1912, aged 30.

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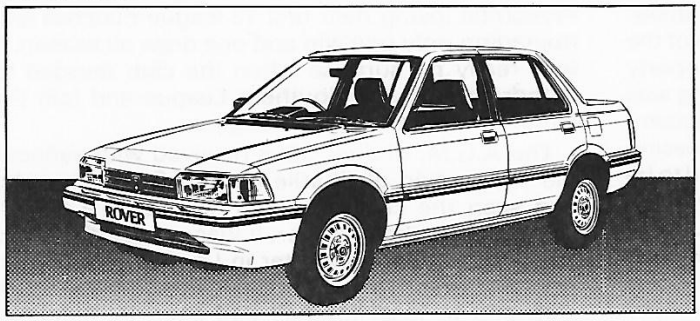
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Wycombe recorded their second win in the County Cup in 1909 when they defeated Chesham Town 3-0 at Marlow. They had won the Cup without conceding a goal. The Cup came to Wycombe twice more before the First World War. In 1910 Wokingham Athletic were beaten 3-0 after a replay, and in 1913 Maidenhead Norfolkians lost to Wycombe, also after a replay.

Season 1909-10 saw Wycombe record their highest ever win when Staines were beaten 18-1 on 27th December in the Great Western Suburban League.

On 31st December, 1910 the club set off on their first ever tour. A party of 16 visited Guernsey, stopping en route at Weymouth to play the local side who beat the Wanderers 3-2. One match was played against Guernsey which resulted in a 1-1 draw.

The First World War

Just before the outbreak of the First World War, Wycombe heard that their application to join the Spartan League had been accepted. Their intention was to continue in membership of the Great Western Suburban League and to run two sides of equal status—an idea the Wanderers had toyed with since the Wild West days of the 1890s. The fixture lists for 1914-15 were published but the season never got underway with players being called away on active service. Loakes Park was used by the military authorities for training purposes and the football club ceased to operate for the duration of the war.

In 1919 with men returning home after the ending of hostilities George Miles, Chairman and Treasurer, convened a meeting to examine the possibilities of arranging matches. There were many difficulties—football gear had been loaned to the military authorities and in some cases sent abroad—but a number of friendlies were arranged during the spring of 1919.

Spartan League Champions

The new season started with the club entering teams in both the Spartan League and the Great Western Suburban League. In March, 1920 the Wanderers played Chesham United at Aylesbury in the final of the Bucks Charity Cup. A crowd of 5,000 watched the game which was abandoned eight minutes from time with Chesham leading by the only goal scored. The referee had ordered Wycombe's Archie Gomm off the field following a foul and the crowd had shown its disapproval by invading the pitch. The Cup was awarded to Chesham United. This was to be Archie Gomm's last appearance in a Wycombe shirt; he joined Millwall as one of the first stopper centre-half players. He spent eleven seasons at the Den before moving to Carlisle in 1932.

The Wanderers became Spartan League champions having lost only once and having scored 114 goals and conceded only 24 in 20 matches. They successfully defended their title in similar form the following season—again only one defeat was recorded with the side scoring 108 goals and conceding 29 in 22 matches. The club also won the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup for the fifth time beating Slough at Reading before a crowd of 9,875. Captain of the side at this time was Frank Adams and the players included Reg Boreham, Klon Smith, Joey Grace and Billy O'Gorman. In March, 1921 there was much rejoicing when it became known that Wycombe along with Wimbledon had been accepted for membership of the Isthmian League. In their first season the club finished in eighth place with 26 points from 26 matches. The reserves finished in sixth place.

During the season Reg Boreham became the first Wycombe Wanderers player to win an Amateur International cap when he played for England against Ireland at Leicester on 14th November, 1921. England won the match 4-1. He also played in the England side that beat Wales 7-0 at Swansea in January, 1922. He was later to join Arsenal playing an important part in saving them from relegation before returning to Loakes Park in 1923-24. He continued playing for the Wanderers until his early retirement from the game in 1927. He later served the club as Secretary from 1936 to 1949.

The President, the Marquis of Lincolnshire, presented a cup to be known as the Wycombe Memorial Hospital Cup to be played for each season with the gate receipts to be handed over to the hospital. The first club to play for the cup was Tufnell Park in May, 1922 when the Wanderers won 4-1. The fixture established itself as an end-of-season attraction with many teams visiting Loakes Park by invitation between 1922 and 1970.

In December, 1922 work started on the extensions to either side of the stand, the money being raised by loan. Six weeks later the work was complete and on 20th January, 1923 the stand as we see it today was opened on the occasion of the visit of St. Albans for an Amateur Cup Second Round match. A large crowd saw Wycombe miss many scoring chances that day to lose 1-2. It is interesting to note that the match was filmed and later shown at the newly opened Palace Cinema in Frogmore.

The Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup was won for the sixth time when the Wanderers overcame Maidenhead United 4-0 at Slough in front of a crowd of 11,500. At the end of the season a tour of France was arranged with matches against The Olympic F.C. Paris (won 3-0), Cette F.C. (lost 3-4) and Bordeaux (drew 3-3). News of an accident to the touring party reached Wycombe but a telegram was soon received saying that apart from a few cuts and bruises all was well.

In August, 1923 A. W. Fryer toured Sweden with the Middlesex Wanderers, and it is thought he was the first of many players to be selected from the Wycombe club.

At the start of the 1923-24 season new dressing rooms were opened at Loakes Park. The Wanderers enjoyed an excellent start in the Isthmian League and soon recorded high scoring wins over Woking (away 6-1), Ilford (away 8-1) and St. Albans (home 9-1). Timmy Hinton in particular was unstoppable scoring four hat-tricks and one four in the first seven matches. The Blues ended the season as the league's top scorers but could only manage fourth place.

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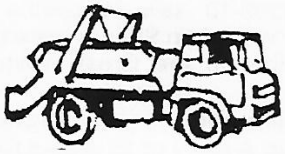
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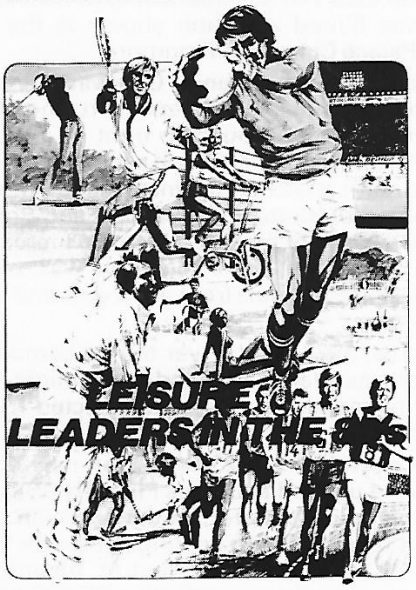


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Joey Grace played for Wales against England at Llandudno on 22nd March, 1924.

The Reserves won the Berks. & Bucks. Junior Cup by beating Datchett 2-0 in the final played at Maidenhead. This was the only time that the trophy was won by the club.

In 1924-25 Wycombe again battled through to the final of the County Cup meeting Windsor & Eton at Reading. A crowd of 10,504 paid £618 to watch the match which ended in a goalless draw with Timmy Hinton missing a penalty. Wycombe won the replay 2-0 at the Dolphin, Slough with Timmy Hinton and Reg Boreham the scorers. By a strange coincidence Wycombe were drawn at home to Windsor & Eton in the First Round the following season when the Royalists won by 7-2. Wycombe's goals were scored by Hinton and Boreham.

The Wycombe Hospital Cup was jointly held by Wycombe Wanderers and London Caledonians after an extraordinary match lasting 2½ hours failed to produce a result.

At the club A.G.M. in July, 1925 it was announced that B. C. ("Bunny") Hooper had resigned as Secretary as he was leaving the district. He had given 27 years loyal service to the club and was made a life member. Mr. Walter Howland was elected to the post.

The 1925-26 season again saw Wycombe finish as top goalscorers in the Isthmian League yet finish in fourth position. In 26 league matches Wycombe scored 97 goals but conceded 83. At the end of the season Timmy Hinton signed for Millwall. He was a prolific goal-scorer and his 58 goals in 36 matches in 1925-26 stood as a club record for many years.

In 1926 G. T. Miles resigned as Treasurer. He had held the position since 1898, a period of 28 years. Mr. G. R. Bunce was elected in his place and acted as Treasurer for 37 years.

The team again showed signs of instability and crashed out of the F.A. Cup at Slough losing 0-9. In the league St. Albans also scored nine goals without response from the Wanderers—the club's worst defeat in the Isthmian League.

In 1928 the President, the Marquis of Lincolnshire, died. He had done much for the club. For business reasons Mr. W. Howland resigned as Secretary, handing over to Mr. R. J. Gardner. Mr. Howland continued to serve on the Committee until 1954.

The 1928-29 season opened with an 11-1 win over Henley Town in the F.A. Cup with Bill Brown scoring eight times.

At the A.G.M. of 1929 the deeds of a recreation room at Loakes Park were handed to the President by Mr. Harry Garland on behalf of the Supporters Club. This was the first instance of the valuable assistance that the Supporters Club were to give to the football club over many years.

The 1929-30 season was disappointing with the Wanderers unable to record an away win in the league all season and being removed from all of the Cup competitions at the first hurdle. But the club did enjoy a successful tour of Germany in April, 1930 with matches against Marburg (won 6-2), S. V. Waldhof (lost 4-5) and Fulda (won 7-0).

Wycombe Win The Amateur Cup

The highlight of the long history of the club came in season 1930-31 with the winning of the Amateur Cup. But few had fancied Wycombe's chances when they were drawn away to London Caledonians in the First Round. The Calies were a strong side but the Wycombe men won 4-1. Drawn at home to Walthamstow Avenue in the next round, the Blues produced a brilliant first half display to lead 5-1 at the interval and went on to win 6-2 with goals by Tapping (4) and Brown (2). The Third Round took Wycombe to Imber Court to play the Metropolitan Police. The match ended 1-1 after extra time and a large crowd of 10,881 packed Loakes Park for the replay. The Police scored first but Braisher equalised to make the score 1-1 at half-time. Ten minutes after the restart Vernon scored the winner and so Wycombe passed into the Semi-Finals for the first time in their history.

They were drawn to play Woking at Ilford. The match was one of missed chances and Woking could have been two goals ahead by half-time. As it was the score at the interval was 0-0 and with the wind behind them in the second half the Wanderers forwards began to trouble the Woking defence. After six minutes Britnell scored with a header, and five minutes later Brown added a second. Ten minutes from time Britnell scored a fluke goal to make the final score 3-0 to Wycombe—a scoreline that did not accurately reflect the evenness of the game.

Wycombe's opponents in the Final were Hayes. They had reached this stage by battling through from the qualifying rounds winning eight matches, all away from home. The match was played at Highbury on 11th April, 1931. The crowd was 32,489 including thousands who had travelled from High Wycombe by train. Wycombe supporters sported the two blues and wore beautiful miniature chairs made to scale on the lapels of their jackets.



Action from the 1931 Amateur Cup Final at Highbury

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Hayes started as strong favourites. Their side included a number of experienced players although they were forced to make a number of last-minute changes. One of these was to bring in the old Dulwich Hamlet half-back W. C. Caesar; this late introduction was to have a vital and, from a Hayes point of view, a tragic influence on the result.

Hayes won the toss. In the early part of the game Sid Crump was injured and forced to leave the field with Wycombe reduced to ten men for most of the first half. In the second half with Crump back in his usual position Wycombe began to force their opponents back. Time after time they got right up to the Hayes goal but could not take advantage.

Then in a goalmouth scramble a shot from Bill Brown hit the upright and as the ball bounced away Caesar handled. As Brown walked back to take the resulting spot-kick the crowd were silent. A tight ring of players were bunched around the penalty box. Brown aimed high and hard but Holding, the Hayes "keeper", punched the ball away. But Alf Britnell was following up and his shot flew into the top right-hand corner to give Wycombe the lead. Hayes never gave up and when the final whistle sounded they were still attacking the Wycombe goal. Thousands turned out to welcome the team home. The players and officials went to the Guildhall and a crowd of 10,000 clamoured for Pat Badrick to hold the Cup for all to see. The club received hundreds of telegrams of congratulation. John Timberlake, the captain of the side who had been unable to play because of injury, received a special medal struck for him by F.A. ruling.

Team: J. E. Kipping, S. Crump, R. S. Cox, F. Rance, L. R. Badrick, A. Greenwell, C. Simmons, W. Brown, D. S. Vernon, F. C. Braisher, A. J. Britnell.

On 2nd May, 1931 Wycombe completed their Isthmian League fixtures by playing two matches on the same day. Their opponents were Kingstonian and arrangements were made to play at Kingston at 3 o'clock with the return match at Loakes Park at 6.30. Wycombe made only one change for the evening match, while Kingstonian made two changes. Kingstonian won the first match 2-0 while Wycombe won the evening game 4-0.



WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C.—1930-31

Front Row: A. Grace (Asst. Trainer), E. Mines, L. R. Badrick (Vice-Captain), A. Greenwell, F. Adams, H. Goodearl. Second Row: R. Spatchett, W. J. Winter-Taylor, W. R. Butler, C. Simmons, W. Brown, D. S. Vernon, F. C. Braisher, A. T. Britnell, G. T. Miles (President), Dr. J. T. Bell, C. A. Abbott. Third Row: G. Payne, R. Howland, G. R. Bunce (Hon. Treasurer), G. Harris (Trainer/Coach). F. C. Rance, S. Crump, J. E. Kipping, R. S. Cox, J. Timberlake (Captain), R. J. Gardner (Hon. General Secretary), W. Howland (Hon. Financial Secretary), E. Burton. Fourth Row: C. Tilbury (Groundsman), C. Mitchell, W. O'Gorman, H. Norman, T. H. Smith, S. W. Cubbage, C. Allen, E. T. Barrington, G. Barnes, F. Boreham.

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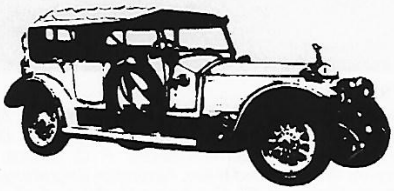
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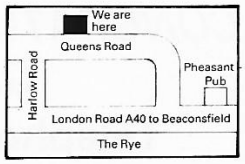
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Bottom Stand Opened

On 13th February, 1932 the bottom stand was opened by Mr. R. A. Lunnon, President of the Berks. & Bucks. F.A. It was 360 feet in length and it was said that Wycombe Wanderers were the first amateur club to construct stands on both sides of the playing field. Further improvements came at the start of the 1932-33 season when new enlarged players dressing rooms were opened with tiled baths large enough to take a whole team. The referee's accommodation was also improved.

The Wanderers had a great run in the F.A. Cup reaching the First Round Proper for the first time in the club's history. To do so they beat Gradwells Sports (2-0), Maidenhead United (3-2), Park Royal (6-1), Slough (3-2) and Camberley & York Town (4-0). In the First Round Wycombe were drawn away to Gillingham. The match was played on 26th November, 1932 and ended in a 1-1 draw with Braisher scoring for the Blues. The replay took place at Loakes Park on the following Wednesday afternoon when many people took the afternoon off work or school to watch the game. Wycombe had a disastrous start when Cox put through his own goal in the opening minutes, but the Wanderers fought back and by half-time were leading 2-1. In the second half Gillingham scored three times without reply to win 4-2. Wycombe won the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup beating Chesham United 1-0 in the final at Maidenhead. The Hospital Cup match produced an unusual result when the Wanderers overwhelmed the Cameron Highlanders by 13-3.

Season 1933-34 was a disappointing one with Wycombe finishing in tenth place in the league and without an away win all season. In February, 1934 Frank Jordan, a player, died of meningitis. A special game was arranged against Reading who won 6-5, the match being watched by a crowd of 3,000 and all proceeds going to his widowed mother.

The County Cup again came to Loakes Park in 1934-35 when Aylesbury United were beaten 3-0 in the final at Reading. But in the league the club finished bottom but one and had to seek re-election.

The Second World War

Soon the shadows of war were again looming darkly on the horizon, with Loakes Park being used for gas chamber demonstrations to the general public. The 1939-40 season had barely got under way when the War broke out. Wanderers had played just one Isthmian League match and one F.A. Cup match before all normal competitions were suspended. The club Committee resolved to carry on and to make an effort to arrange Saturday games. It was agreed to join the Great Western Suburban League, and to enter for the Berks. & Bucks. Emergency Senior Cup which was won at Christmas time against Wycombe Redfords by 4-0. The ground was used by the military and civil authorities who were very fair and understanding allowing the football club to continue to function throughout the war. In 1943 Mr. G. T. Miles who had served the club as President, Chairman and Treasurer for over 46 years died.

In 1944-45 Wycombe Wanderers won the Great Western Suburban League title by a margin of seven points from their nearest rivals Maidenhead United.

Following the end of hostilities in 1945, football administration quickly began to function again with the Isthmian League and most Cup competitions re-organised in time for the start of the 1945-46 season. This was remarkable for the numbr of goals scored with the Wanderers' 26 league games producing a total of no fewer than 168 goals—or an average of 6.46 goals per game. It was also a boom time for attendances with large crowds packing into grounds each Saturday throughout the country to watch football.

Frank Adams Presents Loakes Park to the Club

During the following season Frank Adams presented Loakes Park to the club as a gift. He had already served the club as player, captain and committee man, and was a prominent member of the F.A. Council. The handing over of the deeds took place on the playing pitch before the Isthmian League match with Corinthian Casuals on 19th April, 1947. In his speech to a large crowd he said: "If future generations obtain the same enjoyment out of Loakes Park as it has given me in the past, then this gift will have been worthwhile." A presentation was also made to Charlie Tilbury who had decided to retire as groundsman. He had joined the club in 1898 as a player and later captained the side. He continued to help out at Loakes Park for several years after his retirement.



The scene at Loakes Park on the occasion of the Presentation of the Deeds of the ground to the Club
Photo: Ronald Goodearl

On 28th February, 1948, Loakes Park staged the British Youth Championship between England and Wales. England won 4-2.

Following the retirement of Reg Boreham in 1949, Mr. W. J. Hayter became the ninth General Secretary in the history of the club, a position he held for 20 years.

In 1949-50 Wycombe reached the Semi-Final of the Amateur Cup—but were lucky to survive to play in the Competition Proper at all. In the Fourth Qualifying Round at Maidenhead the Wanderers were trailing 4-5 when fog caused the match to be abandoned. The replayed match ended in a 0-0 draw with Wycombe winning the third game 2-1 at Loakes Park. In the First Round the Blues had little difficulty

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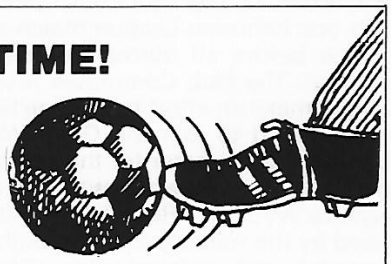
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of disposing of Bungay (4-0), but the Second Round produced a classic tie against Crook Town at Loakes Park which was decided by a goal from McCullum. Dulwich Hamlet visited Loakes Park in the Third Round and an exciting match ended in a Wanderers victory by 3-1. Drawn at home again in the Fourth Round a record crowd of 15,850 saw Wanderers turn on a fine display to win 4-1 against St. Albans.

The Semi-Final was against Bishop Auckland at Brentford. A crowd of 33,000 attended the game which was also covered by television. After half an hour Bishop Auckland were awarded a penalty which was converted, and nine minutes after the interval the Wanderers found themselves two goals down. Undeterred Wycombe made a great fight back in the last 20 minutes of the match. It was started by left half Johnny Way who scored to reduce the deficit and only a brilliant display by the Bishops 'keeper Washington kept the Wycombe forwards out.

Team: C. Lodge, W. Flippance, G. Jackson, F. Gearing, M. Krupa, J. Way, J. Blizzard, W. McCullum, H. Mikrut, K. Butler, P. Birdseye.

In 1951 Bob Spatchett expressed his desire not to seek re-election as Chairman. He had joined the club in 1899 and had served as player, linesman, Committee man and Chairman. John Timberlake was elected; he had already given great service to the club and captained the side at the time of the Amateur Cup win in 1931. It was decided to engage a full-time coach and Mr. James McCormack was appointed.

In 1951-52 Wycombe were knocked out of the F.A. Cup twice in one season. Playing away to Headington United the Blues lost 2-3, but the home side had played an ineligible player. The F.A. awarded the match to Wycombe. But the reprieve was only temporary—in the next round Aylesbury United visited Wycombe winning 2-1.

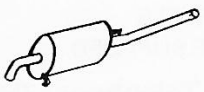
At the start of the 1952-53 season Sid Cann was engaged as coach. He was to play an important part in the success enjoyed by Wycombe Wanderers during his nine seasons at Loakes Park.

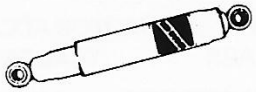
In 1953-54 the Wanderers finished in third place in the Isthmian League and won the County Cup defeating Slough Centre in the final after a replay.

Wycombe's next appearance in the Amateur Cup Semi-Finals came in 1954-55. In the First Round the Blues won 2-1 at Wealdstone following a 1-1 draw at Loakes Park. Home wins over Woking (4-0) and Ilford (3-1) took Wycombe to the Fourth Round where they were drawn at home to the famous Pegasus side, then coached by Joe Mercer. The match was due to be played on 19th February but was postponed due to snow. The following Saturday a crowd of 13,300 saw Wycombe do everything but score in a thrilling Cup tie. The replay took place at Iffley Road, Oxford where the crowd was limited to 6,500. Wycombe came from behind to score twice in the last twenty minutes, the winner by Jackie Tomlin coming in the last minute when the match seemed set to go to extra time. In the Semi-Final the Blues again faced Bishop Auckland, this time at Doncaster. Six special trains carried Wycombe fans to the match to swell the crowd to 24,800. They saw an epic game played in the warm March sunshine. Before the kick-off Malcolm Hunt decided not to risk his damaged knee, but even with a temperature of 100 degrees Barry Darvill declared himself fit—and played the game of his life. At half-time there was no score. The Bishops forced the pace in the second half but with 20 minutes left Paul Bates had a great opportunity to put the Wanderers ahead but delayed his shot giving the Bishop's defence the chance to clear. Then Wycombe relaxed their grip in defence and Oliver scored the goal that mattered after 70 minutes. It put Bishop Auckland into the Amateur Cup Final for the 16th time and was their third defeat of the Wanderers in eight years. Wycombe's hero that day was 17 year old Len Worley who tormented and bewildered the Bishop Auckland players with his running.

The 1955-56 season began in eventful style when the Blues were drawn away to Witney Town in the F.A. Cup. At full time there was no score after the home side had missed a penalty and a number of other scoring chances. The replay at Loakes Park found Wycombe in sparkling form scoring 15 goals to 1, including five each by Paul Bates and Geoff Truett. Wycombe went on to reach the First Round Proper for the first time in 23 years. They found themselves drawn at home to Burton Albion who ended the Wanderers run with a 1-3 defeat.

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On 31st December, 1955 Wycombe overwhelmed Romford 6-2 to become the leaders of the Isthmian League—a position they held to the end of the season. The championship was secured for the first time ever with a 3-0 win over Dulwich Hamlet at Loakes Park on 21st April amidst scenes of celebration. Wycombe ended as top scorers in the league and set up a record winning margin of 12 points.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1955-56
Senior Section

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers ...	28	19	5	4	82	36	43
Bromley	28	12	7	9	54	43	31
Leytonstone	28	12	7	9	50	44	31
Barking	28	14	3	11	62	60	31
Woking	28	12	7	9	41	45	31
Kingstonian	28	12	6	10	67	64	30
Walthamstow Avenue ...	28	13	3	12	61	45	29
Ilford	28	10	8	10	44	52	28
Oxford City	28	10	7	11	48	55	27
Clapton	28	9	8	11	45	48	26
Wimbledon	28	12	2	14	51	62	26
Corinthian-Casuals	28	9	7	12	56	56	25
Dulwich Hamlet	28	9	6	13	55	67	24
Romford	28	9	6	13	42	55	24
St. Albans City	28	2	10	16	36	62	14

The Reserves completed an impressive double by winning the Reserve Section—their second title win.

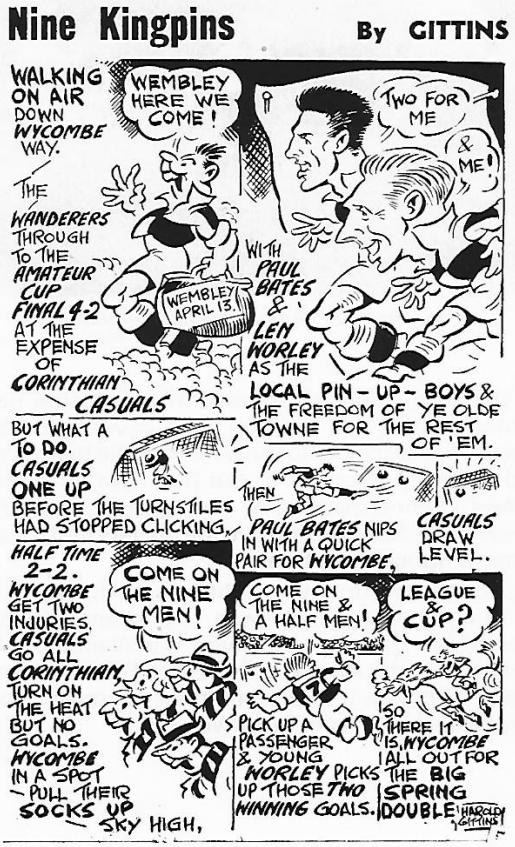


ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS—1955-56
Back Row: N. West, D. Syrett, F. Westley (Captain). Centre Row: W. J. Hayter (Hon. General Secretary), F. Lawson, M. Wicks, B. Darvill, J. Morning (Vice-Captain), S. Cann (Coach). Front Row: L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, G. Truett.

The 1956-57 season began with a tour of Switzerland with matches against Schaffhausen (drew 1-1), F.C. Cantonal (won 3-0) and F.C. Winterthur (won 4-1). The club were honoured to be selected to play the Ugandan touring team in August, 1956. It was a historic occasion which attracted nationwide interest partly due to the visitors playing football in bare feet. Newspapers gave wide coverage of the game and television cameras were at Loakes Park to record the occasion. The Wanderers were in fine shooting form and scored 10 goals to 1 against their African opponents, who later on their tour defeated the England Amateur team. At a dinner held in their honour at the Red Lion Hotel, Sir Stanley Rous, Secretary of the Football Association, in proposing the Toast to the visitors advised them not be be too despondent in losing by so high a score as they had been playing against the possible winners of the Amateur Cup. How true those words nearly became as the Wanderers went on to reach Wembley for the first—and so far only—time in their history.

The trail started with a journey to St. Albans in the First Round and a 4-1 win. The next round at home to Clapton produced a thrilling display when a hat-trick by Paul Bates helped Wycombe to a 4-2 win. Then Hounslow tested the Blues at Loakes Park in an exciting match in front of 12,000 before Wycombe ran out 3-1 winners. The Quarter Final was played in torrential rain at Newbury Park, Ilford. Both sides gave a terrific display to entertain the rain-soaked 12,000 fans in a 3-3 draw. The replay at Loakes Park attracted a crowd of 15,500—just 350 short of the record attendance—who saw Wycombe win 2-0 with goals from Smith and Trott.

The Semi-Final draw threw up some interesting memories of 1931. Wycombe were to travel to Highbury—the scene of their earlier triumph—to play Corinthian-Casuals. In the other Semi-Final Hayes were to play Bishop Auckland—a repeat of 1931 when Hayes won to play Wycombe in the Final. But Bishop Auckland were bidding to complete a hat-trick of Amateur Cup wins and made no mistake this time.



Wycombe's match with Corinthian-Casuals was a classic game of skill, speed, sportsmanship and courage. The Wanderers were a goal down in the early minutes but then took the lead with Paul Bates scoring twice. Casuals then equalised and with the score at 2-2 injuries forced both Frank Westley and Frank Smith to leave the field. Down to nine men Wycombe took the lead through Len Worley. Westley was able to return to hobble about on the left wing, but Smith was taken to hospital with a dislocated shoulder. "Never stop attacking" had been the instructions of Sid Cann, and with only minutes to go Len Worley scored his second and Wycombe's fourth to book their place at Wembley.

The Final attracted a crowd of 90,000. The first half was fairly even with Frank Smith scoring to equalise for the Wanderers. But the second half found the Bishops in dominating mood and two further goals gave them a 3-1 win and their third consecutive Amateur Cup triumph.

Team: D. Syrett, F. Lawson, F. Westley, J. Truett, M. Wicks, G. Truett, L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, F. Smith



Action from the 1957 Amateur Cup Final at Wembley
Photo: Ronald Goodearl

The team received a wonderful welcome home although they had not won the Cup with crowds of cheering people lining the streets as the team travelled in an open coach to the Red Lion in the High Street. There masses of enthusiastic supporters cheered and clapped to give the players and officials a tremendous reception.

Excitement continued right up until the last match of the season which was, by chance, against Corinthian-Casuals—the team the Wanderers had defeated in the Amateur Cup Semi-Final. Wycombe won the match 3-2 to retain their Isthmian League title by just one point from Woking.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1956-57
Senior Section

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	Goals A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	30	18	6	6	86	53	42
Woking	30	20	1	9	104	47	41
Bromley	30	16	5	9	78	60	37
Oxford City	30	16	3	11	65	57	35
Ilford	30	12	8	10	59	65	32
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	30	10	11	9	53	48	31
Kingstonian	30	11	9	10	72	77	31
Walthamstow Avenue	30	11	8	11	48	46	30
Dulwich Hamlet	30	13	3	14	65	54	29
St. Albans City	30	13	3	14	62	71	29
Leytonstone	30	11	6	13	50	50	28
Clapton	30	9	9	12	48	59	27
Wimbledon	30	10	5	15	47	66	25
Romford	30	10	5	15	53	81	25
Barking	30	7	6	17	48	72	20
Corinthian-Casuals	30	7	4	19	46	78	18

The reserves had also enjoyed a good season; in addition to winning the Isthmian League Reserve championship for the second successive season they had also won the Berks. & Bucks. Intermediate Cup and the Chalfont Charity Cup to round off one of the most successful seasons in the history of the club.



Cheering crowds throng the High Street to welcome home the Wanderers team after their Wembley Amateur Cup Final defeat.

Season 1957-58 was another good one for the club who finished as runners-up in the Isthmian League while the second string completed a hat-trick of Reserve Section title wins. The Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup again came to Loakes Park after the Blues beat Maidenhead United 1-0 in the final. The Reserves went on their first ever tour to Cornwall at the end of the season playing Newquay and Penzance.

At this time the Supporters Club was active in helping with several ground improvement schemes. These included the erection of the wrought iron gates and fencing at the west side of the ground. The gates were officially opened in October, 1958 on the occasion of the first ever Amateur International staged at Loakes Park when England played South Africa. This was not the first time a South African touring side had visited Wycombe—as long ago as 1924 a Springbok XI had beaten the Wanderers by 5-2.

The 1958-59 season began in spectacular style with Wycombe scoring 28 goals in their first four Isthmian League matches against Kingstonian (6-2), St. Albans (8-0), Corinthian-Casuals (8-1) and Walthamstow Avenue (6-3). In the F.A. Cup a 3-1 win at Hendon put the club into the First Round where they were drawn away to Northampton Town. The Wanderers gave a thrilling display of attacking football and could have been ahead with better finishing by half-time. But in the final twenty minutes of the match the superior stamina and finishing power of the professionals gave The Cobblers a 2-0 win.

Wycombe met Aylesbury United in the semi-final of the County Cup and after Aylesbury had established a 5-1 half-time lead, the Blues made a remarkable comeback in a match which finished 6-6 after extra time. The replay was disastrous for Wycombe who not only lost 1-2 but Michael Rockell broke his left leg early in the second half. The team finished third in the league table with the consolation of being top goal scorers with 93 goals.

Wanderers Through to F.A. Cup Second Round

1959-60 saw Wycombe through to the Second Round of the F.A. Cup for the first time in their history. Victories over Oxford City (1-0) and Wisbech Town (4-2) at Loakes Park gave the Blues the chance of an away match at Watford, then in the Fourth Division of the Football League. Thousands travelled from Wycombe for the game and swelled the gate to 23,907—Watford's largest crowd since the visit of Manchester United in 1952. Wycombe's players showed both courage and enthusiasm and although it was Watford who opened the scoring after eight minutes Wycombe fought back and after 19 minutes equalised through Atkins. Just before half-time Watford scored two quick goals to give them a 3-1 lead at the interval. A fourth was added before Wycombe were given a chance to reduce the arrears when they were awarded a penalty following a foul on Bates. Sadly for Wycombe the penalty kick was fired directly at the goalkeeper, and with two minutes to go Watford scored their fifth to make the final score 5-1 to the Hornets.

On 20th February 1960, Wycombe thrashed Ilford 10-0 at Loakes Park to record their highest ever win in the Isthmian League. The scorers were P. James (3), P. Bates (3), L. Worley, C. Trott, G. Free and J. Beck. The Berks & Bucks Senior Cup was won against Maidenhead United at Reading by 3-0. During the last quarter of the season Wycombe played excellently to finish runners-up in the league with the destination of the title in doubt until the final matches. The Reserves were successful in winning the Reserve title for the club.

Season 1960-61 was one of disappointment after the success enjoyed in the seasons before. The team finished eighth in the table and although reaching the First Round of the F.A. Cup, lost to Kettering Town. At the end of the season Sid Cann decided to resign to return to the Football League.

1961-62 proved to be another poor season. The club reached the F.A. Cup First Round for the fifth successive season when Ashford Town were the visitors. The match ended in a goalless draw with the replay being played under floodlights at Ashford and the local side winning 3-0. In the league the team finished in seventh place. One newcomer in the side that season was Tony Horseman. He scored a goal on his Isthmian League debut at Oxford City on 23rd October 1961, and by the end of the season had notched a total of 11—the start of an outstanding career. The club again staged an Amateur International match against Iceland on 16th September 1961. In the Wycombe Hospital Cup match against Loughborough Colleges the Wanderers fielded three "guest" players—Mike Keen (Q.P.R.), Dennis Edwards (Charlton) and Geoff Truett (Crystal Palace) in a game they won 5-1.

At the end of the season Graham Adams resigned as coach and Don Welsh was appointed for the new season. The 1962-63 season will be remembered as one of the most severe in living memory. No matches were possible at Loakes Park between Boxing Day 1962 and the beginning of March, and the season was extended so that fixtures could be completed. One of the first matches to suffer was Wycombe's Amateur Cup tie against Uxbridge which was due to be played on 5th January, but no play was possible until 2nd March. Then Wycombe won 2-1 on a hard icy ground. By contrast, the following round against Barking was played on a pouring day with Wycombe just winning 3-2. In the Third Round Wycombe lost 2-3 at Hitchin despite an exciting second half recovery.

Opening of Floodlights

In 1964 the Isthmian League was extended to 20 clubs with the addition of Enfield, Hitchin Town, Sutton United and Hendon. Many clubs were now installing floodlights at their grounds, and Wycombe opened their lights in an Isthmian League match against Enfield on 25th September 1963. Wycombe won the match 3-1 with goals from Gale, Thomas and Beck. It was a generally disappointing season with the only success in the County Cup which was won with a 2-1 victory against Windsor & Eton in the final. In the Wycombe Hospital Cup the 1957 Wanderers XI beat the 1963 team by 2-1. The club changed from its traditional quartered strip to light and dark blue stripes during the season; this was also reflected in the design of the programme cover. But it was not popular and the following season the club reverted to the quartered shirts.

Season 1964/65 saw the debut of John Maskell in the Wycombe goal, but a fractured ankle in the first ten minutes of an F.A. Cup game at Hayes in October kept him out for much of the season. During December 1964 Don Welsh resigned as coach and Barry Darvill took over. In February 1965 the club chairman, Eric Webb, died following an illness and Jack Smethurst was appointed. Another disappointing season with the only success coming in the A.F.A. Invitation Cup and the Wycombe Hospital Cup which was won back from the 1957 side by 3-0.

1965/66 saw an improvement in results with the club finishing in fourth place having scored 100 goals in 38 matches. The Wanderers also reached the Fourth Round of the F.A. Amateur Cup with wins against Aveley (home 2-1), Penrith (home 1-0), St. Albans City (home 1-1, away 3-0) before losing to Hendon (away 1-2). In the F.A. Cup Wycombe met Guildford City in the First Round. Playing away the Blues were saved by an excellent last-minute goal by Len Worley to force a 2-2 draw. In the replay Guildford won 1-0 at Loakes Park. A new competition, the Wycombe Floodlight Cup, was entered along with Maidenhead United, Reading and Slough Town, with Slough being the eventual winners. The President, Mr. George Hodsdon, died during the season.

During the early sixties there was speculation over the plans for the extension of the hospital and the future of the club at Loakes Park, with talk of an alternative site being offered for development. Happily the hospital developments went ahead without interfering with the club's continued existence at Loakes Park.

F.A. Cup Marathon

Season 1966/67 will be remembered for the epic F.A. Cup struggle against Bedford Town in the First Round. After easily overcoming Cheshunt 8-0 in the previous round, Wycombe could have little idea that the contest would develop into a marathon lasting 6½ hours. The first match at Loakes Park drew a crowd of 7,488. After a goalless first half Bedford opened the scoring with Keith Samuels equalising for the Wanderers with five minutes to go. Bedford held a 1-0 lead in the replay but after the interval Wycombe came back strongly to lead 2-1, the Southern League side being lucky to draw level in the closing minutes. The game went into extra time with Wycombe again taking the lead before Bedford were awarded a controversial penalty two minutes from the end to make the score 3-3. A toss of the coin gave Wycombe the venue for the second replay and a crowd of 8,821 saw a 1-1 draw with the referee abandoning the match at the start of extra time because of incessant rain. So a fourth match was played at The Eyrie when the Eagles finally squeezed through to the Second Round by 3-2. In the course of over 6½ hours play over 32,000 had paid to watch the duel.

In the Isthmian League Wycombe finished in third place, and the club won the A.F.A. Invitation Cup, the Wycombe Floodlight Cup and the Marlow Invitation Cup. Tony Horseman set a club scoring record of 76 goals in all competitions. Another player making an impression was 17-year-old Viv Busby who was to become a regular in the side until 1969 when he moved to Luton Town and later to Newcastle, Fulham, Norwich, Stoke, Sheffield United and Blackburn.

In December 1968 Barry Darvill resigned as coach and the club appointed Brian Lee in his place. It was to be the start of an era of unparallelled success for Wycombe Wanderers; one that would bring national publicity to the club.

With the arrival of Brian Lee changes soon began to emerge. The selection committee which had always operated in the past was abandoned with Lee in full control of team affairs. The reserve team was axed in favour of a squad system. John Rear-

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don, who had taken nearby Chesham United to Wembley in the Amateur Cup, came to Loakes Park as Lee's assistant.

The club finished the 1968/69 season in fourth place in the Isthmian League and won the A.F.A. Invitation Cup in rather unusual circumstances. The 1967/68 Final was delayed for nearly a year with Wycombe playing Dulwich Hamlet on 17th May 1969 at Loakes Park and winning 4-2. Seven days earlier the Blues had been dismissed from the 1968/69 tournament at Worthing and so held the Cup for only a week before handing it back to be presented to the next winners.

Among the newcomers at Loakes Park at the start of the 1969/70 season was John Delaney who took over the captaincy of the club. During the season he was joined by Keith Searle, Peter Suddaby, Keith Blunt and John Hutchinson who all quickly established their places in the side. In the Isthmian League the Blues lost only twice all season and an unbeaten run from 6th September 1969 to the end of the season saw them finish as runners-up behind Enfield.

In the Amateur Cup the club battled through to the Quarter-Finals before losing at home to St. Albans. The club entered the Premier Midweek Floodlight League winning their section to qualify for the play-off against the other two section winners, Leatherhead and Walton & Hersham. However, with all three clubs involved in end-of-season tours not all of these matches were played with the title being awarded to Wycombe as the club with the highest number of points. In January 1970 Viv Busby left the club to join Luton Town—the first of eight Football League clubs he was to play for—while at the end of the season Peter Suddaby signed for Blackpool.

New faces at Loakes Park the following season included Ted Powell, Paul Fuschillo and Larry Pritchard. Playing its fiftieth season in the Isthmian League, the club was successful in winning its third championship title.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1970-71

Senior Section

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	38	28	6	4	93	32	62
Sutton United	38	29	3	6	76	35	61
St. Albans City	38	23	10	5	87	26	56
Enfield	38	24	7	7	67	24	55
Ilford	38	21	7	10	74	51	49
Hendon	38	18	11	9	81	37	47
Barking	38	20	4	14	89	59	44
Leytonstone	38	17	10	11	68	50	44
Woking	38	18	6	14	57	50	42
Walthamstow Avenue	38	14	11	13	63	52	39
Oxford City	38	13	10	15	51	48	36
Hitchin Town	38	12	9	17	46	60	33
Wealdstone	38	12	8	18	45	64	32
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	38	11	9	18	44	66	31
Kingstonian	38	11	8	19	53	71	30
Bromley	38	10	6	22	34	77	26
Dulwich Hamlet	38	7	10	21	30	66	24
Maidstone United	38	7	6	25	42	84	20
Clapton	38	5	7	26	33	101	17
Corinthian Casuals	38	2	8	28	23	103	12

In the Amateur Cup Wycombe again reached the Quater-Finals with home wins over Wealdstone (1-0), Enfield (1-0) and Oldbury United (4-0). The Fourth Round draw saw them at home again, this time to Skelmersdale United. A crowd of 10,203 saw Wycombe well beaten by 3 goals to nil by the side who went on to win the Cup. In the F.A. Cup the Wanderers reached the First Round proper before losing to local rivals Slough Town after a replay. The Wanderers and The Rebels met again in the County Cup final and again it took two matches to settle it with Slough winning by the only goal. At Easter the club were invited to Jersey and Guernsey as part of the Channel Islands F.A. celebrations, and the end of season tour took the club to Gibraltar.

As the Blues entered the 1971/72 season Brian Lee warned the fans that it would be more difficult to retain the league title than it had been to win it the previous season, but despite his caution Wycombe were again successful, winning the championship in style. In their 40 matches the Blues scored 102 goals while conceding only 20. Playing their part in this success story were Paul Birdseye, Mick Holifield, Julian Lailey, Derek Gamblin and Mick Mellows who arrived at Loakes Park during the season.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1971-72

Senior Section

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	40	31	3	6	102	20	65
Enfield	40	26	8	6	90	41	60
Walton & Hersham	40	24	8	8	69	25	56
Hendon	40	23	10	7	78	35	56
Bishops Stortford	40	24	5	11	61	37	53
Sutton United	40	21	10	9	77	43	52
St. Albans City	40	23	4	13	74	47	50
Ilford	40	17	11	12	62	52	45
Barking	40	20	4	16	65	61	44
Hitchin Town	40	17	10	13	68	66	44
Bromley	40	16	10	14	67	64	42
Hayes	40	14	12	14	50	48	40
Oxford City	40	13	9	18	67	74	35
Woking	40	11	10	19	52	58	32
Kingstonian	40	10	12	18	49	59	32
Walthamstow Avenue	40	12	8	20	58	70	32
Leytonstone	40	11	8	21	48	68	30
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	40	6	9	25	38	93	21
Clapton	40	7	7	26	45	118	21
Dulwich Hamlet	40	4	12	24	35	81	20
Corinthian Casuals	40	3	4	33	21	116	10

Disappointment in the Amateur Cup

In the F.A. Amateur Cup, Wycombe got off to a shaky start. Playing at Aveley in the First Round the Wanderers recovered from an early two goal deficit to force a replay at Loakes Park which was won comfortably by 5-1. Spennymoor United came to Loakes Park in the Second Round and a thrilling match ended with a 2-1 win for Wycombe.

At Walton & Hersham in the Third Round, Wycombe took a half-time lead with a goal by Mellows. After an hour's play the home side equalised but Wycombe quickly restored their lead within a

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minute of conceding the goal, Horseman scoring with a typically opportunist effort. Soon afterwards Larry Pritchard left the field with two cracked ribs—an injury which kept him out of the side for the rest of the Cup matches. In his absence Wycombe were unlucky not to increase their lead when Delaney missed a penalty and Horseman had a "goal" ruled offside. But a 2-1 win saw the Blues through to their third consecutive Quarter-Final tie. Drawn at home to Hayes the Wycombe team had to put aside any thoughts of the defeats by St. Albans and Skelmersdale. The match-winner was Keith Searle—who had started the season at Hayes before returning to Wycombe at the end of August. His goal was enough to put Wycombe into the Semi-Finals where they were drawn against Hendon at Brentford. Because of amateur international calls on players the matches against Walton & Hersham, Hayes and Hendon were played on consecutive Saturdays—another psychological test for the players. Wycombe started the match at Brentford in attacking mood and it was against the run of the play that Hendon opened the scoring after 14 minutes. They held their slender lead until half-time with John Swannell in great form in the Hendon goal. Wycombe's equaliser came after 60 minutes with John Hutchinson scoring after a fine move with Keith Searle. Hendon's winning goal was both spectacular and controversial. The scorer was Peter Deadman who unleashed a powerful long-range drive but Wycombe's players, led by John Maskell and Ted Powell, appealed to the referee that a Hendon player was in an offside position. The referee ruled that the player was not interfering with play and the goal stood. Wycombe continued to press forward forcing a succession of corners, but it was too late—their chance of another Wembley appearance had gone, for the time being at least.

Team: J. Maskell, I. Rundle, D. Bullock, E. Powell, J. Delaney, R. Williams, M. Mellows, D. Gamblin, K. Searle, A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson. Sub.: T. Waughman.

In the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Wycombe and Slough met again in the final played at Maidenhead. With time running out the match appeared to be heading towards a goalless draw when the Rebels scored three goals in the last ten minutes to take the Cup.

At the end of the season the club went on tour to Greece, playing matches against the Greek National Youth XI (won 1-0) and against a Panathinaikos Under-23 XI. This match was played as a "curtain raiser" to the Greek Under-23 international against Czechoslovakia in front of a crowd of nearly 30,000. The temperature was in the upper eighties as Wycombe stunned the local side with a 3-1 win. Maskell was the Wycombe hero producing a string of excellent saves while goals from Terry Reardon, Mick Holifield and Keith Searle put the Blues three goals ahead before the Greek side scored a late consolation goal. Keith Searle ended the season as top goalscorer with 40, while Horseman hit 35.

During the season the club again had the honour of staging the Amateur International match against the Republic of Ireland. Unfortunately this coincided with the power crisis of that year and was played on a Friday afternoon with the attendance suffering as a consequence. England won the match 2-0.

Following their recent success in both league and cup competitions, season 1972/73 was regarded as something of a disappointment. In the league Wycombe finished in fourth place while little progress was made in either the F.A. Cup or the Amateur Cup. The County Cup final was again a Wycombe v Slough affair with Wycombe beating Slough's Amateur Cup final team 1-0 at Chesham. The Blues had been fortunate to force a replay against Spartan League side Bracknell Town in the Semi-Finals, winning the second game 1-0.

At the end of the season John Delaney signed for Bournemouth after four seasons as club captain, while Alan Gane, who had spent only one season at Loakes Park, signed for Brentford. Another player who had made a handful of appearances in the last matches of the season and caught the attention of the fans was Ken Swain who later played for Chelsea, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest.

The 1973/74 season saw the introduction of sponsorship from Rothmans to the Isthmian League. This brought a number of fresh ideas to the game with the emphasis on positive attacking football with less bookings and more goals. Three points were awarded for a win and there were incentives for goalscoring and sportsmanship. Wycombe won the league title for the third time in four seasons and remained unbeaten at home all season. In the closing stages the Blues were hard pressed by Hendon and Bishop's Stortford and, with all three playing three matches a week at times, the title was not decided until the final day of the season. In the first season of sponsorship, Wycombe had received only one caution throughout the whole of the campaign.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1973-74

Division I

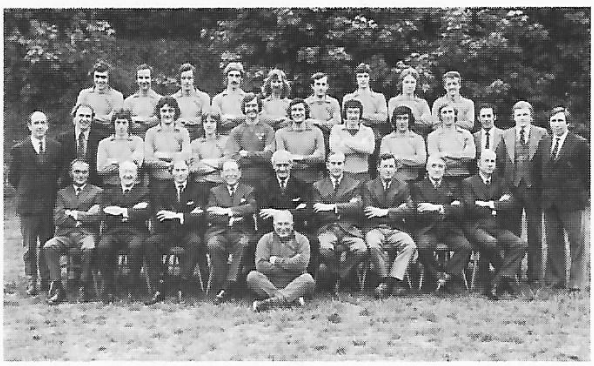
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	42	27	9	6	96	34	90
Hendon	42	25	13	4	63	20	88
Bishop's Stortford	42	26	9	7	78	26	87
Dulwich Hamlet	42	22	11	9	71	38	77
Leatherhead	42	23	6	13	81	44	75
Walton & Hersham	42	20	12	10	68	50	72
Woking	42	22	6	14	63	55	72
Leytonstone	42	20	9	13	63	44	69
Ilford	42	20	8	14	60	44	68
Hayes	42	17	14	11	65	43	65
Oxford City	42	15	16	11	45	47	61
Sutton United	42	13	16	13	51	52	55
Hitchin Town	42	15	10	17	68	73	55
Barking	42	14	12	16	57	58	54
Kingstonian	42	12	15	15	47	46	51
Tooting & Mitcham	42	14	9	19	57	62	51
Enfield	42	13	11	18	50	57	50
Walthamstow Avenue	42	11	13	18	46	62	46
Bromley	42	7	9	26	37	81	30
Clapton	42	8	3	31	36	128	27
St. Albans City	42	4	7	31	30	92	19
Corinthian Casuals	42	3	4	35	31	107	13

In the F.A. Cup the Wanderers battled through from the First Qualifying Round to the Competition Proper with wins over Tilbury (away 3-0), Woking (home 1-0), Chatham (away 7-0) and Worthing (away 3-0). In the First Round Wycombe were drawn at home to Newport County. Despite dominating the play in the first half Wycombe were unable to score and at the interval the scoresheet was blank. But midway through the second half the Wanderers found their winning touch scoring three times through Steve Perrin (2) and Dylan Evans. Newport scored a consolation goal seven minutes from time to make the score 3-1. Wycombe again had the luck of the draw with a Second Round tie at home to the then Fourth Division leaders Peterborough United. A large crowd packed into Loakes Park for the match. At half-time the score was 1-1 with Larry Pritchard having scored for Wycombe. But two second-half goals by Peterborough gave them a 3-1 win.

Team: J. Maskell, R. Williams, R. Grant, P. Wood, D. Bullock, T. Reardon, A. Horseman, L. Pritchard, D. Evans, M. Holifield, S. Perrin. Sub: A. Brothers (not used).

In the Amateur Cup a comfortable 5-0 win at home against Hornchurch was followed by away ties at Evenwood Town (won 3-0) and Blyth Spartans (lost 1-2). For the fourth year in succession the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup final was contested by Slough Town and Wycombe Wanderers with Wycombe winning 3-1 at Wokingham with goals from Larry Pritchard and Tony Horseman (2).

1973/74 will also be remembered as the winter of the power crisis and the resulting three-day week. Because of this no evening matches were played between November 1973 and March 1974, while the club staged its first ever Sunday league match on 13th January 1974 when Corinthian-Casuals were the visitors. Wycombe won 7-0.



Rothmans Isthmian League Champions 1973-74

(Rear) S. Perrin, K. Mead, K. Searle, D. Evans, R. Grant, L. Pritchard (Captain), P. Birdseye, G. Mackenzie, A. Horseman. (Second Standing) B. R. Lee (Manager), C. Avery, M. Holifield, D. Bullock, A. Price, K. Raine, J. Maskell, I. Rundle, P. Wood, T. Reardon, T. Thomas, G. Roberts, J. Reardon (Asst. Manager). (Front Seated) R. Hart, P. Pearce, R. N. Lee (Treasurer), M. E. Seymour (President), J. Smethurst (Chairman), A. J. Crump (Secretary), J. Goldsworthy, R. Williams, H. Wharton, R. G. Sheppard (Team Attendant).

Wanderers reach the F.A. Cup Third Round

1974/75 will always be remembered as the season when Wycombe captured the national news headlines as they reached the Third Round of the F.A. Cup for the first time and those two classic matches against Jackie Charlton's Middlesbrough. But at the start of the season, league results had been inconsistent. Larry Pritchard had left the club and returned to Sutton United. Into the side came newcomers Howard Kennedy, Dave Alexander, Alan Phillips and Gary Hand.

The F.A. Cup trail started at Marlow in the First Qualifying Round on 14th September when the Wanderers recorded a narrow 1-0 win. Further wins over Milton Keynes (home 2-0), Chesham United (away 3-1) and Margate (home 2-1) put Wycombe into the First Round draw. Cheltenham Town were the visitors to Loakes Park including in their side former Wycombe player Julian Lailey. Wycombe won 3-1 with a penalty from Tony Horseman and goals from Mick Holifield and Paul Birdseye.

The Second Round brought another former Wycombe player back to Loakes Park—John Delaney who led the Bournemouth side out. The match ended in a goalless draw. In the replay at Dean Court, Bournemouth started well and took the lead after nine minutes, holding thier lead until half-time. In the second half Wycombe began to take control and equalised through Tony Horseman before Steve Perrin scored the goal that gave Wycombe a place in the Third Round for the first time.

Their opponents were Middlesbrough, joint leaders of the First Division. A capacity crowd of 12,000 filled the ground and the match was covered by ITV's "Big Match" cameras. Wycombe's midfield trio of Mead, Phillips and Reardon dominated the match and at half-time there was no score. In the second half Middlesbrough did not manage a single shot at the Wycombe goal, while at the other end the Wanderers front-runners taunted the 'Boro defence. Steve Perrin had a chance to put Wycombe ahead soon after the break while Alan Phillips saw his header rocket into the side netting. With the final score 0-0 the Wanderers were faced with the prospects of the replay at Ayresome Park. Jackie Charlton predicted "Murder at Ayrsome Park" but it was the Wycombe side who opened the attacking. It was not until midway through the half that John Maskell in the Wycombe goal had to make his first save. Then began the 'Boro onslaught on the Wycombe goal which brought out the best in Maskell who played the game of his life. His skill and acrobatic saves earned him the respect of the Teesside crowd. It was not until the final seconds of the game that the Wycombe goal finally fell. Graham Souness passed to David Armstrong who steered the ball wide of Maskell. Seconds later the final whistle sounded. The 30,000 crowd gave Wycombe a great ovation and the Middlesbrough players formed a line to congratulate the Wycombe team as they left the field. Afterwards, Jack Charlton said that it was the greatest ovation to a visiting side that he could remember.

Team: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, G. Hand, K. Mead, A. Phillips, T. Reardon, S. Perrin, H. Kennedy, K. Searle, M. Holifield, A. Horseman. Sub: D. Evans (80 minutes).

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Whenever a sordid football headline depresses you, pull out this magazine and have a look at this page.

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With a minute to go at Ayresome Park, Wycombe Wanderers finally proved that they didn't need a 'slope' to make them into a good side, and Jackie Charlton's Middlesbrough had in no way 'murdered' them as proficied.

Neither trainer had been on the field once in two games, hardly a deliberate foul had been committed and the immaculate attitude of the Wycombe players had even rubbed off on the professionals, who retrieved 'dead' balls, picked opponents up after tackles and even exchanged the occasional smile! How the crowd appreciated the change from the usual 'rat race' atmosphere.

The anxious home supporters suddenly roared their relief as the brilliant John Maskell was at last beaten, and seconds later the final whistle sounded.

The main stand stood as one to applaud the non-leaguers but the reaction on the terraces took everyone's breath away. From all quarters of the ground the loudest roar of the night echoed "WYCOMBE, WYCOMBE, WYCOMBE".

The Wycombe Players who were embracing their opponents in exhausted huddles broke away to meet together in the centre circle and waved an acknowledgement to the 30,128, then they turned back to find the Middlesbrough players forming a guard of honour at the end of which Brian Lee, John Reardon and Jackie Charlton added their congratulations!

The emotion comes back at the thought and there wasn't a dry-eye among the Wycombe supporters at the time!

*(*From Rothmans Football News.)*

At the time of their Cup defeat Wycombe appeared to have little chance of retaining their Isthmian League title. They were in tenth place with Enfield holding an apparently uncatchable lead at the top of the table. But Wycombe did not lose another league match that season with 15 wins and five draws from their last 20 matches. They clung on to their title by winning their final match against Dagenham 1-0 to pip Enfield by the slenderest of goal averages—just 0.1 of a goal. Wycombe were again unbeaten at home in the league and again collected only one caution throughout the season.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1974-75
Division I

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	Goals A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	42	28	11	3	93	30	95
Enfield	42	29	8	5	78	26	95
Dagenham	42	28	5	9	95	44	89
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	42	25	9	8	78	46	84
Dulwich Hamlet	42	24	10	8	75	38	82
Leatherhead	42	23	10	9	83	42	79
Ilford	42	23	10	9	98	51	79
Oxford City	42	17	9	16	63	56	60
Slough Town	42	17	6	19	68	52	57
Sutton United	42	17	6	19	68	63	57
Bishop's Stortford	42	17	6	19	56	64	57
Hitchin Town	42	15	10	17	57	71	55
Hendon	42	15	7	20	59	74	52
Walthamstow Avenue	42	13	9	20	56	62	48
Woking	42	12	10	20	53	73	46
Hayes	42	10	14	18	52	66	44
Barking	42	12	8	22	57	81	44
Leytonstone	42	12	7	23	42	61	43
Kingstonian	42	13	4	25	48	73	43
Clapton	42	12	4	26	46	96	40
Walton & Hersham	42	9	4	29	37	108	31
Bromley	42	6	3	33	25	110	21

With the abolition of amateur status, the game of football lost both the old Amateur Cup competition and the amateur international matches. The stronger non-league sides were entered in the F.A. Trophy alongside the semi-professional clubs. The Wanderers had a poor introduction to the new tournament losing 0-3 to Ilford in their first match.

In the County Cup, Wycombe and Slough—who had met in the four previous finals—were drawn together in the Third Round with the Blues winning 3-0 at Slough. Rivets Sports were overwhelmed 7-1 in the semi-final at Aylesbury and Wycombe met Thatcham in the final at Chesham. This turned out to be something of a traumatic day for the Wanderers. First Keith Mead was sent off following a comment to a team mate. After 90 minutes there was no score and the match moved into extra time. The Blues took full advantage of their superior fitness and rattled in four goals, including a hat-trick from Tony Horseman. At the end of the match the Wycombe team applauded the Thatcham players off the field and walked straight to the dressing rooms leaving the County officials waiting to present the Cup and medals. The Wycombe action was in protest at the refusal of the Berks and Bucks F.A. to allow Wycombe Wanderers to enter the London Senior Cup. As a result, Wycombe were punished by both the F.A. and the County F.A. The Football Association severely reprimanded both the club and manager Brian Lee. The County F.A. expelled Wycombe from the season's competition and awarded the Cup to Thatcham.

Anglo-Italian Trophy

1975 saw Wycombe Wanderers enter Europe. The club was invited to represent non-league football in this country against A.C. Monza of Italy in the Anglo-Italian Trophy. The tie was played over two legs with Wycombe losing 0-1 in the first match in Italy. Two goals in the second match at Loakes Park were enough to win the trophy 2-1 on aggregate. At the end of the season Wycombe were also invited, together with Enfield, to represent the Isthmian League in the Anglo-Italian Semi-Professional Tournament. Wycombe won their home matches against Pistoiese (4-0) and Teramo (1-0) but lost both matches in Italy 0-1 and 0-3 respectively to go out of the competition.

In the F.A. Cup the club enjoyed exemption until the Fourth Qualifying Round where they found themselves drawn away to Croydon. After 20 minutes Wycombe were two goals down but goals from Evans and Horseman earned a replay which the Wanderers won 5-2. The draw for the First Round paired Wycombe with Bedford Town—and thoughts of the marathon in 1966 soon returned. As it turned out it didn't go quite that far this time—but it took three matches before it was settled. The first match at Loakes Park was a 0-0 draw, while the replay ended 2-2 after extra time. The third match was played in torrential rain at Loakes Park with Wycombe winning 2-1. In the Second Round, Wycombe travelled to Cardiff City, missing some good chances before Cardiff scored the only goal of the match just before half-time.

In the County Cup, Wycombe were drawn away in every round beating Buckingham Town (7-1), Chalfont St. Peter (2-0) and Rivets Sports (6-2) before meeting Chesham United at "The Meadow" in the semi-final. The match will be remembered for two reasons. The first was the own goal by the Chesham side in the opening seconds which found its way into the Guinness Book of Records. The other is that Wycombe unknowingly played an ineligible player and subsequently withdrew from the competition after winning 4-2.

Wycombe finished the season as runners-up to Enfield in the Isthmian League maintaining an excellent disciplinary record with just two bookings during the season. On 19th August 1975, Slough Town had visited Loakes Park and won 1-0 to end the Wanderers' unbeaten home run which stretched back 52 matches to December, 1972. At the other end of the season the visit of Dagenham resulted in a most remarkable match which will probably always be remembered by those who saw it. With both sides playing attacking football it was only missed chances that kept the score at 0-0 at half-time. In the second period Wycombe produced some fast and accurate passing and devastating finishing to score six times to Dagenham's two. Even Brian Lee had to admit "That was magic!"

In November 1975 Brian Lee announced his intention to retire as Manager at the end of the season. His commitments at Bisham Abbey meant that he was unable to devote sufficient time to managing the team. His seven year reign at Loakes Park had been the most successful period in the history of the club with four league title wins and two runners-up spots and consistently good performances in cup competitions. The only disappointment was not taking Wycombe to Wembley—the nearest had been the Amateur Cup Semi-Final in 1972. During the season Blues' chairman, Jack Smethurst, died; Reg Williams was elected to replace him.

Ted Powell was appointed as Manager at the start of the 1976/77 season but his reign at Loakes Park was short lived. In March 1977 the club terminated his employment after he had expressed his intention to apply for a full-time post abroad. John Reardon took over for the remainder of the season. On the field the club again finished as runners-up with the championship in doubt until the last match of the season. Enfield were again champions with Dagenham in third place—a repeat of the previous season. In the F.A. Cup Wycombe beat Merthyr Tydfil (home 3-1) and Waterlooville (away 2-1) to meet Reading at Loakes Park in the Second Round. The match was played on a hard frosty pitch with Reading taking a two goal lead at half-time. In the second half Wycombe attacked the Reading goal and in the 68th minute pulled a goal back through Ian Pearson. Several more chances came Wycombe's way and they were unlucky not to force a replay.

In the F.A. Trophy the Blues finally recorded their first win away at Barnet (1-0) but lost in the Second Round at Runcorn. In the County Cup Wycombe slumped to a shock defeat at Hungerford in the semi-final after leading at half-time.

During the season the club also staged a testimonial match for long serving players Tony Horseman and John Maskell who had both given outstanding service to the club. A team of past players were beaten by the 1976/77 squad, 5-4.

Season 1977/78 saw Wycombe finish in third place in the Isthmian League having lost only two sportsmanship points—in five seasons the club had suffered only six bookings in 210 league matches. Enfield won the title with a record 110 points, 31 points ahead of runners-up Dagenham. In the F.A. Cup, Wycombe Wanderers were exempted to the First Round Proper stage for the first time, but lost 0-2 at Minehead. The Berks & Bucks Senior Cup was won against Chalfont St. Peter at Aylesbury, while the club also entered the Shaw & Kilburn Floodlight League and finished as runners-up to Banbury United.

At the end of the season Wycombe parted company with John Reardon and Andy Williams was appointed as Manager. The club finished the 1978/79 season in sixth place in the Isthmian League. In the F.A. Cup, Wycombe were again exempt to the First Round Proper and were unlucky to lose at Maidstone when, after dominating much of the game, they fell to an indirect free-kick which the unfortunate Peter Spittle tipped into his own net. In the County Cup the Blues beat Chalfont St. Peter (away 2-1), Maidenhead United (home 6-1), Slough Town (home 1-1, away 1-0) before meeting Hungerford in the final. The first match at Marlow went into extra time and with Hungerford leading 2-1 only a

last-minute penalty conversion by Howard Kennedy saved Wycombe from defeat. In the replay at Slough, Hungerford again took the lead, but Wycombe pulled back to lead 2-1 at half-time. A further goal in the second half put the Cup beyond the reach of Hungerford.

Season 1979/80 was a time of change at Loakes Park. After a disappointing first half of the season, Andy Williams resigned as manager. Brian Lee took over on a caretaker basis until Mike Keen was appointed in January 1980. Results began to improve with the last eleven league matches producing 26 points to lift Wycombe to tenth place in the table. A number of players joined the club during the season including Gary Lester, Bob Dell and George Borg. Mike Phillips came to the club as full-time Commercial Manager and took over the running of the club lottery which is so important in providing much needed funds to the football club.

Season 1980/81 saw an improvement in league position with the team finishing third in the league. In the F.A. Cup the club met Bournemouth in the First Round at Loakes Park but there was to be no repeat of the 1974 result with the South Coast club winning 3-0. Reserve team football returned to Loakes Park with the re-formed side finishing sixth in the Suburban League (North Division). Fans at Loakes Park also had the opportunity of seeing the High Wycombe & District Schools team win the English Schools Trophy. In the two-legged final, a single goal in the first match at Loakes Park was enough to give the boys victory over Sunderland.

In 1981 Brian Lee was elected Chairman. He had served as Honorary Vice-Chairman since resigning as manager in 1976.

Season 1981/82 proved to be the story of so near . . . and yet so far. At Easter the Blues had the exciting prospect of winning the F.A. Trophy, the Isthmian League, The Hitachi League Cup and the County Cup. But in the short space of 12 days their hopes were dashed. The first blow came in the County Cup final on Easter Monday. Playing Hungerford Town at Wokingham the Wanderers lost to a late goal. The following Saturday the Blues met Altrincham at Loakes Park in the Second Leg of the Trophy Semi-Final. The first leg the previous week had ended in a 1-1 draw after Altrincham had scored a late equaliser in the dying minutes of the match. The second match was played on a hard dusty pitch in front of a crowd of 4,896 who saw the Wanderers lose 0-3. Four days later Wycombe visited Kingstonian for a Hitachi Cup semi-final replay and again lost 1-2. Two away league defeats at Sutton United and Dulwich Hamlet cost Wycombe their chances of the league title and they finished in third place.

But the highlight of the season must have been that run in the F.A. Trophy. Beginning on a wet evening in January at Walthamstow Avenue the Blues drew 1-1 to force a replay at Loakes Park. That, too, ended 1-1 and the toss of a coin gave Wycombe choice of venue for the third match. A convincing 5-1 win put Wycombe into the Second Round where they were drawn away to Hyde United. The Wanderers survived a tough game at Hyde, winning an exciting replay with an unforgettable free kick from Howard Kennedy. The Third Round brought Bishop Auckland—Wycombe's old Amateur Cup rivals—to Loakes Park. Wycombe invited their 1957 Amateur Cup team as guests that day and they saw Mike Keen's men "bash the Bishops" winning 4-1. In the Fourth Round a Terry Glynn goal at Kidderminster put Wycombe into the Semi-Finals. Sadly there was to be no dream ending but many will remember the exciting football played that season.



Wycombe Wanderers' longest serving player, Tony Horseman, receives a presentation from Barry East, Chairman of the Isthmian League, on the occasion of his retirement. Sir Stanley Rous looks on.

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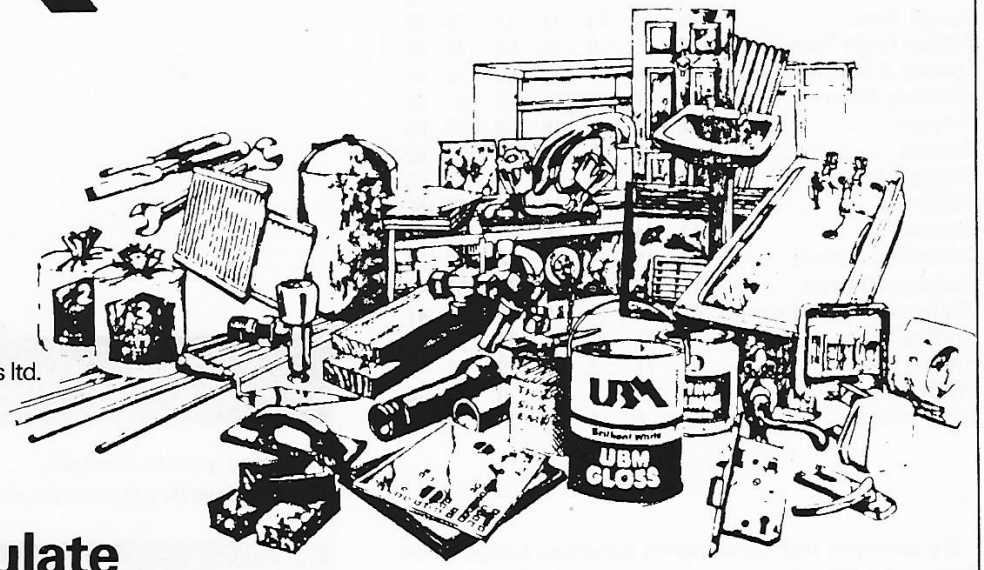
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Wycombe won their seventh Isthmian League title in the 1982/83 having led the race for most of the season. The Blues first topped the table on 16th October and remained there until the end of the season. The team took 28 points out of a maximum 30 in their last ten matches putting the pressure on the teams chasing them who needed to convert games in hand into points in order to deprive Wycombe of the title. Ironically Wycombe received the news that the title was theirs just after suffering the disappointment of losing to Sutton United in the final of the Hitachi League Cup. The club was invited to Italy to represent England along with Chelmsford in the Gigi Peronace Memorial Cup playing against Italian sides Padua and Cosenza. Wycombe lost 0-4 to Cosenza but claimed third place by beating Chelmsford 5-3 on penalties.

In the F.A. Cup Wycombe travelled to Eastville to play Bristol Rovers. On a wet and windy afternoon they gave a good display and were unlucky to lose to a second half goal. Boston United put an end to Wycombe's F.A. Trophy aspirations, while Bracknell caused an upset by dumping Wycombe out of the County Cup.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1982-83
Premier Division

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	42	26	7	9	79	47	85
Leytonstone-Ilford	42	24	9	9	71	39	81
Harrow Borough	42	24	7	11	91	58	79
Hayes	42	23	9	10	63	41	78
Sutton United	42	20	8	14	96	71	68
Dulwich Hamlet	42	18	14	10	59	52	68
Slough Town	42	18	13	11	73	36	67
Bognor Regis Town	42	19	8	15	53	48	65
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	42	18	9	15	58	56	63
Billericay Town	42	17	10	15	54	51	61
Croydon	42	17	9	16	68	58	60
Hendon	42	18	6	18	68	61	60
Bishop's Stortford	42	17	9	16	61	58	60
Barking	42	14	14	14	47	55	56
Bromley	42	14	12	16	51	50	54
Carshalton Athletic	42	15	9	18	58	60	54
Wokingham Town	42	13	9	20	37	51	48
Walthamstow Avenue	42	12	11	19	48	64	47
Staines Town	42	12	11	19	62	79	47
Hitchin Town	42	11	9	22	49	77	42
Woking	42	6	6	30	30	79	24
Leatherhead	42	4	5	33	36	121	17

By winning the Servowarm Isthmian League title Wycombe Wanderers had the opportunity to move into the Alliance Premier League. The club gave careful thought to this before deciding to stay in the Servowarm Isthmian League. In addition to the increased travelling costs which would be inevitable in a national competition, it was felt that a move into the Alliance Premier League would require a change of management, committee and playing staff. Whilst the appearance of different teams at Loakes Park would give a temporary boost to gates, it was felt that supporters would find it more difficult to travel to away matches.

1983/84 proved to be a difficult season for the club with much comment in the local press concerning club policy. On the field it was a disappointing season. Although the club won the Dylon Charity Shield in the opening match of the campaign, early league form was inconsistent. The club appeared in the draw for the First Round Proper of the F.A. Cup for the eleventh season running—a current record for a non-league club—but were beaten by Chelmsford City after a replay. In the Trophy, Wycombe beat Dorchester 4-0 at home before losing to another Southern League side, Bromsgrove Rovers, away in the Second Round. One highlight was another excellent run in the Hitachi Cup which put Wycombe through to a repeat of the previous season's final against Sutton United. The first leg at Wycombe ended in a 1-1 draw, while Sutton won the second leg 2-0 to retain the Cup. Wycombe Reserves won the Suburban League (Northern Division) title at a time when their future was in doubt. At the end of the season Wycombe Wanderers decided not to re-engage Mike Keen as team manager, and Paul Bence was appointed for the Centenary season.

The new season starts with some new faces amongst the players and hopes will be high for another successful season. But win or lose, everyone associated with the club will enjoy reflecting with pride on a hundred years of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club—and look forward to many more years of football at Loakes Park.

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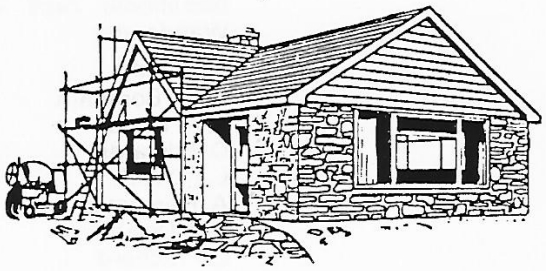
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J. Norton	1888-1891
R. S. Wood	1891-1908
C. W. Deacon	1908-1913
Marquis of Lincolnshire	1913-1928
Marchieness of Lincolnshire	1928-1929
G. T. Miles	1929-1943
C. P. Vine	1943-1954
J. Timberlake	1954-1964
G. Hodsdon	1964-1966
M. E. Seymour	1966-

Chairman:

W. Dimmock	
C. W. Deacon	1898-1900
R. Howland	1900-1902
C. W. Deacon	1902-1913
G. T. Miles	1913-1932
R. Spatchett	1932-1951
J. Timberlake	1951-1954
G. Partridge	1954-1956
E. L. Webb	1956-1965
J. Smethurst	1965-1975
R. H. Williams	1975-1981
B. R. Lee	1981-

Secretary:

J. Ray	1887-1891
F. Jennings	1891-1893
C. Harper	1893-1908
J. N. F. Vale	1908-1910
B. C. Hooper	1910-1925
W. Howland	1925-1928
R. J. Gardner	1928-1935
W. Howland	1935-1936
R. G. Boreham	1936-1949
W. J. Hayter	1949-1969
A. J. Crump	1969-1975
A. J. Mahoney	1975-1975
J. Goldsworthy	1975-

Treasurer:

G. Cook	1887-1890
W. Pearce	1890-1895
C. Harper	1895-1896
R. Howland, Jnr.	1896-1898
G. T. Miles	1898-1926
G. R. Bunce	1926-1963
A. Rackstraw	1963-1968
R. G. Maskell	1968-1969
R. N. Lee	1969-1975
A. F. Ward	1975-1977
G. B. Cox	1977-

AMATEUR INTERNATIONAL CAPS

The following players were awarded amateur international caps whilst playing for Wycombe Wanderers:

England

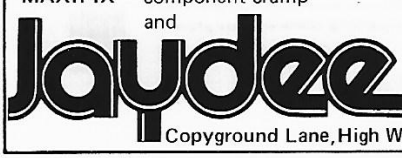
R. W. Boreham
P. A. Bates
D. Edwards
L. F. Worley
A. Horseman
J. J. Delaney
L. Pritchard
P. J. Suddaby
E. W. Powell
P. M. Fuschillo

Wales

A. V. Grace
J. Fisher
G. Anthony

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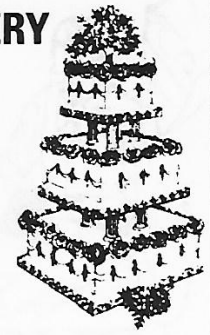


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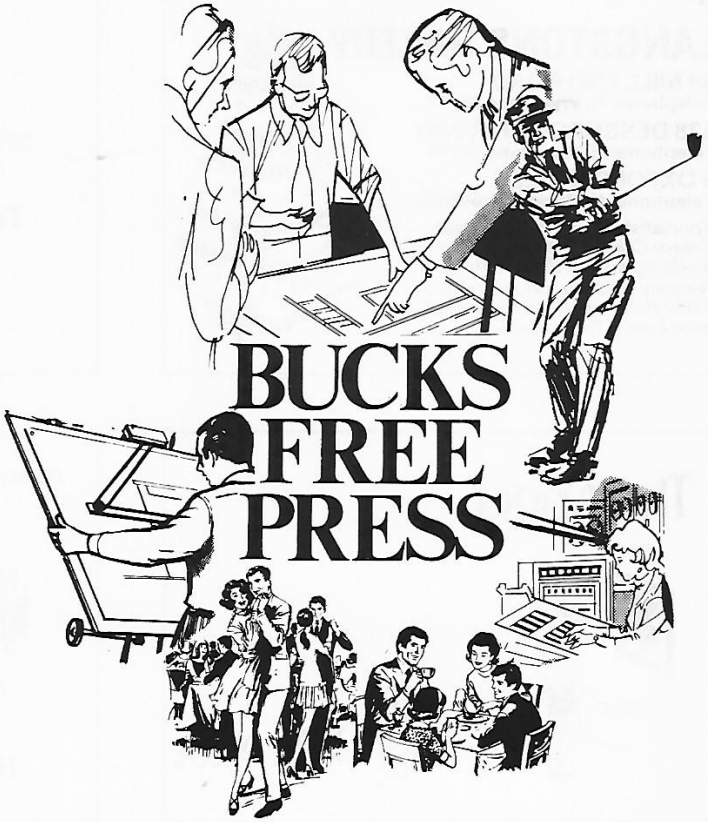
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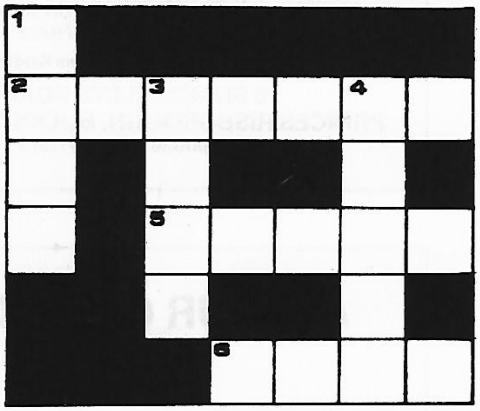
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FIXTURES 1984-85

AUGUST			
SAT 11	A	FARNBOROUGH	F
MON 13	A	DAGENHAM	F
TUES 21	A	METROPOLITAN POLICE	F
SAT 25	A	WOKINGHAM	SIL
TUES 28	H	EPSOM & EWELL	SIL
SEPTEMBER			
SAT 1	H	BILLERICAY	SIL
TUES 4	A	HAYES	SIL
SAT 8	A	BOGNOR	SIL
SAT 15	H	BARKING	SIL
SAT 22	A	HARLOW	SIL
WED. 26	H	LEICESTER CITY	F*
SAT 29	H	BISHOPS STORTFORD	SIL
OCTOBER			
WED 3	H	LEICESTER CITY	F*
SAT 6	A	DULWICH HAMLET	SIL
SAT 13	H	WINDSOR & ETON	SIL
TUES 16	A	BURNHAM	B&B
SAT 20	A	CROYDON	SIL
SAT 27		F.A. CUP 4th Qualifying Round	
NOVEMBER			
SAT 3	A	LEYTONSTONE & ILFORD	SIL
TUES 6	H	SLOUGH	SIL
TUES 13	H	HAYES	SIL
SAT 17	A	CARSHALTON	SIL
SAT 24	A	SUTTON	SIL
DECEMBER			
SAT 1	H	HARLOW	SIL
SAT 8	A	HARROW BORO.	SIL
SAT 22	A	SLOUGH	SIL
WED 26	H	WOKINGHAM	SIL
SAT 29	A	WALTHAMSTOW	SIL
JANUARY			
TUES 1	A	WINDSOR & ETON	SIL
SAT 5	H	SUTTON	SIL
SAT 12		F.A. TROPHY 1st Round	
SAT 19	H	WALTHAMSTOW	SIL
SAT 26	A	WORTHING	SIL
FEBRUARY			
SAT 2	H	CROYDON	SIL
SAT 9	A	HENDON	SIL
SAT 16	H	HARROW BORO.	SIL
SAT 23	A	BISHOPS STORTFORD	SIL
MARCH			
SAT 2	H	TOOTING & MITCHAM	SIL
SAT 9	A	EPSOM & EWELL	SIL
SAT 16	H	WORTHING	SIL
TUES 19	H	HITCHIN	SIL
SAT 23	A	BILLERICAY	SIL
TUES 26	H	HENDON	SIL
SAT 30	A	TOOTING & MITCHAM	SIL
APRIL			
TUES 2	H	CARSHALTON	SIL
SAT 6	H	LEYTONSTONE & ILFORD	SIL
TUES 9	A	HITCHIN	SIL
SAT 13	A	BARKING	SIL
SAT 20	H	BOGNOR	SIL
SAT 27	H	DULWICH HAMLET	SIL

F—Centenary Match against Leicester City (date to be confirmed)*

Brian Michael

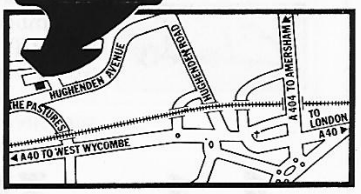
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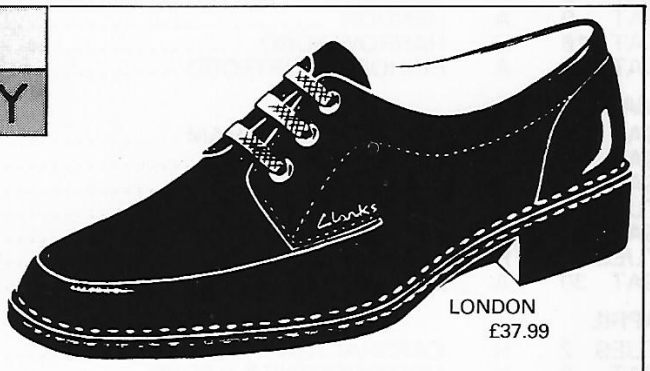
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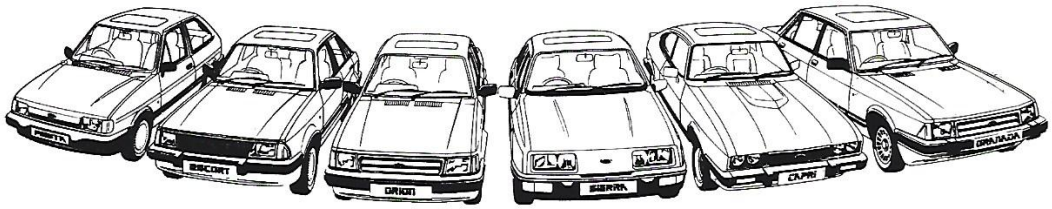


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Published by Martin Wagner Advertising Ltd., York House, 353a Station Road, Harrow (01-427 2020)
Printed by Albert Robins & Co. Ltd., 11-19 Vyner Street, London, E2 9DG (01-981 0919)