

KEEN BRINGS BACK SMILE TO WYCOMBE

A RUN of seven consecutive league victories at the end gave Wycombe Wanderers fans some consolation after one of the most depressing seasons in the post-war history of the club.

That brilliant run, which saw Blues finish better than any other team, including champions Enfield, indicates that better times could be just around the corner.

The man chiefly responsible for that remarkable turn-around was manager Mike Keen, who took over at the end of January, from the management team of Andy Williams and Howard Wells.

The departure of Mr Williams, superficially because of a row over the employment of a scout, came just a week before Wycombe's first match in the F.A. Trophy, their only chance to salvage something from a season in which disaster followed disaster.

It is clear now that Mr Williams and Mr Wells were unable to get the best out of a talented collection of individuals.

MICHAEL KNOX reviews Wycombe Wanderers after a season of contrasting halves.

But the main difference between then and now is the players' attitude to playing. Previously it had looked to be a hard job of work — this feeling communicated itself in the safety first football they played, now they appear to be enjoying their football.

If Mr Keen has done nothing else he has brought back the smiles to Wycombe Wanderers faces — both their players and fans.

Refreshing training techniques and an ability to communicate were two

of the assets that Mr Keen brought to the job. But one should not discount the part played by Brian Lee at the awkward change over period.

In 11 league matches since Mr Keen took over Wycombe won eight, drew two and had just the 4-1 debacle at Staines on the debit side. Blues scored 21 goals in their last seven games with virtually the same side that had done so badly early on.

The pre-Christmas disappointment included three disastrous cup per-

formances. After an encouraging victory at Barnet, Wycombe lost 3-0 at home to Croydon in the first round of the F.A. Cup.

Then in quick succession Blues lost 4-3 to Harlow in the first round of the League Cup, after trailing 4-0 at half-time, and then went down to struggling Slough in the Berks and Bucks Cup.

Off the field there were changes too this season. The club passed plans to transform themselves into a limited company in the hope that these would be in operation in the New Year. But they still have not happened.

But such has been the success of the Blues lottery that Wycombe appear on a much firmer financial footing than 12 months ago. They were able to afford a club record fee of £2,000 when they signed George Borg from Dulwich.

The formation of a Reserve team, which will play in the Suburban League next season is an additional expense, but if it provides a couple of stars of the future, it will have paid for itself.

So refreshing

THE revival of Wycombe Wanderers since Mike Keen took over as manager has been most refreshing and all the more remarkable considering the makeshift permutations of players, particularly in defence, that he has so often been forced to field.

There are good grounds for optimism that next season's achievements may be more in keeping with what people in a town the size of High Wycombe, with no Football League competition on the doorstep, are entitled to expect.

If any of the hundreds of supporters who have drifted away from Lookes Park during the past four seasons doubt this, let them come along and see for themselves. We've missed them but understand how they felt.

M. C. RALPH,

Penmoor Close,
Sands, High Wycombe.



MIKE KEEN . . . made football fun again

Facts and figures

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	C	D
Enfield	42	25	9	8	74	32	84	14	5
Walthamstow Avenue	42	24	9	9	87	48	81	8	—
Dulwich Hamlet	42	21	16	5	66	37	79	14	—
Sutton United	42	20	13	9	87	40	73	4	—
Dagenham	42	20	13	9	82	56	73	10	—
Tooting & Mitcham	42	21	8	15	82	59	69	24	—
Barking	42	19	10	13	72	51	67	15	—
Harrow Borough	42	17	15	10	64	51	66	17	5
Woking	42	17	13	12	78	58	64	24	—
Wycombe Wanderers	42	17	13	12	72	53	64	10	5
Harlow Town	42	14	12	16	54	60	54	12	—
Hitchin Town	42	13	15	14	54	68	54	14	—
Hendon	42	12	13	17	50	57	49	12	—
Slough Town	42	13	10	19	54	71	49	18	13
Boreham Wood	42	13	10	19	50	69	49	10	5
Staines Town	42	14	8	22	46	67	48	20	—
Hayes	42	12	9	21	48	66	45	17	5
Leatherhead	42	11	11	20	51	80	44	11	3
Carshalton Ath.	42	12	7	23	48	78	43	17	23
Croydon	42	10	10	22	51	59	40	17	3
Oxford City	42	10	9	23	49	87	39	26	8
*Tilbury	42	7	11	24	41	90	30	11	10

* 2 points deducted.

League appearances: Kennedy 39, Long 38 (inc 7 as sub), Price 36 (3), Mead 35, Eaton 35 (3), Miles 34 (9), Fowles 32, Hardwick 30, Jacobs 30 (3), Scott 30 (4), Birdseye 28, McCarthy 20 (10), Hollifield 19, Lester 19, Way 14, Dell 11 (1), Smith 11 (1), Maskell 9, Allanson 8, Toll 7, Murray 6, Borg 5, Priestley 5, Barr 2 (1), Powles 1.

Cup appearances: Birdseye 7, Hardwick 7, Kennedy 7, Jacobs 7, Price 7, Scott 7, Mead 6, Long 6 (inc 1 as sub), Eaton 5, Fowles 4, Maskell 4, Miles 4 (1), Smith 4 (3), McCarthy 4 (2), Hollifield 3 (1), Way 3.

League scorers: Kennedy 14 (inc 8 pens), Price 11, Scott 11, Long 10, Miles 8, Toll 5, Fowles 3, Hollifield 2, McCarthy 2, Smith 2, Allanson 1, Hardwick 1, Jacobs 1, Murray 1.

Cup scorers: Scott 3, Jacobs 2, Long 2, Kennedy 1 (pen), Kennedy 21 (inc 11 pens), Miles 17, Long 15, Price 15, Toll 10, Fowles 8, Jacobs 8, Murray 4, Hollifield 3, McCarthy 3, Maskell 3, Fowles 2, Allanson 1, Birdseye 1, Dell 1, Hardwick 1, own goals 4.