

WYCOMBE LOTTERY INQUIRY

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club is to probe complaints of marked club lottery tickets.

The club's commercial manager, former Wanderer's player, Paul Birdseye was last night (Monday) investigating complaints from football lottery ticket holders in Booker that they found digits — part of the lottery agents code — scratched off when their tickets arrived.

Ticket-buyers in Clayhill area, all served by the same agent, say they became suspicious three weeks ago when they first noticed that a small area had been scored out in the top right hand box, marked "Agents use only, do not remove."

By Cathy Loughran

One subscriber, Beaconsfield United player, Mr Stephen Hawthorn of Clay Lane, Booker, whose own club runs a lottery on similar lines to the Wanderers promotion, has no doubt that the tickets have been deliberately scored.

He told Midweek: "The numbers or letters in the agents code probably any combination of a certain formula, denote whether that is a winning ticket or not."

"By scoring out just even one digit, the agent will know if the ticket is a winner or a non-winner."

"For the last three weeks every one of the 25p tickets I've bought have been marked in this way. It would be very easy for an agent to sell only the non-winners and hang onto the certain winners," said an angry Mr Hawthorn.

Neighbour Peter Maxwell and Dave Kettlewell, also of Clay Lane are also concerned about receiving marked tickets.

"I complained to Paul Birdseye when I saw him at Loakes Park recently. He told me he would look into the matter," said Peter Maxwell.

Keen lottery players, Dave Kettlewell and his wife, Elizabeth, say they are "disgusted" at the idea that they could be "conned" after supporting the club's game for many years.

"We actually do look forward to playing the tickets. What seems to be happening is just not on," said Dave.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS
£1000 TOP PRIZE EVERY LOTTERY

2	11	20	30	1	12	22	30	3	10	21	32
5	12	23	33	4	13	25	31	4	14	24	34
7	15	26	36	5	16	27	35	6	17	27	37
9	18	28	39	8	19	29	38	7	18	28	39

PRIZE BOX 1 PRIZE BOX 2 PRIZE BOX 3

17 24 12 7 13 20 8 34 18 27 39 16 35 14 33

Remove the cover from the 15 check numbers above and match off the revealed numbers against all three BINGO houses. Match Four numbers across, down or diagonally on any house and you Win amount in that game's PRIZE BOX. If you reveal a STAR on a winning game you win 25p. If you reveal a JACKPOT on a winning game you win £100. If you win on more than One game ADD prizes together.

TICKETS only 25p

CASH MATCH

Three CASH matches the same and that prize. Three to get a win £100.

FRUIT MACHINE

WIN A SEASON TICKET

Rub Five footballs and ADD all Five numbers. Score 21 wins £25

£1000 Jackpot DRAW

YOUR 26372 NUMBER

Rub panels below and check against your lucky number

LAST ONE	8	25p
LAST TWO	★	50p
LAST THREE	475	£1
LAST FOUR	8374	£5
ALL FIVE	26345	£50

Reveal a Star under the silver and enter the £1000 Jackpot Draw.

Officially, as stated on the reverse side of every ticket printed, no-one under the age of 16 is allowed to sell tickets.

"When I asked my agent, a boy, his name, after I'd become suspicious, he gave me a false name and address," Stephen Hawthorn told Midweek.

Paul Birdseye said he was very surprised and concerned at the complaints.

"I will, of course investigate. This kind of thing has certainly never happened before," said Mr Birdseye.

One of the 25p lottery tickets with part of the agent's code (top right hand corner) scored out: