

Lee praises skilful Blues

FORMER Wycombe chairman Brian Lee was among the first to congratulate boss Jim Kelman on Saturday's glorious 1-0 victory over Conference leaders Kidderminster.

Lee, the club's most successful ever manager, was full of praise for the exciting brand of football served up in the crunch top-of-the-table clash.

"Brian came up to me afterwards and said it was the best he has seen a Wycombe side play for a long, long time," said Kelman. "For him to say that meant a lot to me."

Fans flock for thriller

SATURDAY'S staggering crowd of 4,239 has proved beyond doubt that High Wycombe can support a League Club according to Wycombe manager Jim Kelman

"It was simply marvellous and it would be nice to think they'll all be back for the Trophy game against Merthyr Tydfil next Saturday," he enthused. "It shows what this club could attract if it reached the Football League."

Blues' biggest League gate of the season had the statisticians racking their brains to remember the last time Blues attracted such a following for a league game.

In 1974/75 the official figure for an Isthmian League match against Enfield was given as 3,900. This did not include season ticket holders and the figure was rounded up to 4,500.

Saturday's attendance was only 120 short of the gate Third Division Reading attracted for their 3-1 win over Cardiff and is the second highest in the Conference this term.

"It was a tremendous game and it still has not sunk in yet. To do what we did to Kidderminster, especially in the first 30 minutes was a bit special. We were absolutely brilliant."

"It was nice to see a defender get a goal for a change and it was a delightful side-footed effort by Andy. He was superb in defence and did a great job on Paul Davies."

"Everyone did well - Martin Blackler looked sharp, Sean Norman coped well with Howell's speed, Dave Carroll had his best game since coming back and John Kerr and Mark West's understanding up front was superb."

Pressing

Even though his side is pressing home a very real promotion challenge the Loakes Park boss claims they are feeling no pressure.

"Honestly, we are under no real pressure," he stated. "If I felt the pressure then so would the players."

"We did not wind ourselves up for the game on Saturday. We adopted a very low profile in the dressing room. For us it was just another game. The crowd lifted the players."

"If they think they are going to get it easy in training this week then they are in for shock. It is back to ground zero again. We will need another performance like that to beat Merthyr."

Even Harriers manager Graham Allner admitted: "I was impressed by Wycombe. They have great spirit, work hard for each other and like to play football. The vociferous crowd helped them obviously."

Survived

"I cannot compare them to the other top sides because I haven't seen them all yet but I think they have as good a chance as any in the final run-in."

"I didn't think we threatened nearly enough. After we survived the early barrage we came forward a bit more but had nothing on the end of it."

● Wycombe Wanderers have been approached by two Southern-based Conference clubs, both offering top strikers for sale.

But Blues have rejected the unofficial offers which are in excess of £35,000.

"We have refused to be drawn into these deals," said Kelman. "The prices are ridiculously inflated and these players are no better than our own strikers. We will only buy when required."

● Mark Butler, Egham's 22-year-old striker, has joined Wycombe on-trial for the rest of the season.

He will continue to play for the Vauxhall-Opel Division Two (South) club but will be drafted in by Blues for Capital League games.

● John Kerr was presented with his £250 Mail on Sunday goal-scorer-of-the-month cheque by the paper's area manager Alastair Robertson prior to Saturday's game.