

Wanderers' fans have their say

I AM writing after reading the letters in last week's Bucks Free Press regarding the Berks & Bucks cup game at Marlow.

First of all, the draw was made on January 21 and could have been played any time in the last month. Why was it arranged so close to an important game? Neither Wycombe nor Marlow have been heavily committed in midweek since then.

Regarding the line-up, Wycombe have three men injured (ie Keith Barrett, Kevin Day and Matt Crossley) what if they had played their first team and picked up more injuries that may have meant youth team players appearing against Merthyr? I wonder what Mr Burslem and Mr "Name and address notified" would have thought of that.

I also wonder if Mr Burslem is aware that in the three seasons that they have been in the competition Reading have fielded their youth side (not reserves as quoted in the Free Press recently) in every game they have played. I haven't

heard anyone complain about that.

If Glyn Creaser leads his team out on the Wembley turf on May 13 and Wycombe take their rightful place in the Football League in August, I think it is a small price to pay - **Dave Finch, Saltash Close, Loudwater.**

● I feel I must redress the balance following last week's letter to the Bucks Free Press from R T Wishart where he gave his approval of the proposed Football Membership Scheme and commented on what he described as the 'gratuitous violence' that he encountered at the recent Wycombe v Kidderminster game at Loakes Park.

I would have thought that someone with '20 years in the services' would have chosen their words more carefully, rather than pick tired and well-worn clichés straight from the

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Colin Moynihan phrase book. Of course, no one is denying that there was an incident but this was a relatively minor and rare occurrence at Loakes Park and was dealt with quickly by the stewards and police, resulting in six arrests. I'm also sure that the Club is not complacent about these incidents - they have recently drawn attention to the fact that any individual convicted through the courts of an offence at Loakes Park will be banned from the ground. Proven conviction must be the only proper way to deal with the offenders and the proposed Football ID card legislation would make few inroads into this area. In any case, present laws already provide the police with the power to make convicted offenders report to attendance centres on match days thus eliminating the need for the new bill.

The membership scheme is a misguided piece of legislation to solve the current problems in football, involving technology that is no more

than a glint in salesman's bank account. Many Clubs have already made great steps with the addition of closed circuit TV to their grounds and the police have made significant breakthroughs with the development of intelligence networks. The proposed scheme would do no more than cause chaos at the turnstiles, push many clubs into bankruptcy and drive the offenders into other areas of society.

From Wycombe's point of view, what would have happened to the 2,000 floating supporters that turned up for the Kidderminster game? Could they have been bothered to obtain a card for a possible one-off visit? Of course, if Wycombe remain in the Conference, the proposed bill will not cover them and then who's to say that the hooligans will not come to places like Loakes Park.

Finally, for any non-Wycombe supporter reading R T Wishart's letter, may I assure them that Loakes Park is a pleasant place to visit

- **Paul Lewis,
Green End Road, Radnage.**