

INTO THE NEW DECADE AT SANDS

Work continues to progress at Hillbottom Road, the site of the new ground, Adams Park. Last week the rain was pouring off the hillside and it was a remarkable thought that we would be playing on a lush green surface on a sunny day next August. At one stage during the morning of the match against Barnet, there was so much water I even thought the boats were coming in!

I have had reports that a lot of supporters creep up there and take photographs, I hope to be able to call them in at the end to help with some kind of album as a record of the move from Loakes Park. If anybody would like to share their photos with me now, please let me know.

Well, what progress since the last report? The main stand and building behind, that houses the changing rooms, offices and social areas is up and sheeted (see photo over page) whilst a substantial amount of brick and blockwork has been completed within the building. The surfaces have been laid and two thirds of the car park laid out and tarmaced with the basic coat. The first of the small corner buildings housing the toilets, teabars and turnstiles has been erected in the South West corner and a start made on the West end terracing which is the home supporters end. The grass is green and I am pleased to say the pitch did not flood in the recent rain! It should not anyway, since there are five miles of drains under the grass!

A lot still to do but there is an exciting eight months ahead, we will arrange a walk-around for interested supporters nearer the time.

Whilst writing, let me mention one or two things that we are doing on leaving Loakes Park. We hope to arrange a special match, opponents and date to be announced later; stage an old players day on Sunday 29th April 1990 giving as many as possible an opportunity to play their last, positively, their last match on the Loakes Park slope. Some commemorative merchandise will be available in the shop and a suitable validictory souvenir programme should revive and stir the memories of old.

In this last connection we will be appealing for any old photographs that we can borrow for the edition. If you have any, John Goldsworthy would be happy to talk to you now. Similarly, if you have any contacts with old players please let me know.

To you all, a last Happy New Year from Loakes Park, may we all be together to celebrate the next New Year in our new ground at Sands.