

If and when Wealdstone get around to building a new stadium, they could do a lot worse than to follow the example set by Adams Park, the new ground of Wycombe Wanderers. I recently took the chance to see it first hand when Wycombe entertained Altrincham, and was generally impressed with what I saw. Certainly the stadium itself is a credit to the club and non-league football. It is covered on all four sides, with terracing making up three sides of the ground, with a stand along one length of the pitch. The terracing is deep enough behind the goals to accommodate a substantial away and home following, and the fact that it is covered allows a good atmosphere to be created. The catering and toilet facilities are also excellent, and there are stewards to be found all around the ground whether they are helpful or not is perhaps a different matter. The pitch is also a fine playing surface. Not only is it almost completely flat, it is also clearly well-prepared.

Off the pitch facilities are good, and include a banqueting suite amongst the usual club shop and social club. There is an ample car park. The club office is run by some very helpful people - something which is quite often not the case, the public announcements inside the ground are excellent, clear and informative - Hughie take note! There is plenty of room for expansion of the ground should it ever need to be made.

Naturally, the new ground is not perfect. Segregation ensures that you have to stay in the same place for the whole match, but this is perhaps not so surprising in the wake of the Taylor Report. The stadium is much further from the town centre than the old Loakes Park, but there is a service that runs from the bus and train stations directly to the ground, albeit for a charge. Congestion can also be a problem after the match, and surely the admission price of £3.50 is a little expensive for non-league? Oh yes, and you may have to put up with Spagna and Shakin' Stevens over the tannoy if you ever go to a match!

The board, management and team at Wycombe are certainly ambitious, and the players are responding to there new surroundings (as are the fans) as they gave Altrincham a real roasting and were unlucky to only win 3-0.

All in all, Wycombe have done a good job, and Adams Park (and presumably Yeovil's new ground) is showing other non-league clubs the way ahead and towards the new century. Anyone with a few spare acres in the Harrow or Wealdstone area should contact Alan Clifton.

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