

The size of Wycombe Wanderers' travelling support was put into focus last week when the Vauxhall Conference club took strong followings to two very contrasting away fixtures.

On Tuesday approximately 2,000 made the short 8-mile journey to Slough to see the 3-3 draw against Wycombe's closest Conference rivals. Four days later, 200 stalwarts made the 500-mile round trip to the International Stadium in Gateshead. Twelve fans, searching for the quickest route, even travelled by air landing at Newcastle 45-minutes after leaving Heathrow.

Unfortunately, their endeavours failed to inspire the team's performance as Wycombe lost 2-1 to give Gateshead only their second home win of the season.

ACCORDING TO MARTIN

I haven't written too many articles for the programme this season but the visit of high flying Kettering has given me an opportunity both to add my praise to their fabulous unbeaten run and to assess our own chances of catching them. Kettering have done superbly this season and, with Peter Morris in charge, are unlikely to give away too much from now until May. They have set a pace that many clubs are finding difficult to live with. They have done what the rest of us would dearly loved to have done - they have put the points on the board. So, already, in the first week of November this fixture has become a "crunch" game for us - that's if we have any serious aspirations of winning the League Championship. We have got a little behind in our League fixtures because of our FA Cup, run and those Vauxhall Conference teams, whose record in the FA Cup in recent seasons has been vastly superior to our own, have had an opportunity to "make hay". Kettering have done just that! And, as we have found to our cost at Gateshead, fixtures in hand do not, and never have done, mean points in the bag. After our own very promising start we have struggled to find our rhythm recently but there were signs last Saturday against Basingstoke that we were on our way back. And the regular visitor to Adams Park cannot complain about the quality of football being played here this season. We may, at the moment, lack a little in what I call "professional steel" (don't ask me to explain it I just made it up) but write us off at your peril. When the season closes in May we won't be too far away!! P.S Thanks very much for your excellent support, both at Adams Park and at the away grounds. Barnet and Slough were quite sensational, but Gateshead was unbelievable!!

STAGGERING SUPPORT

Once again we are indebted to the travelling Blues Supporters for your wonderful support. Some 2000 of you made the short journey to Slough to help record their largest post-war league crowd of 3394. Equally impressive were the 200 fans who made the 500 mile round trip to Gateshead, twelve of you even flying up there. The team really appreciated your support there and were disappointed that you could not see them get a result.

CAPITAL LEAGUE

Wednesday 24th October

SLOUGH TOWN 2 WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

Wycombe: B Hyde, A Clement, I Hows, S Walford, K Brown, D Britnell, R Thorpe (S Dale 60 mins), K Ryan, M Lambert, M Blackler, J Pascoe.

Sub (not used): A Tucker.

Wycombe Scorer: Steve Dale (84 mins)

Attendance: 230

ALLIED COUNTIES YOUTH LEAGUE

Thursday 25th October

FLACKWELL HEATH 2 WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2

Wycombe: A Clare, D Maton, M Sciaraffa, M Keen, G Tilley, S Hudson, T Bonaventura, M Chalwin, A Norman, P Kellaway, M Poole.

Subs: R McDonough, P Sears.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS LADIES

Although the team has yet to win a game recent form has been very encouraging, with a 2-1 defeat at Portsmouth (scorer Mandy Thompson), a 2-1 defeat at home to Oxford (Scorer Michelle Parker) and last Saturday a 3-1 loss at Launton from Bicester when Michelle was again the scorer. All of the winners in these games came very late on. Lisa Thompson sustained a nasty injury in the Oxford game, being taken to hospital with a badly sprained ankle. The team also welcomes a new Manager, Peter Galera, and coach, Spencer Ramsey, and anyone wishing to play for the team is welcome to contact them at the club. Tomorrow the team travels to Red Star of Southampton and the following Sunday they take on Launton at Shelley Road, kick-off 2.00 pm.

Harrow Borough 1 Wycombe Wanderers 5

GM Vauxhall Conference club Wycombe visited Earlsmead for a friendly on Tuesday for which visiting manager Martin O'Neill brought the bulk of his first team, writes Tony Booth.

Borough were given little respite in the first half with Wycombe building up a three goal lead through a hat-trick by Nicky Evans in 22 minutes.

Borough pulled a goal back after 31 minutes when Walford fouled Arnall and Eamon O'Connor blasted home the penalty, however, before the break Wycombe netted again through Stapleton's near post volley.

The second half was punctuated by countless substitutions and following several good saves by Crompton, Mark West scored Wycombe's fifth goal in the closing minutes.

Harrow Borough: Crompton, Stocker, Barnard, C. Payne (Douglas), Shea, O'Connor, Rogers, Hopson (Kelly), Arnall (Cooper), Pyne (Bedding), Ripley.