

In off the post

Dear Sir,

IN your Standpoint column in last week's Bucks Free Press, you posed the question as to why Marlow are not attracting big crowds. This can be answered fairly easily, but the real question should be: "How can clubs maximise their support."

In the last couple of years, the Vauxhall Conference has become the main focus of non-league football and clubs promoted to this competition have experienced huge increases in attendances.

So although the feeder leagues cannot hope to match the Conference gates, there is considerable scope for improvement.

The problem appears to be a conflict of interest between league organisers and club officials on the one hand and spectators on the other. Most of the former like to make things easy by playing Saturday, playing or training Tuesday and training Thursday which creates an easy routine.

This makes administration easier for both clubs and leagues. This situation is fine for the supporters of that particular club, but there is an awful lot of floating supporters and supporters of other clubs who like to watch other teams when their team is not playing.

When everybody plays at the same time, this restricts the opportunity. Many club officials gloss over this fact by dismissing these people as not "being their supporters" despite the fact that they produce additional revenue. Two classic examples take place within the next month or so.

On November 10 Wycombe play Yeovil Town at Adams Park in the Vauxhall Conference, a match that should attract a 3,000 crowd. Yet on the same day, at the same time, Marlow play hosts to Aylesbury United.

What a ridiculous situation! If the match did not clash with Wycombe,

there would probably be 400-500 Wycombe supporters who would go to Marlow to watch it, bringing in an extra £1,000 or so in revenue.

Andy Worboys
Former Chesham director

Dear Sir,

THE current Conference League table shows that Kettering have played 15 games while Cheltenham have managed nine.

Such a disparity in games played would never be tolerated in the four divisions of the English League. Why is it permitted in the Conference? It can make nonsense of league placings.

DA Ginger, Bourne End

Dear Martin O'Neill

YOUR comments regarding Gary Smith in the BFP Managers diary column caused a certain amount of disbelief in this household and I expect many others as well. You may call him brave and courageous if you wish but there are those of us who would choose, less complimentary adjectives to describe his style of play.

His performances week in week out bring shame and discredit to this club with its proud traditions of sportsmanship and fairplay. I don't normally go in for character assassination but since the Wycombe management seem unable or unwilling to publicly chastise his misdemeanours I thought you should be aware that there are many of us who are no longer prepared to defend his actions.

Good luck against Kettering on Saturday.

BM Speen

The Sports Editor reserves the right to cut letters. Your letters are welcome but please keep them brief.