

People expect the press to be cool, dispassionate and independent in their reporting. And to an extent we are, a game is there to be described for those who were not present, with as much detail as space allows — devoted to a detached description of the important events.

But oh how hard it is at times. Single central moments of a match can often dominate a report, opinion can creep in and it is hard to keep a clear analytical head.

Take the case of Uriah Rennie of Sheffield, a cool character himself. When referee Rennie raised his arm towards the centre circle after 80 minutes of the Wycombe game, I couldn't believe my eyes. It was never a goal, or was it?

From the Press Box there were two views, the man from the Bucks Free Press clearly saw the ball cross the line. The man from the Northwich Chronicle saw no such thing. But the man in black had final say and the Press Association, the Pink and Signal Radio were duly informed, without comment.

Last Saturday we are reliably informed by Witton officials that Mr. Sheffield of Walsall (Albion's destiny seems to be in Yorkshire hands) ended the game before time. A phone call to the sports desk at Northampton's Evening Telegraph revealed no recollection of such a cardinal refereeing error. The ref blew on time, they said.

So what price a fair, unbiased account of today's game? Buy the Chronicle (or Gaurdian) — and the Colchester Evening Gazette — to find out.

EDDIE GLENDON (Northwich Chronicle)

STEVE Thompson, Slough Town's early season hero with four goals in three games, will be hoping to add to his tally when the Rebels take on Runcorn at Wexham Park stadium tomorrow.

Slough, who narrowly escaped relegation from the Conference last season, have made a storming start to the new campaign and spent two days at the top of the table before being toppled after a storming Bank Holiday encounter with Colchester.

And, although he has attracted interest from league and non-league clubs alike — most recently from Martin O'Neill's Wycombe Wanderers — Tommo is committed to seeing out the next couple of years with the Rebels.

He was due to leave the RAF this summer but signed on for another two year spell so he could carry on playing soccer.

The PTI was worried that if he left the force for a job in the leisure industry he would lose his weekends off.

Despite his goals this season, Thompson confesses he does not see himself as a natural striker.

Rebel coach Mick Walsh disagrees: "He is a quality player and he has adapted well to being moved up

**COMING UP
Tomorrow (Sat)
Slough v Runcorn
Wivenhoe v Windsor
Burnham v Feltham
(at Stag Meadow)
Tuesday
Bath v Slough
Windsor v Hayes**

front," he said.

"Now we have some better players behind him, he will have the service he needs."

It has been a case of so far so good for Thompson and the new-look Slough Town.

They got off to a super start with a 3-1 win over Kidderminster on the opening day of the season and followed it up with a 1-0 win at Macclesfield.

Monday's clash with Colchester turned Wexham Park into a battlefield as Slough were sunk by four first half goals and a sending-off.

But Walsh and manager Alan Davies are confident they can build on their positive start.

"There are no easy games

in the Conference anymore," said ex-Eire international Walsh.

"If the lads' attitude is right and we do our homework well enough, then we are in with a decent chance."

Slough start their Conference league cup (Bob Lord Trophy) campaign on Tuesday at Bath City. It is a two-legged affair with the return scheduled for Wexham Park in two weeks time.

the heading of 'Speaker steps right in it' from the Backchat column in the Midweek of August 6, I would like to point out the following:

The new public address service at Adams Park is run in association with the Wycombe Hospitals Broadcasting Association, who for many years have had a presence at Wycombe Wanderers providing a popular commentary service to the patients of Wycombe & Amersham hospitals.

We would be grateful if you allow us the opportunity of putting the record straight on a number of points detailed in the article. The first 20 minutes of the game against West Ham were not accompanied by disco music from the PA system, as I am sure the 3,152 spectators present agree.

It is correct that the announcer did at first credit the West Ham goal to the wrong player. However, he was not the only member in the press box to initially make this mistake, and in fact a correction was announced almost immediately.

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THE EDITOR would like to remind people submitting letters that they must include a name and address, even if they do not want it published.

Change your goals

THE football season is upon us, and Wycombe Wanderers FC still hasn't gained planning permission for a training pitch at its Adams Park site.

One thing struck me as I watched pre-season interviews with top teams from the First Division — they all practise in parks away from their grounds.

So where is the argument that Wycombe Wanderers should have another pitch in Sands?

There is no argument. Drop the whole thing, boys, and go to Bisham. If it's good enough for the England squad, it should be good enough for our mighty minnows.

Speaker airs grievances

IN response to Steve Cohen's comment under