

WYCOMBE WANDERERS – TRADITIONAL FAVOURITES

ONE of the most charismatic names in non-league football is Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

As a giant among the amateurs of the original Isthmian League they presented a nearly unbeatable image, as a club packed full of international class players who relished their slope and quite naturally knew how to cope with it. While their opponents usually found themselves huddled, cowering at the foot of the hill, in front of the standing terrace, desperately trying to force their way back into the fray and away from the very volatile and loyal home support.

Wanderers seemed to power in like fighter aircraft from the top of the hill, confusing defenders and goalkeepers alike who all finished up convinced they had one leg longer than the other.

Massive attendances turned up for their Amateur Cup ties and it was certainly an honour to wear the dark and light blue of Wycombe who were the aristocrats of the amateur game.

The Isthmian Championship sides who triumphed under Brian Lee enjoyed some brilliant battles with Enfield and some memorable F.A. Cup runs.

My personal memories of the club were scoring at Loakes Park on my first visit (but we lost 1-7). Playing for the club while posted locally in the R.A.F. for a short time and making a goal for Ron Lewin at Hendon in my first game (but we lost 1-3) and then as a Rothmans Football Representative,

travelling up to see Wanderers hold Middlesbrough (then top of Division One) to a last minute goal, in front of 32,000 at Ayresome Park in an F.A. Cup Replay. My appreciation of that occasion was recorded in the club's centenary brochure and for all who were there it must stand out as a very special night.

The club's move to Adams Park (a fact that I do know about despite the wrong photo in the Directory – sorry all!) was completed with the utmost professionalism under the Chairmanship of Ivor Beeks and the day to day management of Brian Lee, whose life of football and Bisham Abbey responsibilities, proved invaluable to the club.

Taking advantage of the euphoria surrounding the move and the charisma of Martin O'Neill as manager, the present very good squad have not only attracted the largest ever Trophy attendance to see them triumph at Wembley but have shown why they are favourites to win the Conference Championship this season.

The Wycombe Wanderers club is full of long serving members who make visits to Adams Park a real joy. They are real football administrators, from the very experienced John Goldsworthy, through the superb commercial team to the excellent presentation of quality refreshments and meals.

As Bob and Edie Hart's daughter worked with me during my times looking after the

Rothmans football sponsorship, I have known of their love for The Blues for years. Their feelings for the club are typical of the club's many unseen workers and I can only hope that if or when the club moves on to higher things, they are able to keep the spirit that has made Wycombe Wanderers such a happy club. Maybe a few of the younger supporters attaching themselves to the Wanderers, in the manner that successful teams do attract the unattractive, will learn that football has grown out of the loutish era and that their club has very special standards of which they will surely soon be very proud to uphold.

T.W.

CLUB RECORDS

RECORD TRANSFER FEE PAID:
£32,000 to Barnet for Nicky Evans

RECORD TRANSFER FEE RECEIVED:
£28,750 from Barnet for Nicky Evans

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT ADAMS PARK:
5,695 v Peterborough United F.A. Cup 2nd
Round 1990-91

PLAYER OF THE YEAR 1990-91:
Mark West

OFFICIALS

Patron: J. Adams
President: M. E. Seymour
Chairman: I. L. Beeks