

By MIKE JARVIS

THE gift shop at Wycombe Wanderers FC was specially opened this week to allow the team's Number One Fan to stock up on souvenirs — from 26,000 miles away.

Sixty-year-old John Woods, who has lived in Melbourne, Australia, since 1957 is still an avid Blues fan.

Every week he pays more than two Australian dollars for a copy of an English paper just to follow the team's fortunes.

So when wife Barbara made a visit to High Wycombe this week she had strict instructions to visit the Blues' new Adams Park



Avid fan: John Woods

ground and buy all the Wanderers memorabilia in sight.

Her £50 haul contained:

- A video of the Loakes Park story;
- A new Wycombe Wanderers shirt;
- A video of the Blues

finest hour, triumphing in last year's FA Trophy final, and;

- Even a Blues babygrow so the couple's four-year-old grandson can support grandad's favourite team.

Barbara, who used to live in Queen Street, High Wycombe, said: "I came over for a family wedding. If I went back without a Bucks Free Press and as much of everything I can lay my hands on, I don't think I would get in the door."

"First priority after the wedding was I had to go to Wycombe Wanderers and get the video for him."

Security officer John used to live in Penfold Cottages, Little Missenden.

Club secretary John Goldsworthy said he had never heard of a Blues fan to rival John: "He must be the greatest supporter we have."

- If you know of any Blues supporter who rivals John for the title of being Wycombe's number one fan, contact Mike Jarvis on High Wycombe 521212 ext 203.

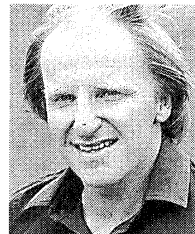
Council chief is caught offside

COUNCIL chiefs are miffed about a piece of foul play from, would you believe it ... soccer magazine Shoot.

The national mag, avidly read by young football fans, carried an interview in its October 12 edition with Wycombe Wanderers director Alan Parry.

Mr Parry, also a TV commentator, slagged the council off allegedly saying: "I can state without fear of contradiction that we have had very little co-operation from Wycombe District Council."

He then accused town hall bigwigs of being obstructive and not interested in sport.



Shoot to kill: Parry

These comments caught council chief executive Richard Cummins totally offside. He found himself being regaled by fans about the article, which he knew nothing about, for he doesn't appear to have been contacted by Shoot.

Now Mr Cummins, who feels he co-operates with Wanderers, says he's thinking about putting Shoot on the council's press mailing list.

Perhaps the mag could then do a special series on spectacular own goals our councillors have scored.

Ground rules

THE FATE of Wycombe Wanderers' former ground at Loakes Park will be considered at a planning inquiry to be held at Wycombe council's offices on November 26 at 10am.

Blues stay put

THE kick-off time of Wycombe Wanderers' home match against Redbridge tomorrow is not being brought forward because of the clash with TV coverage of the World Cup Rugby Final. Blues kick-off at 3pm.