

Football heroes snub today's 'mean' Blues

By MIKE JARVIS

WYCOMBE Wanderers heroes from the 1957 FA Amateur Cup Final have snubbed the current Blues team, because they feel the club has turned its back on them.

Organisers of a reunion for Blues stars of the 1940s, 50s and 60s have not invited any present-day players or officials because they feel the club should have paid for the 1957 heroes to attend this year's FA Trophy Final.

Former Wycombe manager Barry Darville, who was a member of the 1957 squad which lost 3-1 to Bishop Auckland at Wembley, said their return to the famous twin towers in May was marred by the club's mean behaviour.

"There will be nobody from the current team. I wasn't very happy with the way they treated the 1957 guys at the FA Trophy Final," he said.

"I thought they should have taken them up there and bought them tickets."

Mr Darville, now aged 60, said everyone in the 1957 squad, who were the first Wanderers team to reach Wembley, had been unhappy about their treatment.

Current club secretary John Goldsworthy said: "We are talking about six months ago. To me, it is water under the bridge. The more

important thing is what happened today and tomorrow."

But Barry's wife Pam, 59, said the bad blood would not be allowed to spoil the reunion, which will take place at Hazlemere Golf Club on November 23, at 7.30pm.

More than 100 former players, officials and their wives have agreed to attend.

The only member of the current staff who has been invited is assistant manager John Reardon, who was a player of the same era.

Mrs Darville, of Cressex Road, High Wycombe, and June Bates, the wife of former centre-forward Paul, of Totteridge Road, High Wycombe, have organised the event.

Mann on Friday—

IT is always sad when those we look up to for one reason or another suddenly show themselves to be imperfect mortals like the rest of us.

That was the feeling I got this week when I heard that the former playing staff of Wycombe Wanderers, from three, four and five decades ago, are displaying a bad case of sour grapes towards their modern-day counterparts.

Apparently, the men from the bygone days of baggy shorts and Brylcreme are disgruntled that the club did not give them an all-expenses-paid trip to Wembley for May's FA Trophy Final.

In retribution, former player and manager Barry Darville is not inviting anyone from the club's current staff, with the exception of assistant manager and former player John Reardon, to this month's reunion at Hazlemere Golf Club.

I can understand the ex-players' bitterness that the club they served so faithfully, and for so little reward, could not be bothered to show them some gratitude on one of its glory days.

But lowering themselves to a childish tit-for-tat will leave a sour taste in the mouth of anyone who ever waved a blue rattle on a rainy January afternoon at Loakes Park all those years ago.

We expect some of today's sportsmen to be infantile, arrogant and aggressive. But such tantrums from those who played in a more gentlemanly era, when the only reason for playing was for the love of the game and not for what you could get out of it, is

very depressing indeed.

Surely there is nothing to be gained from this rather pointless, and altogether nasty, gesture. Wouldn't it be much more gentlemanly for them to display the Corinthian spirit we all remember them for? There is still time for heroes of yesteryear to hold out a sporting hand of friendship.

PERHAPS the silliest story of the week comes from Wycombe District Council, which is hardly a surprise, is it?

After 20 years' planning, debating and building High Wycombe's £14 million Entertainments Centre, council officers last week suddenly discovered they hadn't got round