

Soccer reunion was not sour grapes

AFTER reading your articles about the old Wanderers Reunion, we feel very hurt.

We (not our husbands Paul and Barry) have been organising this event since Feb/Mar this year, two/three months before the Wembley Final. It has not been done tit-for-tat or sour grapes as stated (in Charles Mann) but for people who have not seen one another for years to have a get together evening.

It is a one off event, so as we have no funds. We had to find a venue which would not be too expensive for people, as quite a few are now pensioners.

Adams Park would have been too expensive. As for the reason why people from the present football club were not invited, whom would they know, as most people coming are from the '40s to the late '60s era.

We have done all of the organising for this reunion and have put much effort and time into this, but your Mann on Friday column made it seem it was done as (as he quoted sour grapes) your reporter who contacted us omitted to state we were doing a raffle (all prizes being donated by people coming) and all monies from this and left over from ticket sales was going to Scan-nappeal.

June Bates
Totteridge Avenue
and
Pam Darvill
Cressex Road
High Wycombe

Idea conceived well before the final

ON reading your Mike Jarvis article and comments from the Mann On Friday column concerning a reunion of past Wycombe Wanderers players, I was absolutely dumb-founded.

My wife, Pamela, and June Bates, close friends for over 30 years, decided to organise a reunion of players from the 1940-50-60 eras. Their idea was conceived well before the Blues reached the Trophy Cup Final. Since then they have spent many hours contacting ex-players and making the necessary arrangements for such a reunion.

Indeed, as organisers, they contacted the BFP to see if a photographer would come and take some photographs on the night. Your reporter rang my wife and inquired about the details of the evening. He was told the details, and that some 60 to 70 ex-players and their wives had accepted invitations. He then asked what well-known players were going. My wife then handed the phone to me, as I knew more about the ex-players than she did.

Mentioning players from the three decades who were coming to the reunion, the

conversation turned to some of the 1957 players and the recent Trophy Cup Final. At this stage, undiplomatically perhaps, I said that in my opinion these players were not well treated at the time of the Trophy Cup Final.

The headline I find provocative and in my opinion, in bad taste. The Mann On Friday column leaves me nearly speechless, but not quite!

What really upset me was the choice of adjectives used in the column, concerning one ex-player's personal opinion in regard to the 1957 squad and the Trophy Cup Final, and the fact that it is completely irrelevant to the whole concept of the reunion of ex-players. The use of words like: "childish tit for tat will leave a bad taste in the mouth" - "rather pointless, and altogether nasty", can only be aimed at me, if my quoted statements are to be believed, but surely cannot be aimed at the remainder of the '57 cup final players. These words also do little for the two ex-players' wives who have worked so hard to organise this event.

The suggestion of ill feeling can only be countered by the amount of ex-players from these three decades who regularly watch and support the current Blues team and club every week.

In conclusion the two articles have concentrated on my personal opinion in regard to the '57 squad and the Trophy Cup Final.

It seems a great pity that your readers will conclude that this reunion is a criticism by ex-players against WWFC, their officials and players, and not a reunion of ex-players from certain periods of time in the past.

In my many years as a player and team manager of WWFC I have never had my integrity or my sportsmanship questioned before.

Barry P Darvill
Cressex Road
High Wycombe

Cup action from Wanderers Women's teams

WYCOMBE Wanderers Women's first team and reserves were involved in Southern Region League Cup second-round action on Sunday at Hazlemere Recreation Ground.

The first team, who play in the Second Division, beat Slough Reserves 7-2 with goals from Julie Dowling (2), Lisa Shemwell (2), Jo White (1) and Ruth Percy (1).

The Fourth Division reserves knocked out Bournemouth, who play in a division higher, with a convincing 6-0 win. Scorers were Donna Corton (4) and Viveka Lukasson (2).

In the draw for the third round the first team play Portsmouth at home and the reserves drew First Division Newbury away. The games will be played on January 19.

Hospital to lose market booster

HARD-UP Wycombe hospital could lose thousands of pounds after council planners decided to close down their Sunday market.

The hospital has been raising badly needed funds by renting out their Loakes Park car park to a market since September but Wycombe district councillors decided to stop their money spinner after getting reports of traffic chaos.

Sixty traders have been converging on the site of the old Wycombe Wanderers' football ground every weekend.

Last week the council turned down an application from the hospital to let the market for two years. They now have four weeks to close it down.

Hospital general services manager David Ramsey said after the decision: "I can't say how much money the hospital will lose but all the money would have gone into patient care."