

Dear Sir,

ALONG with a considerable number of other Wycombe Wanderers supporters I was extremely disappointed to read the comments in Derek Easden's letter (BFP 20/12/91) concerning the choice by Martin O'Neill of Paul Hyde as the number one goalkeeper for the Blues, in preference to Kevin Shoemake.

I find it hard to believe how such an "ardent supporter" can have such a short memory as to opt for Shoemake on the basis of his earlier season performances and that in the FA Cup replay, at Adams Park, against Kettering, especially considering that he didn't even play in this match.

Having watched both cup matches, it is fair to say that the replay could have quite easily been avoided had Wycombe's strikers taken their chances in front of goal and had Kettering's goalscorer been picked up by the defence instead of being given a free header.

Shoemake, on that day, had his problems too and had one of Kettering's defenders not cleared his lines in the first half from an inswinging corner, which completely beat

the keeper, then all would be so different.

Furthermore, being able to recall matches beyond the last, I also remember the nightmare pre-season matches when, although showing control of his goaline, Shoemake was nervous coming forward to collect crosses, and did not control his six-yard box, let alone his area.

This may well have avoided the fluke goal scored by Colchester's keeper but I wonder how many other goals would have been conceded. On the other hand, Paul Hyde not only showed great confidence in his first matches for Wycombe pre-season, but also control of his area.

Boast

Okay, he doesn't always make a clean catch on every cross he comes for, but how many First Division teams, let alone the lower leagues, can boast a keeper of his calibre.

I, for one, back the manager's decision.

So, why all the poor results of late? I, along with many others, would suggest that the blame does not lie with any one player,

but on the occasional lacklustre performance of a few at key times during the game.

There have also been injury problems to consider. It doesn't help the team though if their confidence is further undermined by so called "passionate ardent supporters" singling out individuals to blame.

The last thing that we want is the best support in the Conference league turning against the team — they've enough to contend with in living up to our expectations to win every competition going this year — despite the Colchesters, Ketterings, and Farnboroughs of this land.

I consider myself to be a true passionate supporter of the Blues and at present do not feel our position in the league and other cup competitions at this halfway stage to be one of concern — just look at the position of clubs such as Barnet, Kettering, and Altrincham last year.

I feel that praise should be given where praise is due and the team are doing well enough so far this season to maintain their challenge for the title, albeit that results are not as favourable as at the beginning of the season.

So my message to Martin O'Neill and the team is simple — "well done lads, keep up the good work, and let's take this league."

My message, however, to Mr Easden, and his fellow "supporters" who continue to criticise the team is — "get behind the team and support them" — the alternative message? Well, I doubt whether the BFP would print it.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Marek

Yew Walk,

Hazlemere

Dear Sir,

I FIND it unbelievable the number of 'so-called' Blues fans that have written to the BFP complaining about Wycombe Wanderers.

The Blues fans are spoilt. Ivor Beeks, Brian Lee and Co did a magnificent job in moving to Adams Park.

Martin O'Neill has transformed the team: winning the FA Trophy in the first season at Adams Park; this season achieving the

best ever start by any team in Conference history; winning the Charity Shield; being top of the Conference for the first time in their history — and some fans still moan!

Paul Hyde has been criticised, yet he has only conceded 19 goals in the League — as at December 22 only Kettering had conceded less but they have only played 15 games.

It is a great shame on those Blues fans who criticise the team. Instead, they should get behind the team and cheer them to the title.

The whole team should be judged on their achievements, not over a couple of indifferent performances.

The facts speak for themselves so why should Martin O'Neill be bothered to reply to Mr D Easden's letter in BFP December 12.

By the way, Mr Easden, Kevin Shoemake did not play in the Kettering cup replay.

**Nigel Hoath
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Little Kimble**