

Club gives youth team a raw deal

REGARDING the comments made by Mr Goldsworthy (October 30) and Mr Melvin (November 13), I nearly wrote following Mr Goldsworthy's response to my original letter and now feel I have to answer Mr Melvin's contribution.

Whilst I am the person writing, I know others connected with Wycombe Wanderers youth team echo the sentiments expressed. I am aware of the reasons the team is not allowed to play their league (and it would appear any league cup) matches at Adams Park.

It does seem a pity when there are so few games to be played and, after all, any one could be postponed in adverse weather conditions – as must have happened several times already this season as (at the time of writing) only two league games have been played so far.

Even if the FA Cup run has affected them, there have only been four of them since September 2.

As stated previously, "staging an international in Wycombe can only be of benefit to Wycombe Wanderers" and Mr Goldsworthy said it is a prestige match which is expected to attract a crowd of 2,000 plus. It would appear that risk to the pitch is felt to be justified in this case – being played in ideal conditions.

I know it is only one match, but how many more 'one matches' will there be whilst the youth team are barred from playing their handful of matches? It was useful to find out in the BFP that home matches will be played at Beaconsfield.

Whilst I do not wish to enter into a battle with Mr Melvin, I am afraid that some of his 'facts' are incorrect. I did not mention last year's squad, so why he has included an inaccurate list of county representatives from last season I do not understand.

As September 16 is some time ago, it would appear that Mr Melvin has forgotten what he said to the squad on this date, after telling them that there were county officials around. The fact that three boys ignored this discouragement does not mean that it did not occur.

County management would be unaware that boys had been discouraged – unless they had been informed by someone present at the time. Suggestion that other boys may have heeded Mr Melvin's words would be pure speculation.

Comments I make are not incorrect or unchecked. There must be several reasons for wishing to remain anonymous and if I were to state mine, it would rather defeat the object.

Name and address supplied

Football club feels picked on

WYCOMBE Wanderers finance director Graham Peart says his club is being singled out for negative treatment by Wycombe District Council.

The attack came after it was refused rate relief by the council last week.

"It does appear that we are being singled out for special and negative treatment, especially when we compare our situation to other non-league football clubs," said Mr Peart.

He said clubs such as Slough Town, Aylesbury and Marlow all get rate relief from their district councils and he finds it difficult to understand why Wycombe Wanderers had been refused.

"I think that it is fair to say that the club are very disappointed. We don't normally come to the council seeking financial assistance. In fact, they have never assisted us financially," said Mr Peart.

"This is the second application which the club has put before the council. The reason we were refused first time around was that there was a lack of involvement in the community."

He said the club has been getting more and more involved in training for young people, boys and girls, at schools.

"I think this will be a bit like the training pitch planning application – it's going to run and run."

"This is another instance of the attitude of the council to the football club. Despite all the fine words we are still not getting any support."

He said the club, which has a consultant working on this matter, will be pursuing this issue further.

IN THE BLUE CORNER

● **BE REALISTIC** about car parking on Sunday – walk! There is no general public parking for Wycombe's game with Albion, due to the space required by television vehicles.

Car park spaces are available at Sands Middle School and at the Mill End Road school. Supporters should arrive at Adams Park by 12.45pm to ensure admission.

● **BLUES' Capital League game** at Cambridge, and Albion's Autoglass encounter with Walsall were both rained off this week.

Blues groundsman Jim Gardner reports Sunday's game is 99.9 per cent certain to take place. "Only snow or thunder and lightning will call it off," he said. Wycombe's pitch has had 17 clear days since its last match.

● **THIS week's leagueline winners** are: £400 P. Griffiths (membership number 815), £25 L. Beeks (002) and E. Essex (728). The Lucky letters are I, Z and M.

● **SUNDAY promises to be a big day for publishing at Wycombe Wanderers.** Two Blues fanzines will be jostling for prime spot in Hill-bottom Road. 'Rhubarb Rhubarb' should make its first appearance on the day an awesome latest edition of 'The Adams Family' goes on sale, featuring a Blues pantomime special.

● **GOOD luck to the Wanderers juniors** in next Thursday night's FA Youth Cup second round match at home to Cambridge City.

● **WANDERERS have drawn Cheltenham Town at home** in the first round of the FA Trophy, to be played on January 9.

● **CORALS** in Castle Street, Wycombe, are offering the following prices: 2/1 a Wycombe win and 5/4 a West Brom win.

● **THE Sunday market is obviously off this weekend, but will be back a week on Sunday.**

MORE exciting than Christmas is the big match this Sunday between Wycombe and West Brom.

Longer queues could be seen outside the ticket offices of Adams Park than outside many town centre shops. Eager fans waited patiently in the cold and rain for many hours.

And Santa Ivor Beeks – excited by getting his new toy (the training pitch) – duly gave them the present they wanted.

It promises to be a real cracker of a game and like the proverbial turkey, I hope we stuff them.

— Charles Mann —