

Fan's eye view

SIR, I too have been a suffering supporter of Aylesbury United, although this season is arguably one of the poorest for some time.

Dave Sansom's total football ideas are clearly not working.

First we surrendered the fight for the championship in mid-October, then we bailed out of the FA Cup by a ridiculous scoreline. Attempting to play open football the Sansom way is clearly not the right approach when taking on a top second division side.

A Trevor Gould side would have played with 11 goalkeepers

and lost by a very respectable 2-0 scoreline.

This season Aylesbury will have to make do with second rate trophies and decreasing crowds and what with Wycombe destined for the Third Division, many less patriotic supporters will pay a few quid more and watch quality successful football at Adams Park and quite frankly who can blame them. Dave Sansom's Aylesbury United has a very bleak future.

DES ALBRIGHTON

Greetham Road
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Book will tell Blues' story

OUT OF THE BLUE

The success story at Wycombe Wanderers



Pete Lansley

IT'S Out of the Blue and it's out tomorrow — the official, inside story of Martin O'Neill's Wycombe Wanderers (Aldridge Press, £9.99).

No Blues fan will want to miss out on Pete Lansley's 128-page book, which takes the tale from O'Neill's appointment three years ago right up to Wanderers' draw to play West Bromwich Albion.

It is on sale at the Commercial Office at Adams Park from today. And it will be sold at the Corner Flag club shop, the Vere Suite entrance, and turnstiles at the Bucks Free Press and Hillbottom Road ends and the Woodland Terrace, tomorrow from 1pm, before Wycombe's game against Merthyr Tydfil.

MANY congratulations to Marlow for reaching the third round of the FA Cup to play Spurs and my commiserations to Wycombe for an extremely gallant effort.

My joy for Marlow is only tempered by the fact that, although they had the choice to play at home, they chose to go to Tottenham's White Hart Lane instead.

I understand the reasons. Marlow's ground only holds 3,000 and it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play at Spurs in front of possibly 20,000. It could also raise between £50,000 to £100,000 for the club.

But I would still have liked to have seen Tottenham at the Oak Tree Road ground.

Bucks Free Press sports editor Nick Goodman has been smiling like the Cheshire Cat ever since the victory, and will tell anyone who cares to listen how Super Marlow worked so hard to get where they have.

I innocently asked why Marlow didn't transfer the game to Wycombe's Adams Park. I can't print his reply, but I gather there is considerable delight at Marlow's achievement, and the fact they are no longer in the shadow of their big brother.

Meanwhile, I hope the townsfolk will don hat and scarf and make their way to White

Hart Lane on January 2. I will certainly be there. It is an occasion not to be missed.

Groggy Blues aim to pick themselves up

WYCOMBE face perhaps their sternest Conference test this season in revitalising motivational juices for tomorrow's home clash against Merthyr Tydfil — their third game against the Welsh club this term.

"I am a bit apprehensive coming off a glorious defeat as it were. I am hoping between now and Saturday we will get completely roused up for it," said Blues manager Martin O'Neill this week.

"It would not be for want of trying if we came unstuck on Saturday," he added.

"I think with our league performances so far this season, the fans are getting more in touch with the fact that the players are not machines. Every game will be tough for us."

Wanderers beat Merthyr 4-1 at Penydarren Park three months ago and followed up with last month's 3-1 victory, which set them up for their plum FA Cup tie with West Bromwich Albion.

The side is set to revert to its usual formation, with two strikers,

CLAIRE NASH reports

after O'Neill played a five-man midfield to stem Albion's flowing passing game on Tuesday.

Dennis Greene is likely to resume his role as a replacement for Kim Casey, whose dislocated shoulder will be immobilised for a further three weeks before a recovery period can be predicted.

Mark West is still in the running, with O'Neill rating his freshness and raring-to-go attitude in his favour, although the Wycombe striker has not come off the substitutes' bench yet this season.

Blues fans will be welcoming Wycombe home after a lengthy league absence tomorrow. It's their first league fixture at Adams Park since they played Stafford at the beginning of November.

Wycombe have won four points from a possible nine on their travels to Runcorn (defeat), Altrincham (win) and Witton (draw) and lead Slough by ten points. But the Berkshire side have three games in hand.