

TERRACE TALK

Blues fans give new book the big thumbs up

BOOK REVIEW 'Out of the Blue'

Simon Burrage, Lane End:

IN A lively and entertaining narrative, 'Out of the Blue' (Aldridge Press, £9.99, available at WHSmith and Adams Park) attempts to describe how the old 'Loakes Park' Wanderers became the club of the present and, hopefully, the future.

'The success story at Wycombe Wanderers', as the book is subtitled, is told in a light, confident style by one of the very few local journalists to have reported on the club's fortunes with enthusiasm and genuine interest in recent years.

An assortment of supporters' and officials' views are offered in short pieces sprinkled through the book; one or two almost steal the show, stylishly capturing some memorable moments.

As a totally biased Blues fan, I could not help but be captivated by the book's mixture of revelations and recollections. I read the whole thing within 24 hours of buying it — 'War and Peace' it is not. But hopefully this is just the beginning.

Adrian Wood, Headington (Blues' programme editor):

AT FIRST I was sceptical — a full publication devoted to just two and a half years? Pete Lansley's work, however, brings home the importance of that short period to the club. It's a great insight into what has gone on at the club away from Saturday afternoons — I liked particularly the excellent chapter detailing Martin O'Neill's trip to Bristol Rovers, the inside stories about Nicky Evans' departure and the chase for Thommo. Compelling reading.

Chris Avery, Downley:

THE above title could not have been more appropriate. Pete Lansley has written a little gem — for all Blues supporters, this book is a must. I'm sure Martin O'Neill and Ivor Beeks will be quite proud of what they have done and to see it recorded in such a fine book.

Andy Dickinson, Hazlemere:

NO Wanderers publication has quenched Blues' fans thirst — until now. 'Out of the Blue' is pure class.

The design is more Premier League than non-League, and the best thing about this book is that it does not bottle out of facing the messier stories. Martin's love of referees and Andy Kerr's transfer saga illustrate the 'no-holds barred' style. All followers of the religion that is WWFC accept this book as the definitive bible.

Tony Phillips, Hazlemere:

THIS is the ideal book to read after Christmas lunch: once you've started reading, you'll find it so absorbing you won't want to put it down. The sad thing is you'll miss helping with the washing up!

● THE THREE winners of the Blues book competition are P. Smith from High Wycombe, Helen Murphy from Loudwater and J. Wills from Hazlemere. Prizes will be posted shortly.

Snappers failed to click at big games

THOSE of us who were privileged to see two memorable cup ties at West Bromwich and Marlow last week were entitled to be disappointed by the BFP's coverage of two great matches. You certainly failed to do justice to these footballing epics.

No one could complain about the text or the number of column inches the BFP provided, but what on earth were the photographers doing?

Eleven photographs illustrated both games. Four were of supporters, three of managers, one of players in civvies, two of players embracing and one solitary player dribbling a ball which could have been taken at any place any time when the Wanderers were playing in their second strip.

It was simply amazing that in three hours of pulsating end to end action, full of incidents, you were unable to give your readers one real action shot.

The BFP must improve upon this level of pictorial reporting as your readers deserve much better.

Luckily we can expect the national press to be more professional when our super Marlow make a pilgrimage of a lifetime to White Hart Lane to play The Spurs on January 2.

Wycombe Wanderers were most unfortunate not to progress again into the third round of the cup having played with great distinction in two fine games.

May I suggest, therefore, that, for just one day, the Wanderers supporters set aside local rivalries and join us in numbers at Tottenham to support their poor local neighbours on what will be an historic day for local football.

Wycombe would do well to repay Marlow for the support it has given, and will continue to give, the Wanderers in their irresistible drive into the football league.

For our part, Marlow will continue to enjoy the friendliness and sporting competition of the Diadora League, the quality of which deserves a much wider audience.

J D Burnham
Harwood Road
Marlow

Wanderers question bill

CLAIRE NASH reports

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that they were charged more for policing the FA Cup Second Round tie at Adams Park than West Bromwich Albion were for the replay.

The club have queried a Thames Valley Police bill for controlling a 6,900-strong crowd. It is more than the £8,000 Albion were charged by West Midlands Police for controlling a 17,000 crowd at The Hawthorns.

Wanderers' financial director Graham Peart said this week: "I can confirm it is more, extraordinary as it may seem."

Peart added that the club have asked Thames Valley Police why their bill is higher than expected.

He would not reveal what the cost is, although he said it was more than what the police indicated to them with their category bands. The Albion tie was a category A match.

Albion secretary John Evans confirmed the club were charged £8,000 for policing the replay.

Youth side meet Brighton

WYCOMBE Wanderers' youth side entertain Brighton in the FA Youth Cup Third Round on January 5 as the only non-League side left in the competition.

Admission is £2 and £1. Kick-off 7.45pm.