

IN OFF THE POST

Dear Sport,

I AM an ardent Blues fans who first watched the team in an Amateur Cup semi final against Bishop Auckland at Doncaster in 1959.

Like several others in the factory where I work, I watched a discussion on Sportsview between Bobby Charlton and a panel around the time of the anniversary of the Munich air disaster debating the merits of the present team compared with the Busby Babes.

With half an hour to spare at lunchtime 14 of us Blues supporters decided to compare the merits of the present squad with Brian Lee's 'Babes', and their greatest period 1974-5, highlighted by the magnificent performance against Middlesbrough, then top of the First Division.

The consensus was the present team was just as skilful, but just lacked a little on two aspects.

- Inside forward (remembering Kim Casey's long term injury): both players, Dennis Greene and Mark West, for some unexplained reason, are both only shadows of themselves. In Greene's case, compared with last season, and in Westy's, with two seasons ago, their composure is lacking and neither seems as alert or fit as in their heydays.

Two supporters who follow Chesham and Marlow, when they cannot get away to see Wycombe, even suggested the two strikers would be hard pressed to make either of these lower-division sides, which came to the second criticism...

- Fitness: that the present team, although points ahead in the league table, are not as fit overall as their counterparts. Most goals are scored early on and in several cases we have held on rather by luck than judgement in the last minutes, even against teams well down the league. One supporter who had close contacts during the '70s said Brian Lee, a fitness fanatic, used to keep them training as late as 9.30pm — often, sometimes, having to run around Tom Berts Hill, the steepest in town.

It would be most interesting and enlightening to hear of other supporters' reflections 'In off the post'.

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- WHAT do you think? The BFP sports desk welcome letters on all sporting matters. Please send your letters to our Gomm Road office by Tuesday morning.