

Adams Park ban was not political

HEREWITH my urgent response on behalf of the Sands Residents' Association to Councillor Pusey's unfortunate letter last week.

I write in response to Councillor John Pusey's letter in BFP April 30.

He refers to the Sands Residents' Association (SRA) in such a way that it leads the reader to believe we are politically involved with either the Labour Party or the Liberal Democrats.

I wish to set the record straight and would point out that the Sands Residents' Association is a non-party political group, whose constitution forbids it to act for any political party.

While members of our association and its committee may have personal political views, these are not allowed to interfere with the association in any way.

Our chairman, Stephen Billingham, is a well-known

Liberal Democrat, but his involvement with our association is because of his interest in Sands as a resident and completely separate from his actions as a Lib Dem. His letter to councillors was sent on instruction from the SRA committee had I been less busy at the time, it would have come from me instead.

Local residents have already paid, in their taxes, for the district council's entertainment budget for the refurbished Town Hall and also, I might add, for the Wycombe Swan with its superb facilities. Councillor Cartwright's choice therefore of Adams Park is ill-conceived and extremely insensitive when one considers the planning issues still in abeyance. It smacks of collusion with the club against the residents and it is for this reason that we as an association have objected strenuously and publicly against the annual bash being held there.

Finally, our association wishes to confirm that it has no axe to grind against Wycombe Wanderers as a local football club. We merely wish to protect local residents and the Green Belt, AONB and ASR against inappropriate planning applications, of which there are many.

SRA says - Good on the Wanderers - we are very pleased they have finally reached the Third Division and are set for Wembley. We wish them success there.

But, if they wish to make further ill-advised applications in the Green Belt, we will see them in the planning 'boxing ring'. Let us all come out fighting clean.

So, Councillor Pusey, I am sorry that you do not have a clear understanding of our association and its protective instincts for Sands. If you like, I will send you a copy of our constitution - membership is not limited to residents of Sands and you will be interested to know the yearly subscription is merely £2 per household.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Shadbolt
Secretary
Sands Residents' Association
Coombe Rise
Sands

The town should be proud of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and him as chairman of Wycombe District Council.

Best wishes in the future to Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and Peter Cartwright.

R Cooper
Rosebery Avenue
Pinions
High Wycombe

Directors need pat on the back

AS this year's football season comes to a close, I think it is the appropriate time on behalf, I am sure, of all the supporters to publicly congratulate the directors and management staff of Wycombe Wanderers FC for the success that has been achieved not only on promotion to the Football League, but by putting the town of High Wycombe on the map.

Prior to this, High Wycombe has/had in Adams Park, the finest non-League stadium, not just in England, but the whole of Great Britain. This was only achieved by endless weeks of unpaid time by the directors and chairman to make this possible.

What the town now possesses is the largest entertainment and sports attraction in Buckinghamshire, a huge proportion of which has now become a family affair.

Well done Ivor, your fellow directors and not forgetting Martin for a magnificent achievement and ultimate aim.

Name and address supplied

mind, is that a positive step forward might have been urging motorists to convert their engines to use lead free petrol for next season.

Thus a lot of the contamination, at least, in the Sands area could be reduced.

That is, I think you will agree, a constructive suggestion. One thing he could have told us is that there is an air quality problem in Sands.

One only need live in Downley or Poets' Corner, Booker or Castlefield to be aware of the overpowering carbon monoxide poisoning which becomes your lot when descending into the Wye Valley the length of the A40 through Wycombe!

Incidentally I wish Wycombe Wanderers all the best on Sunday at Wembley and though I only follow Glasgow Celtic and glance at Rangers' result on Saturday, I am sure that the Celtic fringe in Wycombe District join me in this.

Cllr Ernest Fraser-Finnie
Chiltern Avenue
Castlefield

TOWN HALL




WYCOMBE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

By **ROBERT
MENDICK**

Council top team will be all-female

SPORT and politics supposedly don't mix. But down at the council right now there seems to be no escaping Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

Monday night's annual meeting has been put back to 8.15pm (normal kick-off 6.30pm) because of the small matter of thousands of people turning up outside the council offices to salute the footballers following this season's exertions.

But just as the football season comes to an end, so too does the council's (you see, no avoiding the comparison). The annual meeting sees the election of a new council chairman, new leader and deputy-leader and chairmen of the various committees.

Chance missed to air real problem

I WOULD have attended the reception given by the current chairman of the council out of courtesy to him. I also believe that it is essential the council keep promoting good PR with the local business community.

Alas at the last minute I felt unwell. I have a type of illness that comes on without much warning.

These occasions do afford us, the councillors, an opportunity to get out of our blind alleys which we all tend to get blinkered by in our roles as elected representatives. It affords us the opportunity of relaxing amidst the folk who give the life blood of the area. (For many canvassers, it has been additionally welcome in the past week as polling day came ever closer.)

I am delaying this letter to afford the placing of the magic X on the ballot paper on Thursday. The SLD may wish to protest, using the Sands Residents Association as their dupe, but empty gestures such as they displayed are futile and sound dubiously noble until examined.

I would imagine that since there are as many closet Tories in the current SLD representation in WDC they would feel possibly more at home than I would. After all a Sunday market is held at Adams Park weekly and on Sundays!

As my fellow councillor, John Pusey, pointed out in his letter, Wycombe Wanderers have a sound record of giving to charities, either in cash or in kind, and afford lots of athletic and sporting opportunities to youngsters during the long summer holidays. The Wanderers are an integral part of the town and district and have borne that responsibility well.

What Mr Billingham might have suggested in his round robin letter to all members of the council, and some of us in CPRE would have borne in

Party poopers were being petty

I WONDER whether the saga of Adams Park will ever be resolved. Many Liberal Democrats boycotted Cllr Cartwright's party. Jean Gabbittas described his choice as 'crass'. I would describe her attitude and those of her other colleagues as petty and inept!

There have been two great local events this year with the opening of the Swan theatre and the Wanderers' superb league victory with, hopefully, more success to follow in the next few weeks.

It is a time to celebrate and Cllr Cartwright's decision is very appropriate.

The Liberal Democrats' choice not to enter the spirit of the occasion was to say the least unfortunate.

David Gamman
Westover Road
High Wycombe

We should be proud of both

I HOPE Peter Cartwright and his guests had a wonderful evening at his reception at Adams Park (home of Wycombe Wanderers).

How dare he lambast my team

I HAVE never felt the need to voice my opinion so strongly as I do now, in reply to the so-called article by your reporter Gary Lawrence. I refer to "We've Got A Long Way To Go."

Mr Lawrence certainly has in his researching abilities. How dare he make such derogatory remarks about what are already well-established Football League clubs? My main objection lies with his remarks which are very obviously ill-researched about Chesterfield FC.

He refers to the curiously nicknamed Spireites. The Latin motto of the town is "ASPIRE", meaning to have a great ambition. The second part of the explanation is that the parish church of Chesterfield which was built in the 12th century has a 250-foot steeple constructed out of unseasoned timber. This had over 200 tons of lead hung on it, thus giving it a twist to the south west of over eight feet. Therefore the nickname the Spireites which is very unique, stands to reason.

The second point he raised was referring to the crowd at Chesterfield FC. Chesterfield is at what could be considered a very high football population area. Within a 40-mile radius of Chesterfield we have no fewer than 40 League clubs, so this might be a deciding factor in the crowd sizes at Chesterfield. Also, Chesterfield have not got such a forward-thinking board as Wycombe Wanderers. "Unfortunately."

Lastly, the point about the ground. The Recreation Ground has been the home of the Spireites since their formation in 1866. Note the date Mr Lawrence! They are the second oldest club in the Football League. They have given football some great names such as Gordon Banks, Bob Wilson and John Lukic. Yes, they are goalkeepers, but very good ones.

The Recreation Ground is in almost the heart of the town, with very good through routes and very ample parking. Chesterfield is a far larger town than High Wycombe. Therefore complicating a move to a larger or newer ground.

In ending this, may I also point out to the ill-informed and utterly badly researched by "Mr Finger on the Pulse Lawrence" that Chesterfield are the retaining winners of the Anglo-Scottish Cup, having not only beat Notts County in the final, but also Glasgow Rangers in the semi at Ibrox with nearly 4,000 fans having made the 400-mile trip north on a Tuesday night in 1976/77.

So as far as you can see Chesterfield Town have got a lot to be proud of. Mr Lawrence, please in the future take a little time to research the subjects you write about before putting your foot in it.

I have supported the Spireites since the 1969/70 season when they won the Fourth Division title. So now having made my home in High Wycombe, we shall have to see where my loyalties lie, at least for two games in the next season.

Anyway, good luck to them both and may the best team win.

**Mr D G Parkin
Melbourne Road
High Wycombe**

Who are you calling mediocre?

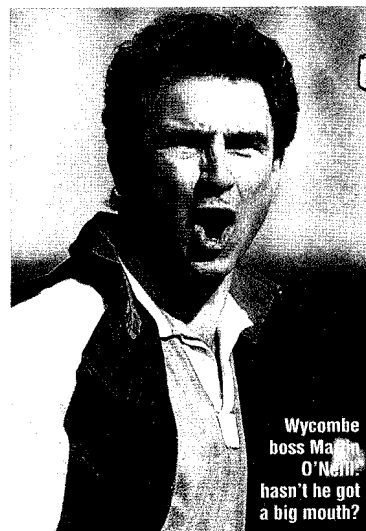
HAVING been a Wycombe Wanderers fan for over 25 years and an avid fan of non-League football during a period of exile to Lincolnshire (Boston United) and Worcestershire (Worcester City and Redditch United) I find your sports reporter's comments regarding non-League wilderness ("depths of non-League football") and "suffer the mediocrity of the amateur game" rather disturbing.

Where have these reporters been all these years? Some of the finest football is played at non-League level. Over the last 20 plus years Wycombe have played a significant part in this.

It seems from comments made that crowds of over 2,000 (and in recent successful times 4,000) have been subject to mediocrity! Strange that so many people continue to pay good money to watch such stuff.

If people wanted better there's always the London clubs, including kick and rush Wimbledon a prime example of football (please not soccer, it's not the 1994 World Cup yet!) played at the highest level. I am certain Wycombe have the team, manager, backroom staff and supporters to reach the highest level, but they will not forget their roots. Well done to the Wanderers, we'll be looking for mediocrity in 1993-1994.

**Mark Briscoe
Elm Road
High Wycombe**



WYCOMBE WONDERS

DEAR KICKBACK,

As an Altrincham supporter, it never ceases to amaze me why everyone is so obsessed with praising Wycombe Wanderers. They play like Wimbledon, have masses of part-time supporters (reminds me of Man Utd) and play home games in a suburban industrial estate.

I ask myself, where were they during the 1980s when Alty were beating Birmingham (with David Seaman in goal), playing Liverpool and Tottenham and picking up Championships and trophies along the way? So, don't praise some one season wanderers, but those teams who have battled throughout the top flight of the non-League.

M Griffin, Altrincham

You wouldn't be just the teeny-weeniest bit jealous, by any chance?

BARNET FARCE REFLECTS BADLY



I SEE that the sorry farce surrounding Barnet took yet another twist this week, with both Flashman and Fry leaving the club. It fills me with great sadness to see this club turn into a laughing stock so soon after it left the non-League circuit—it reflects very badly on the rest of us, the majority of which are trying to run professional and friendly clubs. Still, with Wycombe we have an excellent flag bearer for the non-League game, one which I am sure will take the Third Division by storm next season!

**Mike Dunstan
Cheltenham, Glos.**

I have to agree that the goings-on at Barnet have done nothing to enhance football at any level, and it's even sadder that Barnet are a recent former non-League club. S.W.