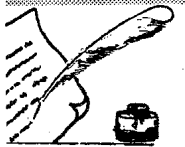


CHURCH VIEW



By **ARTHUR
CHURCH**



Wembley win was history in the making

OH what a day and what a night it was! And the whole weekend for that matter. Not just for Wycombe Wanderers, but for a very large slice of the town and surrounding population.

Already the crowned champions of the prestigious GM Vauxhall Conference, won by a mile, the Conference Shield winners (and 'generously' giving up the Drinkwise Cup when it had looked safely back on the shelf), the Wanderers headed for Wembley convinced they would lift the FA Trophy for the second time in three seasons – and they did so gloriously.

Generous they may be at times, but the Blues were not about to drop the Trophy most people expected them to win before marching on to the Football League.

Packed coaches, cars and trains hit the trail for Wembley and the Blue horde was in full voice – all the way there, all the way back, and on into the night. History was in the making and the town, as well as the club, was prominent in the news.

Just as dads and grandads tell of the 1931 Amateur Cup triumph at Highbury, so will future elders look back with relish on 1993. So confident were local printers PK Graphics, that they listed the FA Trophy as won in the pre-printed menu and factcard for the Sunday evening celebration dinner at Adams Park's Vere Suite.

Directors, officials, players, staff and those lucky enough to be on the guest list were high on emotion. Martin O'Neill, the effervescent team manager, shook so many hands it must have been almost bruising, while chairman Ivor Beeks went around the tables after dinner cuddling the Trophy like a much-loved baby.

'I detected one good reason for the club's success – team spirit running from top to bottom . . . an all-mates-together atmosphere'

Ignoring all the dangers of bantering slander, TV commentator and club director Alan Parry played Blues personalities like a seasoned stand-up comic. Striker Scott, he said, was thinking of joining the Navy to let the world see Him; Guppy missed a couple of games because of nappy rash.

In his and other post-prandial comments, I thought I detected one good reason for the club's success – team spirit running from top to bottom, with no hint of sycophantic platitude; rather an all-mates-together atmosphere.

A few serious moments there were, certainly, and what shone through from those was the firm belief in an even bigger future for the club – whether it takes five, ten or 20 years. It has grown with the town. And the town will grow with it.

As I made my way to the ground to catch a Wembley-bound coach on Sunday morning, I noticed a number of houses decked out with club colours and emblems. Mustn't think that all Sands residents are anti-Adams Park then, must we?

One man who got a surprise at the evening reception was Bill Fenton, club doctor for many a year. The chairman presented him with a certificate of honorary life membership and with a splendid framed caricature drawing which was the work of ace cartoonist David Langdon, another strong club supporter.

Bill is set to retire, but you can bet he will be around whenever he is needed.

One thing to admire about the Wanderers is that it is not solely wrapped up in itself as a club, but that it is community minded; it has a heart and feels a need to involve itself with young people. Ask six-year-old Danny Graham who, you will have read, was made their Wembley mascot. His father died in a road accident and the Blues' gesture relieved the boy of some of his pain.

Incidentally, while the crowds were leaving the town on Sunday morning, Guides from all over the county were making their way to High Wycombe for their annual banner service.

I am told on good authority (how else would I know?) that some of the local Guides were wearing Blues' shirts under their uniforms. And offering up a prayer, no doubt, for the club's success that day.

Blues get 70 years of solid support

CONGRATULATIONS to Wycombe Wanderers on winning the Vauxhall Conference and FA Trophy. I have supported Wanderers before they won the Amateur Cup.

I am 88 years old but my sight is getting bad. I have seen most games at Adams Park. I think I can claim to beat those older supporters you published in your Bucks Free Press.

I would say 70 years I have supported Wycombe.

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