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Martin still has a dream

IF you had told any Wycombe Wanderers fan three years ago that one day a Blues manager would turn down the chance to manage Nottingham Forest in favour of staying in Wycombe – he would have thought you insane.

But, incredibly, this is the situation at Adams Park and no one, except perhaps chairman Ivor Beeks, can believe it.

Perhaps it shows just how big a club Wanderers have become, maybe even without anyone apart from Martin realising it.

He feels the job of steering Blues towards the Premier League, in the footsteps of Wimbledon, is more rewarding than rebuilding a former Football League and European Championship-winning side.

There are those cynics who will say that Martin did not relish the prospect of having to follow the legendary Brian Clough. There are some who might say that he has used the job speculation to secure a fat contract at Adams Park.

It may be true that the manager has now a financial deal that would be the envy of many top-flight managers. But that surely is a measure of his worth to the club he has taken from obscurity to the higher plains of media hype this week.

We believe the reason he has stayed is the one he gives with such feeling on the front page of today's paper. Martin is a lyrical Irishman, a romantic with the dream of taking the club to football's heights.

He turned down the Bristol Rovers job two years ago, saying that he wanted to concentrate on finishing the job here.

He obviously feels he still has not done that and even the lure of returning to his former club in a blaze of glory was not strong enough to deflect him from it.

Wanderers are truly fortunate to have such a man at the helm. We hope the fans who acclaimed him with such passion on Sunday at Wembley, and in the town centre on Monday night, will be patient when the club charts stormier waters next season.

TOWN HALL



WYCOMBE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

By **ROBERT
MENDICK**



Receiving a black eye and denying it is becoming contagious. Josie Walsh, the council's information assistant, was apparently hit in the eye by a flying champagne cork at Monday's Wycombe Wanderers celebrations.

She turned up for work the next day with a noticeable shiner. I asked Josie about her black eye but suffered a shocking *deja vu* when she denied its very existence.

MONDAY night's annual general meeting was a slightly surreal affair with all councillors to a man and woman wearing blue in support of Wycombe Wanderers' splendid exploits.

Several Tories must have been smugly smiling to see opposition councillors, sporting the colours of the enemy. One Labour councillor had even draped herself in a giant blue flag.

THE meeting was preceded by a rather noisy civic reception for Wycombe's footballers. Peter Cartwright (who did a great job as MC) presented the players with engraved glass tankards from Wycombe District Council in recognition of their double-whammy in the League and Trophy final.

But while the tankards were being handed out to each player, few councillors could be seen applauding them.

Most were in the next room where the caterers had just taken the cling-film wrap off the food.

The players had to make do with cheering and congratulating themselves as each collected his memento.