

Mannon Friday

Much-maligned radio station gets my vote for making amends

I HAVE a shocking confession to make today – I enjoyed listening to an elevenSEVENTY programme.

Yes, I know this will cause astonishment among devotees of this column who will recall my attack a few months ago on the Christian radio station.

I agreed wholeheartedly at the time with district councillors who labelled the High-Wycombe-based station unprofessional and disappointing.

However, I found quite the opposite on Saturday when I accidentally tuned in to the live commentary of Wycombe Wanderers away to Plymouth.

I was driving back from Tesco when it happened. I pressed the wrong button and, lo and behold, the dreaded figures 1170 came up on my digital radio.

I was frantically reaching over to switch channels when it dawned on me that the quality of the soccer commentary was, in fact, rather good.

Mrs Mann's pleas to turn it off fell on deaf ears as I whooped with joy at hearing Cyrille Regis had equalised for Wycombe.

Then I shared the commentary team's anger and anxiety while the ref played a ridiculous amount of injury time as our lads hung on for a draw.

I even laughed at the jokes cracked by injured

Wycombe player Lee Turnbull, who was one of the commentators. On the evidence of this transmission, perhaps he should give up his day job.

The broadcast quite made my afternoon. It was only later that I realised the irony of it all, for my previous comments had turned me into elevenSEVENTY'S public enemy number one.

But I'm taking the plunge by saying the station does deserve a giant pat on the back.

You will recall that the main criticism levelled against it was its failure to provide live coverage of Wycombe at Wembley. Councillors were absolutely right to be miffed over this.

However, elevenSEVENTY has now been brave enough to respond to public criticism by providing a superb service for the public, ie. the live commentary of Wanderers' away matches.

I also understand the station has made four redundancies. Only time will tell if this is a good or a bad move.

However, I reckon elevenSEVENTY is well worth a second chance in the Mann household.

It gets my vote for the simple fact that at last we have a high-profile organisation big enough to listen and act when it is criticised.

Charles Mann –