

A pot of goals at the end of the rainbow

Any lingering doubts that Wycombe Wanderers are in Division Two making up the numbers were dispelled in emphatic style at London Road, Peterborough, last Saturday.

Wycombe, sporting the latest Steve Guppy replacement Mickey Bell, turned in their performance of the season in a second half which ended 3-1 but could easily have turned into a massacre. The style and grace shown by the yellow clad Wanderers in this period was nigh on breathtaking, especially considering the efforts of Mother Nature who, like Wycombe, was clearly in an exhibitionist mood displaying her full range of skills.

Torrential rain before the game was never going to make defending easy and the expected slipping and sliding seemed to be afflicting the reshuffled Wycombe defence quite badly in the opening phase of the game.

Peterborough's Liburd Henry was on hand to take advantage of some tentative defending as he drove home the game's opener on just four minutes.

Thankfully the impressively

STEPHEN Deal has turned his back on Wycombe and its famous football team to go in search of sun, sea and Australian football on the other side of the planet. But never fear League lovers, those two wags Neil Peters and Andrew Dickinson have picked up his notepad and pen and decided to run with it. We doubt you'll even see the join.

vocal Wycombe contingent refused to be silenced by this early setback and didn't have to wait long before their team started to put some promising moves together.

As the half wore on Peterborough's strike force, containing ex-Watford striker Ken Charlery, became gradually detached from the game as Wycombe's midfield started to stem the supply of balls to them.

Now Wycombe were starting to look impressive, building from the back through the superb Simon Stapleton and newly confident Steve Brown they fashioned a number of chances so that only a mixture of woodwork, inspired goalkeeping and weak shooting kept the home side in front.

In fact after Cyrille Regis' close range drive on 33 minutes had somehow been diverted from its flightpath to glory, Wycombe could have been forgiven for believing it not to be their day.

However the deserved parity was restored by Regis on 44 minutes. Jason Cousins' high free kick was nodded down to the feet of Regis who lashed the ball home through a ruck of players.

It wasn't long into the second half before Simon Garner handed Wycombe the lead with a battling run and ice cool finish on 53 minutes. This enabled the entire team to relax and the rest of the second half was a joy to behold for all Wycombe fans.

The debutant Bell was by this stage bubbling with confidence, indulging the watching crowd with some delightful, uncomplicated wing play.

Martin O'Neill must have been praying that none of the tribunal members, who have to decide on an appropriate fee for the 22-year-old, were present or

£25,000 could be just wishful thinking.

The killer third goal came on 61 minutes. As keeper Prudoe marshalled his wall to deal with the expected drive, Dave Carroll surprised them by playing the ball wide to Stapleton who whipped over a pacy cross reached by Steve Thompson who flicked home with his head.

From then on it was plain sailing. Wycombe teased Boro holding possession as the travelling support cheered smugly, a definite improvement on the chain smoking and nail biting that is usually the norm watching Wycombe.

It could have been tighter had Boro's Brian McGorry taken his chance in front of an unguarded net but a nasty bobble (we can afford to be kind here!) put paid to that.

As the 5,924 strong crowd left London Road a fully formed rainbow stretched across the sky. The pot of gold had already left the field.

