

IN a recent interview in Arthur Prince's betting shop on Mill End Road, manager Terry Carpenter was able to quote Arthur Prince odds of 12/1, at that time, on Wycombe Wanderers' winning the second division title.

Terry's remarks covered a wide range of events, and sports – he also commented on the Arthur Prince company, and was persuaded to say a few words about himself.

Arthur Prince now has seven shops in Wycombe, including the one in Mill End Road, which was acquired in 1987 from an independent operator, and later extended. The company, which has been around for 26 years, has 120 betting shops nationwide, and is believed to be the largest independent betting company in Britain, Terry said.

Terry has been working in the betting field for more than ten years, and – with the Sands operation – for Arthur Prince since 1990. Sports run in Terry's blood. He himself used to play a lot of tennis and entered the Middlesex County Championship.

His father was a professional tennis player at the well-known Queen's Club, London, and also coached Stewart Granger, the movie star, at squash.

When Terry left school he found the salary and prospects of working in betting shops quite attractive. Plus, he was interested in the "whole cake", as he put it, all sports, football in general, the World Cup in particular, horse racing, and, of course, tennis.

Terry said of his shop, that is sited very close to Wycombe Wanderers' home at Adams Park, that it is a special boon to away fans making their way to the stadium on foot.

Terry noted a definite increase in customers when the Wanderers play at home. In addition to fans betting on the outcome of the match, they can also name the goal scorers, he explained.

Arthur Prince also 'takes Littlewood's and Vernon's football pools up to 1pm on Saturdays, giving punters in one of the Sands community's social focal points just that bit more time to reflect.

In addition to local residential support for Wycombe Wanderers' victories, Terry notices interest in the outcome of the Coca-Cola cup, the premier league, and there is support for Spurs, perhaps because of the world cup striker Jurgen Klinsmann, to win the FA cup.

comes to this sport and other international events. People seem to set aside the form book to support their national team. There is, at the moment, less interest in rugby, though this rugged sport would probably make it into the top ten betting sports.

The top three sports here are horses, greyhounds and football. Horse and greyhound racing is presented daily by SIS – Satellite Information Services, which will include limited programmes of Sunday racing, starting in May this year.

Cyrille's goal is first class

IN recent weeks, Eric Cantona and the England fans(?) have demonstrated all that is bad in football. However, it was most pleasing to see the Bucks Free Press cover the story of the unveiling of the plaque at Hannah Ball School, in High Wycombe, by Cyrille Regis of Wycombe Wanderers.

The inscription, 'All children are brothers and sisters together', will hopefully be remembered by the children of Hannah Ball School and elsewhere well into their adult life. It is sad that such a message evidently falls on such deaf ears in other parts of the football world.

Mr Regis has proved that there is still some good things to be associated with our national sport. As they used to say in a certain part of north London. 'Nice one Cyrille!'

John Laker
Spinfield Lane
Marlow