

CHURCH VIEW



By **ARTHUR
CHURCH**



Fans should enjoy glory days now

AS I write without benefit of crystal ball and without knowing the results of midweek games, let alone tomorrow's outcome, I don't know whether or not Wycombe Wanderers are – or will be – still in a play-off position when this column appears today.

All rather confusing, is it not? But for my purposes here it really doesn't matter.

Up to the Christmas period our hopes of a further, quite sensational, promotion were ecstatically high – perhaps unrealistically so.

It has been proved again and again over the years that, for one reason or another, pace-setters have fallen by the wayside in the bitter battles of the second half of the season.

Games are lost which form suggests should be won. Lower ranked teams fight tigerishly for league survival. Key players are lost; new players are transferred in to bolster failing sides.

Luck plays a part and – dare one suggest it? – dubious refereeing decisions sway the balance. Sometimes complacency creeps in and a team, any team, can get into a state of mind where they think they have only to walk out on to the field and the game's over.

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prises, so many delights and so many disappointments. A lot of it is in the lap of the gods and, you may say, it's all a bit of a gamble.

But surely that's what makes football the attractive game it is. If it was all so readily predictable would so many fans continue to make their way to their favourite ground?

My apologies to Sports Editor, Claire Nash for straying into her territory – territory in which she performs so well – but I have a seniority of years of Blues-watching which makes me feel that I have excuse enough for taking such a liberty!

I had the pleasure of chatting, at Adams Park, a couple of weeks ago, to Len Worley who, so many years back, was hailed by the then BFP Sports Editor, Ken Burrows, as 'the Chalfont Wonder'.

Len worked his magic on Wycombe's right wing then – turning out for Spurs for a time – and he was delighted with the progress of the present Blues.

In those days, winning the Berks and Bucks Cup was a highlight, leading the Isthmian League a dream to be savoured, and appearance in the later stages of the Amateur Cup competition, let alone in the final, the height of achievement.

What a transformation now! We aspire to clashing with Division One Endsleigh League teams and then, wonder of wonders, to hosting the Manchester Uniteds and the Blackburns of the top football world.

Let's not be too greedy.

The Blues are a name in the football world. Promotion to the Conference, Trophy winners, promotion to the Third Division, and promotion immediately to the Second – what more could we have asked?

Why, promotion again to the 1st of course. That would be – or maybe even will be – icing on a very rich cake.

It would be marvellous, would it not, if we did make the play-offs and secure that heady trip up to Wembley once more?

But, if I may use a military analogy, a good General wisely consolidates ground won before pushing on further.

It might not be a bad thing if we take a breather before boldly going where no Wycombe team has gone before.

You may know today what I don't know as I write. What I am sure of is that having secured so high a place in Division Two in a debut season can hardly be described as failure.

In Len Worley's day it wasn't even a distant dream.