

TAYLOR'S DREAM ERECTION

(but Wycombe can't get it up)

In the long wake that understandably (and quite rightly) followed the horrendous Hillsborough disaster in 1989, football fans everywhere have been told to sit down and shut up. Six years on from that terrible day when 96 ill fated Liverpoolians lost their lives trying to watch a game of football the effects of the long overdue Taylor report which was prompted by these events, have begun to hit our local professional league clubs. You've already read about the ground problems facing Reading, here's some thoughts about those which Wycombe could soon be confronted with.

The lego stadium which is Adams Park was built at a reported cost of 6 million pounds. Following this "arrogant" O'Neill has led his team from the Conference to the brink of Endsleigh League Division One in less than five years. Should they win promotion, they will have three years to make the ground all seater. This would cut the capacity in half to around 5,000. This isn't enough for their current needs never mind those of a higher division. The potential cost of promotion would be huge to a team of Wycombe's limited resources.

Obviously Wycombe are an ambitious club and have made amazing progress in a very short period of time, but if they do win promotion the question that would have to be asked is should they be allowed to progress further?

The new ground's location is such that those who chose it were either naive or only thinking of short term progress. I fear that if they do win promotion, the honour could well be denied them on the grounds of safety.

Picture the scene. Wycombe's new all seater Adams Park is playing host to a Sunderland team running away with the title (this is bordering on the realms of fantasy I know, but bear with me). Hundreds of ticketless Makems descend on Wycombe with the aim of seeing the match. Approaching Adams Park by its' one and only access road, a crush emerges at one of the gates. The situation is serious, people are getting injured. The emergency services arrive to sort out the situation and take the casualties away. But they can't get to the scene as the one and only access road is blocked by cars and people trying to escape from the trouble. This log jam causes yet more distress and the seriousness of the situation quickly escalates into disastrous proportions.

Now if you put this hypothetical situation to Wycombe Wanderers FC, they will tell you that they are far too organised for such a thing to happen. I concede that my scenario is relatively far fetched, but who predicted the myriad of other terrible events which have afflicted football over the last ten years. Multiple access to Adams Park must be created, otherwise the spectre of a possible tragedy will always hang like a black cloud over the ground. I can't think of any other League club whose ground is on dead end road, not even poor old Macclesfield have this problem, so should Wycombe be made to act? Lord Justice Taylor its over to you...

GRAHAM LUCKETT