

O'Neill critic receives reply

I FEEL that I must answer Bernard Hand's criticism of Martin O'Neill. We have lost the best manager that Wycombe Wanderers will ever have. If the club's new manager is Kevin Keegan and he gets us to the Premier Division, he still won't have done as much for Wycombe as Martin O'Neill has done in five years.

Mr Hand writes about the lack of progress last year. Did Manchester United make a lot of progress last year? If we

listen to him, Manchester United should sack Alex Ferguson. Where are all the famous Buckinghamshire managers Mr Hand wants to manage Wycombe? Take Mike Keen out of it and I can't think of any other one.

Mr Bernard Hand might like to appoint the well-known manager of Stoke Mandeville or maybe Radnage, or what about a nice farmer from Fingest with Buckinghamshire blood running through his veins, who knows about as much about football as Mr Hand. I know a few long-distance lorry drivers who know the county well. I will send Mr Hand their names next week.

**B Tierney
Forty Green
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Martin is simply the best

MARTIN O'Neill was the best manager Wycombe Wanderers has ever had and ever likely to have.

**End of story.
W Goodman
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Naphill**

Supporters need all the facts

WYCOMBE Wanderers Independent Supporters Club would like to draw attention to the new scheme the football club has announced as a supporters club. We believe, and we have the backing of the National Federation of Football Supporters Clubs in this, that this is not a supporters club, but in fact solely a membership scheme.

The reasons for this statement are as follows:

The football club is to have total financial control of the membership fees of the new scheme (of all the 86 members of the National Federation of Football Supporters Clubs not one has this situation, they all have separate bank accounts to ensure members' funds are used correctly).

There is no constitution in place. How can the football club charge fans £10 per season without an outline of what the scheme stands for? (The club says this will be done by members when the scheme is up and running, but surely this needs to be done before money changes hands.)

The football club indicates that there is a second-priority booking facility for all-ticket home games, but makes no mention of away games where the demand for tickets is much greater due to the reduced amount of tickets normally available. It's interesting to note that Wycombe did not have a sell-out last season, even given the calibre of teams that visited Adams Park, so perhaps the emphasis on second-priority booking has been exaggerated, as it would seem that allocation exceeds demand at the present time.

WWISC suggested a voucher scheme for all-ticket games both home and away, but was told that this would be unsuitable and not fair to the fans. Interesting then, that many Premier League and Endsleigh League clubs use this system at the moment. Could the real reason be that Wycombe Wanderers would not make any money out of a voucher scheme?

Coach travel has already been allocated to Motts Travel for next season. This is hardly the sign of a democratically-run scheme, and for fans who only want to make use of the Travel Club, the £10 joining fee for the scheme represents an increase of 100 per cent on last year's cost of £5. This would seem to be another indication of the club's over-the-top money-making philosophy. A figure of £3 has been quoted as the discount for members of this new scheme over non-members on official coaches, but as no prices have been fixed as yet, it does beg the question, £3 off what price?

The joining fee of £10 has been decided by the football club. Not only does this figure seem to be extreme in comparison to the so-called benefits, it has been made without the input of the committee of the scheme and therefore seems proof that this is not a supporters' club, but a membership scheme initiated to make money, not represent the fans of Wycombe Wanderers. (The football club has said the fee is to help run the scheme. It would be interesting to see the financial breakdown of the figures used to end up with a figure of £10.)

While the supporters' forums are to be welcomed, the scheme states that there is to be a line of communication between the committee and directors to air any grievances, suggestions, etc. Surely it is the right of any Wycombe Wanderers' fan to be able to have this access without having to pay £10 for the privilege.

There also seems to be strings attached to this line of communication in that the committee must represent the majority of the members. Does this mean that every time there is a suggestion, etc, there will have to be a ballot held to gauge support? As you can imagine, this would prove ineffective and ensure the committee was nothing more than a front for the football club. (WWISC has an elected committee which has the mandate to represent its members and take responsibility for its own actions. The safeguard to this universal mode of operation is simple; if the committee fails in its mandate, it is voted out of office.)

WWISC has and will hopefully continue to have an amicable relationship with the football club and only recently has donated £500 to the Youth Training Scheme which is starting next season. But we feel that the supporters of Wycombe Wanderers need to have all the information possible about this new scheme so they can make a decision that is in their best interests.

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SANDS

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THE Sands Residents' Association (SRA) has issued its response to Wycombe Wanderers' Football Club's application for planning permission to build a £2 million South stand.

The association has condemned the proposal as a totally inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The SRA anticipates that at match times noise levels will dramatically increase.

The club says this is unproven and unlikely, as the number of fans will remain roughly the same.

The SRA is also concerned about post-match drinking, and asks: "Will we be unprotected from fans who have been drinking?"

The club responds that there was not an arrest of a single Wycombe supporter at Adams Park the whole of last season, and that you have to be a member to use the bar, which will have limited capacity.

The SRA also says that the original Department of the Environment inspector aimed for the development to be non-commercial. The club points out that WWFC is non-profit making. All the profits go back into the club.

Finally, the pressure group says: "They really must be curbed from proceeding with this application."

The club notes that if it does not build the South stand, under recent football league rules, the Blues would be relegated.