

A VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron
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Blues stutter at the start

LIKE many of the events at the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg, the Wycombe Wanderers season got off to a false start.

Crewe were out of their starting blocks for at least 30 minutes before the Blues began to get into their stride. Still, we managed to catch them up in the second half to snatch a slightly fortunate draw.

With Crewe looking so impressive for long periods, the referee came in for plenty of 'stick' – especially when he showed Jason the red card. In truth he had very little option, but I would have been happier if he had sent our other Jason off.

Poor Solly was having such a nightmare that I'm sure he would have welcomed a quick exit to the dressing room.

However, everyone is entitled to a bad game and hopefully the 'Wisdom of Solomon' will return.

The referee redeemed himself when he awarded the penalty, which our attacking play in the second half just about deserved.

■ Another dodgy referee on Tuesday but at least it was an Orient player who got his marching orders this time.

One brownie point to the Bald Eagle for giving Steve Brown the captaincy – much of the time he looked a different class to most of the players around him.

■ Football fans are often accused of not being capable of strategic thinking. However, two Blues fans disproved this theory when I overheard their conversation as we were leaving the ground on Saturday.

After just 90 minutes of football, they were able to accurately forecast the Blues season. "We're not going to make the play-offs this year. No, but we won't be relegated either."

Looks like I've lost my fiver on us winning the league.

When you think about it – ten clubs are engaged in promotion, play-offs or relegation places, leaving 14 others not involved. The odds are consequently in favour of their forecast being correct, so maybe they're not so daft.

Blues' bruisers forget football

I AM a Wycombe-based season ticket holder with Crewe Alexandra and for the past three years, the home match with Wycombe Wanderers has been one of the highlights of the season.

I now have the unenviable task of explaining to my three children why they had to endure the sight of a 90-minute physical attack on their red and white heroes from a team supposedly on the way to bigger and better things.

I have never before had the dubious pleasure of watching such a sustained period of assault which was aided by the referee's unwillingness (or ineptitude!) to penalise the main offenders early enough in the game and Wycombe's total ineptitude in attempting to play anything resembling football.

Having read ad nauseam in the local press about the wonders of the new regime under Mr Smith, complete with vegetarian diet, I presume he feeds the red meat to the animals when the hacks have retreated.

No doubt these tactics will reap the rewards they so richly deserve and herald a rapid return to the backwaters of Division Three.

Name and address supplied