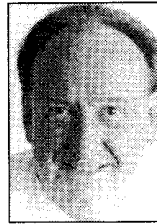


A VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron
Barnett



Red is not a pretty colour

SUDDENLY the Blues are seeing red.

We've only played four matches and scored the same number of goals, but our red-card count has also reached four.

It was bad enough losing Jason against Crewe, quickly followed by Mark Foran at Notts County.

Now, the two Pauls – Hyde and Hardyman – shared an early bath at Orient. Players are certainly going to be thin on the ground when all these suspensions are being served.

Despite the double dismissal, we got past Orient and can now look forward to the next round.

At this rate, we may have to get permission for it to be five-a-side, a format where we're unbeaten and Chuck is the indoor king.

During the last two seasons, the cost of our match programme has risen by 25 per cent. However, judging by the first two issues, this season's offering appears to be a bit more interesting and colourful.

However, one page gets my thumbs down, Further Behind The Scenes by John Goldsworthy.

Grievance

The page was used in the Crewe programme to air a private grievance about advance print deadlines and the inconvenience caused to the writer.

This was of little interest to Blues fans, so goodness knows what the visiting supporters made of it.

An article on Blues in the Daily Telegraph was then ridiculed for the Orient match. Now I appreciate this story had one or two minor inaccuracies, but it provided excellent free publicity and fans are always delighted to read about their team in the national press.

Can we please have a little less whinging and more football-related news from behind the scenes. Topics could include updates on injured players, interviews with players, where they are now, and articles by club officials, sponsors, or the fans.