

A good turnout of approximately 250 fans attended Alan Smith's first public meeting with the fans on Thursday 8 September. The Forum was held in the Vere Suite and was hosted by that Commentator Extraordinaire, Alan Parry.

Considering the turn around in results just prior to the forum, Alan Smith probably got an easier time than if the results and sendings-off had continued, and after a late start (Alan explained he was on the phone chasing new players), we were shown what an experienced speaker our Manager is in dealing with the questions that were put to him.

Many subjects were brought up, including the departure of our old Captain Glyn Creaser to pastures new (Rushden & Diamonds) and did Alan feel that he had acted hastily in releasing him? His reply was that he felt obliged to give it to Glyn as it was, that he was 36 years old, coming to the end of his career and opportunities beckoned elsewhere. It would not have been fair to keep him on until mid-season when it would have been more difficult to find a position elsewhere.

Other questions were about the new stand (thankfully, that one's been overcome now) but Alan did make the point that at Palace a new stand had been erected right in front of houses, without any problems, and he could not see the problem at Wycombe. Also, the sendings-off at the beginning of the season which drew some remarks that could not be printed!! The position of new players coming in (within days we had Farrell, Rowbotham and Williams arrive on the scene) was discussed, as was the question of whether Alan would go back to Palace if Ron Nodes left, needless to say the answer was no.

It was an entertaining evening with Alan Smith and Alan Parry answering questions in a frank and honest manner, with the added jokes and quips that both Alans have up their sleeves, going down well.

---