

Killjoys spoil the moment

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett



WHAT a waste of a great goal and what a cruel way to spoil our premature cup celebrations.

From the moment Jason Cousins dived to head clear to Gary Patterson a buzz went round the ground. The ball was swiftly moved on to Simon Garner and then swept out to David Farrell before finding its way back to Gary Patterson. We were celebrating the split second it left Gary's boot.

Mind you, our celebrations were very tame compared to Gary Patterson's hysterics, his impromptu striptease looking more like an audition for the new Playboy channel.

Instead of looking to wrap up the tie with a second goal, we seemed to hold back and let Gillingham take the initiative, not for the first time at home this season.

Just as we began looking forward to meeting Hitchin again and dreaming of an FA Cup third-round draw against Manchester United, Liverpool or Newcastle – Gillingham scored to dent our dreams.

In fairness, Gillingham played very well on the night and their fans certainly matched us for noise and passion.

The appearance of the Sky cameras and all their assorted paraphernalia also added to the excitement, although when we arrived to see all the scaffolding behind the Evans Halshaw, I thought Ivor Beeks had started building the new stand ahead of schedule.

So, it's off to Gillingham next week with high hopes that our better away form (ignoring Walsall) will see us through.

■ Interesting to read that Norwich fans took a coffin along to last week's game to symbolise the burial of chairman Robert Chase's ambitions.

They accuse him of stifling Martin O'Neill's attempts to strengthen the squad.

Martin might prefer to sell the coffin to help pay his £3,000 fine for upsetting a referee. If looks could kill, I can think of a number of referees who might be interested in buying it from Martin!

Ooh Terry Howard

FOOTBALL: Wycombe Wanderers defender Terry Howard has written a book on his years with Leyton Orient.

The Blues captain spent eight years with Orient before he was unceremoniously sacked by manager John Sitton during the half time of one of Orient's games last season – which was later featured on a fly-on-the-wall TV documentary.

Despite the manner of his departure, Howard has fond memories of his years there, his longest spell with one side to date. He had previously spent four years with Chelsea. Although covering all serious elements of his Orient career, the book also highlights some of the lighter moments. The book, which also touches on his Wycombe career, is entitled Ooh Terry Howard and is due to be published just before Christmas.

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