

Draw has a familiar look

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett



THE pattern of Saturday's match had a ring of *deja vu* about it. Once again we dominated the game, got ourselves in front and then sat back instead of going for a decisive victory.

I know the Bald Eagle will remind us that we are unbeaten for 14 league games and that the point keeps us in fourth place but I can't help feeling we really lost two points. Our string of home draws could prove costly by the beginning of May.

Another disappointment was the size of the crowd, only 4,886 and our average stays well below 5,000 rather than 6,000.

Maybe Mark Austin and his marketing team will have to get their thinking caps on to start enticing new and deserting fans to the match.

As the season of goodwill is just around the corner, here's a few free ideas to consider – shared promotions with restaurants with free or discounted tickets when you buy a meal for two, or a special combined price with cinema tickets – film and football for £10. How about special multi-purchase deals for companies – buy ten tickets get one free.

How about the large poster sites on London and West Wycombe Roads which could catch the attention of anyone who doesn't read the Bucks Free Press or listen to elevenSEVENTY.

■ Apparently Paul Hyde received a letter before Saturday's game confirming he was being put on the transfer list. If this is true, it does not seem to be a very clever piece of timing or man management by the club.

Paul's contract is up at the end of the season and he approached Alan Smith to seek talks about his future, only to be told it could not yet be discussed.

Now I realise many footballers are money-grabbing prima donnas but Paul has been extremely loyal to Wycombe, and before that Hayes, his only other club.

Surely a loyal employee is entitled to ask his employer about his future at any time without endangering his current job.

Markman's magic

TWO goals by Damian Markman set Wycombe's youth team up for a 3-1 win over Bournemouth in the South East Counties League Division Two on Saturday.

The other goal was scored by Lee Allen.

■ Paul Hardyman returned to action in Wednesday's 1-0 win over Welling in the Doxhill Presidents' Cup second round.

It was his first game in six weeks since aggravating a knee injury. Steve McGavin scored Blues' goal.