

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron
Barnett



November's no good

NOVEMBER has never been my favourite month for playing or watching football – more often than not it is too wet, too cold and too foggy. However, this year has been a real nightmare for all Blues fans.

After going 14 league games without defeat, we've suddenly gone five league and cup matches without a win – and gone out of two competitions.

Despite our long unbeaten run throughout the autumn, we've managed to total less points after eighteen matches than our two previous seasons in the Endsleigh League.

In our first season in 1993/94 we had accumulated 31 points from 18 games and held fifth spot in Division Three. Last season we had managed 36 points and were fourth in Division Two. This year we've collected 29 points and sit in sixth place.

Whilst we cannot complain too much, things would be much brighter if we could have converted a few of our eight draws into wins.

Hopefully with Long Tall Terry back, and Big Bad John being told to pull his finger out, we should see more determination in the side from now on.

What a shame our rotten performance against Gillingham cheated us out of an FA Cup derby against Reading. Mind you, having already 'slumped it' on the Elm Park terraces for the pre-season friendly, I have no great desire to return in a hurry.

At least we didn't miss out on a plum draw against a top Premier Division side.

Make a noise for everyone

I WOULD like to be granted an opportunity to stand against the recent letters from your correspondents Cllrs Teesdale and Letheren.

Within your newspapers, the councillors are keen to relate efforts in using the full force of the law in noise abatement. Their campaigns have recently silenced the extractors of the Kurt Mueller works.

While I would agree that consistent noise is a problem, I for one have no wish to continually be reminded of 'what a good job they are doing'.

Downley, Sands and West Wycombe have many problems that need to be addressed, some of which have continued for decades, two of which are reiterated below.

For 20 years I have been held up by traffic at rush hours at the A40/Chapel Lane junction. I have missed appointments, wasted gallons of fuel and sometimes sat for 30 minutes just waiting to exit the junction.

Three times in one year I and

my dog have nearly been killed by speeding cars and lorries on Chapel Lane. I presume it is 40mph here, I have observed vehicles doing close on 90mph.

Is it not about time the councillors created some noise for the whole good of the community (and the villages beyond) and made a concerted effort to remove the blights that affect us more widely?

But then, I guess, they failed to make much effectual noise about the Wycombe Wanderers traffic, noise and parking chaos blight, of late.

Still I suppose they need to crow about one small triumph.

Do you know what really bugs me? When did anyone ever consider the owners of the factories? We don't all earn five-figure sums you know. Some of us struggle to pay the exorbitant council business rates.

In my father's day, the villagers were happy to have the factories, they provided local employment for their sons and daughters.

**Philip Allen
Chapel Lane
Sands**

Blues' bus gets green light

SANDS Residents' Association are very pleased to see at last a positive move to help relieve the traffic congestion. We are sure Wycombe Wanderers' fans will use the service and find it convenient.

We welcome what the club have already done to publicise the bus facility, but feel they need to do far more to encourage fans to leave their cars at home. It is only by use of this service that the traffic flow in our area and adjacent areas will improve and this will be good for the environment, residents and fans.

**Chris Shadbolt
Secretary
Sands Residents' Association
Combe Rise
Sands**

Wanderers need to look forward says Smith

WANDERERS' boss Alan Smith has said that the team need to get back to the business in hand – and finish the year on a high note.

The Blues manager insists that the squad needs to put the disappointment of the last few games behind them and concentrate on improving their league form.

Smith says he will be looking for an improvement in Blues' finishing on Saturday when they take on Wrexham at the Racecourse Ground.

He was particularly disappointed with Wycombe's 0-0 draw on Saturday against Division Three's Cambridge United, with Blues unable to properly finish off any of their

attacking play.

Smith commented: "We got the ball in the attacking third but we just didn't finish it off. We have had this problem at home all season.

"We had two different combinations of forwards and we still didn't produce anything."

The boss added it was vital for the side to pull off a good performance on Saturday, with several home game coming up, which seem to cause Blues more problems than away fixtures.

But Smith said he would not like to think the problem at home was psychological: "If it is it shouldn't be," he commented.

Although Smith seems pre-occupied with

the problems up front, as far as Saturday's line-up is concerned, the only upheaval could be at the back.

There is now a question mark over Paul Hyde. Chuck Moussaddik took his place in the friendly on Saturday, with the goalkeeper unavailable. Smith said he was unsure if Hyde would return tomorrow.

■ Matt Crossley returned to Adams Park on Thursday to prepare for his expected return to first-team football in February.

■ Coaches to Wrexham are being organised by the club (01494) 882916 and the Independent Supporters Club (01494) 523843.