

## LETTER

# Discipline is a disgrace

HAVING been an ardent Wycombe Wanderers supporter since 1957 – my first game was when my Dad took me to see them in The Amateur Cup Final against Bishop Auckland – I have been hooked ever since.

I have always looked upon the Blues, even during barren spells, as disciplined and this attitude has rubbed off on supporters.

But now, the players' attitudes are a disgrace to their loyal supporters. There was a gradual decline even under Martin, but at least the standard of play compensated.

If you look back through the records I believe you will find that in our recent game at Wrexham more bookings took place than in the six years that Brian Lee was manager, who I rate as the all-time greatest Wanderers manager – never worked-up but so highly respected by players and on a shoe-string.

Now we have two players who cost us more than a quarter-of-a-million, McGavin and Williams, who spend most of their time on the subs bench. Who for God's sake suggested Williams?

I cannot remember when we were last kicked out of all major cup competitions so early. Still there's the Berks and Bucks!

Perhaps the managerial coaching staff can explain this season's unprecedented discipline record. I personally believe it is certain players' antidote for lack of skill.

**Bob Druce**  
Tower Street  
High Wycombe

I AM loath to write a letter regarding newspaper reports about myself or the team, but have just come across your report on our match vs Wrexham. Can I make the following observations:

- I have just looked at the video tape of last year's game when we lost 4-1 away to Wrexham and it seemed to me that it could have been eight.

- There is a strange thing in professional football called the opposition – who don't let you do as you like, nor lay down and make it easy, and I have to say Wrexham are a very good side, beaten only once at home this season and played very well against Swindon on Saturday, earning themselves a draw.

- The Wrexham manager has been at the club for over five years and presumably has had time to get his 'house' in order.

- Wrexham's goal was virtually their only shot on target the whole game and, in fact, in terms of chances, we had more.

- Surely the main point is that we had a player unjustly sent off after one hour and we played the remainder of the game with only ten men (again with 11 men last year we managed to lose 4-1).

I think it is difficult to write objectively when you are a football supporter seeing it only from one point of view,



**Blues manager Alan Smith**

and I also think there are many clubs throughout the country who would like to be in Wycombe Wanderers' shoes.

We are working hard to get this football club where we want it, with the planning permission of the new stand and the new structure of our youth team set-up, which Wrexham and clubs like them have had for many years, and I firmly believe we need a more positive approach.

**Alan Smith**  
Manager  
Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

# Great present from the Blues

## VIEW FROM THE STAND

**By Ron Barnett**



FOUR points from two matches was a very acceptable Christmas gift from the Blues.

Mind you, when Steve Brown broke away in injury time at Swindon, I thought we were going to win the six-point jackpot.

The festive season got off to a great start with Gary Blissett's early goal against Shrewsbury. As the first half dragged on without the Blues being able to capitalise on their possession or pressure, the old concerns began to surface – surely this was not going to finish 1-1 again?

After some encouraging choral work from the crowd, Santa Simon Garner made his appearance midway through the second half. As with all good Christmas stories, the match finished with a happy ending.

Our hero, Simon Garner, battled to win a corner and, after a prolonged game of ping-pong, Terry Howard blasted the ball home for the decisive second goal.

Driving down to Swindon on Boxing Day, all we heard on the car radio was severe weather warnings, matches off all around the country, and how cold it was in Southampton from where the live match commentary was coming.

Pleased to arrive to see the pitch was playable, even if the blinding sun made it almost impossible to watch play at the far end. Must be the first time Wycombe fans have been in danger of sun stroke in December!

The Bald Eagle had come up with a cunning plan to contain and harass the Swindon midfield, and it worked perfectly. Steve Brown and Gary Patterson, who also had a great game against Shrewsbury, won most of the midfield battles and we always looked in control of the match – even if Swindon had most of the play.

Although I would not like to see the Blues play to this pattern week in, week out, it achieved its objective and the Bald Eagle and the team deserved their standing ovation.

The team spirit was excellent and everyone chased and helped each other for the 90 minutes. Let's hope we can keep the ball rolling with six points from the New Year weekend fixtures.

Wins over Brentford and Rotherham would be the perfect platform for the Bald Eagle and the Blues to fly high in 1996.