

Happiness is ... entertainment

... AND so the year that was 1995 has finally spluttered to a close for Wycombe Wanderers and, if I may be so bold, it wasn't very entertaining was it?

Yes, 1995 will probably be known as the year of the draw around these parts and that's not just down to Mr Smith's XI. Sorry nostalgic supporters, even 'God' O'Neill's sides were guilty of some dull old stalemates in the earlier half of the year – it's just that we were all too frightened to moan in those days.

Despite the disgraceful fact that the Blues failed to win any silverware, with the notable exception of the Wembley Fives, there are positive things to mention.

As well as setting up a YTS youth side which is performing with great success in the South East Counties League, Smith set about making Wycombe Wanderers a name to fear in, er, the Capital League with £150,000 John Williams joining £140,000 Steve McGavin in a reserve partnership to frighten the living daylights out of the likes of Wokingham and Sutton United.

The local council finally justified their hilarious advert in the matchday programme by granting the Blues permission to build a new stand. Previous to this long overdue decision, the words 'Who's the biggest pain in the butt of Wycombe Wanderers' would have been more appropriate than 'Who's the most loyal supporter in Wycombe?'

So who is the most loyal supporter in Wycombe? Well certainly not some of

ANDY DICKINSON, a writer for The Adams Family fanzine, shares his hopes and dreams for Wycombe Wanderers in 1996 and casts a dry eye over the past 12 months

the punters in the advert as it's been a while since the terrace looked that busy. Much has been said about why attendances have fallen and there have been valid points made, but here's mine. Watching Wycombe Wanderers at home this season has been extremely dull.

Don't believe the hype about traffic problems – they didn't stop anyone when the goals were flying in, and despite the steep rise in seat pricing, I don't think the terrace price increase was bad at all.

I don't believe that the Wycombe public really expect to see their side racing towards the Premiership, all they want is a bit of excitement, passion and a few goals – three qualities scarcely seen at Adams Park last year.

Still, it is a new year and that means in true clichéd football writer fashion I should churn out my hopes and wishes for the year 1996. I hope you'll agree with many of them.

1) The Paul Hyde Saga: Is it too much to hope that this sorry tale is resolved before long.

Despite Ben Roberts displaying fine form, there can't be many supporters who

wouldn't weep with joy at the return of our number one gravel-voiced custodian.

Alas things look bleak as even though Hyde won the November player of the month award, it was presented during a private meeting with chairman Ivor Beeks, instead of on the pitch.

Go for anarchy Blues fans, and vote for him in December too!

2) A Play-Off Place: Despite the fact that we've looked a bit ropery this season, the rest of the division seem distinctly inconsistent and if we can perform like we did against Swindon, rather than how we did against Gillingham, Wembley glory could be in the offing.

And if it does happen like this, be ready to welcome back those loyal fans who've opted out at the moment. They'll be recognisable by their cries of 'Go on Hemmo, stick that cross on big Cyrille's head'.

3) Matchday Programme: I really hope that someone soon gets to grips with our programme.

Some of the ones we see on our travels, eg Stockport and Brentford, far outclass ours in both style and substance and for the same price!

I'm not having a go at the contributors, as most of the articles are good, but far too much of the programme is advertising or editorial that is in fact advertising. It also needs a bit more regularity inside its pages, one week the Capital League table's in there, the next it isn't.

4) Crowds: Our crowds need to restore themselves to their

former glory, and beyond. At the moment our average attendance could be fit into the new stand alone. Still, at least that will leave more room for advertising boards, which might in turn leave more room in the programme for editorial.

5) Prices: With the fragile state of our crowds, the prices charged in the new stand will be crucial to next year's attendances.

I sincerely hope Wycombe aren't planning on charging £12 plus through the stand.

That would be a nasty jump for the former patrons of the Woodland Terrace.

If so, is there any possibility of claiming back the Amersham and Wycombe College terrace for home supporters and sticking the away fans in a section of one of the stands? I don't suppose in these days of sponsorship that we shall be able to avoid every squad metre being sponsored.

But if this is not the case, could it be called The Brian Lee Stand in tribute to the former chairman who once replied to a question about Wycombe's 6,000 capacity ground being too small with the legendary: "The days of 6,000 people wanting to watch Wycombe are over."

6) Spare tickets: If anyone is not planning to use their free tickets for the Mark Your Man presentation evening, could they please send them to The Adams Family fanzine as our team of five writers may maim each other in the scramble for the two tickets to meet our sponsored player Gary Patterson. Cheers.