

Back Blues in their push for promotion

With both New Year games postponed due to poor weather, Wycombe Wanderers had a very uneventful holiday weekend.

Just hanging in the top ten, they share their 34 points with the clubs in seventh, eighth and ninth positions and cling by the skin of their teeth to my pre-season prediction of their Christmas standing.

With two upbeat performances during Christmas – a win against Shrewsbury and a disciplined draw away at second place Swindon – Wycombe again appear to be on the verge of a change in fortune.

Keith Ryan's comeback is, I'm told, just around the corner, and with Steve Brown back in the centre, a newly-shaped midfield could be the strength that pulls the Blues back up the table.

The past 12 months made for an intriguing year as far as team, management and fans were concerned.

Without doubt, as much excitement is expected in the following 12 months.

Favourite faces have left the fold including ex-manager and still Blues guru Martin O'Neill, quickly followed by his right-hand men.

Players who departed included one-time hero Steve Thompson, ex-captain Glynn Creaser, Tony Hemmings and Tim Langford.

A fair handful of new faces have come into the fold to join a team we all know have the capability to reach the First Division – the question is when?

New manager Alan Smith was not only the fan's choice last August. He also met the requirements Ivor Beeks demanded for the

WYCOMBE missed two games during the New Year weekend, which meant Neil Peters didn't have much to see from the terraces. So instead, our footy pundit issues a 1996 rallying call to Chairboys everywhere.

club. Not until May will we truly be able to reap any rewards of his employment.

As ever there are those who don't believe Mr Smith is the right man for the club, but with three or four good consecutive results I'm sure those in question will be about to turn and forget they ever had such thoughts.

It is however up to Mr Smith and company to prove the point. The top of the table is quite close-knit at the moment, meaning any slip-up could see the Blues drop into the Where Are They Now? file.

It's just as possible to find they are challenging for a play-off position come May and suddenly hit true form. Few people adapt to change well and football fans are no different. We have every right to complain – and we have – when poor, shoddy tosh is dished up for us.

But let's try and stay positive and remember just how good it is to get to Wembley and put all our enthusiasm behind the club, whoever is playing or in charge.

We only have one chance left to visit the twin towers this season as our giant-killing cup runs never actually got off the ground.

That may well end up a blessing in disguise as, with postponed fixtures

needing to be re-arranged, there is at least little chance of a back-log of fixtures congesting the end-of-season finale.

We can moan all we want but we all know it will do very little to change things.

Let's see the New Year in with a bang and get the Wembley T-Shirts on stand by.

PS – does anyone know where we can get hold of a good striker?

Wycombe Fixtures

QPR reserves (H) Sat, Jan 6
Notts County (H) Sat, Jan 13
Crewe Alexandra (A) Sat, Jan 20
Brighton (H) Sat, Jan 27
AFC Bournemouth (A) Sat, Feb 3
Blackpool (H) Sat, Feb 10
Chesterfield (A) Sat, Feb 17
Bradford City (H) Tue, Feb 20
Stockport County (H) Sat, Feb 24
Peterborough United (A) Tue, Feb 27
Swindon Town (H) Sat, Mar 2
Shrewsbury Town (A) Sat, Mar 9
Brentford (H) Sat, Mar 16
Rotherham United (A) Sat, Mar 23
Coca-Cola Final Sun, Mar 24
Burnley (H) Sat, Mar 30
Walsall (A) Tue, Apr 2
Hull City (A) Sat, Apr 6
Oxford United (H) Mon, Apr 8
York City (A) Sat, Apr 13
Swansea City (H) Sat, Apr 20
Carlisle United (H) Sat, Apr 27
Bristol Rovers (A) Sat, May 4
FA Cup Final Sat, May 11

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO TABLE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Crewe	22	13	5	4	42	23	44
7	Burnley	22	9	8	5	35	27	35
8	Wrexham	22	8	10	4	34	25	34
9	Bradford	22	10	4	8	32	33	34
10	Wycombe	22	8	10	4	30	22	34
11	Stockport	23	8	9	6	28	22	33