

SANDS



Martin Grey

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THE four special buses offering a park-and-ride service to local Wycombe Wanderers' fans going to Adams Park have won praise for reducing congestion – and pollution – in Sands on match days.

The scheme, which was introduced on a limited trial basis in the autumn, has been extended until the end of the season, when it will come up for review.

The initiative is a joint venture between Buckinghamshire County Council, Wycombe District Council, Motts Travel and Prestwood Travel.

A spokesman at the county council said that the four local routes averaged a total of 113 passengers, though without route D the average goes down to only 107. Route D, starts at Piddington and Stokenchurch, and takes in Marlow en route to the football ground, and has attracted a maximum of only eight passengers, and, on one occasion, had no passengers whatsoever.

Route A starts at Holmer Green and passes through Hicks Farm Rise and Wycombe Marsh. Route B starts in the Bourne End area and drives through Hatters Lane and Totteridge Road. Route C goes through Princes Risborough and Naphill.

The maximum return fare is £1.50 which a WDC source felt represented good value for money when compared with travelling by car and possibly paying a parking fee.

A source at the club said the scheme has 'improved things for Sands people' but 'can't go on indefinitely making a loss'. He hopes that, come the end of the season, the county and district councils will continue to subsidise these buses.

A district council spokesman said: 'We are extremely pleased with the pick up,' though the local council is concerned about route D.

Youth team's big win

WYCOMBE Wanderers' youth team returned to league action on Saturday with a thumping 5-2 win over Bristol Rovers.

The victory keeps them in second place in the South East Counties League Division Two. The goalscorers were Aaron Patton (2), Stuart Cowie, Lee Allen and Maurice Harkin.

■ Blues' reserves drew 2-2 at Peterborough in the Capital League on Wednesday. Their goalscorers were David Farrell and Damian Markman.

■ Coaches are being run by the club and Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters' Club to Chesterfield. Wycombe's prices are £9.50 adults, OAPs £8.50, children £7.50, plus £3 extra for non-members. To book, telephone (01494) 882916. WWISC prices are £7.50 adults, £6 children. To book, telephone (01494) 523848.

Fan tears Wanderers off a strip

LEAVING aside the performances on the pitch, I was very disappointed that Wycombe Wanderers have played the last two away matches in an all yellow kit.

As both Brentford and Bournemouth play in red, there was no reason to change to a different strip at all and wearing Brentford shorts at Griffin Park was a farce.

Wycombe's light and dark blue quarters are unique colours in the Football League – therefore, I have a message for the club's management: unless there is an actual colour clash, can we please stick to playing in blue!!!

A Worboys
Poles Hill
Chesham

Andy's reports hit the target

I WRITE to say how much I enjoy the reports on Wycombe Wanderers' games by Andy Dickinson. They are accurate and humorous, and Andy is not afraid to criticise performances, be they team or individual.

He also questions management decisions, whereas reports in the BFP and on local radio often appear to be trying not to upset or offend and gloss over issues such as bad play and poor team selection.

Great stuff Andy, keep it up.

Don Chivers
Partridge Way
Downley

It's painful to work out

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett



THE Vere Suite was packed after Saturday's match but there was an air of quiet despondency. Wanderers fans supped their beer trying to understand the meaning of not just losing the match, but the way we lost it.

Blackpool were missing several regulars and did not look like a side good enough to move into third spot. They were there for the taking but Blues didn't appear to be up for the fight. After a dismal first half, we huffed and puffed after the break but never seriously threatened to get back on terms.

Some of the comments made in the bar afterwards included 'no shape', 'lack of passion', 'unbalanced side', 'no strike force', 'players confused by game plan'.

Alan Smith may not agree with these quotes, but having paid good money to watch 90 minutes of miserable football, the fans have every right to voice their opinion.

In his programme notes, the Bald Eagle admitted he was upset by the fans' reaction at the end of the Brentford game. I agree I was too.

However, he went on to write: "I know exactly how to deal with the players when the performances have not been up to an acceptable level."

Well whatever he is doing isn't working because we seem to go from bad to good, and back to bad with alarming consistency.

In any event, by making these veiled threats to the players he appears to be absolving himself and the coaching staff from any blame. Surely in any management role, if the staff or players fail to perform, the management must take their share of responsibility.

We have now dropped back to 11th place compared with fifth at the same stage last year, and we are ten points worse off. Furthermore, with the exception of Crewe, I don't believe the standard of opposition is as good as last season. Remember how Birmingham played at Adams Park.

With our lack of firepower up front, it was galling to see Keith Scott in the crowd on Saturday. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who wanted to hand him a pair of boots and see if he could solve our problems.

Still, that was last week, while tomorrow's another day, this time at Chesterfield.

Hopefully, Alan Smith can turn water into wine, and find a striker who's knows the route to goal and won't break the bank.