



Here to stay: Quartered shirt

Fan power preserves Wanderers' quarters

WYCOMBE Wanderers fans have saved their quartered shirts.

Club chairman Ivor Beeks confirmed that Wanderers will not alter the traditional feature of their light and dark blue home strip after a survey underlined its popularity.

Eighty three per cent of people who rang a Bucks Free Press voteline this week were in favour of the quarters which were resurrected and worn since Blues' last game at Loakes Park in 1990.

The survey was organised as Wycombe prepare to introduce a new design for next season. There were 260 calls in total with 216 who said yes and 44 who said no.

Beeks was originally going to make the final decision over the strip. Now the fans are going to choose the new kit instead, with mock-ups of two designs to be exhibited shortly, revealed the chairman.

"That's what we would like to do. I want everybody to have a say," he said. "I don't want to move away from quarters, but I think we need to change it around a bit."

Manager Alan Smith said this week that the most important thing was 'what is under the shirt: the heart and body that is big enough to fill it'.

Wycombe hope to have the strip made in time for the last home game of the season against Carlisle United on April 27.

A severe defeat may have helped

VIEW FROM THE STAND
By Ron Barnett



THREE goals down in less than 40 minutes at Chesterfield and I began to have disloyal and treasonable thoughts. "If we are going to lose anyway, let's hope we get thoroughly thrashed by five or six goals."

In my twisted mind, I thought that a severe battering might ruffle a few of the Bald Eagle's feathers and galvanise him into action.

Unfortunately, Chesterfield decided to declare at half time and we had to endure both the cold and a non-event second half, Miquel Desouza's goal the only bright spot.

Restoring Terry Howard to central defence certainly strengthened our resistance and improved the balance of the side. It's just a shame he arrived 45 minutes and three goals too late.

With only two wins in 16 matches, surely Alan Smith cannot continue to be as complacent about the style of play and the squad. Or is he?

If our current form is the standard of football we can expect, we might as well postpone building the new stand. We are never going to attract enough people to fill it.

We are in greater need of better players than seats, so let's concentrate on developing the team, not the ground.

■ Martin O'Neill must have thought Christmas had come early this year when he was allowed to pick up Paul Hyde for free.

Not only have we lost the services of a good goalkeeper but we've now got to spend our limited resources on a replacement. Looks like Leicester 1, Wycombe 0 thanks to a costly own goal.

LOCAL landmarks have been included in a guide to unusual wedding venues – but Wycombe Wanderers fans will be disappointed to learn their favourite club has been excluded from the list.

The book, Wonderful Wedding Venues, was launched last week and lists some of the most unusual and romantic places to get married in the UK. The list includes Aston Villa, Coventry City and Chelsea football grounds.

But Blues bosses turned down suggestions from fans for weddings on the Adams Park pitch, and decided not to get a wedding licence.

Secretary John Reardon said: "We did discuss the licence situation and decided against it."

He explained that, as well as being expensive for the club, it was hard to

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say in advance whether the Blues would be playing at home or away on a particular date. He added the club was not confident there would be a lot of requests from couples wanting to tie the knot there.

Other local landmarks featured among the book's 160 ideas include Wycombe Swan theatre, Bassetsbury Manor, Missenden Abbey and the Town Hall.

A Wycombe Swan spokesman said: "It's a wonderful venue. You can get married on the stage and have the reception here afterwards. You can have the whole thing."

The book also includes the animal house at London Zoo and Aintree racecourse.

Goalkeeper was fine ambassador

NOW that the Paul Hyde/Alan Smith saga is over, I would like to express the feeling of great loss that myself and my family feel at the departure of Paul Hyde after four-and-a-half years of great service to Wycombe Wanderers, both as a very fine goalkeeper and as a great ambassador for the club.

Paul put in a great deal of time and effort for the club at charity events and time talking to and mixing with fans, and this was very much appreciated. We have seen Paul over the years talking to and encouraging the young fans behind the goal, which has resulted in many younger fans returning week after week.

We hope that Alan Smith and the board of directors at WWFC will not at a later date regret this decision at a time when greater support and commitment is needed. Now that Paul has gone to another club, we

would like to wish him every success and send our best wishes to him and his family.

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