

Soccer bus gets red card for time-wasting

TRANSPORT bosses have decided to blow the whistle on a Wycombe Wanderers bus service because it takes far too long to get to the game.

They decided the marathon trip was just not the ticket after hearing some passengers from nearby Piddington were forced to travel for an hour to get to Adams Park.

The Blues-backed bus service was jointly funded by Wycombe

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District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council.

But it proved such a flop it has been scrapped, according to district councillor Peter Cartwright (Con, Keep Hill and Hicks Farm). The last bus ran on Saturday.

A new route is being drawn

up instead which will be much quicker and avoid a detour through Marlow, a county council spokesman said yesterday.

Cllr Cartwright told colleagues on Monday how it normally picked up fans at Piddington's Post Office on a match day and dropped them off 65 minutes later at the Adams Park, just in time for kick-off.

The journey followed the so-called Route D via Marlow, which is ten miles away.

Cllr Cartwright asked: "Is it any wonder it has ceased?"

Fifteen people hopped on board the 53-seater bus in four weeks, according to a council spokesman, who said: "It is not fair just to compare the actual time it takes for the coach to get to Wycombe Wanderers."

He suggested the problem may be due to the fact soccer fans prefer to watch Marlow Football Club play at home rather than the Blues.

He added: "The important message is the bus is trying to ease the parking problem and to improve facilities for supporters."

Route D is one of four routes now sponsored by the two councils in association with Wycombe Wanderers.

The other three, from Princes Risborough, Flackwell Heath and Holmer Green will continue to run.

Mann on Friday

I cry foul over the moaning from the children of a

MY pet hate has always been spoilt children; over-indulged brats who are given everything from birth but end up being the most ungrateful offspring of them all.

Invariably, they grow up to find that other adults do not think they are that important after all, as their proverbial silver spoon begins to rust.

They grow up whining and whingeing about their parents, and expecting the world to owe them a living.

Which brings me nicely on to my topic today - the supporters of Wycombe Wanderers FC.

Not the old ones who knew the club in all its amateur glory, but the new fans who have flocked to Adams Park during the last few glorious years of triumphs.

They have wallowed in cup and league glory year after year, and have been rightly proud of their home-town club.

But, for the first time in a few years, the

team's form has been gripped by mediocrity. They are still in a reasonable position in Division Two, but there are noticeable rumblings of discontent from the terraces.

Lots of fans are harking back to the great days of Martin O'Neill's manager-ship, not remembering they also gave the Irish genius a torrid time on the few occasions results began to wobble under him.

It is high time that these over-indulged children of Adams Park began realising

that the world does not owe them a living and that the club is actually still doing very nicely thank you.

But soccer is no longer a sport. Once your team's results fall away, so do the crowds. And Wycombe's crowds have fallen big time this season. Not exactly my definition of loyal supporters.

I can sympathise slightly, though, with the frustration over the team's inconsistency under new boss Alan Smith.

lesser squad

But there is some comfort to be taken. The problem with Martin O'Neill was the constant uncertainty that a top club would lure him away.

This paper was carrying unsettling speculation about that every week, which caused a good deal of worry to fans.

At least they need not now fear that their present manager will be poached in the same way. For, on current form, I doubt anyone would want him.

Charles Mann