

It's pleasing that we are safe

HOW pleasing it was to gain three valuable points from the match with local rivals Brentford last Saturday.

After the recent run of results it was vitally important that the team gained those points to consolidate their position in a midway position in the second division. Personally, I think that a play-off place is out of our reach, though reading Alan Smith's programme notes before the game, he is still optimistic about reaching that goal.

But with the team's inconsistent form this season, a middle-order place seems the safest bet.

Onto club news now, and the association has an event on Sunday, April 21 when we will be running a coach to Wembley Stadium for a tour. This is open to all supporters and prices are £10 adults and £7.50 children/OAPs. If you are a non-member in both categories, there will be a £1 surcharge. The coach leaves Adams Park at 10am to arrive at Wembley for an 11am start. This could be your chance to walk up those famous steps and lift the cup.

Telephone Rena Perrin on (01494) 882916 or Carole Teare on (01494) 563518 to book your place or see Rena at next Tuesday's game against Bradford in the Vere Suite foyer.

Another event coming up is an end of season dinner, provisionally booked for Friday, May 3. We need as many names as possible down so we can go ahead and book the Keen Lounge. We are lining up a guest speaker and will also be announcing

BLUES SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS By Bob Cairney

the Blues Supporters Club Player of the Year. The evening costs £20 per head and the menu will include a vegetarian choice. Telephone Carole Teare or Harold Lunn on (01494) 440668 if you are interested.

When the official Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Association was set up, it was in the interest of all Blues fans by acting as a go-between the football club and the everyday supporter.

It is also our intention of spreading the name and goodwill of Wycombe Wanderers supporters between other football clubs and supporters clubs alike. As I mentioned earlier, we are here to help all fans, and recently we have made suggestions to the football club regarding the juniors and what they are receiving for their money.

Another question which was recently brought up at the meeting with Ivor Beeks was to have the name of Wycombe Wanderers embroidered on the shirts and this will happen when the new kit is introduced.

I hope this has been an insight to our activities. If you would like to become part of our organisation or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact our secretary Keith Blagbrough on (01494) 563697.

LETTERS

Some complaints are utter nonsense

I AM writing this after reading in amazement some of the utter nonsense that has been written about Alan Smith and the Blues recently.

I will start with the man himself. Now, not everyone has the charisma of Martin O'Neill and just because Alan Smith is not so outgoing as his predecessor, doesn't mean that he hasn't the same passion for the game or its followers.

Regarding the style of play. Admittedly, some of the football hasn't been pretty to watch, but there have been excellent performances at Bradford, Oxford, Swindon and Bournemouth, and at home to Man City, Notts County and Stockport to name a few. Was the football always that good under Martin?

What about all those 1-0 wins at Adams Park when the team hung on for the last half-hour and kicked the ball anywhere. (Or is it the winning that really counts?)

I remember travelling down to Brighton in April when we desperately needed to win and sitting back in frustration as we played for a goalless draw throughout the first half, only bucking up when Brighton took the lead.

I am not meaning to attack

Martin O'Neill - I will never forget his wonderful achievements for the club - just trying to put things in perspective.

Players next. Two of Alan Smith's signings, John Williams and David Farrell, have taken a lot of stick from impatient fans. Those same impatient fans who gave Steve Brown stick for his first two months, then voted him player of the season the following year. Again, some of Martin's signings weren't that special, ie Lee Turnbull, Tony Cunningham, Trevor Aylott.

Onto the Paul Hyde situation. Remember, Paul put himself on the transfer list and refused to come off it. He then bought his own contract and left due to his own choosing. Not every player will get on with his manager. Steve Abbley, Kevin Durham, Andy Robinson and Tim Langford all left for that reason.

As for Mr Bye's suggestion that Alan Smith should resign before he gets the club into financial difficulties, I think

■ If you have any views on any sports matter, including Wycombe Wanderers, write to Sports Editor Claire Nash at the Bucks Free Press, Gomm Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7DW.

Messrs Beeks and Peart would have more than a passing interest in that side of things.

Then onto Mr Willson's posterous suggestion of bringing in players from Lane End and Stokenchurch. Doesn't he realise that we are in the Football League not the Spartan League (no offence to any Lane End or Stokenchurch players). Also he mentions bringing back Westy. Mark left because he couldn't get into Martin O'Neill's team.

In closing, I would like to state that of Alan Smith's 36 professionals when he left Crystal Palace, 26 had come up from the youth team. Now, I have watched our youth team regularly this season and in Graham Hall, Martin Rowlands, Alan Beeton, Damien Markman and Lee Allen we have some fine prospects. But it all takes time for them to filter through and will only happen if everyone would only show some patience.

Take a leaf out of the Brighton supporters' books. Despite all of their troubles they were superb in their support for their team recently at Adams Park. It really doesn't help to moan constantly from the kick-off to the final whistle.

Dave Finch
Saltash Close
Loudwater

Smith is not the man I thought he was

WHEN Wycombe Wanderers agreed to pay Alan Smith £100,000-a-year to be manager I thought we had the man who would take us on the last lap to glory.

Instead we have someone who:

●Has little or no rapport with the fans;

●Has sold all our goalkeepers;
●Has taken the team he describes as 'one of the hardest to beat in the league' to five defeats in six matches and on a crash course with relegation (not to mention the early exits from all cup competitions).

Martin O'Neill's main

attribute was, in his own words, being able to 'make a silk purse out of a sow's ear'.

Any ideas what Alan Smith's might be?

D Abbott
Dartington Close
Tilehurst
Reading