

## Is Blues' end-of-season disaster simply a cunning plan?

WHAT a great finish to the season this is turning into. Four defeats and a draw in the last five matches and one of our most popular and consistent players kicking his heels in the stand.

I doubt if we'll ever be told the truth about Terry Howard's fall from grace but anyone who saw him at the Swansea match could see he wasn't happy.

There's a strong rumour going around that Terry and Simon

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### VIEW FROM THE STAND

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By Ron Barnett

Garner have both applied for the mascot's job this Saturday. Apparently, they see it as their last chance to wear a Blues shirt at Adams Park.

With these two fans' favourites looking to be on the summer clearance sale list, and Hyde already

disposed of, it obviously isn't advisable to get too popular with Blues supporters. Whoever wins the Player of the Year Award could find it the kiss of death.

Our poor end-of-season run may have been a cunning plan. Maybe it was carefully timed to coincide with the dismantling of the Evans Halshaw stand. After all, if we had been in the middle of a winning streak and battling for promotion, there is no way we

could have squeezed a large crowd in three sides of the ground.

It was interesting to read that both Alan Smith and Alan Parry used the word 'consolidated' in the programme notes to describe our season.

While Smith saw it as a positive statement, Parry admitted he hated the word as it betrays a lack of ambition.

According to my dictionary, consolidated means to make firm,

secure or strengthen. Wasn't that what we did last season?

After all, with 44 games we have 57 points and are wallowing in mid-table. I think Alan Smith must be using a different dictionary. Although, the reversal of our points figures may be a better clue to our performance – we've actually gone backwards.

■ The Official Blues Supporters' Club column appears on page 18 of today's issue of The Blues News.