

Blues boss hits out at bad vibes

REPORT

By Claire Nash

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Alan Smith believes the club are in danger of self-destructing if backbiting continues behind the scenes.

His remarks as guest speaker at Monday's Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club (WWISC) meeting made clear his annoyance at a veiled attack by club director Alan Parry in last Saturday's match programme.

"I will not put up with the innuendoes and snide remarks which are not factual. These remarks should not be in your own programme. I defy any other club in the Football League to have remarks like that in their programme."

Smith also said that too many people were working against the football club. "We need to clear the air. There is an undercurrent here. There seems to be a complete lack of communication at this football club."

Afterwards Smith would not confirm that his comments referred to Parry's column, but it was obvious what the ITV sports commentator said had angered him.

Parry had written: "The standard of some of our recent games has been unacceptable and I sympathise with the complaints of the paying customer. You have grown accustomed to success and exciting football in recent seasons and you haven't seen much of either commodity over the past nine months."

Without mentioning Smith by name throughout, Parry continued by praising Peter Reid's record at Sunderland. "He took over another manager's team, moulded them into his own style of play, praised the players to the heavens and fired the crowd with enthusiasm."

"Peter Reid is a down-to-earth scouser who can communicate with football people. He has no ego, no flash clothes or jewellery and he's played the game at the highest level."

Smith, who is preparing for a dramatic squad overhaul in the summer, was not given an easy ride at the supporters forum which packed out High Wycombe's Trades and Social Club, particularly during a bitter personal attack from Audrey Hyde, mother of former Blues goalkeeper Paul, who left the club after a contractual dispute earlier this season.



This is the way I see it: Alan Smith is centre stage at the Wycombe supporters club meeting

The main issues covered included Smith's views on his predecessor Martin O'Neill, Hyde's departure, why there is not a rapport with the fans, Wycombe's playing style, the controversial new home kit design, why former regulars such as Terry Howard, Simon Garner and Jason Cousins are not playing, and what the manager's teambuilding plans are.

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