

LETTERS

What a show to put before the fans

I HAD the pleasure of witnessing Alan Smith's greatest tactical performance of the season at the Independent Supporters Club meeting on Monday evening.

He brought four of Wycombe's top performers this season to back him up in a crisis, using them as pawns, stating they could speak their minds, but dare they?! Look at the Paul Hyde situation. Questions that were asked were not answered directly and even to the point of being directed onto another subject.

Getting back to the Paul Hyde episode, I was pleased to see his parents were there to stand up for him. His mother particularly showed the passion and determination that Hyde used to show while playing for Wycombe. As for the letter being waved around from Bourne-mouth, I found that degrading, hard to believe and irrelevant because

Paul was one of our best players in his premature short season. Knowing Paul as we all do, it's easy to see who to believe.

I find Mr Smith contradicts himself and talks of Martin O'Neill as if he did very little for the club. I would like to remind Mr Smith that this club had gone from strength to strength with crowds soaring to a 6,000 average until this season, and my prediction is the next season will be worse. I applaud you Mrs Hyde for having the character to stand up to Mr Smith. Maybe it's time for Paul to tell his story of the way he was treated and dismissed by Mr Smith. Come on Hyde, we all want to know the truth.

**D Lee
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Others should share the blame

AFTER all the criticism about Alan Smith I think it's time we looked at

a few facts and started pointing the finger at one or two other people.

Since Alan took over a lot of people have been saying how they would like Martin O'Neill back and how wonderful he was. Now I'm not going to down the man as he was a very good manager, yet how people have short memories.

I can remember on a number of occasions when we were awful and lost four or five consecutive games. There was also the time when Wycombe were in the Conference fighting for Football League status, yet we were pipped at the post by Colchester's goal difference, and yet just a few games earlier Wycombe had a game against Macclesfield which they should have won, yet played diabolically which cost them from going into Division Three.

Then, last year when Martin sold about seven of our players and said that he wouldn't leave Wycombe, yet a few weeks later he went off to Norwich. It meant that when Alan Smith was appointed manager, he had about three weeks or so to

rebuild a team before the season started, yet since Martin left Wycombe he hasn't done that well with either Norwich or Leicester.

A lot of people looked forward when Alan took over yet I think a number of them thought he would bring a magic wand with him. Perhaps we have expected too much. Fair enough he has made a number of wrong decisions, especially in getting rid of some of our most influential players, plus the way he has treated some of our players.

Also, I think he has been trying to train our team as if they were a Premiership side with multi-million pound players. Alan has been trying to weed out some of the most least-competitive players, though perhaps he has gone the wrong way about it, yet he has always tried to find the best squad whereas Martin O'Neill always had his 'blue-eyed boys' which he used to play all the time.

We are one of the few teams in the Endsligh League at which other teams look up to for our

excellent ground facilities plus our financial status. Look at the amount we have actually spent on players, apart from the odd one or two, we have been spending just tens of thousands here and there. As I've said Alan Smith shouldn't take all the blame. There should be a few directors and a chairman who should also take some flak. If you give a manager peanuts to buy players with, all he's going to come back with are monkeys.

Alan has only been at the club for one season, so let's stop pushing the blame onto one person. Once we've got a number of good players, we will start getting the huge attendances back and start heading towards a promotion place.

I'm not saying I support the guy entirely as he has made a number of wrong decisions but nobody's perfect. All I'm saying is he is not entirely blameworthy. He can only do a limited job if he has a limited budget to do it on.

**Tony Ryan
High Wycombe**