

LETTERS

Free transfers are absolute debacle

FIRSTLY, I must state that I am not an Alan Smith basher, as although we've had a lame season, I'm prepared to give the guy the benefit of next season to show his true managerial skill.

Why I am writing is to vent my anger at the free transfer debacles of Terry Howard and Simon Garner. I can understand the release of the mediocre talents of Solomon, Stevens and Stapleton (and while we're with the Ss - why not Skiverton?) but I fail to understand the release of these two crowd favourites.

At 37, Garner is the most skilful player at the club. His great vision and ability to bring others into the game, coupled with his off-the-pitch love of beer and tabs have made him a WWFC legend. Howard too was on his way to similar status: a superb passer and tackler and a seemingly decent bloke.

Last season he was the best centre back at the club. It's not just the releases that anger me, it's the fact that the fans, and even Howard himself, failed to get an explanation. Such shoddy treatment is simply not good enough.

I'll still be back at WWFC next season and those that claim otherwise are not true fans. However, it's time that Alan Smith looked at the drop in gates and asked himself, why? Replacing stars like Howard and Garner with gormless robots like Rowbotham, McGorry and Skiverton does little to whet the paying customers' appetite, and begs one question: Is Alan Smith

frightened of creating personalities at Wycombe? I ask this because as a fan I am frightened at the distinct lack of them.

Jon Dickinson
Inkerman Drive
Hazlemere

Some people are wearing rosy specs

I HAVE read all the letters sent to you recently about Wycombe Wanderers FC and I feel that some of the memories of last year must be a little rose-tinted.

I watched about 95 per cent of the home matches both last season and this, as well as several away fixtures. I feel that the warning signs of what was to come this season were there for all to see during the final quarter of last season. If Wycombe were playing such 'brilliant entertaining football' last season as described by one of your contributors, why did they not reach the play-offs considering their high position halfway through the season? It cannot all be blamed on Ryan's injury.

How many times was the ball kicked aimlessly forward for Hemmings to be caught off-side or lose the ball? I feel that many of their performances were disappointing, in fact, very poor, but they managed to achieve several lucky wins when they were outplayed.

This season they have often played reasonably well, particularly earlier in the season, but the run of the ball has been against them and they have lost matches which they have dominated for large periods.

I agree that there have been some games recently which have been dreadful but the reaction of these

so-called supporters is merely serving to divide the club. All the threats about not buying season tickets for next season just shows that they are not true supporters of the club which, hopefully, will still be around long after the present manager and players have moved on. I am, in fact, considering buying my first-ever season ticket for next season although I know I will not be able to attend every home match, just to show my support of the club.

I have not always agreed with Alan Smith's team selections but he should be given another season to build on what he has started, and his job would be much easier if he received more support instead of this constant criticism.

Mrs A Le Breton
Plomer Green Lane
Downley

I'm disillusioned by this disaster

AT long last, your match reports, your editorials and your publication of supporters' letters are beginning to reflect the catastrophe that has occurred at Adams Park in just a few short months.

Sadly, the reality goes beyond anything printed so far. I put it to you that there is no other club in the Football League where the atmosphere is so bad or where the relations between manager and players/supporters/helpers/sponsors and most directors has sunk so low. There is little optimism for any change. This obstinate, arrogant, self-opinionated and football-clueless man appears to relish the situation he has created and delight

in moving from one confrontation to another.

A friendly family club where everyone was moving in the same direction - upwards - is on its knees. Crowds are well down but not as much as might be expected given the above circumstances. However, the frightening truth is that a body of supporters, increasing each week, no longer wish the club any success or trophies under his management.

Other fans appear to start a game in support of our team, but should we go a goal or two down, will more to go in, wishing to further damage this man's reputation. That again must be a unique situation in the Football League.

I feel very bitter, but only because I love the club I have followed for decades. I have to suggest, with regret, that other supporters who feel as strongly, treat the renewal of their season tickets as a sign of their 100 per cent confidence in this manager's potential and management skills.

Turning now to Mr Beeks. He has done so much for the club and made so many correct decisions. Nobody would blame him for one mistake, provided that he admits to it fairly soon.

Totally disillusioned supporter.

Bill Croxon
Wooburn Lane
Wooburn Green

The players need us even more now

IF like me you are tired of hearing nothing but criticism of our season, then this is for you.

There have been good times this season, many of which we can be

proud of. Who can forget that magical Dave Carroll goal or the hat-tricks from Miquel and big bad John, the wins at Brighton and Bournemouth and not least at our old pal Oxford. It's not that there haven't been bad results and poor performances, but slating our own players and manager is not helping. Ever thought about getting behind the team, especially when they're losing?

It's all too easy to take but not all that much harder to give a little support.

Our pitch continues to be envied by opposition supporters and players alike. With an impressive stand and improving facilities, the club are making a commitment towards trying to gain Division One status.

Our ground continues to be good value and with the new pricing for children's season tickets, is trying to attract vitally needed youngsters to this club. Why shouldn't this be something to be proud of?

Finally, there should be a mention for all the stewards and staff who throughout the season keep the club going with little praise or recognition.

Come on Wycombe, we have had our ups and downs and squabbles like any family. We all obviously love and feel passionate about our club. So when you see those new faces for the first time - either when they play well or make a mistake - try and make them feel proud to be part of Wycombe Wanderers.

We're all in this together, let's start next season as we mean to go on.

Justin Peyton
Marlow Bottom Road
Marlow

■ More letters next week