

LETTERS

WWFC is more than one man

WHILE I understand the strength of feeling and opinion regarding some of the Wanderers' performances last season, I feel that too many people are jumping on the 'blame Alan Smith' bandwagon without really thinking it through.

Certainly it would appear that Alan has made some errors of judgement along the way, but without all knowledge of a situation, we can never be sure.

One thing that is certain, however, is that if all those alleged supporters carry out their small-minded threats not to renew season tickets or to stay away from Adams Park, then we will never have a team capable of promotion.

In doing this as some form of protest the inference is that one man is bigger than the club that we all profess to support, but this must never be the case.

Our best players will not wish to remain at a club where the supporters stay away and the funds will never become available to attract the sort of players that we would all wish to see.

We are all quick to recognise the achievements that Martin O'Neill

realised, but it is the supporters staying away that will be the quickest way to destroy all the progress that has been made.

The club need our support and we must turn out in force if we are to return to the onward and upward path to greater success, irrespective of the manager or any other appointment that we choose not to agree with.

In addition, I believe that, in overall terms, Alan will be proven right in his strategy.

We have all seen over the years some dire performances from our team; players appearing to not know what to do; apparent lack of team strategy and cohesive tactics; new players taking a long time to settle in (Steve Brown); disruptive players and players apparently not giving 100 per cent.

We saw all this under Martin's management and Martin left us with a team that were not good enough for promotion, a team that he would have needed to rebuild if he had stayed. It can take time to rebuild and playing the fans' favourites is not always the best way forward.

I appreciate Simon Garner's sublime skills as much as anyone else, but we cannot build for the future by looking back. Whatever our views of Alan's decisions we must

support him if we are to become serious contenders for attaining and retaining Division One status.

This is a thoroughly realistic ambition if we are all on the same side.

Kevin Saunders
Warren Wood Drive
High Wycombe

Bring back the good times

Open letter to Ivor Beeks

I HAVE been a WWFC supporter for 33 years, during which I have seen the good times and the bad.

However, I have never felt such apathy towards our manager as I feel for Alan Smith.

He came to the club when we were on the crest of a wave, and it seems that he has done his best to undo all the good work achieved in recent seasons by the directors and Martin O'Neill.

This season we have struggled to play any form of consistent football and the ground now lacks its previous atmosphere.

Part of the reason for this is the apparent arrogance of the present manager and the fact that we have had to suffer the loss of one of the best goalkeepers in the Second

Division, and we now learn that a previous captain of the club, Terry Howard, is to leave on a free transfer.

As a season ticket holder I feel that I must make my protest, and this hurts me deeply, by not renewing my season ticket or Vere Suite membership, and as long as Alan Smith remains manager of the club, I am afraid that I will not be attending any future matches.

I feel that I will not be the only supporter of the club to take this action, and I hope that when the new stand is full of empty seats on match days, you and your fellow directors will then take the appropriate action to restore the good times at Adams Park.

John Sturgess
Lammas Way
Loudwater

Fans should be behind club

AS an Oxford supporter living in Wycombe I have read with some degree of amazement the slating given to Alan Smith in the Bucks Free Press.

Yes, it must be very frustrating that after a good start last season the Blues just faded away. The fans

must realise, that despite their high ambitions, the club have come a very long way in the last three to four years. The rollercoaster had to stop, or at least slow down, at some point.

Wycombe were a non-league club three years ago, so talk of being a Division One club as though it were a divine right is at best naïve, or at worst plain stupid. The time may come, but take the opportunity to reflect on the immense recent success.

Now is not a time to slate the club, their players and officials. It is now when the fans need to get behind the Blues. Their support and attitude at the Oxford match at Easter was pathetic, even before the game started to go away from them.

One second point. It strikes me that Martin O'Neill was seen as a Messiah. Rightly so for his achievements. But as a spectacle to watch, his sides were incredibly dull and very physical. Strangely, the Wycombe team that destroyed Oxford 4-1 last October were a revelation. What went wrong, I don't know. But I repeat, now is the time for the people of Wycombe to get behind the team. Otherwise the taunts of 'non-league and you know you are' will be proved to be true. Good luck for 1996/97.

Name and address supplied