

Footie comes first with us

CLUB CORNER

By Bob Officer
Chairman,
WWISC



AS Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club enters its third season, it is encouraging to see so many members renewing and new members joining even before the season has begun.

It's interesting that the three clubs relegated from Division One, Millwall, Luton and Watford, all have independent supporters associations, like many clubs in the higher divisions.

While so much is currently evolving in football, it is imperative that the life blood of the game, the supporters, are not left behind.

Much is presently being made of the new stand and the implication it will have for the future of the club. But, just as important surely, is the playing side where no amount of new stands will be of use if we do not compete to our strengths on the pitch.

We should concentrate on supporting the players first and not be swayed by the article in last week's Blues News by Wycombe director Graham Peart.

Fans will come to Adams Park of their own volition and not by being made to feel guilty with claims of sliding backwards into oblivion. Yes, we need to encourage more people, but let the team do that with their performances.

Tomorrow's friendly against Woking pits three old favourites against the Blues as Simon Garner, Terry Howard and Steve Thompson turn out for the Conference side. We will be running a coach to the game. Contact Sharon on (01494) 450622 for details.

To join WWISC, send details of your name and address and a cheque for £5 (under 16s £2.50) payable to WWISC, 25 Queen Street, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 6EZ, or pick up an application from outside the ground.

Last of all, Alan Smith took some stick last season from many fans, myself included, but now is the time to get right behind him

LETTER

Don't forget who's paying

WHEN will Wycombe and other football clubs realise that supporters are not just a bunch of unruly individuals who have to be endured for a few hours every other Saturday.

Football is in the entertainment business and the fans are the paying customers.

In the Bucks Free Press, Wycombe Wanderers' financial controller Charles Colton was quoted as telling fans: "People will have to change their habits. We expect a fair amount of chaos for matches until people realise they cannot turn up at 2.30pm and just walk into the ground." A public relations own goal if ever I heard one.

Does Mr Colton not realise that Wycombe need to start rebuilding the size of crowds. This dictatorial attitude will not only antagonise regular fans but will also deter any occasional or new supporters.

Unless you are a committed fan or season ticket holder, going to a match can often be a last-minute decision. With a new stand to fill, we need every visitor we can get.

So why take this patronising approach to fans, insisting they change their habits to suit the club's new ticketing procedure. If the new system cannot cope with the average gate of 5,000, maybe the system needs to change, not the fans.

Despite the problems of getting into the ground and the awful new kit, us regular fans will be there to cheer the Bald Eagles Blues Band on to promotion.

Ron Barnett
St Leonards Close
Watlington