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Fans let down Roger's legacy

TODAY we pay tribute to Roger Vere, whose company Verco helped put Wycombe Wanderers on the footballing map.

If only the same could be said of many of Blues' fans, whose reluctance to support their team through thick and thin was made abundantly clear when low attendances marred the start of the new season.

Mr Vere, who died last week after a long fight against cancer, was one of the financial driving forces behind Blues' rise to Football League status.

Verco's association with the club is famous. It has sponsored the team's shirt for nearly ten years and looks set to continue doing so for a long time to come.

But Mr Vere's interest was not only commercial. He also was a great fan of the team and his death will bring much sadness to a community which admired, respected and loved him.

It is such a shame then, that Wanderers' so called "army" of football fans seem to have far less belief in their club.

Hopes were high at the start of the season that Adams Park would once again be a home to attractive football.

The new Woodlands stand is almost finished and part of it was open in time for the team's opening home game against Gillingham on Saturday. When completed, the total stadium capacity will be 10,000.

But, it is already looking doubtful that fans will ever fill it.

Barely 4,500 people bothered to attend the opening match, with around 1,000 less for Blues' home fixture against Bury on Tuesday.

A very poor turnout indeed, considering enthusiasm for the game is supposed to be at its peak at the start of the season.

It is a far cry from just a few years earlier, when gates were often several thousand higher as Wanderers climbed their way from non-league obscurity to household name.

This year, Blues have started badly in the league, with two draws and a defeat. But supporters must not turn their backs on a team which has barely had a chance to prove itself.

They should follow Mr Vere's example and support through thick and thin, before they get labelled with that most embarrassing of nicknames – fair-weather fans.

Blues fans must look to future

I HAVE just returned from Wycombe Wanderers' opening home game of the season against Gillingham. And what an enjoyable experience it was. The new stand is superb and now gives us a first-class stadium, facilities we could only have dreamt of a few years ago.

The team is playing some good football and we have some very exciting players. My only gripe is that some of our supporters live too much in the past. In my conversations with them at matches they are always saying how good our ex-players were.

What those players did in bringing us up from the Vauxhall Conference was an excellent effort and they will always be part of the club's history. But we are at a different level now, division two of the Football League, and we have better players now – players who hopefully will take us into the First Division.

The players some of our fans like have gone back to the Vauxhall Conference.

The club have moved on to bigger and better days and we, the fans, must move with them. Be proud of our past, but prouder of our future.

Name and address supplied