

Mann on Friday

This Ray of hope was lost among Wycombe

I BECAME very excited at the prospect of watching Ray 'Butch' Wilkins playing for Wycombe Wanderers when I heard last Friday he was to turn out for the club on a match-to-match basis.

At last Alan Smith has seen the light, I thought, and is ready to abandon the long-ball game in favour of a cultured style of football favoured by geniuses such as Ray.

So, upsetting Mrs Mann, I abandoned my usual Saturday afternoon routine of

traipsing round a supermarket, and insisted on a day out at Adams Park.

I was to be mightily disappointed. The great man was as much a spectator as I was, as the ball simply bypassed the mid-field and repeatedly landed on the heads of both our and Luton Town's sets of defenders like a giant game of table tennis.

No wonder the former England captain quickly announced he would not be

available for Tuesday night's trip to Walsall. Ray Wilkins playing at Walsall on a Tuesday night – I ask you!

No, the great man was on TV, giving us the benefit of his expertise on the UEFA Cup games played that night.

And tomorrow, I, for one, will be back among the grocery shelves.

I WILL not venture out today. I hardly dare – something awful might happen.

Wanderers' ping-pong

I could inadvertently walk under a ladder, be crossed by a black cat or even see a magpie.

All are incredibly unlucky experiences. And as this is Friday the 13th, bad luck is bound to strike.

Naturally, I believe in all superstitions. After all, there must be a reason for them, otherwise they wouldn't be superstitious in the first place, would they?

So, every Friday the 13th, I abandon my

beloved gardening as it is far too dangerous.

One never knows what mishap could happen to one while cutting the grass or planting seeds.

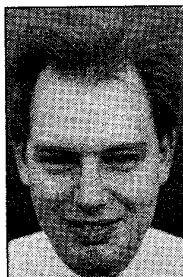
Mrs Mann thinks my Friday the 13th habits are irrational and claims I am shirking household chores.

Nonsense. I am fully aware of what today could bring and will not risk endangering myself.

Charles Mann

Straight talking

by
Alex Robson



Out with the old...

WHOOPS! It looks like the colourful manager Ron Atkinson will be handed his P45 any day. Coventry City's dismal start to the season has left them bottom of the table, with one point from 12.

Chairman Bryan Richardson has promised Big Ron his full support – usually the kiss of death, as Mike Walker, Ossie Ardiles, Alan Ball and others have found to their peril.

...in with the new

WHAT a coup for Wycombe Wanderers! Alan Smith has done really well to get the services of evergreen Ray Wilkins. The former England player will provide the spark that the team has been missing in the league, despite his age. He is the best signing the club has made in years.

Wilkins was good enough to play with the best last season, so I hope he does just as well in the Second Division.