

## LETTERS

### I am a true Blue supporter

I WISH to correct any impression I may have given in my previous letter [BFP 27.9.96] that I am not a true Wycombe Wanderers supporter.

In my view the directors of the club were absolutely right to sack Alan Smith last Monday. The man had no rapport with the fans and obviously had a poor relationship with many of the players. The league results speak for themselves.

The two wins since Smith's departure have been tremendous. Neil Smillie got it right when he said the team played with commitment and passion.

I congratulate Smillie, Terry Evans and the others on such a great performance, and I am delighted that Steve McGavin has started to find the net.

But I feel that I must comment on the two letters written in reply to my earlier one.

Firstly, V Wilson who says: "Most supporters, with the exception of Mr Lloyd, know that the team has been playing quite well at times."

I did not say that they hadn't. The point I was making was that they tended to revert to the long ball when panic set in.

I did not say that I wanted to see Terry Evans "surge forward like many of the central defenders in the higher leagues". In fact, I said the opposite.

And I agree entirely with Wilson's comments about Alan Smith's dealings in the transfer market. To let Terry Howard go, and then pay out £100,000 for McCarthy, was criminal.

Whilst on the subject of Terry Howard, there was a player who had enough composure to control the ball and pass out of defence even when under pressure.

To suggest that my letter could

have been written by Alan Smith is just laughable.

I notice that in Wilson's description of Terry Evans' job, there is no mention of the captaincy, which is what my letter was about as much as anything else.

Turning to Andrew Kirby, I think he is the one who is on another planet. My feet are planted firmly on British soil, where free speech is allowed.

In any case I am sure Terry Evans is a strong enough character to be able to withstand the comments of a single supporter and not allow them to affect his performance in an adverse way.

**Richard Lloyd**  
Totteridge Road  
High Wycombe

### Terry is the man to lead

WE have clearly not made a great start to the season but one player has stood out head and shoulders above any other person in more ways than one.

Skipper Terry Evans has been excellent, a true leader of men and playing some of his best football since joining the club, a point that Alan Parry clearly agrees with after his notes in the programme.

However, in a recent letter a so-called supporter stated that the best way for the club to progress would be to drop Evans. What games had the writer been watching?

If Evans does not collect the prize for player of the month I will be amazed. I believe we are very fortunate to have Terry playing for the Wanderers, he may not be the youngest squad member but in my opinion he is one of the very best week-in week-out.

Keep up the good work Tel.

**Jason Roberts**  
London Road  
High Wycombe

### Smith should look at himself

ALAN Smith's reaction to his sacking from Wycombe Wanderers has merely confirmed that the club were right to terminate his contract.

He blames the players and supporters for Wycombe's predicament claiming there was "an anti-Alan Smith feeling from day one". What utter drivel.

Considering the success and popularity of Martin O'Neill, the supporters and press reaction was remarkably upbeat. With hindsight, we should have known better when Mr Smith didn't even know what county Wycombe was in.

However, the real problems stemmed from Mr Smith's appalling managerial decisions. The purchase of John Williams and David Farrell, can, at best, be described as moderately successful, whilst the transfer of Paul Hyde and Terry Howard left supporters and, no doubt, players incredulous.

Without doubt, the loss of Hyde wrecked any hope the club had of launching any bid for promotion last season. The decision was exacerbated at the end of the season when we had the lumbering sight of Sieb Dykstra in goal.

The state of affairs was merely compounded by Mr Smith's apparent blind spot where Simon Garner was concerned.

Off the pitch, the achievements of Martin O'Neill were constantly belittled by Mr Smith, who also tried to take all the credit for the creation of the youth set-up, which I've little doubt he worked hard on developing, but which was operating when Mr O'Neill left the club.

It is clear Wycombe are not a bottom-of-the-table side, although Wycombe fans don't expect every match to be won. However, we do expect the new manager to bring

passion, enthusiasm and skill to the team.

Perhaps in the coming weeks when Alan Smith reflects upon what went wrong during his period of office, he should take a long, hard look in the mirror before blaming others.

**C Baker**  
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Holmer Green

### Directors did the right thing

IN letters to Ivor Beeks and Alan Parry last March I said that Alan Smith and David Kemp were "taking the chains and gears of our merry go round", well the directors and Ivor Beeks have to be congratulated for taking the bull by the horns and letting them go.

It was apparent Alan Smith did not have the confidence or respect of the players and fans, there wasn't any style or passion in his systems.

He didn't let the players express themselves.

Smith's name won't be first on my Christmas card list, not after the way he got rid of Paul Hyde and Terry Howard.

Ivor Beeks and the directors once took a chance with a young man by the name of Martin O'Neill. My vote now would go to Simon Garner a man with character and flair, the ex-Wanderer who the fans loved and respected.

He would not only motivate the team, but his charisma and charm would motivate the fans as well.

Well whoever the new manager may be, the directors have done a great job in stopping the rot at Adams Park.

After the wins against Rotherham and Notts County I'm just thinking, how much excitement can I take in one week.

**Barry Styles**  
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Hazlemere