

A.G.M (or was it ?)

Annual General Meeting? What does that conjure up? A chance to listen to the directors tell us about the previous season, hopes for the future, etc, etc, then have our chance, ask questions that have been saved up all season, a bit of debate to clear the air and then a few pints afterwards. Well no, it didn't quite work out like that.

The Keen Lounge was filled to the brim with shareholders many of whom had only joined this year. The Chairman, Ivor Beeks, delivered his report advising us of the events of the previous twelve months; that the performance of the previous manager was not up to scratch; the new kit was touched on with the only comment being that it brought the club "new presence and awareness", a strange comment by anyone's standards; a decision was to be made within 48hrs concerning the new Manager (yet some shareholders were told individually after the meeting there was to be a press conference at 2.00pm the next day). Mr Beeks then finished by saying the club had a bright future .

Then it was Graham Peart's turn to enlighten the audience with his alternative views on everything to do with Wycombe Wanderers, culminating with the normal predictable attack on WWISC concerning coach travel. He also threatened shareholders that as the financial statement was leaked to the Bucks Free Press he was considering preparing a less detailed report next year, with a fuller resume given out on the night, thus behaving as if the fans of the club should be keep in the dark.

We were told that there are ten fully paid up boxes at present in the new stand and the club is running an overdraft. We are talked about in financial circles as being a well structured company, being mentioned alongside such teams as Man Utd and Spurs. The difference between gate receipts and players wages is £90,000 due to the drop in attendances.

The formal side of the A.G.M was then completed and a shareholder politely asked if the board was allowing questions from the floor to which the Chairman replied that they would not be. Over 120 shareholders were present to be told they could not ask any questions in an open meeting, a decision that did not go down well with many of those present. What was the point of everybody turning up? What were the board afraid of? Why have shareholders if they don't have any rights? Remarks such as whitewash and charade were being banded about afterwards and with some justification. The Directors do a good job at Wycombe and only let themselves down when it comes to communication, an area that sticks out like a sore thumb.

It remains to be seen if so many shareholders will turn out again next year, but maybe that 's what the club want.