

If only we had seen this at season's start

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

SINCE the beginning of December, the Blues have picked up 16 points from just eight league matches.

What a contrast to our first eight league matches of the season when we collected just four points, and didn't get a single victory.

Mind you we did have the disastrous duo of Alan Smith and David Kemp in control.

If only we had shown our current form earlier in the season, we would have been challenging for promotion instead of fighting to escape relegation.

This drastic change in fortunes must be attributed to the excellent work of John Gregory and Richard Hill, and the board for making funds available for new players.

The new recruits – Jason Kavanagh, Michael Forsyth, Paul Read and Michael Simpson – have all played their part in strengthening the squad as well as improving both the style and skill levels.

Saturday's victory was doubly satisfying because Crewe are such a highly skilled side who always try to play neat and precise football.

The only disappointment was another poor performance from Miquel Desouza, who looks like he is impersonating Andy Cole.

After missing two excellent chances Migs did at least find the net in injury time. Judging by the amount of time the referee added at the end, I can only presume John Gregory insisted he kept the match going until Migs finally scored.

The great shirt debate is in full flow again with John Gregory leading the fight to return to quarters. Whilst a quartered away shirt for next season would be a step in the right direction, the traditional sky and navy quartered home kit must be the priority.

While we cannot promise Mizuno that we will buy as many shirts as the incredible 850,000 purchased by Manchester United fans in 1996, a new home shirt in our true design and colours would be extremely popular.

Surely some form of discount could be offered to fans who felt it necessary to buy the current monstrosity. As Alan Smith liked the existing shirts so much, maybe he could make a bulk purchase.

Let's support the manager in his campaign for a new home kit and convince the club that it would make sense both ethically and commercially.