

Shake those Shakers up

A VIEW FROM THE STAND
By Ron Barnett

LAST week's late winner for Gillingham prevented us getting the much needed draw to stay on schedule for our 53 points survival target.

We are now a point behind my results plan and still need 15 points from our last nine games. A pretty tall order at the best of times but, this could turn into mission impossible if we don't win on Saturday.

With Shrewsbury suffering a terrible run of form, and appearing to be in free-fall towards a relegation place, the six-pointer cliché will be heard all around the ground.

I'm sure everyone's nerves will be jangling before and throughout the match. I just hope John Gregory and Richard Hill will be able to keep the players calm and focused. This is one of my home win bankers and our cat is getting much too old to be kicked every Saturday night!

The way Bury are playing, we cannot expect too much joy on Easter Monday. Not only are they top of the league, the Shakers have only conceded six goals at home all season. They are also the only Premier or Nationwide team still protecting an unbeaten record at home.

Compare this with our one away win and strike rate of less than one goal per game, and the size of the problem is clear.

Apparently, the least number of goals Bury have conceded at home in a season stands at 13 in 1994/95. With only five home games left, they are aiming for a new record. So the plan is simple, we go up there, stuff them 8-0, ruin their record and jump out of the relegation zone. Couldn't be easier!

HOW THEY STAND

Team	HOME					AWAY				
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A Pts
Bury	36	13	5	0	31	6	5	5	8	21 28 64
Brentford	37	7	10	1	25	17	10	3	6	27 18 64
Luton	36	12	3	3	33	11	5	7	6	25 28 61
Watford	36	9	7	2	20	10	6	9	3	19 16 21
Burnley	36	12	2	5	40	21	5	7	7	21 19 60
Crewe	37	13	4	3	35	13	5	1	11	13 28 59
Stockport	34	9	5	3	23	12	7	5	5	26 24 58
Millwall	38	12	2	6	26	19	4	8	6	20 25 58
Bristol C	38	10	4	4	35	15	6	5	9	21 29 57
Wrexham	38	8	7	2	26	20	5	9	5	14 16 55
Walsall	37	10	7	3	30	18	5	2	10	14 22 54
Blackpool	37	9	6	3	31	18	4	7	8	15 21 52
Chesterfield	35	8	6	3	21	15	6	4	8	12 16 52
Gillingham	37	10	3	5	29	20	4	5	10	16 30 50
Barnmouth	39	7	7	6	20	17	6	4	9	16 21 50
Preston	38	11	4	4	27	18	3	2	15	14 33 48
Plymouth	37	6	8	5	17	18	5	4	9	24 33 45
Bristol R	38	10	4	5	29	20	1	7	11	9 22 44
York	37	7	4	7	23	24	4	6	9	16 30 43
Shrewsbury	39	7	6	7	25	28	3	6	10	22 35 42
Wycombe	37	9	3	6	19	13	1	5	13	17 37 38
Peterboro	38	5	7	7	32	30	3	6	10	16 37 37
Rotherham	38	4	7	8	16	21	2	6	11	16 32 31
Notts Co	38	3	7	9	16	21	2	5	12	11 29 27

Wycombe Wanderers v Shrewsbury Town

It's getting tight down at the bottom of this division, and don't Wycombe know it. Their defeat at the hands of Cup heroes Chesterfield left them in a precarious position, and failure to win their game in hand over fellow strugglers Peterborough would be cataclysmic.

Meanwhile, Shrewsbury are as good as safe from any threat of the drop if they win this one, which they will do handsomely, especially if their exotically named goalkeeper Benny Gall keeps it tight at the back.

Last Season: 2-0

Prediction:

Wycombe 1-2 Shrewsbury

Juniors jump back to top of the table

Wycombe Wand Juniors 0
Palace Juniors 0

PALACE, chasing a non-consecutive championship, bounced back to top spot in the South East Counties League Second Division with a prized point on Saturday.

They leapfrogged over Luton Town, beaten 2-1 at Bristol City, though the Hatters' youngsters have a game in hand.

Palace's youth development officer Geoff Taylor said: "It was a dour struggle on a bumpy pitch. We had 65 per cent of the play and they did not have a scoring chance. It was typical of two teams meeting so soon again."

They had drawn 1-1 in a Southern Junior Floodlit Cup-tie three days before.

Kieron Loughran impressed in midfield, while new Palace professional Gareth Graham improved on his previous outing after returning from injury.

Palace - Ormshaw, Hibbert, Evans, Graham, Woolley, Mullins, Stevens (sub: Harris 45 min), Kennedy, Morrison (sub: Martin 60 min), Loughran, Folan (sub: Carlisle 60 min). Subs: Sears, Harney (not used).



On Saturday,
29th March we
played Crystal
Palace at
Molins having



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drawn with them four days beforehand in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. The match never reached the heights of the Cup game and was a total stalemate with both defences well in control. Matt Hodson, who handled confidently throughout made a good save from Kennedy in the 31st minute, while, nine minutes later, at the other end, a fine cross from Frank Brannan was headed straight at the keeper by Andy Baird. That though was about all the goalmouth action in the first half. In the second half, we had to withstand some early Palace pressure, but held out comfortably, with Alan Beeton in superb form. He won several fine headers, particularly from the long throw-ins of Harris. We then went nearest to scoring when both Richard Teale and Andy Baird chipped efforts just over. Line-Up:- M.Hodson, I.Hendry (G.Wright), D.Fitzpatrick, A.Beeton, J.Lamb, M.Rowlands, F.Brannan, J.Sheffield, R.Teale (L.Johnson), A.Baird, M.Harkin.



Action from the match sees (left) Jeff Lamb staying close to his man and (right) Frank Brannan showing good close control (Photos Paul Dennis)