

Arthur Church



CHURCH
VIEW

Closer to the action in the new stand

DISTANCE, it has been said, lends enchantment to the view. I'm not quite sure, but the reverse may be the case at Adams Park, home of Wycombe Wanderers.

Where I sat on Saturday it was almost as good as being on the field of play (I should be so lucky!).

It was my first taste of watching the Blues from the new stand on Saturday when it was my good fortune to be a guest of the firm I L Beeks Ltd at their new executive box.

There was a friendly and warm atmosphere to the occasion as I and other guests enjoyed our position.

Apart from the comforts of the box itself, the view of the match from the new stand is quite an experience.

It seemed to add a new perspective to the game.

In a season that has not been too kind, the award of Nationwide League's most improved stadium has at least given chairman Ivor Beeks one good reason to smile.

Some of my friends have been so impressed with the stand they have swapped their seats in the original smaller stand for positions in the new one.

No matter where you sit, high or low, the view is grand.

Most regular supporters get

If I could choose a new spot at the ground it would be as a fly on the dressing room wall.

attached to a particular spot in the ground. There are those of us who are addicted to standing behind a goal, some like to be to one side of a ground or the other.

For more years than I care now to remember, I had a couple of square feet of space on the upper concrete terrace at Loakes Park which I thought of as my own, and surrounded by the same familiar faces week in, week out.

There were many like me and it was only when standing for a whole game became a bit leg wearying that I deserted to a seat in the stand. Now I can affirm that should I ever be lucky enough to be a big winner in the National Lottery, one of my highest priorities would be to hire an Adams Park box – that is if they have not all gone by then!

Whatever sorrow there may be in being in the league's relegation zone, I suppose it must be said it does add some extra excitement to the last few games of the season.

Obviously, we would be happier in a mid-table position and almost ecstatic to be fighting for a top place.

It is the kind of thing that we have become used to over the past few seasons.

But now, as each game becomes more life or death, it does create an added zest.

Strange reasoning, you may say, but surely true.

If I could choose a new spot at the ground it would be as a fly on the dressing room wall.

No need to tell the players, now, that their fate is in their own hands or to express the hope that Lady Luck at last smiles on them.

Scotty is helping to beam us up.

If, as seems not unlikely, Wycombe's fate goes right to the wire, we will face a nail-biting finish with Bristol City at Adams Park on the last day of the season.

My hope is that Keith will be inspired to net a hat-trick.

Failing that I am sure he would be happy to assist one or other of his team mates to achieve the same feat.

Certainly manager John Gregory deserves no less after all his hardwork since taking over.

My advice is that whatever point in the stand you choose as yours, be it on the terraces or in the stands, I would recommend that you are fully prepared and ready for the excitement of the coming weeks.

Above all don't leave home without your paracetamol tablets close at hand.

See Burnley battle free on the BFP

The Bucks Free Press has got 80 tickets to give away for Tuesday night's match between Wycombe Wanderers and Burnley at Adams Park (ko 7.45pm).

The clash gives Wanderers the opportunity to make up for the 2-1 defeat they suffered at the Clarets' Turf Moor ground, under Alan Smith in September.

The clash was remarkable in the fact that Miquel Desouza scored after 16 seconds.

Wanderers' fans have been brilliant in backing John Gregory's and the players' call to continue singing the Blues in the club's battle for second division survival.

Wanderers last two home games have brought an aggregate attendance of more than 12,000 fans flocking to Adams Park and 1,100 travelled up the M1 and roared the team on at Luton's Kenilworth Road on Tuesday night.

As a reward to those loyal fans we have got 20 four-ticket sets to give away in the main stand.

They are worth £48 a set but we will give them away absolutely free to the first 20 people to call in at Wanderers in Town, in the Octagon, carrying a copy of today's Bucks Free Press sports section.

Burnley are expecting to bring around 700 supporters with them and we want our readers to shout those Lancastrian voices and cheer the team on.