

Paul Harris's

Backchat

That was
the news...
that was

25 years ago



Nickname: Dave Carroll

'Oh Jesus!'

WYCOMBE Wanderers player Dave Carroll has been nicknamed Jesus, after his team were blessed at church before the start of the new football season.

The club visited All Saints' Parish Church last week in search of divine intervention.

Backchat Towers believes Dave got the nickname because when he misses a shot all his team-mates shout: "Oh Jesus".

WYCOMBE Wanderers sought the hand of God on Sunday to give the team a new-season boost.

The squad, with manager John Gregory, joined the youth team for the Sunday morning service at All Saints' Church, in High Wycombe.

Priest-in-charge, the Rev Frank Hillebrand, said: "It is the first time for Wycombe Wanderers to come and be blessed. We had a service that a number of them came to some months ago. I go to see them play from time to time."

Mr Hillebrand added: "We had a service where a consultant to the Football Association preached. We let them know at the club, and a few of them came along. They thought it would be nice on the Sunday to all come along together."

Mr Gregory, who gave the first reading, said afterwards: "It was an excellent service and there was a good turnout from the players. It was just an idea that we had to get all the players and their families and the club together."

"At times last season, we probably needed a few prayers. We did not come here to pray for a good season, we just came to get a blessing for the club, players, and sport in general."

Midfielder Steve Brown said: "The gaffer is a regular churchgoer himself. If it helps us to get promotion this year, all the better."

AFTER years of fruitless talks between Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and Oxford Regional Hospital Board, it is almost certain that the club will now agree to sell its Loakes Park ground, at High Wycombe, to the board.

The board wants the football ground so that it can build big extensions to the adjoining Wycombe Hospital on it.

At present, the hospital buildings are along two sides of the ground, which is about six acres.

The board has pointed out that if it cannot extend the hospital over Loakes Park, it will be forced to build another hospital outside the town, splitting the hospital services of the area, resulting in additional capital expenditure and running costs, and duplicating some staff.

It is understood that agreement of the club to give up the ground – its home since early in the century and the gift of Mr Frank Adams – depends on a suitable ground being available elsewhere and on the board paying a reasonable price for the land.

That price would probably be not less than £1,000,000, for in addition to the market price of the land at Loakes Park – and that would be in the region of £500,000 as building land – the club would expect enough money to provide proper facilities on its new ground.

The facilities would include a spectator stand, which would probably cost more than £200,000, a committee room and other amenities, extensions and terracing.