

Gregory should dock their pay

LETTER

I HAVE to take Wycombe Wanderers to task for the well-below par performance they put in last Saturday against Carlisle.

I will not blame John Gregory, or the referee, even though I thought he was on another planet at times.

The blame is with the team who, if they are honest with themselves, will hold their hands up and say yes boss I am guilty of only giving 50 per cent. In this case I feel that the manager should then dock them half their pay.

With the match being on Quid-a-Kid day we had the chance to show the youth of the area the great things that are happening at the club, but the players blew it.

Yes, I will still support the club, because I think that we are on the way to some great things this season.

P J Priest
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● Gregory says getting complaints and criticism from fans is what every manager in the Football League can expect from time to time.

He said: "When Martin O'Neill was the manager of Wycombe Wanderers he had his fair share of letters criticising him.

"He left a carrier bag of them behind at the club when he left."

Cheque out Blues' kids

OFFICIAL LINES

By Elaine Butler of the
Official Supporters Club

BEFORE last Saturday's Carlisle game the Official Blues Supporters Club presented youth team manager Neil Smillie with a cheque for £500, which will be used to buy kit for the up-and-coming youngsters of the club.

On Thursday, September 11 we held a forum in the Vere Suite with chairman Ivor Beeks, assistant manager Richard Hill, safety officer Frank Knowles, physiotherapist Dave Jones, publicity officer Alan Hutchinson and Neil Smillie making up the panel.

We were hoping it would be a well-attended event, but unfortunately this did not happen as the attendance numbered fewer than 60, which was disappointing for all the work the committee do for the good of the club.

So please make a note of the AGM which will be held on October 27 at Adams Park starting at 7.45pm. We need your support on and off the pitch.

We will be running a coach (or coaches) one Sunday towards the end of November for a day trip to Bologne, where we can either take in the sights or visit a hypermarket for cheaper Christmas booze.

Those who would like to book their seats please contact either Rena on match days or call (01296) 29307 or Harold Lunn on (01494) 440668, and remember you will need a valid passport.

WANDERERS

Beeks calls for wages ceiling

WANDERERS Chairman Ivor Beeks called for a wages cap to be introduced when he addressed a fans' forum at Adams Park last week.

The Blues supremo says players in the lower divisions are being paid far more than their clubs can afford because of the spiralling effect of huge wages in the Premier League.

Wanderers have felt the effect themselves taking three players – Martin Taylor, Paul Read and Jason Kavanagh from Premiership clubs – in the 11 months that John Gregory has been manager.

To attract Taylor to the club, Wanderers had to make him the highest paid player in their history.

Beeks said: "Some of the wages in the Premier League are absurd. But while there are people who will pay it it will continue and have a knock-on effect on the other divisions."

The Wanderers chairman believes a wages limit would stop some clubs going to the wall.

He said: "The amount of money going out in wages is unbelievable. If you look at the percentage increase over the last few years it's astronomical."

"I believe the best way would be to have a cap for each league. In the second division each club would be allowed to spend a certain figure on wages, let's say £750,000 or £1 million a year. For that money they could have 20

players or 50 players, it would be up to them so long as they stay under the ceiling, and to me that would be a much fairer system."

Beeks also favours a return to the days of regionalised lower divisions, although a recent meeting of third division chairman rejected the idea when it was suggested that they should form two regional leagues with the Vauxhall Conference.

Beeks said: "I think it may come about and I can't see too much wrong with it. You would get more local derbies, bigger gates and it would help teams with their travelling expenses. If it's for the good of football and it makes clubs more healthy I cannot see anything wrong with it."