

LETTERS

Show a bit of heart, Wycombe

THANK you Wycombe Wanderers for removing any doubts regarding my wish for Basingstoke Town to whip through the leagues to become like Wimbledon etc.

While the excitement of progressing must be something wonderful, if the rules and regulations that either you impose, or are imposed upon you, as implemented on Saturday are normal, then forget it.

I have been a non-league follower for more years than I can remember and the one overriding factor is the family image that this level of football holds.

As Wycombe was such a club just a few seasons ago it seems such a shame that 'total professionalism' has overtaken the club. I can fully understand why supporters feel threatened by the presence of the stewards and police at matches.

I admit to not having been in a league ground for many years but

the shock at the level of regulations for admittance seemed extreme for the attendance of a non-league club, three divisions below you, with average crowds of under 500.

Wembley actually encourages supporters to have flags on a stick, Wycombe - no way. Fire certificates for larger flags! Cameras banned! Who wants pictures of Wycombe players anyway.

We're here for a family day out, one to remember for the right reasons, one that happens rarely to a club of our size.

I know that you have to have rules but when playing with blue/yellow balloons, one went over the advertising board onto the edge of the pitch. There were no players on the pitch. One of our supporters stepped over the board, bent down to pick up the balloon and was promptly frog-marched off and out of the ground.

It was then these great big signs were pointed out to me which I had not seen, due to the excitement, despite the 45 minutes or so that I had been in the ground. When the

little boys come to play with the big ones a little discretion could be shown, as we don't play by the same rules week-in week-out that poor Wycombe have to endure.

I understand that commercialism is a major need for clubs all over the country, but when the only flags, minus sticks, were only two feet by one foot, were laid over the walls the stewards were in so quickly to remove them that it's no wonder that Linford Christie has retired with that much competition in the wings.

Is it not about time that a balance between commercialism and supporters expression was addressed? If the conditions are as stifling for your own supporters, it's little wonder that they were so quiet.

This all said, the stewards and police were calm and polite and I'm sure did their job very well, but come on Wycombe, you must remember what it was like to have

Paul Hammond
Eastleigh,
Hants

Get your act together John

AS a supporter of 30 years standing, I am writing to voice my concern after the latest poor offering at Adams Park against Wrexham on Tuesday.

Just over a year ago when John Gregory took over, we were struggling. Well, we are still struggling and the football is no better to watch than that of the previous management.

Our attacks come in two forms. Either a ponderous move of numerous passes, the last of which frequently goes astray, or a good old-fashioned boot upfield in the hope that our strikers will get on the end of it, something Alan Smith was chastised about.

Keith Scott was recently quoted in your paper that we will still make the play-offs. We have got to improve drastically on our present record of two wins in 13 games to achieve this. Also, what has happened to Fortress Adams Park?

Four wins there in 11 matches is hardly invincible is it?

We couldn't even hold a two-goal lead against a struggling non-league side. Our away form is also just as bad as last season and with trips to Bristol City, Grimsby and Millwall coming up, isn't likely to improve.

In his time here Mr Gregory has completely changed the squad but Mark Stallard and Michael Forsyth apart, the players brought in are no better than those they have replaced. At least some of them had genuine pace.

Also, I must question some of his team selections. We are sadly lacking in midfield. Yet he plays Keith Ryan in defence (admittedly he has been outstanding) when we have so many defenders on the books.

Nearly everyone I have spoken to couldn't understand why Paul McCarthy was on the bench for several games. So, come on Mr G get your act together, otherwise we will be departing from the wrong end of Division Two.

Mr Bryan Fields
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