

Lemons fall on banana skin

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

AFTER the champagne atmosphere for Dave Carroll's testimonial, the last two games have been real 'flat beer' events.

On Saturday we were cruising against Basingstoke, thanks to John Cornforth's two dead-ball efforts, but we never looked convincing. Even at half-time we were searching the programme for details of the replay. It was then I noticed Basingstoke had drawn in three of their four qualifying rounds. I wonder how many of their fans put money on 2-2 at 28-1.

Shortly after we went 2-0 up, the guy next to us said "I've had enough of this I'm off" – another satisfied customer. I'd like to have heard him when he discovered the result.

John Gregory billed this game as a banana skin but, we ended up playing like lemons!

At least we had a laugh going home when we came across a coach of Basingstoke fans stranded at Bolter End – like the Blues they had lost their way.

So, on to Tuesday. Surely we couldn't play as badly again... Oh yes we could!

I was so bored in the first half, I began looking for any new advertisement boards to see if Mark Austin had managed to make a few extra bob for the club.

I did think of counting fans wearing the new quartered shirts but realised I was in danger of imitating Graham Peart.

Alan Hutchinson summed up the first half when he came on to introduce the kids half time penalty shoot-out. His "Let's begin the entertainment.." was sadly all too true.

The second half was a bit more exciting and Cornforth nearly scored again from open play this time. If only we could use Corny like an American football kicker – just wheel him on every time we get a free kick.