

TV shows up unfairness

OFFICIAL LINES

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LIKE most of you, I watch as much football on television as I can, as well as following Wycombe, and one thing springs to mind from witnessing football on the box.

I get the impression that, although one of the major justifiable complaints against match officials is lack of consistency in the rules, television also highlights inconsistency in their handling of the conduct of players.

Indeed, I would say that this applies not only from referee to referee but also to the division in which the match is played.

In virtually every Premier League match you can see decisions given against certain players and automatically disputed. Many of these players are experienced internationals and many have bad disciplinary records.

You do not have to be a brilliant lip reader to interpret that they are not politely asking the referee to reconsider. What is also striking is not only what is said, but the ferocity with which it is delivered. Do they get a card for this dissent? You have got to be joking.

If similar outbursts are made in Division Two and Three we all know that yellow cards will be scattered around like confetti.

Contrast this with the treatment handed out to Dave Carroll who took issue with a referee after a match. Here is a player whose yellow cards can be counted on one hand in a ten year career and who is at once banned and fined.

I am not condoning any sort of dissent but there somehow seems to be a lack of even handedness.

● Last Thursday, we held a quiz night at Adams Park which was well attended.

Among the visitors was a team from Basingstoke Town Supporters Club and although they didn't win this time, still made many friends. We would like to thank all those who came along.

● The Blues Supporters Club will be running coaches to all the up and coming away matches and Rena will be taking bookings in the foyer of the Vere Suite before and after tomorrow's match. You can also book by telephone on (01296) 429307.

● Our annual dinner takes place at Adams Park on April 24. Watch this column and the programme for further details nearer the time.