
I'm backing an outsider

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

LAST Saturday's encounter in the plush surroundings of the Luton Kohlerdrome was a real déjà vu occasion.

The match was a dire re-run of last season's goalless draw – a poor game played between two poor sides in poor conditions at an impoverished stadium.

It is no wonder home fans boycott Kenilworth Road – so would I if I had to endure their toddler-sized seats and waterlogged toilets every week.

Still, the point we earned was very useful and it ensured Neil Smillie improved on his record from his last spell as caretaker boss. Unbeaten for three games, seven points and three clean sheets can't be bad.

That little run certainly encouraged one Blues fan after the Luton match – he was quick to point out that a promotion play-off place is still mathematically possible. So is winning the lottery jackpot!

While Neil and the team continue to battle for points, Ivor and his directors are no doubt sifting through the job applications and preparing to advertise the managerial vacancy that exists at Adams Park.

With the reign of Pope John Gregory coming to such a sudden end, we'll all be watching for the smoke to rise from the Adams Park chimney to signify the appointment of our new spiritual leader.

Whilst I can understand the players and many fans championing the case for Neil Smillie to be given the manager's job full-time – better the devil you know syndrome – I feel we should be looking outside the club for our next manager.

The ideal candidate should have previous managerial or coaching experience at a premier or division one club.

We need someone with contacts at larger clubs who could bring in players who have performed at a higher level, including a few youngsters who may not have been able to break into the first team. John Gregory certainly was successful in doing this with Martin Taylor, Jason Kavanagh, Michael Forsyth and others.

Alan Parry, our roving ambassador, is probably already doing the rounds on our behalf. Knowing his love of all things Liverpool, he's probably waiting to see if Roy Evans will be de-hired at the end of the season.
