

Bell asks Mickey takers for poster

MICKEY Bell wants to get his hands on one of the hate campaign posters which welcomed him back to Adams Park last Saturday.

Angry fans stuck the 'Money Grabber' posters up on the approaches to Adams Park and now Bell wants one as a souvenir of his winning return with his new club Bristol City.

Wanderers safety officer Frank Knowles spent Saturday morning ripping down the black and white posters fearing it could incite a riot with 1,700 visiting fans arriving.

But he missed some and Bell saw them on his way to the match on the Bristol team bus.

Bell, branded a traitor by fans when he quit Wycombe, last summer, said: "I thought it was comical. I told the lads to look out for them and we all had a laugh about it. It didn't bother me. If I see a poster on my way home I'll take it down and keep it as a souvenir."

Bell was booed every time he touched the ball and he blamed the Adams Park hierarchy for that.

He said: "I feel I should've got a good reception but I didn't because of the things the club said about me. The club told a lot of untruths about me and what they offered me."

But Bell had the last laugh as Bristol won 2-1 and that result put the spotlight back on Wanderers boss Neil Smillie, who knows his side still need a few more points to stay up.

After two successive defeats Smillie, who has only got the job on probation until the end of the season, knows his honeymoon is over.

He said: "I don't feel under pressure but when you're given the job for a short period, like I am, you're judged on results."

"The boys have performed fantastically in the last five games. We played some good football and came away with nothing against Bristol. A little bit of defensive stiffness and

discipline is needed. We lost the game trying to win it.

"There were more good points than bad, it's just that the bad made the difference between winning and losing.

"We gave our fair share against a side who are going to be in the division above us next year."

Wanderers only lost against promotion-chasing City because they missed chances and made a crucial mistake.

A breakdown in communication between Jason Kavanagh and Martin Taylor allowed Colin Cramb to stoop to head his second, and winning goal, with a gift six minutes from time.

And that made Keith Scott's unbelievable and uncharacteristic first half miss, when he sidefooted a sitter wide, even worse.

Bristol took the lead with a Beckham-esque curler from Cramb. But Blues equalised in the 57th minute as Mark Stallard held off Adam Locke's challenge and rolled the ball across the box to Mo Harkin who pipped Bell for pace to slide in the equaliser.

Even after Cramb's late winner, central defender Nicky Mohan almost rescued a point for Wanderers with a piledriver which shook the post.

Wycombe: Taylor, Kavanagh, Beeton, Ryan, Cornforth, Mohan, Carroll (Read 86), Scott, Stallard, McGavin (Harkin 19), Brown. Sub not used: Simpson.

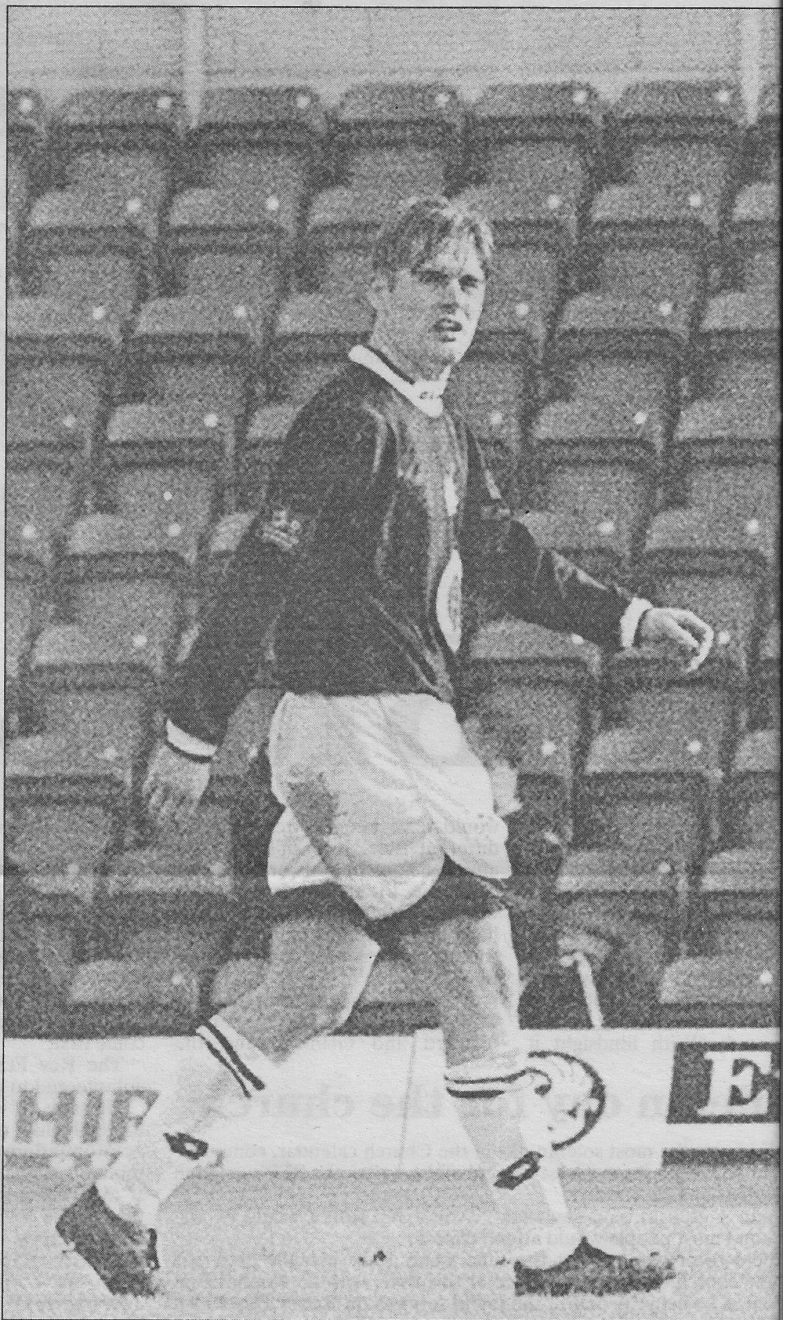
Bristol City: Welch, Locke, Bell, Goodridge (Murray 80), Taylor, Carey, Owers, Hewlett (Doherty 73), McCarthy, Cramb (Roberts 90), Tinnion.

Attendance: 6,326.

● Steve McGavin who went off early in the match is having treatment on a painful foot injury.

He has been suffering from fallen arches and needs a special cushion building up in his boot.

He did not trained in the week leading up to the match and Wanderers gambled on his fitness. He has not trained again this week and has been having treatment from physio Dave Jones.



Gissa poster: Mickey Bell asking his taunters for a souvenir Ref: 98-953BF12a