

Prices could be more fan friendly

AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

By Sharon Deighton
Chairman, WWISC

I HAVE decided not to harp on about the recent issues surrounding the extraordinary general meeting and members voting against changes to the constitution, but like everyone else I will be looking forward to developments regarding this in the near future.

As soon as the World Cup finished, thoughts turned to the new season, and of course those 'wonderful' matches called friendlies.

These games have their importance in the football calendar, allowing reserves and new faces the chance to get used to playing together, while at the same time testing the strengths, weakness and fitness of the first team squad.

I do not however think that supporters should have to pay anywhere near normal admission prices to games that are just a run-around, with very little competitive spirit.

These games could be used to get the floating supporter or anyone who has not been to the ground before interested in the team. Greatly reduced admission charges rather than the slight reduction Wycombe have made, would certainly go a long way to encouraging people to attend Adams Park for the first time.

The onset of the new season also means it is time to renew your Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club membership.

At WWISC we will continue to endeavour to put forward the views of the supporters of Wycombe Wanderers, not only locally but also nationally.

To enable us to do so we always need extra help. If you can spare some time to become more actively involved in the running of WWISC then please contact me.

For my sins, I will again be organising the away coach travel this season.

The WWISC table will be outside the ground tomorrow before the game against Charlton, or you can contact me on (01494) 450622 if you would like to book for the Swindon and Millwall coaches.

Gregory is tipping Blues

FORMER Blues boss John Gregory tipped Wycombe Wanderers to finish in the top six this season, after watching his old club lose 3-0 to his new club Aston Villa.

Speaking after Villa's 3-0 win at Adams Park on Tuesday, Gregory said: "I'll put Neil Smillie under pressure and say I expect Wycombe to finish in the top six.

"If Wycombe play like they played tonight, I think they will have a very successful season. I know a lot of the Villa lads said Wycombe will do quite well this season if they play like that, but in the second division you don't often get given the time to play like that."

Gregory was impressed with the form injury-hit Blues' put up against his Premiership stars.

He said: "You've got to remember they had two or three players missing tonight. Brownie has only just come back from injury, Keith Scott was missing and so was Steve McGavin. Paul McCarthy's been injured and Michael Forsyth was missing so there's still a few good players to come in.

"Generally they looked very good, very solid and very compact and they knocked the ball around very well."

But Neil Smillie is not getting carried away by his predecessor's comments.

He said: "It's very kind of John to say that but he also knows we are up against the likes of Manchester City, Stoke and Reading this year. We will do our best and the boys are certainly capable of being a quality side."

Gregory enjoyed his first return to Adams Park since his move to Aston Villa last February.

He said: "It was a bit weird going into the visitors dugout, but it was great to come back and see everybody. The players looked forward to coming because they knew they would get an immaculate surface to play on."

Reardon's off

WANDERERS secretary John Reardon will end his 40-year association with the club when he retires after tomorrow's pre-season friendly against Charlton.

Reardon has been a player, manager and secretary in that time and even played for the Blues on his wedding day.

He joked: "Carole has been giving me stick for that every day since."

Reardon's loyalty to the club is remarkable considering he was sacked as manager after guiding them to fourth spot in the old Isthmian League.

He said: "The club has been a big part of my life. It will be very strange leaving my desk on Saturday, but I'm sure I'll be back to watch some games."

Blues bosses have yet to appoint Reardon's successor.