

Building up the reserves

OFFICIAL LINES

By Keith Blagbrough
Chairman, WWOSC

LAST week Wycombe Reserves beat Chelsea, well I was going to say reserves but I suppose that it was the Chelsea British team that I and several hundred others turned up to watch.

For those of you who do not regularly support the reserve team I would recommend that you do in future because this was one of the most enjoyable games of football that I have seen recently.

The sheer enthusiasm and skill of some of our youngsters will leave you in no doubt that the long term future of the team is safe, but of course there is the immediate short term problem to be sorted out.

Now that the board have somewhat belatedly found cash for Neil Smillie to strengthen the side, the manager is getting on with the job of doing so, and in the game against Notts County there seemed to be a new found zest for the task in hand.

The only disappointing thing was that the attendance once again was low. Fortunately the dwindling number of supporters seemed to find a lot more noise from somewhere to support the team and that again is great, because this is the third season that we have had to put up with the opposing supporters telling us that we are going down.

I don't like it and I know that none of the others who go along do, but we don't turn our backs just because the going is rough.

This next month is critical because we are at that stage in the season when two or three good results can move us up the table. The team deserves our support now so if you have not been down to Adams Park recently come back and play your part by getting behind them.

We shall be running coaches to Gillingham and Oldham. To book see Rena in her usual spot at the ground or telephone her on (01296) 429307.

Should Wanderers be profitable or popular?

"AT last, in the fourth year of playing in Division Two of the Nationwide League, Wycombe Wanderers made a profit.

This was modest, at around £45,000, but vital to the financial stability of the club.

Excluding transfer fees the club broke even and, with the assistance of a positive player/manager transfer account, a profit was achieved.

The previous season (96/97) the loss was £386,000 due to heavy expenditure on acquiring new players in a successful bid to avoid relegation. This policy could not continue as the club must be self

BLUES' financial director Graham Peart comments on Blues Financial Statements for 1997/98

funding on trading due to its unique structure.

Total gate receipts increased by 3.5 per cent while the attendance also increased by 3.5 per cent to average 5,415.

The Wanderers are at a distinct disadvantage to most Division Two teams when comparing income from supporters. The average attendance for the

division was 6,364 or 17 per cent above the Wanderers figures. This means that our opposition has more cash to spend on players than we have.

Local companies continue to support the club financially and the marketing department reported an increase in income of over 15 per cent.

Other bright spots included the food and beverage department increasing contributions by over ten per cent and the promotions department, which is still producing good revenue from lotteries and prize draws, despite the success of the National Lottery."

Choices up front for Smillie

NEIL Smillie is hoping to include another new face as he returns to his former club Gillingham.

He's also in the rare position of having a choice of strikers and must decide whether to retain the partnership of Andy Baird and Paul Read or recall the dropped Mark Stallard and fit-again Keith Scott who played his first game in the reserves this week since

GILLINGHAM v WYCOMBE

A guide to tomorrow's
clash at Priestfield
Stadium

dislocating his elbow. Jason Kavanagh is struggling with his ankle but Paul McCarthy is fit.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Stoke	11	4	0	1	8	3	4	0	2	10	7	24
Walsall	11	3	1	2	9	8	4	0	1	6	4	22
Preston	11	3	1	1	13	5	3	2	1	9	7	21
Fulham	11	3	2	1	10	6	3	1	1	5	3	21
Blackpool	11	4	1	1	10	5	2	1	2	6	9	20
Bourn'th	11	4	1	0	9	1	2	1	3	5	6	20
Luton	11	3	1	1	6	2	3	1	2	8	7	20
Man City	11	3	3	0	11	5	1	3	1	5	7	18
York City	10	2	2	1	7	4	3	1	1	9	9	18
Bristol R	11	4	2	0	13	5	0	2	3	2	6	16
Notts Co	11	2	1	2	6	5	2	2	2	8	7	15
Wrexham	11	4	1	2	11	8	0	2	2	2	7	15
Colchester	11	2	1	2	4	4	2	2	2	8	8	15
Millwall	11	3	3	0	7	3	1	0	4	3	9	15
Chest'field	11	4	0	1	5	2	0	3	3	1	6	15
Wigan	11	3	1	2	7	5	1	1	3	4	6	14
Gillingham	11	2	2	2	10	7	0	4	1	5	6	12
Reading	10	2	2	0	7	3	1	0	5	4	14	11
Oldham	11	2	1	3	6	7	1	1	3	4	9	11
Burnley	11	2	2	1	6	5	0	2	4	5	10	10
Macc'field	11	1	1	3	2	4	1	2	3	5	9	9
North'pton	11	0	4	1	5	7	1	1	4	5	8	8
Lincoln	11	1	0	4	7	11	0	2	4	1	9	5
Wycombe	11	0	2	4	3	8	0	1	4	3	10	3