

Famous Five and Rab C Nesbit star

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

IT'S fast approaching midnight on Tuesday and I'm writing this column while basking in the joy of beating Manchester City with a very pleasant bottle of plummy red Bordeaux.

What a difference a month makes. In just four short weeks we've played six league matches; winning three, drawing two and losing just one – and unluckily at that!

Suddenly, we look a decent side again and there is a fighting spirit and renewed confidence running right through the team. I'm not sure what Neil Smillie is feeding the players – maybe it's John Gregory's magic doughnuts again – but whatever it is, he had better keep it going.

Our battling victory over City brought back memories of our David and Goliath cup epics of past seasons, including the two Coca-Cola Cup clashes with City in 1995. They were a Premiership side then, albeit only just with one point from eight games. Nowadays, of course, we are in the same division although we are still worlds apart in financial resources, squad strength, facilities and support. That's what makes our win even sweeter.

While Steve Brown thoroughly deserved his man of the match award, I thought our three centre backs and two wing backs were superb. They kept a tight hold on City's strikers and allowed them very few scoring opportunities.

It's only the fourth time this season that we have managed to play the Lawrence, Vinnicombe, McCarthy, Cousins and Mohan combination – and they've kept a clean sheet in all four games. Macclesfield 3-0, Wrexham 3-0, Oldham 0-0, Manchester City 1-0.

With all due respect to our long term injury-hit defenders, Michael Forsyth and Keith Ryan, our Famous Five back line look like being the cornerstone on which to build our revival.

I noticed in the programme that when City played at Adams Park in September 1995 a certain John Williams made his debut for Wycombe. On Tuesday, Jermaine McSporran (sounds like a character out of Rab C Nesbitt) made his home debut. Let's hope he proves a better investment than the Flying Postman. He's certainly made a promising start.

On to tomorrow and bring on Chesterfield – I feel a cup run coming on!