

Absent fans have your say

BOARDROOM BANTER

By Alan Parry

ANY neutral watching Wycombe play Stoke must have wondered how there could possibly be 22 places between the teams in the league table.

If ever there was a match which proved we are in a false position this was it. Wycombe deserved at least a point against the league leaders and could easily have taken all three.

However, you get no points for being unlucky and our position continues to be precarious. We are paying the price for our dreadful start to the season and it may be a long time before we reach a position of safety.

We only have 15 points and it is generally accepted in the second division that you need a minimum of 52 points to avoid relegation. That means we need to win at least ten of our remaining 26 matches and pick up a few draws along the way.

It is a tough call and we should all be prepared for some tense afternoons between now and next May.

Let's look on the bright side – there's no such thing as mid-table mediocrity if you follow Wycombe Wanderers. Whether we're chasing promotion or battling to avoid relegation we always give full value at Adams Park!

So where have the missing supporters gone? The attendance of 6,000 for the visit of the league leaders was disappointing. We have now had three of our biggest home games of the season – Reading, Manchester City and Stoke – without threatening to reach capacity.

In the past couple of seasons something like 1,000 regulars have "disappeared" from Adams Park. At a conservative estimate that is costing the club around £10,000 per match or £250,000 per season. You probably get fed up of reading about our financial problems, but they won't go away. Selling one of our better players to make ends meet would be an instant solution, but I regard that as a last resort. I am more interested in finding out why those people have stopped coming to Adams Park. Is it because the team is near the bottom of the table? The football isn't entertaining? The admission prices are too high? The problems of travelling and parking are too great?

I want to hear from the stay away fans. Write to me at the ground or send your letters to the Bucks Free Press.

Let's find out if there's something the club can do to persuade you to return.