

Smillie tells injured Harkin to go and get on his bike

MIDFIELDER Mo Harkin has suffered another setback with the news he will not play again until the end of February.

A second scan on his troublesome ankle injury has revealed a stress fracture that the first diagnosis did not show up.

It explains why Harkin broke down in training trying to bounce back from his ankle operation.

The news is a setback to boss Neil Smillie, who at the start of the season earmarked the talented teenager as his playmaker, but has only been able to start him once.

Harkin has been told he mustn't run for six weeks and has been ordered to join Wanderers

cycling club, which also enlisted striker Mark Stallard this week as he continues his rehabilitation from his medial knee ligament.

Smillie joked: "Mo will be cycling for Britain by the end of it. We're even going to build our own velodrome for him."

● Striker Andy Baird has been playing with anti-inflammatory tablets after being diagnosed as having a problematic vein in his ankle. Smillie says Baird has not been 100 per cent fit all season and he saw a specialist again yesterday.

● Blues secretary Ian Moat could be heading for a place in the record books after visiting all 92 league grounds in England without paying to get

into a single one.

Moat achieved his feat by sitting in the directors boxes. He completed his collection at Selhurst when Wimbledon beat Chelsea to reach the Worthington Cup semi-final last week.

● The Official Supporters Association would like to point out that they bought the team of mannequins for the Blues to practice their free-kicks around and not the Vice Presidents as stated in last week's Bucks Free Press.

● Wanderers In Town will open between 10am and 4pm on Sunday, December 20. It will close at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve and re-open with its January sale at 9am on December 29.

LETTERS

Don't blame fans for all the problems

I READ with increasing dismay, week after week, the views of Wycombe Wanderers directors whose unofficial policy seems to be 'if there is a problem with the club - blame the fans.'

These people continue to bemoan the fact that the club is short of money and despite being second bottom of the second division, with the worst scoring record in the country, expect the public to pay over inflated ticket prices to fill a ground to watch a team lose.

Despite considerable under achievement in recent seasons a recent report concludes that the club was paying among the highest wages in the lower divisions a few years ago - more so than teams being promoted.

People who pay hard earned money to watch

home games, like myself, find it hard to accept a lecture from Alan Parry.

Several weeks ago he suggested that the club are involved in a 'battle like' situation with many of the fans deserting the cause.

Mr Parry, no doubt, sees himself as some kind of self professed general watching the season unfold from his safe hill top.

In the first world war the following phrase aptly described this situation for the 'troops' who were 'lions led by donkeys.'

Whether or not the present board of directors accepts this, the club can't have a champagne life style based on beer money.

We are continually told the club is a business and fans are the customers so I would suggest you cut your cloth accordingly.

Mike Hobson
Station Road
Loudwater

Loyal supporter despises comments

I AM quite sure that I am not the only vice president or loyal supporter of Wycombe Wanderers for the last 45 years, who despised the recent remarks of financial director Graham Peart.

Yes, he should have looked primarily at the club's pricing policy, and studied the remarks already made by Keith Blagborough in his last BFP column regarding lack of crowds.

Yes, I do agree very firmly for him to adopt a far more positive approach in an attempt to regain lost crowds at Adams Park.

The optimism of the fans is still there, and I am sure will show a return in the very near future whatever the status of the visiting teams.

E A Rivett

Westhorpe Park, Little Marlow