

Let's not go there, again

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

JUST when we thought we had seen the last of those early season Blues horror shows, up pops a sequel to last year's FA Cup nightmare.

Saturday's X-rated performance could well have been titled Basingstoke Revisited.

Once again, the script looked very promising when Andy Baird headed home Dave Carroll's inviting cross. But we somehow contrived to lose the plot and repeated the Basingstoke storyline - snatching a draw from the jaws of victory.

Now we have to endure an unnecessary second showing before we know if we will be co-starring with Derby in a third round blockbuster at Adams Park.

Our contingent of Derby exiles will certainly not need any motivation for a meeting with their old club. What a shame that long term injuries are likely to keep three of the four out of the reckoning.

Providing we return to our form of previous weeks we should be able to win the replay at Home Park - surely we can't play that poorly again.

A third round tie against Derby could well attract a full house as well as the television cameras.

The extra cash will be very welcome considering the disappointing attendances so far this season, new readers please refer to regular dissertations from Messrs Parry and Peart.

Elsewhere, a number of Blues old boys were grabbing some cup glory for themselves.

Steve Thompson scored Yeovil's first goal in their 2-0 win over Northampton and got himself on Match of the Day.

Meanwhile, Matt Crossley and Gary Patterson were helping Kingstonian hold Orient to a 0-0 draw. Apparently, Crossley was unlucky with a close range shot that hit the post, memories of his two cup goals at Sutton came flooding back.

Thanks to our extra time win at Shrewsbury, in the Auto Windscreen Shield, we still have another possible route to Wembley. Good to see 'Jock' McSpornan getting his first goal for the first team.

Back to the Stoke game, I noticed that their manager, Brian Little, has a penchant for selecting players that read like a dictionary definition of his surname.

His side included Short, Small and Petty. Look out for a Stoke bid for Emmanuel Petit.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Stoke	20	7	1	1	15	5	7	0	4	15	10	43
Walsall	20	7	2	2	17	10	5	1	3	13	14	39
Fulham	19	6	2	1	17	8	6	1	2	11	6	39
Preston	19	5	3	2	24	12	4	4	1	11	8	34
Gillingham	20	7	2	2	19	8	1	7	1	10	10	33
Chest'field	19	9	0	1	18	4	0	5	4	3	9	32
Luton	18	5	2	1	10	3	3	3	4	14	16	29
Man City	20	4	4	2	13	8	3	4	3	11	11	29
Reading	19	4	5	1	14	9	4	0	5	9	16	29
Millwall	20	4	5	1	12	7	3	2	5	7	14	28
Bourm'th	18	5	3	0	18	5	2	3	5	11	15	27
Blackpool	20	4	3	3	15	12	3	3	4	10	13	27
York City	20	3	5	2	13	11	3	1	6	11	22	24
Wigan	19	4	2	3	13	6	3	2	5	11	13	25
Wrexham	20	6	3	3	15	12	0	3	5	5	15	24
Colchester	19	3	3	3	6	9	3	3	4	13	14	24
Bristol R	20	5	4	2	19	13	0	4	5	5	12	23
Burnley	20	5	3	2	11	9	1	2	7	11	21	23
Notts Co	19	3	2	4	11	12	2	4	5	10	13	21
Macc'field	20	2	3	4	7	9	2	4	4	10	17	19
North'pton	20	1	6	2	10	11	2	3	6	8	12	18
Oldham	20	3	2	5	11	15	1	3	6	8	17	17
Wycombe	20	3	2	6	12	12	0	4	5	4	14	15
Lincoln	20	2	1	6	13	18	1	2	8	7	19	12