

Boss has been let down

I AM writing to say how sorry I am to see Neil Smillie dismissed, although I accept it was inevitable.

I feel, though, that he has been badly let down by all and sundry.

Firstly the board, who, if they had provided him with some money in the summer and not when we had gained just three points from our first 12 games, then we may not be in this mess.

Secondly, the players. Sharon Deighton (BFP, January 15) states it is a manager's job to motivate.

When we played York, we were the only club out of the bottom seven to have a league game that day. A win and one or two other results going our way and we could have moved up to 16th place.

Now, if that in itself is not sufficient motivation, then those players shouldn't be at this club as they are obviously not concerned about being relegated.

Thirdly, the previous management, who not only saddled us with players on wages we can't afford and who, on the whole, haven't lived up to their pedigree and reputations, but also lumbered us with the dreadfully boring wing-back style of play.

On top of this to produce a highly-talented youngster like Martin Rowlands and let him go, is nothing

short of criminal, especially when everyone else could see how good he was.

Also, the lack of discipline on the field can be traced back to them. On his arrival at Adams Park, one of the first things John Gregory said was that he wanted to see more bookings, as he felt the players weren't tough enough. At least he got that right.

**Joe Frangi
Grove Lane,
Gt Missenden**

Others should share the blame

POOR old Neil Smillie. He may have had his faults, but were they ever as numerous as those of his inherited squad and his unfortunate board of directors?

The former, by and large, are a gruesomely overpaid bunch of prima donnas, redistributing their wealth to all corners of England, except to those within a forty mile radius of this town, where none of them seem to reside.

I'm not suggesting that they should be forced to tour the chair museum or get enthused by the annual weighing in of the mayor, but if Bucks College students can afford to rent property locally on their incomes, then surely some of our infamous 'Midlands brigade' could acquire a local base to display

some commitment.

And perhaps one day the board of directors will discover the virtues of planning, rather than reacting to dismal situations.

Every manager we employ is said by Alan Parry to be the right man for the job, the Wycombe equivalent of the chairman's vote of confidence.

What's more, Graham Peart's vilification of the Wycombe public for not turning up to support the team has poured more scorn onto the directors from the die-hard fans who have seen Wycombe struggle for the last three seasons.

This man would struggle to make a school tuck-shop profitable even if Vanessa Feltz was the head girl.

Finally why does the club continue to fritter money away on quality hotels for players whose away record is risible? I suggest that they board in Youth Hostels and budget B&B's until their form improves.

**Jon Dickinson
Wyatt Close
High Wycombe**

What is the real problem?

LET us daydream.

It is the last weekend in April 2000. The last big game of the Premiership is about to take place.

Sadly the title chase is definitely over, John Gregory's Aston Villa

are now out of sight.

The big match is, however, about the runners-up spot and European glory and Martin O'Neill's Leicester are head-to-head with Neil Smillie's Southampton.

Tension is even higher because Leicester's Guppy and Southampton's McSparran are contesting the last place in the England team.

All football fans are focused on this one game.

If only. Definitely if only, because perhaps it will require such a daydream to come true before the true cause of the problems at Adams Park are recognised.

If it does require such a daydream, then maybe there will be another vital game on the same weekend, Wycombe Wanderers v Brighton - for league survival.

**P E Jackman
Green Hill
High Wycombe**

These supporters should think back

AFTER the past dramatic week at Adams Park I felt it appropriate to make a few comments in support of the chairman and directors of Wycombe Wanderers FC.

Firstly, I believe they had no option but to take the course they decided.

Secondly, we continually hear

both coaching staff and supporters moaning about lack of money for new players, so let's sum up the pedigree of the present first team squad. Two ex-internationals, several more who have experience with Premier and first division clubs.

Compare that with Martin O'Neill's team, who progressed from the Vauxhall Conference to Division Two. At least half had only experience of Conference soccer and, but for losing their two best players midway through the season, Desouza and Ryan through bad injuries, we would surely have made the play-offs - and Martin has never lost at Wembley in his managerial career.

Thirdly, to buy new players you have to have support at the gates. Alright, our position is crucial at the moment, but remember 12 years ago we were on par with Enfield, Sutton Utd, Kidderminster, Slough Town and Yeovil Town (who regularly beat us) and many more.

Look where they are now.

We used to take up to 30,000 to Wembley. Now we only get around one seventh of that amount going through the gates.

We have a great stadium, a dedicated management and staff.

If we had the support that Reading and Oxford United get we could fill the ground every game and the money would be there for good new players.

**John Simmonds
Hordern Close, Haddenham**