

Is this all a terrible mistake?

I HAVE been a season ticket holder at Wycombe Wanderers for eight years and in that time have come to respect the club's directors for their judgement.

Bringing Martin O'Neill to Wycombe was an act of genius and although employing Alan Smith turned out to be a nasty error, most of us were excited by the appointment at the time.

When John Gregory came in as Smith's successor I was never impressed with his style, and I began to wonder if his appointment was a good one. But Gregory did make some excellent signings and his record at Aston Villa continues to amaze me. The Wycombe board saw something in Gregory that few others could see.

When Neil Smillie was confirmed as manager at the end of last season, I welcomed it as another good decision.

And, after our terrible start this season, when I was beginning to wonder if Smillie should be replaced, I admired the loyalty and nerve of the directors in sticking with him.

Since October, Smillie steered the club away from the bottom of the table and in the last three months we had the record of a mid-table side.

The unfortunate injury situation that had plagued us, seemed to be clearing up and the signing of Jermaine McSparran gave a fresh new injection of hope. The directors' loyalty had been rewarded.

Therefore, when I read about Smillie's sacking I was shocked. How could everything have gone so wrong, so suddenly?

Yes, it was a big disappointment to get knocked out of the FA Cup by Plymouth but it seems that two successive league defeats, a minor cup exit by Brentford and an honest (but naive?) comment to the press seemed to have suddenly made the board press the panic button.

All that good judgement seems to have been thrown out of the window.

I just wonder if the sacking of Smillie had anything to do with Dave Bassett's removal at Forest. Did the Wycombe board move quickly in the hope of tempting him to come to Adams Park?

Whatever the reason for the sacking, to me, the season now looks much gloomier than before.

I hope I'm proved wrong but this time I think the Wycombe board have made a big mistake.

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