

We can trace this back to Smith

FOLLOWING yesterday's disastrous result against Northampton, I felt so upset and disappointed, that I could contain myself no longer and decided it was time to write to you concerning the plight of Wycombe Wanderers.

When I think back to the glory days of only five years ago I cannot fail to consider what has gone wrong in more recent seasons. Even at the end of Martin O'Neill's last campaign with us, we only missed out on the play-offs by one place. Since then everything that can go wrong, has done.

I feel that the overriding problem stemmed from the decision to appoint Alan Smith as manager following Martin's departure. This was followed by the new managers total decimation of the playing staff, allowing the likes of Steve Thompson, Simon Hutchinson, Terry Howard and Paul Hyde to name but four to leave or more accurately be dispensed with.

While I really hate to take the board to task over this, the club has never recovered from that period. As each successive manager has failed to revive fortunes I can only now see relegation as the end product of this season.

In relation to the managerial appointments since the demise of Alan Smith, my own thoughts are that John Gregory and Neil Smillie were probably good coaches but poor managers.

While no club has a divine right to good times for ever, I am sure that all these problems could have been avoided.

Had the board gone for some form of continuity when Martin departed, such as an appointment of someone such as Glyn Creaser and Cyrille Regis, I believe we would not be in 24th place in Division Two today.

Should the Wanderers find themselves in Division Three next season, I really think the club should be seeking a new board of directors and another manager.

Derek G Easden
Burton, Christchurch

Here's a few pointers for Blues

I dutifully respect what Lawrie Sanchez is trying to achieve, even if I don't approve of his methods.

Whether or not we have religious outlooks we have all heard of the Ten Commandments, well here are mine for the club:

- 1 Shoot for goal, when nearing opposing territory.
- 2 Pass more often, in open spaces rather than marked opposition.
- 3 Be aware of rebounds when attacking, don't not walk away, eight goals have been lost this way.
- 4 Make better progression on corner kicks, keep the darn thing away from the keeper.
- 5 Make use of midfield-wingers, instead of fullback wingers.
- 6 Don't cluster together.
- 7 Midfield players, hold the ball more often, send strikers and wingers to open spaces.
- 8 Two strikers to remain up front – one left side, one right side and do swap, occasionally.
- 9 Coaches, please note on training

days, not too many set pieces. Practice ball control and one-way traffic only – goalbound.

10 On away days take the game to them. When a goal down, go berserk? When up, keep going!

I have to say, the amount of coloured cards we've had has been appalling. Surely this must be up to the bench members to set an example!

Teach your players to walk away from explosive situations, after all if the management set an example the players will follow suit.

Alan Woods
Beaconsfield

We're more like village people

I FEEL I must agree with the sentiments shown by both of your correspondents in letters printed in last Friday's BFP (March 12).

The chairman and directors seem to be isolated from the loyal supporters who keep the club afloat. I'm afraid I don't understand the constitution of the club, but it seems

more applicable to my village side Prestwood than a professional club like Wycombe Wanderers.

It's sad and inexplicable that successive Wanderers managers, Lawrie Sanchez excused, have evaporated the sound and stable position that Martin O'Neill left the club in, with much less experienced players.

If Lawrie Sanchez does accept criticism, the first half against Northampton was certainly the worst since he became manager. The ball was in orbit more than Neil Armstrong, mainly from clearances from our defence, which invariably were brought down by the Town's defenders.

The saddest and most pathetic moment of the match was to see Steve Brown clap on being dismissed.

He should be heavily fined.

At least we had our best spell with ten men and with Simmo and Macca coming on, we certainly looked more threatening and composed at the back, until near the end.

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