

Result was sweeter than a sugar bowl

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

LIFE as a football fan doesn't get much better than last Saturday at Maine Road.

Blues' superb performance in beating highflying Man City will go down in club history as one of those "I was there when ..." matches.

Away wins come in all levels of sweetness but, they don't come any sweeter than this one. It was the full sugar bowl variety.

Man City became Blues' biggest ever away scalp in front of the largest league crowd they have ever faced. What's more, they became the first side to complete the double over City this season.

Looking back on the day, the omens were promising when we sailed on to the M6 at Walsall without any sign of a traffic jam — a rare treat indeed.

Arriving at the ground we were more than a little alarmed by the sight of the away supporters stand.

Once perched near the top of this unique, gravity-defying edifice, it felt like we were on the outside of the ground.

In fact, the stand gave the appearance of having been built by a group with a fetish for Meccano.

The match was real Roy of the Rovers stuff, especially when Andy Baird and Sean Devine struck those two early goals.

It seems a little unfair to pick out anyone for special praise when everyone played so well, but the two goalscorers plus Martin Taylor and Michael Forsyth were sensational.

I can't believe Brucie managed to last the 90 minutes in such a hectic rearguard action.

The coach trip back was strangely quiet, everyone having lost their voices in support of the team. However, listening to City fans calling their local radio station to complain about their team's performance was very entertaining.

Following Tuesday night's narrow defeat at Notts County, we now need two wins from three matches to reach the safety target set by Lawrie Sanchez.

If he says that's enough, that's good enough for me. He has been right on everything else he has said and done.

Finally, I'm sure all Blues fans will be wishing Joe Kinnear a full and speedy recovery.

We certainly don't want any calls from Wimbledon inviting Lawrie Sanchez back.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P	S
Fulham	43	18	3	1	47	12	12	4	5	27	17	97	
Walsall	43	12	6	3	32	20	13	2	7	26	22	83	
Preston	44	12	5	5	45	22	10	7	5	32	24	78	
Man City	44	12	6	4	34	14	9	9	4	29	17	78	
Gillingham	44	14	5	3	41	17	6	9	7	29	27	74	
Bournemouth	44	14	6	2	37	11	6	6	10	25	30	72	
Wigan	41	13	4	4	41	16	7	4	9	25	26	68	
Stoke	43	9	4	9	30	32	11	2	8	27	26	66	
Chest'field	44	14	4	4	34	16	3	8	11	11	25	63	
Millwall	44	9	8	5	33	23	8	3	11	19	33	62	
Reading	44	9	6	7	27	26	6	7	9	25	35	58	
Luton	44	10	4	8	24	24	5	6	11	25	34	55	
Bristol R	44	8	8	6	33	26	4	8	10	26	25	52	
Notts Co	43	8	5	8	28	25	6	5	11	22	33	52	
Colchester	44	9	7	6	24	27	3	9	10	26	38	52	
Wrexham	43	8	6	8	21	26	5	7	9	22	33	52	
Blackpool	44	6	8	8	22	23	7	5	10	18	28	52	
York City	44	6	8	8	28	32	7	3	12	28	43	50	
Burnley	43	7	7	8	22	33	5	7	9	29	38	50	
Oldham	43	6	4	11	23	31	6	5	11	21	32	45	
North'pton	43	4	10	7	21	26	6	5	12	16	26	45	
Wycombe	43	7	4	10	27	23	4	7	11	20	32	44	
Lincoln	43	8	4	9	26	26	3	3	16	12	46	40	
Macc'field	43	7	4	11	21	26	3	5	13	16	31	39	

Boss likely to use youngsters in cup clash

WYCOMBE Wanderers will face Maidenhead in the Berks and Bucks Cup final at Chesham on Monday.

The clash against the Ryman League side will kick off at Chesham's Meadow ground at 3pm, but it is likely to be a Wycombe reserve side turning out.

With Wycombe fighting for second division survival, boss Lawrie Sanchez will want to save his first team for Wednesday's vital clash against Wigan and next Saturday's trip to Lincoln.

The Blues boss said: "We are a team of professionals and we put a team out

that will do a professional job even if they are youngsters."

Wycombe saw off Chesham, under Sanchez's old Wimbledon team-mate Alan Cork, to reach the county cup final. Before that they beat Marlow and Chalfont en route to Monday's game.