

Shock Jock just couldn't pull it off

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

WHAT a shame Jock McSporn's seventh-second stunner just missed the target. A goal then may well have sent us on our way to a much prized win over Oxford United.

At the very least, an early goal would have set up a lively local derby against those sad souls from Oxford. As it was, the longer the match went on the more it became a slumber in the sunshine.

No doubt the heat had a lot to do with the low key rivalry both on and off the pitch. Still an away point was a reasonable return in what was a real game of two halves - unfortunately all the action happened at the far end from us.

An honours even draw means I can still go into my local pub and bait all the Oxford fans about their lack of players, money, ground, style ... the list is endless. Can't wait for the return at Adams Park next February.

I'm convinced the lino, Mr Ramsey, was under the misapprehension that because he was waving a yellow flag he should give all the throws and free kicks to Oxford. Many of his decisions were as bizarre as those you see in park matches when the captain's dad or one of the subs is running the line.

Although Andy Baird and Jock have played well in the last few games, we have certainly missed Sean Devine's presence up front. Hopefully he will be back tomorrow to add a bit of muscle and unsettle the Cardiff defence.

The Big Chief is right that we need a big striker in our squad to provide another attacking option for certain games.

However, I also believe we could do with a quality ball player in midfield who could pull the strings and play the through balls for our strikers to run on to. Alright, I know we're cash strapped but dreams are free.

As much as I dislike Oxford and the Manor, I have to admit their PA system knocks the spots off ours. Sitting in the Woodlands, it sounds like Alan Hutchinson has got his head in a bucket. I'm sorry to whinge but surely somebody can solve this problem.

Let's hope we can get our first home win of the season by beating Cardiff tomorrow and then up to Albion on Tuesday to upset another Midlands outfit in the Worthington Cup.

● Read Steve Brown's Park Life column in next week's BFP.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Bristol R	6	2	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	4	2	13
Burnley	6	3	0	0	5	2	1	1	1	2	2	13
Wigan	5	2	1	0	6	2	1	1	0	7	4	11
Notts Co	5	1	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	7	3	11
Luton	6	2	1	0	5	3	1	1	1	2	2	11
Wrexham	6	2	0	1	5	4	1	1	1	3	3	10
Bury	6	2	1	0	9	5	0	2	1	2	3	9
Brnemth	6	3	0	0	7	1	0	0	3	3	8	9
Brentford	4	2	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	2	2	8
Oxford	6	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	3	8
Preston	6	1	0	2	3	7	1	2	0	4	3	8
Bristol C	5	2	1	0	9	4	0	0	2	2	4	7
Chesterfld	5	1	0	1	4	3	1	1	1	4	3	7
Stoke	6	1	1	1	5	4	1	0	2	4	4	7
Wycombe	6	0	2	1	2	3	1	2	0	3	2	7
Cardiff	5	0	3	0	3	3	1	0	1	3	3	6
Gillingham	6	1	1	1	4	4	0	2	1	3	4	6
Colchester	5	1	0	1	3	5	1	0	1	1	4	6
Camb Utd	6	1	1	1	5	5	0	1	2	4	7	5
Blackpool	6	1	2	0	4	3	0	0	3	4	10	5
Reading	5	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	2	3	6	4
Scunthrpe	6	1	0	2	3	4	0	1	2	1	7	4
Millwall	4	0	2	0	4	4	0	1	1	2	4	3
Oldham	5	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	1	5	0