

# Season ticket's value in one go

**VIEW FROM THE STAND**  
By Ron Barnett

ONCE in a while you get to see a match that's almost worth the cost of your season ticket for the whole season. Tuesday's second leg against West Brom was one of those occasions - well at least for the first 90 minutes anyway.

This defeat for our Big Chief and his team of Indian Braves was a repeat result of our gallant battle with Coventry six years ago. That was also in the second round of the same competition. We had lost the first leg 0-3 but stormed back to win 4-2 at home, giving us a desperately unlucky 4-5 aggregate defeat. With our equally unlucky 3-4 scoreline against the Baggies, that same aggregate result has come back to haunt us.

Knowing our luck, I expect West Brom will get a plum draw against a leading Premier Division club and make a bundle of cash.

Nobody, except our really dedicated whingers, could have asked for more from the team over the 210 minutes of the tie. I thought we outplayed them for long periods of both matches.

It's always difficult to pick a man-of-the-match when almost everyone has performed so well but, for my money, one man created minor miracles all over the pitch. Could this be the second coming of our very own Jesus?

Dave Carroll played out of his skin and fully deserved his great goal. In fact, he almost got a hat-trick of super goals that would have put him into the 'walking on water' Gospels. He showed McSpornan that he's not the only one who can hit sensational strikes.

Another Blues all-time favourite made a welcome cameo appearance at half-time. It was good to see Simon Garner get such a warm welcome from both sets of fans. It's not very often you hear cheering all round a ground when someone pays a return visit to his old club but, then again, Super Si was always a bit special.

I even find myself searching out Flackwell Heath's result now.

Somebody made a very apt choice in selecting a photograph of Keith Scott for the front cover of the club's Financial Statements. After all, we've made a handsome profit from Scottie deals over the years. We've bought him twice at bargain basement prices and sold him twice at top rate prices. What are the odds on McSpornan featuring in next season's publication?

## HOW THEY STAND

| Team       | HOME |   |   |   | AWAY |   |   |   | Ps |
|------------|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|----|
|            | P    | W | D | L | P    | W | D | L |    |
| Burnley    | 8    | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8    | 2 | 1 | 2 | 17 |
| Bristol R  | 8    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5    | 2 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| Wigan      | 7    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9    | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 |
| Notts Co   | 7    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5    | 1 | 2 | 1 | 14 |
| Luton      | 8    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8    | 4 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| Brnemth    | 8    | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10   | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Wrexham    | 8    | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6    | 4 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Brentford  | 6    | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6    | 0 | 0 | 3 | 12 |
| Bury       | 8    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 11   | 5 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| Preston    | 8    | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3    | 7 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Bristol C  | 7    | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9    | 4 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| Stoke      | 8    | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6    | 5 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| Wycombe    | 8    | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5    | 4 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Cardiff    | 7    | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5    | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9  |
| Gillingham | 8    | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4    | 6 | 1 | 2 | 9  |
| Oxford     | 8    | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4    | 5 | 1 | 1 | 8  |
| Chesterfd  | 7    | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4    | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7  |
| Millwall   | 6    | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6    | 5 | 0 | 2 | 7  |
| Reading    | 7    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6    | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7  |
| Scunthrp   | 8    | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4    | 6 | 1 | 1 | 7  |
| Camb Utd   | 7    | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7    | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6  |
| Blackpool  | 8    | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4    | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6  |
| Colchester | 7    | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3    | 6 | 1 | 0 | 6  |
| Oldham     | 7    | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2    | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3  |

# Man United experience fails to help Blues

BURY took Wycombe's unbeaten away record last Saturday and boss Lawrie Sanchez is still trying to work out how it happened.

His team could not have been better prepared for it. They trained at Manchester United's training ground on Friday, as assistant boss Terry Gibson called in a favour from his former manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

But that's where the similarity with United ended as Bury joined the likes of Gillingham and Bournemouth last season in becoming only the third

side to beat Wycombe by two clear goals since Sanchez took charge in February.

And the Blues boss was unhappy about it, choosing to ride home in the company of the chairman rather than staying on the team bus.

He said: "It's very disappointing because we could have gone sixth today and instead we've gone down to 13th.

"We controlled the game, particularly in the first half but we couldn't get the goal and then conceded a poor

one.

"It's very frustrating because I still haven't seen a team that's been better than us. I thought Bury were a poor side.

"We aren't scoring enough goals at the moment and once we put that right we'll be a decent side. It's a very fine line."

Sean Devine wasted Blues' best chance when he twice rounded the keeper but a defender got back to block his shot.

Sanchez said: "Sean needs a goal to get his confidence going. He's been

out injured, he's made goals for other people he's done everything else but he needs to score because he thrives on confidence."

It was a bad afternoon all round for Wanderers, who began without defender Paul McCarthy who received an ankle injury in training. They also finished without keeper Martin Taylor who left the ground on crutches after overstretching his kicking muscle and had to be replaced by Mark Westhead.

Blues arrived with a new mean skinhead look after

Paul Emblen took the clip-pers to most of the side.

Only Jason Cousins, in for McCarthy, Matt Lawrence and Dave Carroll, escaped the short back and sides treatment but after a bright first half they were cut down to size by an ordinary Bury side who changed the game with a double substitution at half time.

Andy Preece headed them into a 53rd minute lead and then, as Blues put four up front in search of an equaliser, Darren Bullock put it beyond them late on.