

Turn out for Lawrie's Day

PARK LIFE

By Steve Brown

IT'S nice to be back on the back of a good win at Blackpool last Saturday.

It seems the Caribbean summer continued, as it followed us up to Blackpool. The supporters who were at Bloomfield Road were a credit with the noise they made throughout the whole game. They sang and made themselves heard for all the right reasons – something that the players appreciate when we're many miles away from Adams Park.

I noticed that there have been many disgruntled fans who have not been happy with the remarks made by the gaffer, with regards to the attendance at the recent cup game against WBA.

They responded in various ways and I saw some very strong letters posted on the message board in 'The Gas Room' on the Internet.

I totally agree with the manager with regards to the attendance for that game.

We only have to go back to 1994 when the team were playing Preston at Wembley. Wycombe took 33,000 fans who were absolutely brilliant on the day, and now looking back on it, 28,000 of them were obviously only there for the day.

I have to ask myself, where have all the fans gone?

If we look at it from a business point of view, it would not be unrealistic to think we should have a hard-core base following of around 8,000.

I realise since Martin O'Neill left things have not been as good. But the way the gaffer's got this place going it's been a lot better on the field. We have one of the best away records in the country – something which would once have been considered a fantasy.

We also have a good crop of youngsters who have a big future in the game. But, most importantly, this season we believe we can make a bigger impact in the division than we have over the past few seasons. That alone, with the results we've had so far, must be something the most fair-weathered fan will relish.

We have excellent facilities here and when people stop me in the street in Northampton, they always say what a lovely ground Wycombe's is.

I'm looking forward to tomorrow's game against our local rivals Reading. I'm sure there will be a good turnout, as I've heard it's officially 'Lawrie's Day' on Saturday.

I hope you all turn up in the mood to sing and recreate the atmosphere we had against WBA. Bring a friend and show them how to spend a Saturday afternoon. It's cheaper than spending those hard-earned pennies in the high street.

The West Brom game saw the debut of first year professional Mark Osborn, who came off the bench to replace the injured Mark Westhead. He did not have the easiest of nights to make his debut and came away with some credit and food for thought, something that will stand him in good stead for many years.

With the goalkeeping crisis at an all-time high, it's no surprise the gaffer has brought in a loan keeper.

Stephen Bywater has joined us from West Ham and he made a winning start to his Wycombe career at Blackpool.

May I take this opportunity to wish Stephen all the best and hope he enjoys his stay. Also congratulations on his call-up for England U18s.