

LETTERS

Bring a friend to help Blues

WYCOMBE already is a football town. I can understand Lawrie's outburst, he has promised to push the players and the crowd as much as it takes to be successful.

Martin O'Neill did the same in his day. But I don't think the crowds are small. Let's not forget we're still a young Football League club, and we've been struggling against relegation for the last few years. Despite that, our crowds still compare favourably with other clubs at our level.

However, the fact remains

that we need bigger crowds more consistently to push the club into Division One. I do not believe the constitution of the club needs changing, fan power can and should get us there. The club is working hard to attract the younger generations to Adams Park, which is excellent, and that will help in the long term.

But for now Lawrie is urging everyone to bring a friend. Let's all do that for the Reading game on October 2. That will be the acid test to see whether Lawrie's comments have been received in a positive way, which is how they were meant.

I also call upon the BFP to do their part. Please send a photographer to all our away games, and give our club the top priority it deserves on the

sports pages. If the West Brom game was such a big event, why wasn't it publicised with a story at the front of the paper? You have an immediate chance to rectify that with the forthcoming local derby against Reading.

One final comment for Lawrie. Please keep giving the public good reasons to go to the games, as they definitely will, given a little time.

Stephen Lee
Bencroft Road
Hemel Hempstead

Access problem

WITH regard to the comments made in last week's BFP by Ivor Beeks and Lawrie Sanchez concerning

the absenteeism of some fans being the reason for lack of funds, I felt I must put pen to paper in defence of these so-called fans. I hasten to add I am not included amongst them as I am a season ticket holder and also attend some of the away fixtures.

I am sure the gate receipts would be boosted once the word gets around about the exciting football now being played under Lawrie. This level of play has not been seen since the departure of Martin O'Neill but, the lack of parking facilities and access to the ground (which must be one of the best grounds in the league) is a big drawback.

If the gate did reach 10,000 capacity for every match, I'd miss part of every game.

When the gates are large you're still sitting in the traffic at kick off.

When the ground was in the town there was plenty of access and you could park in the town or use public transport. Whoever decided on the new position for Adams Park should have realised that spectators would need parking and access facilities.

I am sorry to tell you, Ivor, that you won't be getting the money you require from these absent fans and Lawrie will have left for Reading until you let someone with real money invest in the club.

Once that's done, you can improve the parking and build a road from the back of the ground up towards the motorway. You will then see the rise in gate receipts as

your facilities will be second to none. You will then not be running at a loss and will have extra money to keep our excellent manager and players, and won't have to worry when a player brought through the ranks performs well and have to risk losing him to another club.

The town, without doubt, does want a professional football club that they know can compete at the highest level possible. You will also perhaps gain a lot of the Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham etc fans that find it easier to travel there than to WWFC.

Please take note Ivor and all your colleagues the ball is firmly in your court.

Mrs Carole Little
Henley Road
Marlow

IN SHORT

Harkin called up

LAWRIE Sanchez believes Mo Harkin's call-up to the Northern Ireland U21 squad for their match in Finland could help the young midfielder win his Wycombe Wanderers place back.

Irish-born Harkin missed almost all of last season with a complex ankle injury and has yet to start a first team match under Sanchez.

But Irish selector Chris Nicholl saw 20-year-old Harkin play well in the reserves' 0-0 draw with Northampton last week and immediately booked him a seat on the plane.

Sanchez said: "It's a big fillip for him and it will do his confidence the world of good."

And he added: "He will play in my first team at some time but he's not ready yet."

Harkin was delighted to get the country call-up after missing out last year when he was selected for a game in Turkey but had to pull out injured.

He said: "This is great for me. Now all I've got to do is win my place back in the Wycombe team."

"Lawrie Sanchez never saw me play before my injury so I've got to prove it to him above anyone."

Beeton's fine

ALAN Beeton is hoping to be back in action for next weekend's clash at home to newly-promoted Cambridge United after X-rays revealed he did not break his ankle at Blackpool on Saturday.

Beeton was stretchered off in the 17th minute after being stamped on and suffered severe bruising.

At your Servis

SERVISPAK have agreed a new three-year deal to sponsor Wanderers' centres of excellence run by youth development officer Adrian Cole.

Walter deal

THE youth team will be sponsored by the Walters Group until 2004. The company agreed a four-year extension to its present deal this week.