

I look away at thrillers

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

NORMALLY when we get a decent size crowd at Adams Park the entertainment value fails to match expectations – but there were no such problems last Saturday.

Eight goals, including a hat-trick, seven yellow cards and one red, plus a penalty. I doubt if any of the seven thousand will be asking for their money back.

The Blues have now hit five goals in a home league match on four occasions: Bradford 5-2 (March 96), Burnley 5-0 (April 97), Plymouth 5-1 (March 98, and now Reading 5-3. If this sequence continues we can look forward to a 5-4 win sometime next year.

Unfortunately, I have only seen the first of these five goal victories and I was absent without leave again on Saturday. Long before the fixture list was published I arranged to go walking in the Peak District and reluctantly had to miss the rout of Reading.

However, my trannie came across with the result which led to much shouting and a scattering of sheep in all directions.

If the Big Chief wants to score five goals on a regular basis I had better stay away. So here's the deal Lawrie – buy back my season ticket and arrange for a live transmission of every home match to be beamed direct to my television.

Ever since the Big Chief made his outburst on attendances at Adams Park everyone has had their say. While the crowds have not grown as fast as we would all like, I don't think they are that bad considering our location and performances over recent years.

Whether we like it or not, the Wycombe area is not a hot-bed of football tradition. Football fans can easily get to Watford and London to see Premier and Division One matches.

For the last few years the club has been dishing up a very unappetizing and relatively expensive menu. No wonder we have lost some customers.

Now we have a top class chef who is serving some very tasty dishes using low cost ingredients. But it is going to take some time to attract the punters back. It's no good demanding that they have to support us, we need to persuade and encourage them to come along and sample our product for themselves.

If we get a home draw in the first or second round of the FA Cup, the cost of tickets could be reduced right across the board. An incentive for non-regulars and a reward for loyal fans.

England call for Guppy

STEVE Guppy looks set to become the first Wycombe Wanderers player to go on and play for England.

Guppy, now at Leicester, is in line to win his first England cap in Sunday's friendly against Belgium at Sunderland's Stadium of Light.

The winger spent five years at Wycombe and even asked the groundsman to specially trim the grass on the wings for him.

Being with England is a far cry from his early Wycombe days. He joined them while they were still a semi-professional non-league club and worked for chairman Ivor Beeks' building company to supplement his income.

His international debut has come at a cost though. He was meant to be best man at his brother Andy's wedding, but the 30-year-old, who was the first Wycombe player to score in the Football League, will be flying the flag for his country instead

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Bristol R	10	4	1	0	8	3	3	0	2	7	5	22
Wigan	9	4	1	0	10	3	1	3	0	8	5	19
Burnley	10	4	1	0	10	4	1	3	1	2	2	19
Brentford	9	4	1	0	10	3	0	4	0	6	6	17
Notts Co	9	2	1	1	5	3	3	1	1	10	6	17
Stoke	10	2	2	1	7	5	3	0	2	9	6	17
Brnemth	10	4	1	0	11	3	1	1	3	4	8	17
Luton	10	4	1	0	12	6	1	1	3	2	5	17
Bury	10	4	1	0	14	7	0	3	2	3	6	16
Wycombe	10	2	2	1	10	7	2	2	1	5	5	16
Preston	10	2	1	2	5	8	2	3	0	8	5	16
Wrexham	10	3	0	2	8	7	1	2	2	6	8	14
Gillingham	10	2	1	2	6	6	1	3	1	7	7	13
Bristol C	9	2	3	0	9	4	1	0	3	4	8	12
Oxford	10	2	1	2	7	5	1	1	3	5	8	11
Millwall	8	2	2	0	7	5	0	2	2	2	6	10
Cardiff	10	1	4	0	5	4	1	0	4	7	11	10
Chesterfld	9	1	0	3	4	6	1	2	2	4	4	8
Reading	9	2	2	1	7	6	0	0	4	7	14	8
Scunthorpe	10	1	1	3	4	6	1	1	3	2	8	8
Camb Utd	10	1	3	1	9	9	0	1	4	6	11	7
Colchester	9	1	1	2	5	8	1	0	4	3	13	7
Blackpool	10	1	3	1	5	5	0	0	5	6	15	6
Oldham	9	1	0	3	3	4	0	1	4	4	9	4