

Bad week for Blues and me

PARK LIFE

By Steve Brown

IT'S not been the best of weeks, for me personally or the team.

Saturday's defeat at home to Blackpool was not the only disappointment.

I was involved in the challenge that led to Brett Ormerod being stretchered off with a broken leg.

It is the first time in my career that I have been involved in anything like that and all weekend was spent on the telephone to physio Dave Jones to find out how serious the break was.

Not until I went to the hospital on Monday morning could I have peace with myself about the incident. It was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do, but having Martin Taylor with me helped enormously, as he has been in the situation that Brett is now in.

The nurse at Wycombe Hospital did not make me feel any better, she greeted me with "so you're the one who broke his leg". I was squirming even more after hearing that.

Brett was in good spirits and he was pleased at how the medical staff had looked after him.

We spoke about the incident and neither of us remember it that well, he was just looking forward to getting home and having a nice brew.

For the umpteenth week, referees continue to make the headlines and managers find themselves in the dock for giving their opinions.

I'm sure no one would disagree that the game has changed immensely over the past ten to 15 years – players, stadiums, TV coverage and the level of fitness.

In most of these cases, things have gone a long way to improving the game, the only thing that has not changed are referees. Surely, if the game has got quicker, the referee's task becomes harder.

Their case is not helped with modern technology showing things that they miss.

The time has come for the authorities to make a change to the game by introducing another referee. It will help the game no end, eliminating some bad decisions that change the course of a game.

Did anyone see the penalty that David Elleray gave Sunderland last Monday night on Sky TV? Showing the view from a camera that saw the incident from Elleray's view, why don't the authorities use facilities like this to help referees instead of exposing them – they're only human.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Notts Co	14	4	1	2	8	5	5	1	1	14	7	29
Wigan	13	5	1	0	12	3	2	5	0	13	8	27
Stoke	14	4	2	1	11	6	4	1	2	12	8	27
Bristol R	14	4	2	1	9	5	4	1	2	8	5	27
Burnley	14	5	1	1	13	6	2	4	1	4	3	26
Preston	14	4	1	2	8	9	3	4	0	11	6	26
Luton	14	5	2	0	16	8	2	1	4	4	7	24
Brentford	13	5	1	1	13	5	1	4	1	8	8	23
Gillingham	14	4	1	2	13	8	2	3	2	10	11	22
Bury	14	4	2	1	17	12	1	3	3	8	8	20
Wycombe	14	3	2	2	11	9	2	3	2	7	8	20
Bour'm'th	13	4	2	1	12	5	1	2	3	6	10	19
Millwall	12	2	3	1	8	8	2	2	2	7	8	17
Scunth'rpe	14	2	2	3	6	7	2	2	3	5	10	16
Wrexham	14	3	2	2	10	9	1	2	4	7	15	16
Bristol C	13	2	5	0	10	5	1	0	5	4	11	14
Reading	13	3	2	2	9	8	1	0	5	10	17	14
Cardiff	14	1	5	1	7	7	1	1	5	8	14	12
Chesterfld	13	1	2	3	5	7	1	3	3	5	6	11
Oldham	13	2	0	4	6	7	1	2	4	7	11	11
Oxford	14	2	1	4	8	9	1	1	5	5	11	11
Camb Utd	14	2	3	2	14	12	0	1	6	7	14	10
Blackpool	14	1	3	3	6	12	1	1	5	8	15	10
Colchester	13	1	2	3	8	12	1	1	5	6	19	9