

Chef's sick – try next week

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

PLAYING a team who are a hundred places below in the league pyramid was bound to put the Blues in a no win position - and that's exactly what we got! And what we deserved.

When Oxford City appeared kitted-out like Reading in disguise, I thought the opportunity of playing two local derby's for the price of one would have been inspiration for a convincing victory. Sadly it was not to be.

I often feel us fans must be a sandwich short of a picnic. Can you imagine going to a restaurant and paying for an inedible meal and then accepting the excuse "Sorry, our chef wasn't up for it today. Why not come back next week and we'll try to do better ... providing you pay again!" Yet, fans all over the country do this week after week.

The trouble is, to be a loyal and dedicated fan you've got to be a hopeless optimist and continually convince yourself that things will be better next week. Hopefully, here comes my optimism, we cannot play that badly again and we'll win next Tuesday's replay and go through to meet Wigan. It's comforting to hear that Lawrie Sanchez will be getting the team to practice their penalty taking skills - we certainly don't want a Basingstoke revisited.

An awful lot of Blues supporters were obviously not dedicated enough to turn up for the expected stroll into round two. A crowd of under 3,000 was very disappointing for an FA Cup local derby. Especially when you consider the last time these two sides met in a competitive match over 6,000 fans crammed into Loakes Park. That was way back in 1959 in a fourth qualifying round tie which the Blues won 1-0.

The first and last five minutes at Oldham on Tuesday night were certainly action-packed. Four goals and a red card for Jason in just ten mad minutes. Considering we played with ten men for almost all the match, and our recent performances against Blackpool and Oxford City, this was a well earned point.

Finally, I appear to have made a local Hatters fan a little mad with my derogatory comments about Kenilworth Road. I obviously hit a raw nerve judging by his retaliatory comments on our playing style and the size of our support.

I only hope any local Colchester, Reading and Oxford fans will be as easy to wind up.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Wigan	14	6	1	0	15	3	2	5	0	13	8	30
Burnley	15	6	1	1	18	6	2	4	1	4	3	29
Notts Co	14	4	1	2	8	5	5	1	1	14	7	29
Bristol R	15	4	3	1	9	5	4	1	2	8	5	28
Stoke	14	4	2	1	11	6	4	1	2	12	8	27
Preston	14	4	1	2	8	9	3	4	0	11	6	26
Gillingham	15	5	1	2	16	8	2	3	2	10	11	25
Brentford	14	5	2	1	14	6	1	4	1	8	8	24
Luton	15	5	2	0	16	8	2	1	5	4	8	24
Bury	15	4	2	1	17	12	1	4	3	8	8	21
Wycombe	15	3	2	2	11	9	2	4	2	9	10	21
Millwall	13	3	3	1	9	8	2	2	2	7	8	20
Bour'm'th	13	4	2	1	12	5	1	2	3	6	10	19
Scunth'rpe	15	2	2	3	6	7	3	2	3	8	11	19
Wrexham	15	3	2	2	10	9	1	2	5	7	20	16
Reading	14	3	2	2	9	8	1	1	5	11	18	15
Bristol C	14	2	5	0	10	5	1	0	6	4	14	14
Cardiff	15	1	6	1	8	8	1	1	5	8	14	13
Oldham	14	2	1	4	8	9	1	2	4	7	11	12
Oxford	15	2	2	4	9	10	1	1	5	5	11	12
Chesterfd	14	1	2	3	5	7	1	3	4	5	9	11
Blackpool	15	1	3	3	6	12	1	2	5	9	16	11
Camb Utd	15	2	3	3	15	15	0	1	6	7	14	10
Colchester	14	1	2	3	8	12	1	2	5	7	20	10