

Throw-away comments upset fans

PARK LIFE

By Keith Blagbrough

I'M happy to step in for one week as a substitute for Steve Brown whose partner gave birth to a baby boy this week.

All supporters will be pleased to hear the news that there is another little Steve Brown around and we all wish him, his partner, and their recent addition all the best for the future.

Meanwhile, I'm delighted that the club have now given a firm commitment to stay in Wycombe rather than relocating elsewhere and have put to rest the uncertainty created for the fans, by what was obviously a throw-away comment.

The low attendances are clearly giving cause for concern and this is restricting the manager's opportunities to strengthen the team – the need for which is obvious from the recent performances when injuries and suspensions have hit the squad.

Since the club are reported to be losing £8,000 a week, if they were to go into an overdraft situation to rectify this, that money would still have to be repaid.

So it is essential that action is taken to make the product or the pricing more attractive to bring in the floating supporter. After all, over recent weeks, season ticket holders have had to pay for two Worthington Cup matches and two FA Cup games at usual prices.

Of course there is the more radical option of a change in the constitution and members will recall that some while ago I was asked to coordinate their comments on the proposed revisions to this by the board. Indeed, together with their observations, several members did wonder why this opportunity was not being taken for this more radical revision.

If the board choose to go down this route, with all its attendant risks, we shall await their proposals with interest. Whatever happens, they can be assured that the hardcore regular supporters will be behind the team at all times.

● Steve Brown's partner Nicola gave birth to a baby boy, Maxwell, this week and that's why the midfielder and BFP columnist missed Blues' midweek clash with Stoke.

His bi-weekly Park Life column will return to these pages next week and in a fortnight you can read the views of our other columnist Ron Barnett.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	18	8	1	0	20	5	2	7	0	17	12 38
Preston	18	6	1	2	13	9	4	5	0	15	8 36
Brentford	18	6	2	1	18	9	3	4	2	13	12 33
Notts Co	18	4	2	3	9	7	6	1	2	15	9 33
Gillingham	18	6	1	2	20	9	3	4	2	15	13 32
Burnley	17	7	1	1	19	6	2	4	2	5	5 32
Stoke	18	4	3	2	12	8	5	2	2	16	8 32
Bristol R	17	4	3	1	9	5	5	2	2	10	6 32
Millwall	18	4	4	1	14	3	4	2	3	14	12 30
Luton	18	6	2	1	18	11	2	1	6	5	11 27
Bour'm'th	18	6	2	1	17	6	1	2	6	8	20 25
Bury	18	4	4	1	19	14	1	5	3	9	9 24
Wycombe	18	3	3	3	12	14	2	4	3	10	12 22
Cardiff	18	2	6	1	10	9	2	1	6	11	15 19
Oldham	18	3	1	5	11	12	2	3	4	9	12 19
Oxford	18	2	3	4	10	11	3	1	5	8	12 19
Scunthorpe	18	2	2	5	8	15	3	2	4	11	15 19
Wrexham	18	2	3	3	11	11	1	3	5	7	20 18
Bristol C	17	2	7	0	12	7	1	1	6	5	15 17
Camb Utd	18	3	3	3	18	16	0	3	6	9	16 15
Reading	16	3	2	3	10	10	1	1	6	11	23 15
Colchester	18	1	3	5	10	20	2	2	5	9	21 14
Blackpool	18	1	4	4	9	16	1	2	6	9	17 12
Chesterfield	17	1	2	5	5	9	1	3	5	6	11 11

LETTERS

Why do the Blues fans stay away?

ON Saturday I enjoyed a relatively good game of football at Adams Park, the ground where Wycombe Wanderers Football Club is based, the senior and only national league club in Buckinghamshire.

They were playing the second round of the AXA FA Cup competition against the top club in their division of the Nationwide League.

The opposition was Wigan Athletic, who I'm sure you will know are the only club in any Football League division that remains undefeated so far this season.

In the circumstances one would have anticipated a reasonable attendance from at least the local fans to be supporting their town/county, indeed a gate of at least 5,000 shouldn't have been too much to expect.

So when it was announced that 2,992 was the actual attendance it seemed to me a bit of a kick in the teeth, no an insult, to the players and club from all those ardent football fans that stayed away.

As a 70-year-old living some ten miles from High Wycombe I was in the company of supporters who came as far afield as Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Sussex, Dorset and Devon. On that representation there must have been many more

that had made the trek to support their old home club. One had flown in from the States and made the effort to come and see his old club play.

In view of the attendance I cannot understand why the club does not get the support it deserves.

Perhaps High Wycombe or Buckinghamshire cannot cope with a professional club of their own.

Suffice it to say WWFC is the only business that advertises the town of High Wycombe most months of the year and presents a top class club facility to everyone, where even most of the opposition look forward to coming to High Wycombe.

So what is it that keeps the fans away? All clubs, sports and

individuals have their off days!

Perhaps your football readers might have some ideas?

J S Gray
Manor Park Avenue
Princes Risborough

Wycombe can't afford league club

ONE can understand Lawrie Sanchez venting his anger at the poor crowd attendance at Wycombe but, as a follower of the Wanderers from Isthmian League days, it has always been the same.

Wycombe people will only support a winning team, draws are not

enough. Back in the non-league days, crowds would often almost match the numbers that attend now, and the bottom line must be that Wycombe just cannot afford a professional league team.

No-one can blame Sanchez – or his players – it is all about money. The smaller clubs stand little or no chance of attracting better players when fees and wage expectations are so high, and unfortunately, Wycombe cannot compete.

Of course, one would hope that the manager will stay, but one could hardly blame him if he seeks pastures new.

G E White
Gosling Grove
Downley, High Wycombe