

North-South divide is felt by the Blues

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

OUR illustrious leader, Tony Blair, not Lawrie Sanchez, has been banging on recently about the great North-South divide. I'm sure all Wanderers fans will agree with him that life is more difficult when you meet teams from beyond Birmingham.

In recent weeks we've been defeated by Wigan, Stoke and Burnley. During the same period we've managed to beat our fellow southern softies Oxford and Brentford.

So far this season, we've picked up just nine points out of a possible 36 in league matches against various northern tribes. On the other hand, we've collected 16 points out of a possible 24 in matches against our southern rivals. The North-South divide is alive and kicking for Wanderers.

The Division Two table also proves the point. The top two teams are from the North West while five of the bottom six are southern clubs.

Maybe Wycombe should champion a return to separate North and South divisions. Not only would this enable us to win more games, it would provide more derby matches and maybe help increase attendances. Mind you, we would miss the best of the meat pies!

With the club reportedly losing £8,000 a week, the vote on changing the constitution of the club cannot be far away. While it would be very sad to lose our unique membership structure, there appears very little choice if the club is to prosper and challenge for a first division place.

The big question is what sort of character would come knocking at Adams Park brandishing a bagful of cash. There have been far too many club take-over horror stories in recent years to be sure that this would be the solution to all our problems. You only have to look at the plight of clubs like Brighton, Doncaster and Crystal Palace to realise that all that glitters is not gold.

If we do decide to go down this route, the directors are going to have to be very careful to choose the right White Knight.

Looking forward to our fixtures for the rest of this year, I think we could be onto a good run of results. Our next four matches are all against southern sides. What's more, we finish this year playing those good old boys from Essex.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	20	8	2	0	21	6	3	7	0	19	13	42
Preston	20	7	1	2	15	9	5	5	0	18	9	42
Gillingham	20	7	1	2	21	9	4	4	2	17	14	38
Bristol R	19	5	3	1	12	5	6	2	2	13	6	38
Burnley	20	8	1	1	20	6	2	6	2	6	6	37
Millwall	20	5	4	1	16	8	5	2	3	16	13	36
Notts Co	20	4	3	3	13	11	6	2	2	17	11	35
Stoke	20	4	4	2	13	9	5	3	2	17	9	34
Brentford	20	6	2	2	18	12	3	4	3	13	14	33
Bour'm'th	20	6	2	2	18	8	2	2	6	10	20	28
Luton	20	6	3	1	20	13	2	1	7	5	14	28
Wycombe	20	4	3	3	14	14	2	4	4	10	13	25
Bury	20	4	4	2	20	17	1	5	4	9	10	24
Bristol C	19	3	7	0	15	8	1	2	6	9	19	21
Oxford	20	2	4	4	11	12	3	2	5	8	12	21
Oldham	20	3	2	5	11	12	2	3	5	9	14	20
Scunthorpe	20	2	2	6	9	17	3	3	4	12	16	20
Wrexham	20	3	4	3	12	12	1	4	5	7	20	20
Cardiff	20	2	6	2	11	11	2	1	7	11	17	19
Colchester	20	2	3	5	11	20	2	3	5	10	22	18
Reading	19	3	4	3	11	11	1	1	7	12	26	17
Blackpool	20	2	4	4	11	17	1	3	6	10	18	16
Camb Utd	20	3	3	4	18	18	0	3	7	10	18	15
Chesterfd	19	1	3	5	5	9	1	3	6	6	12	12