

Small, but perfectly formed Blues

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

WANDERERS start the new millennium as the only perfectly balanced team in the Premiership or Nationwide League.

Our record reads: won eight, drawn eight, lost eight, goals scored 30, goals conceded 30. A true mid-table, mid-season performance.

Six points was an excellent Christmas and New Year present for all Blues fans.

I'm sure we would have had a nine point festive season if we had played those old boys in Colchester. Never mind, at least we've got an easy away win to look forward to later in the year.

When I heard the Colchester match had been called off, I was lucky enough to get a couple of seats for the Chelsea v Sheffield Wednesday game at Stamford Bridge. So, I managed to see three Blues games over the holiday period and enjoyed three valuable victories.

It was good to see the Big Chief giving some of the youngsters a run out against Bournemouth and Chesterfield.

Danny Senda looked impressive when he came off the bench on Boxing Day and deserved his start on Monday.

Matt Brady and Dannie Bulman also played well and it was good to see Dannie get a headed goal rather than a bum one!

The Big Chief has many excellent managerial qualities but, I believe his use of substitutes is one of his biggest skills. He has the uncanny knack of switching players and systems at just the right time, unlike many previous Blues bosses.

What more can you say about Sean 'deadly' Devine - we love him almost as much as Lawrie does. Three more goals puts him up amongst the Nationwide top hotshots and his two against Chesterfield were worth the entrance money alone.

Still we'd better not praise him too much, we don't want to encourage clubs to start flashing their cheque books at Graham Peart.

Whilst we all whinge about Blues' lack of cash and our inability to buy new players, things appear to be much worse for our local rivals.

Reading are reputed to be losing £50,000 every week thanks to a crippling wage bill and falling attendances. Despite all their heavy spending over the last few seasons they cannot get things right on the pitch and their fans have recently held their much publicised pants protest.

Oxford, as their fans in my local pub keep reminding me, are also deep in the financial mire with a half-built stadium. Such a shame.

If Ivor and the board are going to propose we find a rich benefactor to inject much needed funds into the club, can I suggest they place a message in the Two's Company page of the BFP.

Something along the lines of: Attractive, local, professional sports lover seeks affluent sleeping partner for long-term relationship. Must be Blues fan, enjoy Nationwide club scene and have GSOH. Lots of TLC, fun and games guaranteed as a return on your investment.