

It's positively a great start to the year

PARKLIFE

By Steve Brown

IT'S been over seven weeks since I wrote my last piece and it feels nice to be in a positive frame of mind.

I'd like to wish you all a very happy New Year and hope you enjoyed the Christmas period as much as the players did.

Taking maximum points from our games was a good way to sustain our unbeaten run following on from a goalless draw with Bristol City. We were unfortunate to have Andy Baird sent off. I suppose the referee played his part with it being the pantomime season.

Just as you thought it could not get any worse for referees, the most peculiar thing happened for Tranmere at Prenton Park last Saturday with the mix up over their substitution and sending off.

Thankfully, common sense prevailed and Tranmere were allowed to go through. Fourth officials are supposed to be one step away from being on the Football League ladder, and in some cases they are on the league ladder.

But to make such a simple mistake in such an important game goes to show that we do need to change the way the game is being run. Surely, with all the money in the game the time has come for referees to go professional.

I'm sure we are all fed up with picking up the papers every week and reading about referees making bad or wrong decisions. Call it human error if you like, but surely in the best interest of football, refs must go full time and be allowed to go into clubs to talk to managers and players, as well as refereeing practice matches.

Tuesday night saw us lose to Oxford in a wild West shoot-out. I've expressed my feelings before on this subject so I won't go over it again, but I do feel a victim and not for the first time.

I could have coped with the 'golden goal' end to the game. To be shot down after two hours of football was the final kick in the teeth.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to say thank you for all the support I received with regards to my son Maxwell. With his condition it's a long road, but he's doing really well.

I would also like to wish Sean Devine's dad a speedy recovery. Sean rang me when I was at the hospital with Maxwell and asked how everything was. I told him the situation and he promised to score a couple of goals for him. I was delighted when Sean did score two goals that day.

So when I saw that he promised to score two goals for his dad, I knew that he would.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	25	10	2	1	24	7	5	7	0	23	14	54
Preston	24	9	1	2	20	10	6	6	0	22	9	52
Bristol R	25	8	3	1	16	6	7	2	4	20	14	50
Millwall	26	7	5	1	21	11	6	3	4	20	17	47
Stoke	25	5	5	3	16	12	7	3	2	20	10	44
Burnley	24	10	1	1	25	9	2	6	4	8	12	43
Notts Co	26	6	3	4	20	14	6	4	3	18	13	43
Gillingham	23	8	2	2	25	12	4	4	3	17	16	42
Brentford	26	7	3	3	21	15	3	4	6	15	19	37
Bour'm'th	26	8	3	2	24	9	2	2	9	12	28	35
Wycombe	25	6	3	4	20	17	2	6	4	11	14	33
Luton	25	7	4	1	25	15	2	2	9	6	19	33
Bury	23	5	5	2	26	21	2	5	4	11	10	31
Oldham	25	4	3	5	13	13	4	4	5	13	16	31
Bristol C	25	3	10	0	15	8	3	2	7	13	21	30
Colchester	25	4	3	5	19	24	2	4	7	13	27	25
Cardiff	25	3	6	3	12	15	2	3	8	12	19	24
Oxford	24	3	4	5	13	14	3	2	7	10	19	24
Scunthorpe	24	3	2	7	10	19	3	4	5	14	21	24
Wrexham	24	3	5	4	12	13	1	5	6	9	23	22
Reading	23	3	6	3	13	13	1	2	8	14	29	20
Chesterfd	24	2	3	6	6	11	1	5	7	8	17	17
Blackpool	24	2	5	5	13	20	1	3	8	10	22	17
Camb Utd	24	3	4	5	20	21	0	3	9	10	20	16

Tomorrow's opponents ... Scunthorpe

You can get
Ladbroke's odds
of 12-1 on a 3-0
Wycombe win
at Adams Park

Football specials back

WANDERERS have reinstated most of their football special buses to home matches until the end of the season, starting tomorrow against Scunthorpe.

Motts Travel and the Wycombe Bus Company have taken on the routes dropped by Classic Coaches with no increase in fares.

Routes A (Prestwood), route D (Penn) and Route

F (Micklefield) are unchanged, but there is a new Aylesbury route combining the C and G routes.

Number 500 buses from Wycombe train and bus stations remain but the old routes B and F are no longer in operation. For details call Wanderers (01494) 472100; Wycombe Bus Co (01494) 520941 or Motts (01296) 613831.

Blues free on the BFP

THE BFP has once again teamed up with league sponsors Nationwide to give our readers the chance to see the Blues for free.

Wanderers are on road for the next month, but when they come home again four lucky readers could be at Adams Park to see them for free, thanks to our ticket giveaway.

We have two pairs of

tickets to give away for Blues' clash with Oxford United on February 12.

Answer the question below and your name could be pulled from the hat.

Q. Who is Wycombe's record signing?

Send your answers to the Sports Editor, BFP, Gomm Rd, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 7DW no later than Wednesday, January 19.