

Blues await semi-final opponents in county cup

READING or Windsor stand in the way of Wanderers and a second successive Berks and Bucks Cup final appearance, after the Blues won 2-0 at Thatcham on Tuesday to book their place in the last four.

Mo Harkin put them ahead in the 13th minute but they had to wait until the final minute, when Lee Holsgrove netted after Richard Thompson's header came back off the crossbar, to wrap up an Adams Park semi-final cup encounter.

Reserve boss Terry Gibson said: "We started off really well and should've been four up at half time but it got a bit scrappy in the second half as we got involved in a bit of a kicking match."

He wants to reach the final, at Aylesbury on May 1 and erase the memory of last year's 4-1 final defeat against Maidenhead, when Blues fielded a young side and were punished.

He said: "It was a bit embarrassing and they rubbed it in afterwards. But we had bigger fish

to fry and the decision to play an under-strength side was proved right later that week when we beat Wigan and Lincoln to stay up."

Steve Brown, Jason Cousins and Michael Simpson were all given a run out on Tuesday after missing last Saturday's action through suspension. But Brownie was substituted to avoid another booking as tempers frayed.

But there was bad news on the night as jinxed keeper Mark Westhead picked up a thigh strain which will keep him out tomorrow.

LETTERS

We have to back Blues change

AS a supporter of Wycombe Wanderers and editor of a fanzine I am excited about the planned change in constitution.

Whenever we play other teams in this division we are branded with non-league jibes.

My view is that the set up is currently geared towards Conference football and not top-of-the-table, second division.

So why I am writing this letter?

I feel that the constitution must be changed, it is imperative. As the situation stands we are going to have no money to spend on players in a sport now controlled by money.

I urge the members of this club to vote for change as, with the current constitution in place, we cannot progress, I'm pretty certain of that.

You think about the situations with the Doncaster's, Crystal Palace's, Brighton's of this world but Ivor Beeks is an excellent chairman and simply won't let someone with

little interest in the club - who's only interest is making a profit - control it.

If someone like Derek Vere was head of the consortium, I for one would be delighted. He is a true supporter and having someone like him in charge would be excellent.

So, my message to the members is vote for change, it is the only way our ambitious club are going to progress.

Ian Baker
(Editor - When Skies Are Blue)
Windsor Lane
Little Kingshill

This is right road

I DON'T know how long your correspondent R Dennis (BFP, February 4) has been a Wanderers supporter.

I've personally supported The Blues since 1947, not only at games but going out in all weathers for 22 years to help make their lottery one of the most successful in the country.

The letter in question gives no

solution to the question of how long the club can afford to lose £8,000 per week, £300,000 in a full year?

One answer, of course, is if only one-third of the support who followed us to Wembley in the early nineties, three times, came regularly to Adams Park, there would be no problem.

Without a shadow of doubt, the chairman and directors are following the right course at this moment of time, and with our catchment area being one of the richest in the country and with a great club, enviable ground and dedicated staff, there should be no problem.

John Simmonds
Hordern Close
Haddenham

Where else will money come from?

I'M writing in response to the letter from Mr R Dennis (BFP, February 4).

I understand his concerns that if Wycombe Wanderers were to

change their constitution they could end up like Crystal Palace, Oxford, etc. He then cites the fine examples of Crewe, Charlton and Stockport, but these clubs have all got the same set-ups as those in trouble. They are just better managed.

For Wycombe to continue to survive in their present division they will need a serious influx of money.

For example, Crewe and Charlton have youth academies. Wycombe do not, but, with the likelihood that Reading and Oxford will soon have one, it is imperative the Blues set one up soon to attract good local youngsters.

Where does Mr Dennis suggest the money comes from?

Doesn't he find it perturbing that Scunthorpe can buy Steve Torpey (much sought after by at least three Wycombe managers) for £200,000, yet Wycombe cannot afford £5,000 for Matt Brady. Not every club is as agreeable as Boreham Wood.

If the club puts admission prices up it causes a furore and crowds drop. If the price of programmes increase, less people buy them. Perhaps Mr Dennis would like to make

a donation!

The constitution has to change to safeguard the future, otherwise it could well be a return to part-time football and where then? Back to non-league status?

I've followed the Blues for 36 years and have seen them realise one of my ambitions - football league. I want them to stay there and reach Division One at the very least.

They will not do so without these changes being made.

I realise that some members have inflated egos about our unique set-up, but if they really love the club and want it to go forward they have got to give the board the necessary go-ahead.

Ivor and his board have done a superb job in recent years and I for one can trust them to put the club in safe hands.

In closing, to that gentleman who doesn't watch the Blues because of a minor incident 27 years ago. For God's sake, get a life.

Dave Finch (Snr)
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