

Lawrence's departure is a real shocker

PARK LIFE

By Steve Brown

I'M still trying to get over the shock of my good friend Matt Lawrence's departure to Millwall. I didn't know it was in the offing.

The first I knew of it was when I walked in the dressing room on Tuesday night and the lads were singing the Millwall song.

It's a good move for Matt but it is a blow to us and I wouldn't have thought the gaffer can be happy with that. It defeats what he's trying to build here when he has to sell one of his best players. I really feel for him after all he's done for the club.

I hope it works out for Matt though. He's joined a club which is going places and I think it is a move that will further his career because playing in London will put him in the spotlight.

He's obviously gone to ease the club's financial position, we all know that takeover talks are going on behind the scenes.

But the club will have to be careful about who they get in. We went to Stoke on Saturday and they have been taken over by a group of Icelandic businessmen who have made wholesale changes at the club.

They got rid of the manager, they replaced a lot of players with Icelandic ones, including the new manager's son for £750,000. But, with the exception of Arnar Gunnlaugsson who is on loan from Leicester, they didn't seem to have anyone who was outstanding for this division.

The same, unfortunately could not be said for Wigan, when they beat us 2-0 on Tuesday.

I don't think I have ever played in such a one-sided game. They were streets ahead of anyone else we have met this season and I really hope they get promoted because they play football the right way.

It was so frustrating to play against them because we couldn't get the ball back off them. Normally when you lose it you know you'll get it back soon afterwards but that didn't happen on Tuesday.

Wigan just kept the ball. They never forced the issue and were really patient as they worked their opportunities.

We haven't won for a while now and it's important that we put that right at Bournemouth tomorrow because once you get on that slippery slope it's hard to get off it. The sooner we hit the 50 points mark the better because it will give everyone peace of mind.

I won't be letting Mark Osborn drive me to meet the team bus tomorrow, or ever again for that matter.

Last week, his new Citroen broke down on the way to Stoke and we had to push it up the hard shoulder and wait for Terry Gibson to pick us up.