

Good season but now Blues must do better

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

AFTER three seasons of flirting with relegation give me the boring comfort of mid-table mediocrity every time.

Mind you, like all fickle football fans, I expect I'll be moaning if we finish in a similar position next season. But, the Big Chief reckons he is planning to push for an automatic promotion or play-off place and that's good enough for me.

Looking at the final league tables, just one more point would have moved us up to tenth place above Reading. However, I'm sure most Blues fans would have settled for 12th spot before the season kicked-off. Even those fellow optimistic fools who couldn't resist putting a tenner on promotion at the inviting odds of 50-1.

It was sad to see four players released this week, including Lee Holsgrove, my pre-season tip to win a regular first team place. Wrong again.

Despite losing to Reading and Luton, the last few weeks of the season have been very encouraging. Several youngsters have put in some promising performances and Jocky McSporran has found his shooting boots with three goals in four games. Martin Taylor has signed a new contract and Lawrie has distanced himself from the Wimbledon job. On the financial front, it appears that the formation of the proposed consortium is closer to completion and Ivor Beeks will be a major player in the new set-up. All exciting stuff, roll on August.

As this is my last column of the season, it's time for an end of term report. So here goes.

Martin Taylor (B+) – an excellent year where his improved confidence and concentration helped him achieve a consistently high performance. Thoroughly deserved top marks in end of year awards.

Defenders (C) – a mixed year mainly caused by poor attendance record due to sickness and disciplinary problems. Often suffered from a lack of concentration just before break times. Could do better.

Midfielders (C+) – worked very hard and showed plenty of enthusiasm but need to improve their creative ability. Younger pupils have progressed well although they still need to continue their studies in the lower form.

Strikers (B) – have shown a good aptitude all year to achieve their goals. Need to improve their accuracy and will probably require extra help to convert the higher opportunities that come their way.

Directors (B-) – have shown dedication and commitment all year. Appear to be progressing well with their economics project.

HOW THEY FINISHED

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Preston	46	15	4	4	37	23	13	7	3	37	14	95
Burnley	46	16	3	4	42	23	9	10	4	27	24	88
Gillingham	46	16	3	4	46	21	9	7	7	33	27	85
Wigan	46	15	3	5	37	14	7	14	2	35	24	83
Millwall	46	14	7	2	41	18	9	6	8	35	32	82
Stoke	46	13	7	3	37	18	10	6	7	31	24	82
Bristol R	46	13	7	3	34	19	10	4	9	35	26	80
Notts Co	46	9	6	8	32	27	9	5	9	29	28	65
Bristol C	46	7	14	2	31	18	8	5	10	28	39	64
Reading	46	10	9	4	28	18	6	5	12	29	45	62
Wrexham	46	9	6	8	23	24	8	5	10	29	37	62
Wycombe	46	11	4	8	32	24	5	9	9	24	29	61
Luton	46	10	7	6	41	35	7	3	13	20	30	61
Oldham	46	8	5	10	27	28	8	7	8	23	27	60
Bury	46	8	10	5	38	33	5	8	10	23	31	57
Bour'm'th	46	11	6	6	37	19	5	3	15	22	43	57
Brentford	46	8	6	9	27	31	5	7	11	20	30	52
Colchester	46	9	4	10	36	40	5	6	12	23	42	52
Camb Utd	46	8	6	9	38	33	4	6	13	26	32	48
Oxford	46	6	5	12	24	38	6	4	13	19	35	45
Cardiff	46	5	10	8	23	34	4	7	12	22	33	44
Blackpool	46	4	10	9	26	37	4	7	12	23	40	41
Scunthorpe	46	4	6	13	16	34	5	6	12	24	40	39
Chesterfld	46	5	7	11	17	25	2	8	13	17	38	36