

# Announcer almost killed me

**RON BARNETT**

**VIEW FROM THE STAND**

FOOTBALL fans experience a continual series of highs and lows throughout a season, but once in a while they enjoy the highest of highs. Saturday was one of those days for me.

Not only did Wanderers put in a great performance to beat table topping Walsall, I had also backed Michael Simpson to score the first goal at 20-1. Mind you, I got a shock when the PA originally gave the goal to Chris Vinnicombe. Then, to top it all, Chelsea go and hit Coventry for six. Oh what joy!

Walsall certainly looked a class outfit and they are bound to be amongst the front runners come the end of the season. Their fans were also top class, giving Andy Rammell a great reception. I can't ever remember seeing opposition fans clapping a goal scored against them by one of their old players. I hope Mickey Bell doesn't expect the same treatment when he returns with Bristol City on Saturday!

Tuesday evening's fighting, and slightly fortunate, point at Wrexham keeps us up with the leading pack. With one third of the season gone we've got 25 points and if we keep going at this rate, we will be in or around the play off places come next May.

Could anyone please explain what financial director Graham Peart was talking about at the recent club AGM?

He kept telling us things must change at the club but never told us what, when and how. Instead, he made detailed comparisons between facilities at Adams Park and UCI Cinema and the Madejski Stadium at Reading.

As far as I could make out, Graham was riding his favourite hobby horse of too little support from local football fans. But why waste his time preaching to the converted?

He went on to say that Wycombe attendances were ten per cent down, in line with the Division Two average. I realise that this is disappointing given our league position but we do not have the football heritage, fan base or catchment population of clubs like Reading. We would need a prolonged run of league and cup wins before our crowds start to build. And then they would only increase very slowly. I cannot see us reaching his target of average attendances over 7000 until we get to Division One.

The proposal that fans be invited to give the club a ten-year interest free loan of at least £1000 was popular with a number of members. However, the quite reasonable suggestion that a part of these loans, say twenty to twenty five per cent, should be set aside for the Big Chief to spend on players was dismissed out of hand by Graham Peart.

Surely, if fans are willing to hand over cash to the club they should have some say on how it is spent. I'm sure more fans would be willing to commit to these loans if they knew some of the money was being allocated to strengthen the playing squad. At present, the club are in danger of cutting their nose off to spite their face.

# Macca faces one match suspension

EVER-PRESENT defender Paul McCarthy's will miss the Bury match on November 11 after being booked for the fifth time this season.

He collected card number five in the stalemate at Wrexham and will receive a one-match ban.

● Wanderers have sent crooked striker Sean Devine to the national sports injury clinic at Lilleshall to try to get to the bottom of his baffling knee injury which will keep him out all season.

● Reserve keeper Mark Osborn's hopes of a loan move have been put on hold. The young keeper picked up an ankle injury in training this week.

● Canadian international Mark Rogers is set for a spell in the reserves as manager Lawrie Sanchez tries to build up his confidence again.

Rogers has struggled to recapture his early form and was substituted in the win over Walsall on Saturday and left on the bench at Wrexham on Tuesday.

Sanchez reckons time away from first team pressure is just what he needs.

● Sanchez is hoping for a home tie when the FA Cup first round draw is made live on Talksport Radio at 5.35pm tomorrow.

He said: "I really want to get through to the third round this season and try and get some money and publicity for the club."

● The players spent yesterday afternoon at the races at the annual Wycombe Wanderers-sponsored Windsor Raceday.

Sanchez said: "It's a good opportunity for the lads to go out together away from football and relax."

Sanchez could have done with a couple of big winners because he doesn't believe the club's intended loans notes scheme will drum up great wads of cash.

The idea, where fans give the club 10-year interest free loans of a minimum of £1,000, was announced at the club's AGM where a loss of £258,000 was reported for the year.

Sanchez said: "The idea is to give people who wanted it the chance to help us. It's a nice idea but I don't think it will make that much difference. If 1,000 people gave us £1,000 it would be a million but I think it's more likely to be a thousands"

● Sanchez reckons the 2,295 Wanderers fans who travelled to Reading have set a record that won't be beaten anywhere this season.

He said: "I can't see any club taking half their home attendance to an away match."