

My injury saga has taken toll

STEVE BROWN

PARKLIFE

THESE last few weeks have been really difficult for me.

Since I picked up an injury at Wrexham five weeks ago, I've been itching to get back.

To say I was disappointed when I injured myself, again, in training last Friday would be a massive understatement. I just couldn't believe it.

To injure yourself during a match is bad enough, but to pick up an injury while you're working on the team shape during training is maddening.

It's got to be one of the worst aspects of being a footballer.

Although, I've got to say that the unsung heroes during any footballer's injury agony have got to be their wives and girlfriends.

They always bear the brunt of our annoyance. When you're at work you just try and get on with it, but when you get home you tend to let it out.

I've got to admit, I'm a complete nightmare when I get injured. But there's light at the end of the tunnel and I was pleased to get a run out in the reserve game on Wednesday.

Hopefully, I'll be back for next Tuesday's first round game against Exeter in the LDV Vans Trophy.

I know some people knock this competition, but when I pull on a Wanderers shirt I want to win every game, no matter what it's for.

Third Division Exeter will be a tricky side and we will have to make sure we concentrate on dismissing them at the first attempt.

Last year's drawn out saga with non-league Oxford City in cup competition should be a lesson to us all. I won't be forgetting that in a hurry.

In truth, the LDV Vans Trophy provides a chance for the non-league sides to have their moment of glory.

In my mind, the third division of the Football League and the Conference are not that far apart these days.

Some of the sides in the Conference are now full time and I shouldn't think it will be long before it is considered the fourth division of the Football League.

I can't help but put my oar in about the penalty that never was at Colchester last weekend.

I've seen the replays several times and I'm convinced our new boy Sam Parkin should have been awarded a penalty.

However, I'm not advocating the introduction of video replays during the game to settle those kind of decisions.

The game can be so stop, start with some refs these days that you don't need another thing that is going to take away from the flow of the game.

Over a season these decisions even themselves out, and anyway, who's to say that the right decision will be reached using video evidence.

The same incident can look different from different angles. There's still room for human error.

LETTER

Are pitch prices really subsidised?

A BELATED response to Councillor Priestley's statement that local football pitches are heavily subsidised by the council (BFP Sport November 10).

Now I, unlike the good councillor, do not have access to the actual costing, but have delayed my reply long enough to obtain comparisons with the proposed £43.27 to be levied by Wycombe District Council. Aylesbury charge £28.10, Slough £33, Maidenhead £20, with an even better deal if you hire and pay for the season in advance.

Unlike Wycombe, at all these nearby districts, pitches are offered complete, ready for play. Here you have the added task of putting up nets and sometimes the posts as well. All for the privilege of paying up to 50 per cent more for your 'heavily subsidised' pitch.

Why the disparity in prices? Can it be that other municipal bodies are more efficient in their spending of public money?

Or perhaps they take their responsibilities to local youth more seriously; or as I am tempted to think, the demand for these facilities on Sunday morning makes local soccer a soft target for any increase which will help defray the cost of other activities.

Therefore I issue an invitation to Cllr Priestley, together with any of her colleagues she cares to bring, to meet the men who run Sunday soccer, preferably at Fernfields or Shelley Road, about 9.30am any Sunday morning, when we will listen with great interest to her explanation of her words 'heavily subsidised'.

Richard Currell
President,
High Wycombe Sunday
Football Combination

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Millwall	19	6	1	2	18	5	6	2	2	18	11	39
Walsall	19	7	3	0	23	8	4	2	3	12	10	38
Wigan	19	8	1	0	14	5	2	7	1	11	9	38
Rotherham	19	5	2	3	20	13	6	2	1	13	9	37
Reading	18	7	1	1	29	9	3	1	5	8	13	32
Stoke	18	4	2	2	13	6	4	4	2	16	14	30
Wycombe	19	6	1	2	16	8	2	5	3	4	7	30
Bristol City	18	3	3	3	16	10	4	4	1	11	5	28
Northampton	18	3	3	2	10	10	5	1	4	11	10	28
Wrexham	19	3	2	5	10	14	4	3	2	20	18	26
Camb Utd	19	4	3	3	19	13	2	3	4	11	15	24
Peterboro	19	5	2	2	15	10	2	1	7	8	16	24
Bury	18	4	2	3	10	12	3	1	5	7	11	24
Notts Co	18	2	3	3	12	13	5	0	5	9	16	24
Bristol R	18	0	5	3	6	10	5	2	3	18	10	22
Brentford	16	4	3	2	10	13	1	4	2	7	12	22
Colchester	19	3	3	4	9	10	2	3	4	7	11	21
Port Vale	17	4	4	2	17	8	1	1	5	3	14	20
Bournemouth	18	2	4	3	9	8	2	3	4	17	16	19
Oldham	18	3	2	4	10	11	2	2	5	9	18	19
Swansea	18	2	3	4	9	10	2	3	4	10	15	18
Swindon	19	2	4	4	12	19	2	1	6	6	18	17
Luton	18	2	1	6	9	15	0	5	4	8	17	12
Oxford U	19	1	2	7	7	14	1	0	8	10	28	8