

Taylor is the top of the stops

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VIEW FROM THE STAND

IN recent history, Wanderers have been fortunate in having a number of excellent keepers between the sticks at both Loakes Park and Adams Park.

John Maskell and Paul Hyde are just two of the golden oldies that immediately spring to mind.

Mind you, we have also had a few turkeys.

Who can bear to remember Brian Parkin and the delightfully-named Sieb Dykstra, better described by his anagram Sad Risky Bet!

However, I think Martin Taylor must now qualify as Wanderers' top keeper.

His performance against Bournemouth prevented the Blues from getting a real hammering, particularly from the young on-loan Hammer Jermaine Defoe.

What's more, Martin had no chance with the three goals and without his superb saves we could have suffered our biggest defeat since joining the Football League.

So far this season he has kept nine clean sheets and conceded just 26 goals in 26 league and cup matches. And that has been achieved whilst playing behind a defence that has seen a number of personnel and system changes due to injuries and suspensions.

Without doubt, Martin Taylor has proved to be our most consistent performer this season, helping us to win many valuable points with crucial saves in a number of league matches. He has also managed to stay free of injuries and illness and been ever-present. Indeed, he has only missed a handful of games since he joined the club.

I must admit, although I'm a fully paid up member of the keepers union, until about 18 months ago I did not rate Martin Taylor as anything more than average.

Up until then he always seemed to flap at crosses and looked decidedly dodgy on high balls. But since the Big Chief arrived he's been in terrific form and thoroughly deserved his Player of the Season Award at the end of last season.

The winning goal may have come late on Tuesday night, at least it finally came and we're into the next round of the LDV Vans Trophy.

Hopefully we will now get a good run in this new competition and maybe earn a few bob along the way.

It's cup action again on Sunday.

Let's hope we can repeat our league result at Millwall, although they will certainly be out for revenge.

They have only lost one other home league game this season and are currently the second highest goalscorers in the division.

As Millwall currently have the second worst disciplinary record in our division, and we have the fourth, don't be surprised to see a flurry of yellow or even red cards.

There was plenty of feeling in the league game and with the added tension of the cup this could well be an action-packed battle in more ways than one.

Blues meet the boys in blue

WANDERERS officials will meet the police next week to try and persuade them to reintroduce one-way traffic down Hillbottom Road after matches.

Officers took away the right to allow supporters to exit the stadium in two lines of traffic when they withdrew their traffic cops from the road last month.

Now Blues are trying to get it re-instated in a bid to get supporters away from the ground quicker after matches.

● Manager Lawrie Sanchez has delayed discussing new contracts with his players until the New Year.

Half of his players' contracts will expire in the summer but the boss won't open negotiations with them until after the hectic Christmas programme.

● Keith Ryan's testimonial disco at Adams Park had a late start last Saturday when the vehicle bringing the disco equipment broke down.

When it got underway midfielder Steve Brown took a turn on the decks for a dancefloor which included most of today's squad and several ex-stars.

Steve Guppy, the only Wycombe player to go on and play for England, was among the crowd which also included Mark West, Andy Kerr, Gary Smith, Keith Scott and Jim Melvin.

● Lawrie Sanchez says the gap between the Premier League and the Nationwide is growing.

Speaking in the wake of Rio Ferdinand's £18 million transfer from West Ham to Leeds, he said: "We play Sunday morning football compared to what they play up there. It's not even the same game. There's never been a bigger gap between us and the top level and that's why the Premiership clubs never buy players from second division clubs."

● Blues have been drawn away to Windsor and Eton in the Berks and Bucks Cup with January 3 the provisional date.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Walsall	20	8	3	0	25	9	4	2	3	12	10	41
Rotherham	20	6	2	3	23	15	6	2	1	13	9	40
Millwall	20	6	1	2	18	5	6	2	3	20	14	39
Wigan	20	8	1	0	14	5	2	8	1	13	11	39
Reading	19	8	1	1	32	9	3	1	5	8	13	35
Bristol City	19	4	3	3	20	11	4	4	1	11	5	31
Stoke	19	4	2	3	14	9	4	4	2	16	14	30
Wycombe	20	6	1	3	16	11	2	5	3	4	7	30
Northampton	19	3	3	3	10	11	5	1	4	11	10	28
Peterborough	20	6	2	2	16	10	2	1	7	8	16	27
Wrexham	20	3	2	5	10	14	4	3	3	20	19	26
Cambridge United	20	4	3	3	19	13	2	3	5	11	18	24
Colchester	20	4	3	4	11	10	2	3	4	7	11	24
Bury	19	4	2	3	10	12	3	1	6	8	15	24
Notts County	19	2	3	3	12	13	5	0	6	9	18	24
Bristol Rovers	19	0	5	3	6	10	5	3	3	18	10	23
Brentford	17	4	4	2	12	15	1	4	2	7	12	23
Bournemouth	19	2	4	3	9	8	3	3	4	20	16	22
Oldham	19	4	2	4	13	13	2	2	5	9	18	22
Port Vale	18	4	4	2	17	8	1	1	6	4	16	20
Swindon	20	2	4	4	12	19	3	1	6	7	18	20
Swansea	19	2	4	4	9	10	2	3	4	10	15	19
Luton	19	2	1	6	9	15	1	5	4	11	18	15
Oxford United	20	1	2	7	7	14	1	0	9	12	31	8