

Crystal ball is coming up trumps

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VIEW FROM THE STAND

AS we are at the start of the New Year and the midway point of the season, I thought it would be a good time to see how my pre-season predictions were progressing.

My first piece of crystal ball gazing predicted that we would finish the season higher than last term's 12th place, but just outside the promotion play-off places.

We're currently tenth, so that forecast is looking pretty accurate. Hopefully we will push on in the second half of the season and prove me wrong.

Next I predicted we would finally reach the fourth round of the FA or Worthington Cup for the first time in our history. Well we've at least made it into the fourth round draw and have every chance of sinking the Mariners in the replay.

Thanks to our win at Orient we are also into the third round of the LDV Vans Trophy. Whatever happens, my crystal ball has been on the ball as far as cup forecasts are concerned.

My third, and final, prediction was that the club would receive an offer 'they couldn't refuse' for Jermaine McSparran before the transfer deadline. Unfortunately due to his long term injury this forecast, like Jockey, is now a non-runner.

So, it's one down and two still on the cards - not too bad.

It was certainly a game of two halves against Grimsby but at least we finally scored in a third round match at our seventh attempt.

It took us ten-and-a-quarter hours before Super Mac smashed home that long awaited goal.

Was anyone else surprised at the crowd figure of 5,390 on Saturday?

The ground looked much more than just over half full and parking was more difficult than usual.

I can only presume the club must have given lots of free tickets away to local school children, or maybe the computerised ticket counting system was on the blink.

Either way, it was a very disappointing figure and out of all the 32 ties only Wimbledon pulled in fewer punters.

Maybe the attendance would have been bigger if people had known how impressive The Wonderlites dance troupe would be. They put together some of the best moves of the day and even gave the appearance of enjoying themselves.

After checking the facts and stats page in the programme, I suggest that the Big Chief invests in a so-called Super Sub.

In 24 league games nobody has scored for us after coming off the bench.

Andy Baird and Stewart Castledine are our only subs to have scored all season, both in the Worthington Cup. Maybe our bench and dugout is too cosy.

Mind you the seventh name on the team sheet, and there has been six different players, has failed to score in any of the league or cup matches this season.

Well worth remembering if you're having a bet on the first goalscorer.

Millwall move

THE re-arranged Millwall home match has been moved again on the instruction of the Football League. It will now be played on Tuesday, March 27 because the League were unhappy with both clubs' decision to play on April 10, saying it was too close to the end of the season for such a big game.