

Mike the Greatwood goes as Stu signs in

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VIEW FROM THE STAND

IT was a case of arrivals and departures announcements at the Wanderers AGM on Tuesday evening.

Coming in through the front door was the Big Chief's latest signing, going out through the back door was the Board of Directors' most recent signing.

Lawrie Sanchez was obviously delighted to announce to club members that he had closed the deal, subject to a medical, to snatch Stuart Roberts from Swansea. Roberts has been capped at Welsh Under 21 level and has already scored five league goals this season.

The Big Chief explained that he considers Roberts as an investment for the future and part of his plan to reduce the average age of the squad. He went on to say that the Welsh youngster will also add pace and width to the side.

When questioned on whether he planned any other signings Lawrie Sanchez confirmed that, thanks to the excellent performances of Ted Rogers and Macca, he was no longer searching for a central defender. He also said that as Rambo was in such lethal form, with Walker and Holligan providing support, he would only consider buying another striker if the right player became available at the right price.

The departure of director Mike Greatwood, for personal reasons, was certainly a surprise. He had been on the board for less than a year and had been heavily involved in reviewing Wanderers' marketing strategy. In fact, he wrote a full page article in last week's programme commenting on what he felt was one of the club's biggest weaknesses Communications. Shame he failed to communicate he wasn't staying!

The club appear to be having a run of bad luck with their suppliers and contractors. The much heralded electronic scoreboard is still nowhere in sight although, there are rumours we may see it at the Swindon match. What's the betting the match is a no-score draw?

More importantly, Blues' new training facility will not be available all season as the work carried out on the playing surface is not of an acceptable standard. The pitches are having to be completely dug up, re-levelled and seeded. I hope the guilty contractors were forced to personally apologise and admit the errors of their ways to the Big Chief.

Having been cajoled, or more politely encouraged, by the club's marketing department my company agreed to sponsor the programme for last Saturday's match. In return we were given four hospitality packages which included pre-match meals, behind the scenes tour, etc.

The whole day was superbly organised by the marketing trio of Mark Austin, Mike Sullivan and Claire Ramsden with a high standard of catering from the chef and his team. My guests were delighted with the hospitality and service which was almost as good as the side's performance in the opening 20 minutes.

If you've got a birthday or special event coming up I can recommend booking a hospitality package, it certainly beats queuing for burger and chips.

So, it's on to Bristol City to see if we can stretch our unbeaten league run to six games. The last time we did that was the first six games of last season and that run was ended by Bristol Rovers. I hope that's not a bad omen.

Sven has cost us ten grand

WYCOMBE Wanderers have slammed the FA's decision to arrange an England international on a Football League Saturday and say it will cost them £10,000.

The Blues are angry that the FA rubber stamped England's friendly with Sweden on November forcing fans to choose between club and country.

They estimate they will lose at least £10,000 with fans opting to watch England on telly rather than turning up at Adams Park for Blues' match against Peterborough.

Blues secretary Keith Allen said: "No consideration appears to have been given by the FA to the loss of revenue that will be suffered by Nationwide League clubs."

A spokeswoman for the FA said: "We sympathise with the Nationwide League clubs but these are established dates decided by FIFA."

"We have to play on the international dates set down within their universal calendar otherwise we wouldn't have much of a case to get players released by their clubs."

Clubs do have the right to move their league fixtures to avoid a clash but Wanderers' directors decided against that and have confirmed that the Posh game will still go ahead at 3pm on the 10th.

They considered playing on Friday but couldn't because the Vere Suite and Woodlands Lounge were already booked for prior engagements.

Allen said: "The directors were in a no win situation. Whatever they decided was going to upset someone."