

Anniversary gave us something to ponder



STEVE BROWN

PARKLIFE

IN the wake of our 4-1 defeat at Northampton we had a big meeting on Monday.

The gaffer walked in and asked us if we knew what date it was. It was of course April 8 – one year to the day since we played Liverpool in the semi-final of the FA Cup at Villa Park.

It made us all think. Twelve months ago we were giving it our all against Liverpool and showing what we were all about, then last Saturday we were being beaten up by Northampton.

If someone had said a year ago that we would roll over like that against Northampton, no-one would have believed it.

It was a good point well made and it hit home with all the lads because we all want to get back to that cup form.

Obviously living in Northampton I've taken quite a bit of stick over the result. My neighbours have taken great pleasure in rubbing my nose in it.

And for once I can't really answer them back. Four-one is a beating in anyone's language, there's no hiding from it and no excuses.

What was surprising though was that for the first half we looked in total control. It really was the typical game of two halves.

Northampton really came at us. They realised it was last chance saloon and really went for it and gave us a real beating and we conceded three headed goals which really is unusual for us.

But unfortunately, conceding four goals hasn't been that unusual this season. We let in five at Stoke, four at home to Blackpool and Huddersfield and four against at Brighton and now Northampton.

We have let ourselves down this season and it has been a very ponderous week for us.

We've re-grouped and had a long chat about things and now we've got to try and finish the season on a high note and send the fans off on their summer holidays with a smile on their faces.

It's our last game of the season tomorrow and we've got to show real character, the same spirit that we showed in our cup run last season.

We've got to roll our sleeves up and put on a performance for the fans. We know we're capable of it because up until that Blackpool defeat in mid-February, we were having a good season and were in with a good chance of the play-offs.

Seeing what Brighton and Brentford have done this season should give us hope for next season. They are similar size clubs to us and have done very well. Congratulations to everyone at Brighton for already securing promotion and at the moment it looks as though Brentford might claim the second automatic promotion slot which would be a fantastic achievement.

Our neighbours at Reading were favourites for automatic promotion a few weeks ago but they have started to show some real nerves and might now have to settle for the play-offs.

Blues bid to box clever

WANDERERS will stage their first ever boxing tournament at Adams Park in October.

They have paid Marlow Boxing Club £2,000 to bring their dinner show into the Vere Suite and it looks as though it could be the first of many fight nights at the ground.

The BFP has learned that Wanderers intend to raise the roof of the function room this summer so that they can accommodate boxing and wrestling rings in the future.

The football club is confident that boxing could be a money-spinning new avenue for them to explore as they bid to maximise the earning power of Adams Park through non-footballing activities.

● Ian Simpamba was an unused substitute as the Republic of Ireland Under 19 side qualified for the finals of the European Championships.

The Irish drew 0-0 with Holland to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

● Wycombe and the rest of the Football League Clubs will discover the future of troubled ITV Digital on Monday.

It is expected that administrators Deloitte & Touche will put the company into liquidation but the Football League say they are ready to open a £500m legal action against ITV Digital backers Carlton and Granada to recover the money they are still owed.

The £178.5m owed represents less than ten per cent of the recent £2 billion rise in the value of these companies due to ITV Digital being placed into administration.

But Wanderers chief executive Simon Monkman has insisted the club can cope even if it does miss out on the £200,000 it was expecting.

● Dannie Bulman will miss Wycombe's match with Oldham after damaging his ankle ligaments against Northampton.

But the 33-year-old is hopeful he will be fit for the Blues' final match of the season at Swindon.

● Wanderers are still confident Richard Harris can play against Swindon Town.

The former Crystal Palace marksman limped off against Tranmere after damaging his hamstring and needs to prove himself before his contract runs out at the end of the season.

● Three lucky competition winners are due to have a great day out courtesy of the Free Press.

Jo Monaghan, M Cornell and Doris Styles will be treated to a VIP day at Wycombe's match tomorrow.