

Ever had that feeling of deja vu?

RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

TUESDAY evening was very much a deja vu experience. For much of the 90 minutes I thought I was watching a video of Saturday's match.

In both games Wanderers flattered to deceive. We played some attractive football in a couple of short, ten-minute spells but, for most of the time we were given the runaround by both Blackpool and Crewe.

While we were humping long high balls up to our eager front runners, our opponents were neatly finding their men with crisp passing.

I'm sure our midfielders must have reported to Dave Jones with stiff necks on Wednesday, having spent most of the game looking skywards as Mark Rogers and Andy Thomson continually launched aerial bombs way over their heads.

I realise Adams Park is now also the home of rugby but I didn't realise Wanderers also had to play up-and-under football.

On a brighter note, it was good to see Brownie back in the side. We missed his energy and enthusiasm against Blackpool. I'm sure their midfield pair of Wellens and Bullock wouldn't have had so much freedom to run the game if he'd been around.

The return of Danny Senda for Saturday's visit to Brentford is also good. He should be able to help us start building from the back and use his speed to attack down the flanks.

Things aren't looking too healthy - we've dropped down to 17th place with just nine points from nine games. Next stop is Brentford, followed by Plymouth at home. Both are in the top ten despite midweek losses.

One crumb of comfort is that after the next two matches, we will have met eight of the top ten sides in our first 11 games and played eight consecutive games against top ten teams. Things can only get easier, can't they?

Another three points wasn't the only thing to go missing from Adams Park on Tuesday. Wanderers' chief executive, Simon Monkman, also disappeared from the scene.

Shortly after Ivor Beeks walked back in the front door, after a break in Portugal, Monkman was shown out through the back door.

The demise of Mr Monkman certainly came very suddenly and is still a mystery.

Resignation certainly wasn't on his agenda when I had lunch with him last Friday. We met to discuss a wide range of possible sales and marketing initiatives.

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He then e-mailed me on Monday and, apart from acknowledging receipt of his e-mail, I never even had time to respond with my comments.

During his brief reign there certainly appears to have been a strong focus on all the non-playing areas of the club, with a great many changes to all aspects including the offices, systems and personnel.

Maybe a little more commitment will now be dedicated to the team. After all, the quickest way to increase both attendances and revenue is to have a winning team on the pitch.

Blues land Blades clash

WANDERERS have been drawn away to first division Sheffield United in the second round of the Worthington Cup on Tuesday, October 1.

Boss Lawrie Sanchez was disappointed not to land a money-spinning draw away to a Premiership side, but said: "We're a good cup team and we'll be going to Brammall Lane and looking to get something out of it."

● Blues and Wasps held a two hour meeting with police on Wednesday to try and improve the traffic flow in and out of Adams Park. And in a bid to ease the bottleneck in Hillbottom Road, fans going into the official car parks will not pay at the gate but when they park up.

Blues are also planning another push for their park and ride scheme after it flopped in midweek.

No-one turned up at Wellesbourne while just one punter was at Cressex compared to 45 the week before.

Travel plan spokesman Graham Peart said: "We are going to do our damndest to make it work. No-one will be able to shoot us for not trying."

● Travel Plan see page 3