

Gas leak causes red faces at Adams Park

No gas supply at Adams Park means undersoil heating won't work

RED-FACED Wanderers officials had to admit to fans, that the club has no gas supply to Adams Park to power the undersoil heating.

News about the gas problem leaked out at Monday's fans forum when Ted Wheller, of the independent supporters club, asked how the undersoil heating was powered.

And secretary Keith Allen immediately confessed that the undersoil heating, which was part of the £500,000 project to install a new pitch, is still unable to be used as winter approaches.

He said: "There is no gas to this football ground. It stops half way up Hillbottom Road."

But Allen blamed gas company Transco for the fact.

He said: "Transco have messed us and nucked us about from May right up till now."

"The very moment we decided we were going to have undersoil heating, our contractors and the management team placed an order with Transco to put gas in."

"The delay is not my fault. It's not the fault of the directors. If it's anybody's fault, it's the fault of Transco."

But there is light at the end of the tunnel with a line due to be put into Adams Park by mid November.

Allen said: "On November 4, Transco start to dig up Hillbottom Road and the job will last ten days."

"We have been promised faithfully that by November 14, we will have gas in."

And he joked: 'Unfortunately, if gas is not here before our first frost arrives, I might be looking for another job!'

● Chairman Ivor Beeks admitted the Friends of Wycombe Wanderers fund, to raise money to buy players, has only got £15,000 in the account.



Deep in thought: Keith Allen and Lawrie Sanchez consider their options at Monday's fans forum Ref: 02-2585 P10

JOE SLADE

Fans Forum

Beeks said: "I will be meeting with Integrity Software next week and we're going to see how we can push it forward."

At the moment, the Friends of Wycombe Wanderers is not a priority.

"This year will be a really tough year for us. Our marketing is going through a very difficult period and sponsorship is really difficult. It's difficult for a lot of clubs."

"The biggest priority is to deal with all the other things we've got going."

After the scheme was announced last season, the setting up of the fund was only completed on Monday after months of red tape.

There are five trustees - two Wanderers board directors and three independents. The trust deed was finally signed just before the meeting, with bank details given so businesses and fans can donate directly.

Cheques, made payable to Friends of Wycombe Wanderers New Players Trust Fund, can be paid straight into the trust fund or posted to the

commercial offices at Adams Park.

The full bank details are Lloyds TSB, 27-31 White Hart Street, High Wycombe, HP11 2HL; sort code: 30-94-28; account number 03549430.

● Lawrie Sanchez was quizzed on the issue of kits at the fans forum.

One supporter asked why the Blues wore their yellow kit at away matches, even when there is no clash between the two clubs.

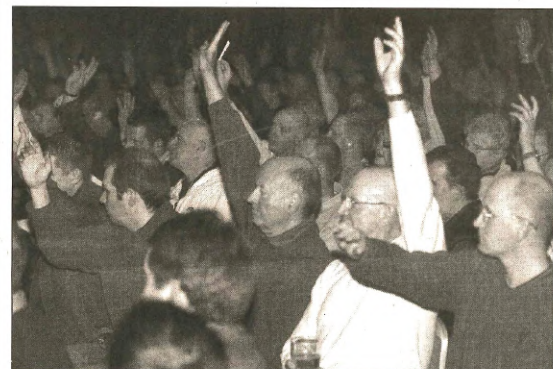
He added that he was proud of the dark and light blues shirts and a show of hands at the forum showed most people would prefer to see Wanderers in the blue kit where possible.

Sanchez said he had seen the yellow kit as the away kit but was amenable to change, admitting he had been pressed into to using the away strip for commercial reasons on occasion.

● Blues fan Sandy Phillips asked the chairman about banning smoking in the seats.

Phillips, who sits in the Woodland Stand, said: "I feel I'm almost driven out by smoking."

Fans at the forum expressed a preference of smoking in the concourse only, and Wycombe officials said they would consider the matter.



Hands up: Fans at the forum make their views known Ref: 02-2585 P25

Sponsor a child scheme

WANDERERS are looking to increase their younger fan base by introducing an adopt-a-fan scheme.

At Monday's fans forum, supporter Malcolm Hobbs spoke about how fans could pay £25 for a child to watch Wycombe Wanderers for a season, in order to get young people in to watch the Blues from an early age.

Hobbs said: "Children are the life blood and future of this and every football club."

"An idea of sponsoring a child to receive a season ticket entirely free of charge, which would entitle them to watch 23 league games, has been put to some existing season ticket holders and the initial response has been good."

Hobbs believes that the children might support their local team rather than following a Premiership side.

● Former Wycombe Wanderers youth team boss Gary Goodchild has been appointed youth team coach at

Norwegian Premiership outfit Viking Stavanger.

Goodchild, who quit Adams Park last year after his Norwegian wife failed to settle in Bucks, has signed a two-year deal with Viking, who recently knocked Chelsea out of the UEFA Cup.

Goodchild, a former Viking player, said: "It's great to be back in football and this is the job I wanted."

The Norwegians made him their number one target on account of his record at Adams Park where nine of his former trainees - Danny Senda, Martyn Lee, Roger Johnson, Ben Townsend, Mark Osborn, Lewis Cook, Lleyton Phelan, Jonny Dixon and Lewis Cook - all went on to make their first team debuts.

● Wanderers have been drawn away to Slough Town in the B&B Cup. The match must be played before November 29, with the winners facing Maidenhead United in the quarter-final.