

Gold stars all round for super Blues



RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WOW! Did we really play that brilliantly on Tuesday evening or was I dreaming?

Chesterfield were no mugs but we played them off the park and could easily have more than doubled our 2-0 winning margin.

In just a few weeks Wanderers have gone from playing alehouse football to serving up champagne football, and I know which taste I prefer.

A big gold star must go to the Big Chief and his coaching staff for getting the team playing to such a high standard. Merit badges to all Wanderers supporters who attended the recent Fans Forum and persuaded Lawrie to restrict the long ball game and play passing football. Since that meeting we're unbeaten with three wins and a draw.

I can't remember the last time the whole team played such great football for 90 minutes, certainly not since our great FA Cup run. However, I must single out Danny Senda for special praise. Until Andy Rammell came on to grab his two goals, Danny was our best attacker as well as our best defender. I'm sure that there must be a number of scouts from Division One and Premiership clubs monitoring his progress. All top clubs are searching for players with skill and pace and Danny has both in abundance.

After all his heroic performances over the last few seasons it seems unbelievable that Martin Taylor is unable to command a first team place. However, big Frank Talia has performed magnificently and thoroughly deserves to keep the keeper's jersey.

Unfortunately due to the cash crisis at the club, Lawrie Sanchez has only been able to offer Frank a one month extension to his current short-term contract. Surely, this could be the ideal opportunity to enlist the help of the Friends of Wycombe Wanderers.

This new players' trust fund already has received £15,000 in donations and a further £11,000 in pledges with very little promotion or marketing by the club. If The Big Chief made an appeal for money to get Frank on a longer contract, or sign a specific player, I'm confident that many Blues fans and local businesses would donate to the fund.

Given the parlous state of the club's finances, the trust fund seems to be the only way any money will be available to loan or buy players for the rest of this season and possibly during next summer as well.

Bearing this in mind, it was surprising to hear Ivor Beeks announce at the Fans Forum that the Friends of Wycombe Wanderers trust fund was a low priority for the club at the present time. Surely this is the very time the club should be widely promoting the initiative to increase donations to the fund. This could then enable the board to reduce the figure they would have to allocate from their limited resources for Lawrie to spend on new players.

Wanderers' favourite, super Simon Garner has come up with an early Christmas gift idea for all Blues fans. His biography "There's only one Simon Garner" has just been published. The book tells about his time at Blackburn, West Brom and Wycombe, plus his short spell at Her Majesty's pleasure. After listening to Simon talking on Five Live about some of the tales in the book, it certainly sounds a great read.

After such a superb win over Chesterfield, I can't wait for Saturday and Swindon. Mind you, The Big Chief has got a real selection headache. Who on earth does he leave on the bench when everyone is playing so well?

See Tuesday's Midweek for your Blues match report