

Blues move up in the card league



RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

THE LDV Vans Trophy may lack the glitz and glamour of the Champions League, but that didn't matter to the scores of Wanderers fans who made their way to Cheltenham on Tuesday evening.

It was good to see so many had made the short trip up the A40 for what is often labelled a Mickey Mouse Cup. The Big Chief also showed his determination to succeed by fielding a very strong side.

I must admit that I was not too hopeful when, just like against Swindon the other week, we conceded a goal deep into added time. Thankfully, Lewis Cook went from zero to hero with his winning golden goal.

Up until he beat the full back on the outside and scored the decisive goal from an acute angle, Lewis had a disappointing game. He wasn't alone though; Richard Harris had also struggled to make any impression against a resolute Cheltenham defence.

It was never a classic match but Wanderers just about deserved their win without ever playing very convincingly. Mind you, the referee certainly didn't help. After Danny Senda's rough red card deal at Huddersfield, this time we suffered an epidemic of yellow fever.

In a match that was never dirty or bad tempered, the referee managed to book nine players. Unfortunately, seven of these were from Wycombe. The way he was going, if extra time had gone the full 30 minutes he may well have had time to collect a full set of 11 names.

According to the card count tables, our disciplinary record is currently the fourth worst in the division with 28 yellows and three reds. With Senda already facing a four-match ban, this record could come back to haunt us later in the season.

It will be interesting to see how the Big Chief shuffles the pack for Saturday. Will he give the gloves to Taylor or Talia?

Big Frank has certainly looked very impressive and hopefully the club will find the funds to extend his stay at Adams Park. Then again, Martin has performed miracles for the Blues over the last few seasons.

The biggest dilemma appears to be up front where we've not yet found our best striking combination. Rambo, Sean and the Falcon are all playing well individually, but whatever duo Lawie puts out doesn't seem to profit as a partnership. Let's hope he picks a pair of aces to be our trump cards against Brentford.

Having already knocked one side in red and white stripes out of the cup this week, now we've got to give the Bees the same treatment. Strangely enough, Cheltenham's next home match is also against Brentford.

Taylor turns up the heat

KEEPER Martin Taylor turned up the heat on Frank Talia with a solid performance at Cheltenham to remind the Aussie not to get too comfy in the number one shirt.

Taylor has had to sit back and watch as Talia has grabbed his chance in the first team with both hands since Taylor was forced out through suspension.

Three-times Player of The Year Taylor was handed a rare chance in the LDV and was only denied a clean sheet by the Robins' injury-time equaliser.

Taylor said: "Frank has done really well. Like everyone else I'm not happy when I'm not playing, all I can do is my best when I play."