

LETTERS

Don't blame fans Lawrie

I WAS extremely disappointed to read in the BFP Midweek (November 19), that Lawrie Sanchez is blaming the loyal Wycombe Wanderers supporters for the disastrous exit from round one of the FA Cup against Brentford on Saturday.

He may be considered by some as being a young and skilful manager with a very bright future ahead of him, but Lawrie, you have to take responsibility for lack of achievements as well as successes.

I was at the fans' forum where tactics were debated and Lawrie seems to have missed the point.

We fans do not have a problem with direct approach football tactics or, as some would call it, the long ball, provided it works.

If it obviously isn't working and the ball is bouncing back repeatedly from the opponents' half and faster than our team can get it there, the fans will be making derisory chants.

As was clearly stated at the forum, Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool and virtually all top teams score goals from the direct or long ball tactic.

The difference is, they don't play it all the time and definitely not when it is clearly not working.

What the fans in Bucks want to see is no different to anywhere else. More goals scored in every game than conceded. We want to see a balance in play. If direct or long ball is working in a game and we are scoring, fine. Stick with it and win the game.

But if it isn't, let's keep possession, pass the ball and try to create openings.

If that doesn't work, change it about and put the odd long ball in

and find the correct balance.

No team in the world only plays a passing game all of the time. So Lawrie, please don't start blaming the fans.

Just sort out your on-the-pitch tactics, get the balance right and you will have won the fans support.

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Brentford had us cornered

For Lawrie Sanchez to say that Brentford 'did it his way' seems to me to be an insult to a youthful, well-organised thoroughly motivated side, full of pace, determination and, not least imagination – witness, for example, the interesting variations in Brentford's corner kicks.

Perhaps my powers of observation are fading but I do not recall that Brentford resorted repeatedly to aimless hoofs forward as witnessed and decided in the match against Crewe on September 17.

I note, incidentally, that in the period up to and including the Crewe watershed, Wycombe had accumulated nine points from nine league matches; in the nine league matches since then they have accumulated 14 points. A fair indication, it would seem, of the benefits of the passing game.

Mr Sanchez may be one of the most highly qualified coaches in the country but, if he can no longer inspire the level of commitment and loyalty which took Wycombe to an FA Cup semi-final 18 months ago, the time may have come for him to move on to pastures new.

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