

Swindon ban BFP writer

Sports editor banned after criticising high ticket prices

BUCKS Free Press sports editor Dave Peters has been banned from the press box for Blues' match at Swindon Town tomorrow after criticising the Robins' ticket prices.

He has been told he is not welcome in the County Ground press box for the second division tussle after branding Swindon Town 'Swindle Town' over their high admission prices for Blues fans.

Swindon hit back furiously yesterday against this term, describing it as unfair.

In his notes for the Wanderers programme against Notts County two weeks ago, Peters took The Robins to task over their high price of tickets.

WANDERERS

Blues fans were being asked to fork out £21 for a ticket to see tomorrow's game, with the ticket prices not only among the most expensive in Division Two but higher than some Premiership matches.

Swindon actually brought their prices down after consultation with their own fans, for their matches against Wycombe and Wigan, but only after the article had gone into print.

Swindon chief executive Mark Devlin said: "The word 'swindle' really cheesed us off. It makes out that we are trying to squeeze money out of people and con them and we are not.

"There is an argument by

some people that our prices are too high but we had to make a decision in June for the club to survive. Prices had to go up and some people find that difficult. It is either that or the club died."

Swindon - who charge their fans the same as away fans - said they would have been happy to welcome any other Free Press journalist in their press box but not Peters.

But Peters said: "At the end of the day, all I was doing was sticking up for the fans.

"They deserve to see Wanderers play at a reasonable price and I believe Swindon were charging too much.

"I'm not suggesting Swindon were conning people but I thought the prices were too high. Clearly Swindon

thought the same because they have now dropped the prices after consultation with their own supporters."

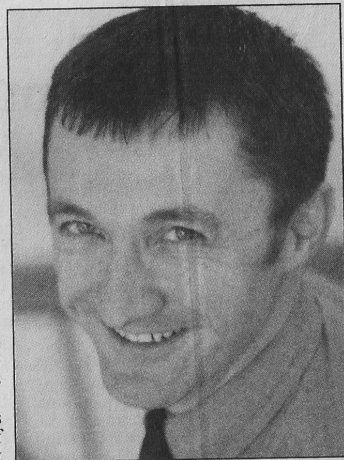
And Blues programme editor Alan Hutchison said the ban was out of order.

He said: "It's ludicrous. They've gone over the top. It was a very good article and I couldn't see anything wrong with it at all.

"If there had been anything wrong, I would have done something about it."

Peters will still be at the County Ground. He has been told he can watch from the terraces providing he comes through the turnstiles and sits with the fans.

Fans buying their tickets today can get in for £17 but if they wait until tomorrow it goes up to £19.



Banned: Dave Peters