

Unwanted hat-trick for the Blues



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VIEW FROM THE STAND

WANDERERS completed an unwanted hat-trick when they lost 4-0 to Cardiff on Tuesday.

Our desperate defence has now conceded four goals in each of the last three matches despite the best efforts of Lawrie Sanchez to ring the changes.

On the brighter side, we performed far better. We've played worse than that and come away with three points. Our passing and teamwork was much improved on the previous two matches.

When we saw so many Samaritans bucket collectors around Adams Park on Saturday we should have realised what we were in for.

I don't know whether they were there because of the despair of Wanderers fans after the Chesterfield surrender or they whether they had anticipated the suicidal defending against Stockport. Either way, I bet their phone lines were buzzing with calls on Saturday evening from Wanderers supporters and maybe even Lawrie Sanchez.

I'm very glad to say I missed the players apology to travelling fans at Chesterfield. However I thoroughly agree The Big Chief was well within his rights to demand this, especially as he also took his share of the blame. I cannot understand the views of the small band of Blues fans who disagreed with his actions. I can only presume that whatever Lawrie does will never meet with the approval of this myopic group.

Mind you, I do think he will have to work very hard on some wheeling and dealing over the coming months if Wanderers are going to have any realistic hopes of pushing for promotion next season.

If the performance against Stockport is a taste of what lies ahead, we are going to have more pressing problems at the other end of the table.

The simple truth is; with the notable exceptions of Frank Talia, Danny Senda, Roger Johnson, Chris Vinnicombe and Michael Simpson; we do not have enough quality players in the squad.

What we do have is a few potentially good youngsters, several older players who have still not achieved their potential and a couple of senior players who can always be relied upon to give their all for the club.

If we're ever going to seriously challenge the leading clubs, we need to improve the quality of the squad by adding a commanding central defender, another midfield playmaker and a strong, proven goalscorer.

Although our performance against Cardiff was much better, our record against the leading clubs has been very poor this season.

So far, we have played 15 games against the top eight clubs and have only picked up ten points out of a possible 45. Four of these top clubs; Wigan, Crewe, Cardiff and Luton have completed the double over us.

Hopefully our current poor results will not scupper the club's welcome initiative on Super Early Bird prices for new season tickets and the innovative Cash Reward Scheme.

Play-off plan

●Continued from the back:

Teams finishing eighth and seventh in the league will visit the fifth and sixth-placed sides in a one-off game.

The winners then travel to the teams which finished the season in third and fourth-place in another set of one-off games, with the winners going through to the final.

Quarter-final:

Match A: Team 5 v Team 8;

Match B: Team 6 v Team 7

Semi-final:

Team 3 v winners of match A;

Team 4 v winners of Match B.

Winners go through to final.