

Rushden defeat is a kick in the teeth

When you're down and struggling to get up, fate has a nasty habit of kicking you in the teeth.

And it certainly gave Wanderers a few painful kicks at Rushden.

I'm not sure what Frank Talia was thinking about when he raced out and flattened Onandi Lowe after just a couple of minutes. At the time, I thought his sending off was harsh but having seen the incident on television his rush of blood deserved a red.

With no substitute keeper on the bench, fate struck its second blow. Bomber Harris had to go in goal whilst Steve Williams kicked his heels in the stand.

Only last week, during the televised Sheffield Wednesday match, the Sky pundits mentioned a couple of times that Lawrie Sanchez was tempting fate by not including a keeper amongst his five replacements. Well just five days later fate accepted the temptation to strike.

With a choice of playing any three from five substitutes, I firmly believe that because it is a specialist position you should always have a keeper on the bench. Mind you, as a paid up member of the keepers union I would say that.

The two other dismissals of Lawrie Sanchez to the stand and Chris Vinnicombe just before the second goal, were further examples of kicking a team when they're down. The irony is that, despite all these problems, Wanderers once again played reasonably well and with a little bit of good luck could have come away with at least a point.

Unfortunately, playing well and losing is becoming a nasty habit and you really can't get too excited about one point out of a possible fifteen.

The most encouraging aspect of the Rushden trip



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VIEW FROM THE STAND

was the magnificent support of the Wanderers fans. Not only did we turn up in great numbers but, we kept up a constant barrage of vocal support which completely drowned the home fans. If only we could get this level of encouragement at Adams Park.

Having said that, much of this was in response to some very heavy-handed stewarding in and around the away stand, with the stewards seeming aggressive.

This week's trip to QPR is a timely coincidence given the possibility of Wasps moving back to Loftus Road. Having finally won the costly legal battle to stage rugby at Adams Park, it would be a severe financial blow if Wasps upped sticks back to west London.

We can only hope the board had the foresight to include a clause in an agreement ensuring Wasps reimburse all Wanderers legal expenses if they decide to kick Adams Park into touch at the end of this season. This matter could prove to be an interesting topic at the Annual General Meeting.

Now seems the perfect time to beat QPR and then thrash our 'good friends' from Colchester on Tuesday night.