

Axed boss says his goodbye to the fans

*These are the
programme notes
Lawrie Sanchez
submitted earlier in the
week for tomorrow's
match at home to
Plymouth. Whether they
will be used remains to
be seen.
Here they are
reproduced in full*

GOOD afternoon.

It is unusual for a manager to be able to write his own obituary but after 254 games in charge it is opportune for me to have the last word, as many who have met me will testify. Terry Gibson will be in charge of the team today alongside Peter Cawley and I hope everyone can now get behind the team without distractions.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone at the club from Mags in the laundry room to Ivor in the boardroom. As I leave the club, the youth set-up is in the capable hands of Colin Barnes and Michael Forsyth and I am sure they will produce many good players for the club.

My thanks go to Alan Fogarty for his outstanding job on the scouting front. Thanks to Dave Jones and Terry Evans in the physio room, to Jim in the kit room, (despite providing the wrong shirts for players as Guy (Iffy) Branston will testify), to Hutch who's somnolence in the middle of discussions during the coach trips was a delight to behold and is the club's oral historian.

And of course, to Pete who has given us a greater scientific base to our training.

Finally to Gibbo, my right hand man without whom none of what we achieved would have been possible.

Last but not least to you the fans who mostly, have only had good and kind words to say to me especially during the current difficult period.

To the vocal minority who have finally got what they would have wished for, all I can say is, that in my time at the

LAWRIE SANCHEZ

WRITES FOR YOU

club, I have had three offers to leave for clubs in the first division. In all cases, I turned the offers down preferring to show loyalty to Wycombe, hoping that I could manage in the first division here.

I am disappointed that the loyalty that I have shown to the club has never been reciprocated by them and I think their behaviour over a period of time ultimately says more about them than it could ever say about me.

But to you the decent majority, I would like to say that I have enjoyed every minute working for you. I hope I have given you some great times, in fact I know I have and I hope that when I do return, as I am sure to do, you will remember those times.

As for myself, I am disappointed to be leaving the club but I have great memories. My own personal highlight is probably Wimbledon away, (although Leicester and Lincoln run it close) on my old patch, beating my old team in what was a magnificent night's football with 10 men for the majority of it – thanks Simmo for that – and a Martin Taylor penalty to finish it off, sharing it with my son Jack walking across the pitch to see the 4,000 odd Wycombe fans. That for me is the highlight of my time here.

But life is about ifs and buts. Someone once said to me that life, like football, is about chance, you do your best to put chance in your favour but sometimes events can conspire against you. It has been true during my time here in "What if" Jockey had been given off-side when Embers scored at Lincoln? "What if" Roy Essandoh hadn't answered our internet advertisement for a striker? "What if" we had held on at Blackpool until half-time or not conceded against Chesterfield in injury time?

These are all the many chances that send our lives in different directions and ultimately to today's outcome.

I would like to thank the players. I know that they are better than they have shown this season.

Some people have said that they have let me down, I don't agree with that. What they have done is given their best the majority of the time but ultimately, this squad will need strengthening.

To finish 18th in the division last season, to lose four of our most experienced players and only improve it with the introduction of young Charlie Mapes, Stephen Dell, (both from non-league) and Andy Bell was always going to prove difficult.

The very fact we have given five players their league debuts this season just goes to show how hard it was always going to be.

As for myself, by the time you read this I will hopefully be lying on a beach somewhere watching the results come through on my phone and looking out for the Wycombe result and hoping for a win.

Four-and-a-half years, 254 games, it has been an enjoyable ride for my part, I bear a lot of affection for this club and will continue to look out for its results but now it is someone else's responsibility.

As you look around the

ground, you will still see remnants of my reign. The cash that was put up for the new away stand generated by the cup run, likewise the purchase of the training ground up at Booker.

The plaque outside the boardroom that says 'Semi-Finalists in the FA Cup' – a feat I don't think will be beaten in many a year.

I leave almost where I came in. I hope those that met me along the way have enjoyed the experience – I was never the next Martin O'Neill, conversely neither was I Alan Smith!

I am Lawrie Sanchez.
Onwards and Upwards!