

Board face big decision

THE choice of the next Wycombe Wanderers manager will be an important one.

But it's not just a question of consolidating the club's second division status.

Football is also about identity, who you are and what you stand for.

My earliest recollections of Wycombe teams at Loakes Park, but also in the first years under Martin O'Neill, were of a club close to its fan base, partly explained by its constitution, and of teams which sought to play good attacking football.

I hope the board choose a manager who gets back to playing football.

That means coaching the players in ball techniques, passing through (and not by-passing) the midfield, and playing with proper wingers.

In exceptional situations, tactics have to be adapted, but generally speaking 'direct football', the euphemism for kick and rush, doesn't fit in with the club's character.

The limited finances also play a role, but it is more a question of where the resources are invested.

In my opinion, Wycombe have to put a lot into their youth policy and recruitment.

There needs to be quality coaching staff for the youth and a scouting network able to spot those with most potential in amateur and youth football. Finding ageing over-priced players past their sell-by date is only a stop-gap solution.

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