

Anyone know the way to Darlington?



RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

THE doors have finally closed on the basement lift and Wanderers have begun the downward journey. Destination Division Three and the delights of Swansea, Southend and Scunthorpe.

After all the excitement of celebrating back-to-back victories, Wanderers fans suffered a painful and pointless Easter. Going down to Plymouth in the top-versus-bottom clash was no big surprise, but losing at home to Tranmere was certainly not what we were hoping for.

Getting beaten at home is bad enough, even though we've been well used to it this season, but the two giveaway goals made it especially agonising. After making such a bright start we gifted Tranmere two of the softest goals they are ever likely to score.

In fact, their goalscorer Eugene Dadi looked almost too embarrassed to take the credit for the first after Chris Vinnicombe's terrible back pass put him through on goal.

Poor Vinnie then saw his sloppy throw-in set up their second goal just before the break. No wonder he didn't return for the second half.

In the pub after the game it was all hands to the calculators to see if Wanderers could still avoid the drop.

It appeared to be mathematically possible, all we had to do was win all our final four matches. Oh, and by the way, Notts County, Grimsby, Chesterfield and Brentford all had to lose all their remaining games. No problem there then!

Then some bright spark realised that Grimsby have got to play Brentford and either somebody is going to get the three points or they will both get one. Result, Wycombe are already relegated and it's time to drown our sorrows.

Wanderers may not have picked up many points this season, but we must have played more players than most other clubs.

I make it that we have now fielded 38 different players in our 42 league games. That even includes six different keepers, including Bomber taking over when Frank was sent off at Rushden, Brownie's cameo performances between the sticks at Rushden and Plymouth, and Lee Worgan's debut against Tranmere.

Many of those 38 players have already departed from Adams Park and judging by Tony Adams' comments after Monday's defeat there will be several more going out of the gates over the coming weeks.

Big Tony gave an ominous warning to his squad when he said: "Decisions have to be made in the summer and a lot of players confirmed those decisions for me today"

It looks like the big broom is coming out and we could be cheering on a very different side next season. Hopefully a winning one!

As for the rest of this season, the players who want to stay have got to perform to win their places in the new squad whilst the team must surely play for their pride.

No doubt Big Tony will also be blooding some of the youngsters to see how they shape up.

Let's hope we can get a couple of confidence building wins and maybe get ourselves off the bottom of the table.