

Life's rosy as a Wanderers supporter



RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

SO far this season, life just gets better by the minute for Wanderers fans.

A three game unbeaten run, picking up seven points, and moving to third place in the division made last week a pretty impressive seven days by any standards. As if that's not enough there is the, as yet, unofficial news that the club has attracted its first new investor following the recent constitutional change.

At the end of my last column I suggested, with tongue firmly in cheek, that nine points from the next three games should be enough to bring in a few hundred grand towards Wanderers investment target. Well Big Tony and the team did a great job in collecting seven points and that was enough to loosen a few purse strings.

Although there has been no official announcement from the Board, it appears that Steve Hayes is the first White Knight to ride into Adams Park with a dowry of £250,000. This investment will buy him a significant shareholding in the club along with a place on the Board. This is in addition to the very significant fee paid for the sponsorship of the club shirts by his company Loans.co.uk.

Hopefully, if Wanderers can continue their current form, there will soon be several other investors making their way up Hillbottom Road.

As usual with Sky evening games there was a great atmosphere in and around the ground on Friday. The Oxford fans certainly came along in force and played their part in a very entertaining encounter. In fact, there were almost as many yellow Oxford shirts as yellow police jackets!

How come so many police are available to cover a football match on a Friday night when you can't find one for love nor money when you need one? If you call the police to report a theft or break-in, the normal excuse for not attending is shortage of manpower. But organise a football match and suddenly you can have as many as you like, or to be strictly accurate as many as the police advise you should have. Could this have anything to do with the football club having to pay for every police officer on duty at the game?

They certainly didn't appear to be doing too much to help clear the traffic after the game. Instead their fleet of vans added to the gridlock in Hillbottom Road as many of them drove off before the fans' coaches were able to get away.

Judging by his performance against Oxford, the jury is still out on new loan striker Bas Savage. In fairness he put himself about a lot, but he was always struggling to keep his balance and failing to keep hold the ball. He also hardly won a header all evening. On the credit side, I did give him top marks for the fall that got the penalty.

Maybe it was first night nerves in front of the Sky cameras. Good luck next game Bas, I'm looking forward to eating my words!

I still feel we need a midfield playmaker to provide Tyson and Stonebridge with the killer ball in and around the box. Let's hope Big Tony can get his hands on some of that new investment money.

Next stop the sunny seaside, or rather Southend, and hopefully another three points to maybe take Wanderers to the top of the league.