

Ivor was our engine

**View From the Stand
by Ron Barnett**

WHAT a week this has been for Wanderers.

First of all Ivor Beeks decides to drop down the pecking order. Then on Saturday we murder Orient in the first half, only to



almost commit suicide after the break. Finally, on Monday, we win the Berks and Bucks Cup for the first time since the halcyon days of Martin O'Neill.

The announcement that Steve Hayes will take over the day-to-day running of the club must have been one of the worst kept secrets. Since his company, Loans.co.uk, became Wanderers' main sponsor and he invested £250,000 to buy a seat on the board, he's had a growing influence on most matters at Adams Park.

Ivor Beeks has done a brilliant job for Blues over the last 17 years and I hope he'll retain a high profile at the club. However, the time is right for a change of leadership to bring some fresh thinking and new objectives.

Judging by the few times I've met with Steve Hayes, I believe he has the drive and ambition, and not least of all the financial acumen, to rebuild Wanderers' fortunes.

Thank heavens we were not relying on beating Orient to confirm a play-off place. Otherwise, Wanderers' second half performance would have given many fans a heart attack.

The first period was one of the best displays of the season and at the break the Blues were cruising to victory at 3-0. Then for some reason John Gorman decided to change a winning system by replacing midfielder Joe Burnell with a third striker, presumably to go in search of more goals. Instead, we lost control of midfield, conceded two goals in two minutes and were lucky not to find ourselves back on level terms.

Thankfully, Wanderers eventually managed to regain their composure and pick up the three points. However, this Jekyll and Hyde performance was a perfect example of Wanderers stop start season.

The Berks and Bucks Cup Final was also a game of two halves. Before the break there was little or no action as fans slumbered in the sun.

In direct contrast, the second half was an all action affair with five goals, including Johnny Dixon's naughty but nice lob from a drop ball on the halfway line. Johnny was saved further embarrassment by Brownie's instructions to let Aylesbury walk the ball into the Wycombe net. Steve Williams' last minute save ensured Wanderers won 3-2 and picked up a nice bit of silverware for the trophy cabinet.

So a season of nearly but not quite closes at Bristol Rovers on Saturday. Providing John Gorman is given a bit of cash to splash in the summer, we can hopefully look forward to pushing for an automatic promotion place next season.

Dixon's nightmare

BLUES striker Jonny Dixon is hoping dreams don't come true after his nightmare experience.

He dreamed over the weekend that he was one of three Wanderers called into manager John Gorman's office to be told he was being released.