

Missing the party hurts



VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH
RON BARNETT

WHEN the Humber Bridge was being built a local Hull singer/songwriter penned a satirical song titled "What happens if they build a bridge and no one comes."

Many fans face a similar type of dilemma when they have to miss a match, "What happens if the team score lots of goals and I'm not there."

This was certainly my problem on Saturday. Whilst Wanderers were burying Bury I was driving up the M42 to a friend's birthday party in Burton, which was inconveniently planned to start during the afternoon.

Despite only missing an average of two or three home games a season, I seem to be a serial absentee when Wanderers go on a rare goal spree.

Several years ago when an on-song Wanderers crushed Burnley 5-1 I was at a Beautiful South concert. A few seasons later when we won a 5-3 thriller against Reading I was walking in the Peak District. So, Saturday's goalfest was no surprise.

At least I had the consolation of hearing the goals going in whilst I was driving. Roger Johnson volleyed home on the M42, Tommy Mooney added the second on the A444 and then Nathan Tyson scored from close range whilst I was parking in Burton. By the time Tyson grabbed the fourth I was already celebrating a great win with a pint of Guinness.

My weekend finished on another high when I saw an equally pleasing victory at Adams Park. This one was in the new Scores Sports Bar, watching Chelsea beat Arsenal. I was surprised just how few fans were using this excellent venue. In fact there were nearly as many plasma screens as there were people. It's certainly a better place to watch football than the local pubs and the revenue helps the club's finances.

Wanderers' wonderful start to the season continued on Tuesday with an impressive 3-1 win at Swindon. By playing his strongest available side John Gorman made it clear he's taking the Carling Cup seriously, let's hope we get an attractive draw.

Our dynamic striking duo of Mooney and Tyson have set themselves a joint target of 50 goals for the season. This seemed to be an ambitious aim, but they have started in great style with seven goals in the first five games. Tyson is averaging a goal a game and if he continues at this rate there will be a queue of club scouts wanting to take a closer look.

This weekend Wanderers have two very winnable games against Shrewsbury and Cheltenham. If we can pick up six points we could well start September on top of the league.