

Why are Blues drawing so many games?



BAKER'S BLUES

WITH
IAN BAKER

‘That game was way above the level of the second division and Wycombe were by far the best team we have played. The two strikers [Tyson and Mooney] caused a lot of problems but to be fair they are above this division.’

That was the view of Stockport manager, Chris Turner, which certainly mirrors the post-match opinions of most managers this season. But just why are we drawing games we should have sewn up?

It is a baffling question, as we have had chance after chance to win games.

Take the Northampton match. We beat them 22-1 on shots but somehow the match finished all-square at 1-1.

I can see two reasons for our lack of wins. Firstly the defence and the goalkeeper have not been in top form. Frank Talia's form, just like his fellow countrymen in the cricket (sorry, I could not resist!), has dipped slightly.

Talia needs to get back to the sort of form he showed last season, and in particular improve his understanding with his central defenders.

Secondly, goals win games. We should have had a hatful in every match, given the chances we have made. Chances need to be converted.

It was encouraging to hear John Gorman's opinions on the Beautiful Game at the Fans Forum. Gorman indicated that he would always want a team of his to play attractive football. It seems to be the right tactic because we look a great team. If we could work on the weaknesses I have suggested, we will be an even better team.

I have been pleased with the improved atmosphere at Adams Park. Fans have certainly warmed to the football that we are playing as the crowd have got far more vocal this season.

The Aston Villa game will be interesting. Villa have not set the world alight and were truly awful when they slipped to a 4-0 defeat at West Ham on Monday.

With our style of football, I think we have a fair chance of actually beating Villa and progressing to the third round of the League Cup for the first time.

The Supporters Trust are running a Race Night on Thursday, 29th September at the Vere Suite (7.30pm start) and it would be good to see a lot of people support it.

By then we will hopefully be talking about good results rather than good football. And leading the race for promotion to League One with any luck.

Ian Baker is on the board of Wanderers Supporters Trust. For details about the Trust and how to join see www.wwst.org