

Good to see us top of the tree



VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH
RON BARNETT

WELL we've reached the halfway point of the season with Wanderers sitting proudly in pole position.

Despite the recent wobble at Bury, Wanderers are two points clear of Grimsby and Orient, although the Mariners do have a game in hand.

Mind you at half time on Boxing Day, with Torquay leading 2-0, it looked like we were in danger of the wheels coming off our promotion wagon. Thanks to a much-improved second half display, including two assists from Tommy Mooney, we battled back to pick up another valuable point.

This is the ninth time Wanderers have gone behind this season and every time the team has fought back to take at least a share of the spoils. This says a great deal about both the excellent team spirit and the tactical astuteness of John Gorman.

Sky made a great decision in selecting Thursday evening's clash with Orient for their televised match. This is a true top-of-the-table encounter where the result will determine which of three teams will be league leaders at the final whistle.

If Wanderers win we will retain top spot and leave Orient five points adrift. However should the visitors win they will leapfrog above us and, depending on the Grimsby result, could take over the league leadership. If our match finishes all square then Grimsby could find themselves on top with a game in hand.

Wanderers' defence will certainly have to be on top of their game in the next three matches. Our next three opponents all won on Boxing Day and crashed home a total of 13 goals. Whilst Orient were putting five past Rushden, Bristol Rovers scored twice to beat Shrewsbury and finally Macclesfield hit Stockport for six.

The transfer window is about to open for business once again and hopefully John Gorman has been given the go ahead to go window shopping over the last few months.

Although the club finances are not in the best of health, we do need to invest some of the Nathan Tyson money to strengthen the squad and keep the promotion wagon on track.

Despite how well Tommy Mooney and Charlie Griffin have quickly formed a promising partnership, another striker would be top of my wish list. We cannot gamble on Tommy being fit for all the remaining games and Jonny Dixon is still looking too lightweight at this level.

John Gorman also seems to have his doubts about Frank Talia and hopefully he will be able to pick up another promising young keeper on loan.

Let's hope Wanderers can end this year and start 2006 on a high with three straight wins and nine points in our promotion pot.