

Gorman is now on a par with Martin O'Neill



BAKER'S BLUES

WITH
IAN BAKER

What a remarkable job John Gorman has done for this football club.

He joined Wycombe Wanderers with a "Mr Nice Guy" reputation and question marks hanging over his ability to manage a team without Glenn Hoddle.

Even some misguided fools such as myself would have preferred Danny Wilson at the time. But how wrong we were. Gorman has proved the doubters wrong.

He has turned us from a small team of individuals, into a strong squad with strength in depth. We play fast, attacking football and the enthusiasm and team spirit is immense. Gorman has got to take the credit for that.

Gorman had an extremely difficult January. Mark Philo's tragic death, the eventful Jermaine Easter transfer saga and team selection have all been handled very well. I even understand that Gorman was ill for a short period during the month. But he carried on and worked his socks off for the club.

Easter appears to be an excellent signing and a remarkable bit of business.

Dean Bowditch's arrival appears to be another piece of opportunism by Gorman. We have a really strong squad now. It is surely the best seen at Adams Park since 1995.

Gorman himself can now be described, in my book, as on par with the great Martin O'Neill.

True, Wycombe have had good financial backing from Steve Hayes. But Gorman's character and spirit have rubbed off on everyone, from the board members to the tea lady.

O'Neill and Gorman both seem to enjoy attacking football and playing the game the way it should be played. They seem to be very similar managers.

Gorman did initially upset the fans this week when he asked the club to play in white at Northampton.

Quite why white was suggested is anyone's guess, because white would probably have been a slight clash with Northampton's claret and white home kit.

Fortunately, with pressure from the Supporters Trust, Gorman relented and the traditional quarters were used for the match. This gesture by Gorman and the club was certainly appreciated by the fans.

It is absolutely fantastic to see the club finally listening to supporters, seeking advice and working together. Both Gorman and Hayes have a lot to do with that.

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