

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH RON BARNETT

It looks like Blues have hit the wall

AFTER occupying one of the top three automatic promotion places for almost all of the season, Wanderers now find themselves struggling back in fifth place and four points adrift of the leading trio.

In marathon parlance, it looks like they've hit the wall just as the finishing straight was coming into view. Judging by the performance on Saturday, John Gorman and the coaching staff will have to perform a minor miracle if the team are going to get back to winning ways at Macclesfield.

Anything less than four wins from the final six matches is probably going to mean Wanderers fans will be buying lottery tickets for the play-offs. Not something to look forward to after consistently being one of the top three pacemakers since mid September.

Despite being unlucky with the disallowed goal and Charlie Griffin's strike against both posts, we were second best all over the park to a strong and confident Bristol side. We constantly gave away possession and there seemed to be a lack of communication throughout the side.

No wonder Rovers fans were celebrating their team's performance and the vital three points, which gives them a real chance of making a late run for a play-off place. Whilst they were loudly singing the praises of Irene, Wanderers fans were left wondering who or what they could find to cheer about. I've no idea who Irene is but I'm sure Rovers fans made sure she had a very good night!

The team weren't the only ones to have an off day. The stewards in the Woodlands stand also gave a pretty inept performance.

A small number of Rovers supporters had managed get into the back of the stand amongst the Wanderers fans. Instead of ejecting them to the away end, the stewards chose not to take any action, despite several sorties into the stand and much finger pointing. Thankfully there was no trouble but this had more to do with the good behaviour of Wanderers fans than the action of the stewards.

It was sad to hear that Rhino has finally had to call it a day. Over his 16 years with the club, he has been the perfect role model for any aspiring player.

He has also been the epitome of an all-round player – as well as his more normal midfield role he has also made numerous appearances at full back, centre half and striker.

Rhino finally declares with an impressive tally of 517 games and 50 goals. Thankfully he will continue his career with the club alongside John Gorman and Steve Brown.

Let's hope John Gorman, Brownie and Rhino can work some magic and get the team playing the type of football that put us on top of the league. Hopefully,

we can pick up the pace again and it will be the turn of the top four clubs to run out of steam.

Here's to three points at Macclesfield, as long as we don't give them a three-goal start this time!

