

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH RON BARNETT

Wanderers limp into the play-offs

Just a few weeks ago Wanderers were flying high and proud to on course for a certain automatic promotion out of League Two.

However, last Saturday we finally wobbled into a play-off place looking more like a lame duck.

We certainly should have completed our home league season with a convincing win over ten men Darlington. Although Wanderers were unlucky to hit the woodwork four times, we still should have buried the Quakers given the amount of time we spent camped in their penalty area in the final half hour.

When Tommy Mooney's effort rebounded off the inside of both posts, and bounced to safety, most fans were already celebrating what they thought was a great goal. Apparently video evidence viewed after the game proved that our eyes were not deceiving us. The goal that wasn't a goal really was a goal after all. What a shame the referee didn't have same view as we did from the Woodlands Stand.

Considering we were chasing the game and needed a point to make sure of a play-off place, it seemed strange that no Blues substitutes were used. Surely having so much possession and playing against ten men was the ideal time to throw on another striker for the last twenty minutes or so.

Jermaine Easter must have been busting a gut to get on with so many chances going begging.

As it turned out, Jermaine had to wait until Monday to get his chance to test his finishing skills. He came through with flying colours and two goals which ensured Wanderers retained the Berks & Bucks Cup with a 2-1 win over that nomadic tribe from Milton Keynes.

At the moment it looks like an A40 derby against Cheltenham in the semi-final play-off although that could change on Saturday. If Wanderers lose at Peterborough and Lincoln beat Rochdale, we could find ourselves playing Grimsby instead.

Despite completing the double over the Mariners this season, I think they could be a much tougher hurdle to get clear of over two legs than Cheltenham. So let's hope we can pick up at least a point against the Posh, preferably a confidence boosting victory.

Talking of A40 derbies, it looks like it could be a long time before we have another one against Oxford. They suddenly look likely candidates for the drop into the Conference which will have massive repercussions at an already unstable club.

Mind you I can't gloat too much in my local pub as, despite their dramatic drop down the table, their recent form record is better than ours.

Come on you Blues, let's pulverise Peterborough, then crush Cheltenham and get ready to party at

the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

