

BAKER'S BLUES

WITH IAN BAKER

Why, oh why I have to ask

I could quite easily write 4000 words on the events concerning Wycombe Wanderers over the last fortnight. On the pitch, it has been a poor start with so many questions that need answering, particularly concerning our tactics.

Just why was Sam Stockley playing left back when Craig Woodman was in the squad at Chesterfield? Why do Wycombe continue with Scott McGleish and Jermaine Easter when long balls to them are easily cleared? Why is John Sutton not starting games? Why is Scott Shearer deemed better than Jamie Young in goal? Why is Gary Holt worthy of a place in the side? What side will Paul Lambert play against Brentford?

That final question has led to a set of fans setting up Fantasy Lambo, an online prediction game where fans predict Wycombe's next line up.

But the biggest debate concerns Steve Hayes' announcement at the Fans Forum that Blues wish to move to a new ground with Wasps.

He argues that a new ground would increase the fan base and revenue, while allowing Wasps to meet the 15,000 capacity needed to meet rugby authority regulations.

The ground should cost next to nothing if an enabling development occurs, similar to what has happened at MK Dons.

What in effect will happen is a large superstore will effectively pay for a new ground to be joint owned by Wycombe and Wasps.

But the project has downsides. We will no longer be in control of our ground and will have to give Wasps equal footing.

The biggest asset we have is Adams Park. Without a wholly owned ground, the club could find themselves in big problems if they are financially mismanaged over a sustained period. Additionally the ground may hold 20,000 but the atmosphere will be very poor if only 5,000 Blues fans are in the ground.

I don't know whether a move will be in the best interests of the club. But if there's any doubt, you have to err on the side of caution, which means staying at Adams Park.

Hayes suggested that a new ground will be the first built in modern times to have a terrace. Regardless of what happens with the ground issue, Sunday's game with Brentford has been declared a Safe Standing Day. Fans from other clubs will be attending Adams Park to lend their support to the campaign.

Do I support safe standing?

That's one question I can give a categorical yes to. I hope the day is a success and the authorities take note.

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

