

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH RON BARNETT

Life feels so much better just now

Wanderers have begun a nice little run. Three games unbeaten and seven points in the bag, no wonder Blues fans are feeling a little happier with life.

After a slow start to the season Wanderers now seem to have got into their stride and have caught up with the front runners. With just four points covering the top 12 teams it looks like being a long and closely fought promotion race, which will probably go all the way to the wire.

In the last two seasons Wanderers have sprinted out of the starting blocks and been one of the leading pacemakers, only to run out of stamina in the decisive closing stages. Hopefully Paul Lambert and the team will be able to pace themselves better this year and hit the front at the business end of the season.

He certainly has a much stronger squad at his disposal as well as a couple of key players in Will Antwi and Mike Williamson, who should both be returning to fitness over the coming months.

Looking at the current league table it appears that the cream has already risen to the top. I wouldn't mind betting that the three automatic promotion places and the four play-off places come from these top 12 clubs. I just hope Wanderers are one of these seven sides, preferably in the former of these two groups.

So far Wanderers have played three of the top 12 sides resulting in one win, one draw and one defeat. These early season results seem to confirm just how tight this division is going to be.

The comings and goings in the January transfer window could well be decisive in such a close promotion race. The clubs with a bit of cash to splash, such as Peterborough and MK Dons, could use the opportunity to fund an attempt to breakaway from the leading pack. Let's hope Steve Hayes can find some loose change in case Lambert needs to do any shopping in the January sales.

T o m o r r o w Wanderers are off to Bradford, another of the dozen front runners and hopefully another three points.

