

'As a family club we do not condone this'

A WYCOMBE Wanderers supporter has been banned from all football matches in what the club says is the first ever incident of racism among its fans.

As the Blues played against MK Dons on Saturday, April 12, supporter Alan Liddiard was arrested after club stewards spotted him hurling racist abuse against Milton Keynes players.

The 38-year-old, of Abercromby Avenue, High Wycombe, pleaded guilty to chanting in an indecent or racist nature and was banned from attending any domestic or international football matches for the next three years at Milton Keynes magistrates' court last Thursday.

Now stewards for tomorrow's home game with Bradford, have been issued with a photo of Liddiard.

John Tose, fire safety officer for Wycombe Wanderers FC, said: "Stewards have all been briefed, and they have all been issued photos and descriptions of the man. He has had a letter stating if he's found in the grounds there will be a prosecution against him."

By Lucinda Adam

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Mr Tose added that the club also had some limited CCTV surveillance capabilities to monitor the crowds.

Ian Baker, a board member for the Wycombe Wanderers Supporters' Trust, said: "As a family and community orientated club, the trust does not condone any activity of this [racist] nature.

"It's very disappointing that someone supporting Wycombe has been involved in something like this.

"Although things can happen in the heat of a match, racist chanting is totally unacceptable."

Liddiard is barred from any events at Adams Park stadium for the next three years. On match days, he cannot step within a one mile radius of Adams Park – or three kilometres of any opposition ground – between three hours before kick off and three hours after the final whistle.

But former Blues' director and Sky Sports commentator Alan Parry said that Liddiard may never be allowed into their Adams

Park home ground again.

He said: "We support any ban against him and we wouldn't welcome him back to Adams Park unless he could prove to us he had changed his views.

"As far as I'm aware this is the first incident of racism in the history of Adams Park.

"We are very proud of our exemplary record when it comes to crowd behaviour by our fans and our reputation as one of the safest places for families to support football.

"I would be surprised if this man is a regular supporter of ours.

"We are a multinational town and a multinational squad of players and Wycombe Wanderers have always gone out of its way to be at the forefront of the campaign against racism in football."

Liddiard will also have to hand his passport in to police in the run up to any England international games abroad. The court fined him £200 and ordered him to pay £60 costs.

Danny Lynch, a spokesman for the Kick It Out campaign against racism in football said it was "unusual" for Wanderers to be associated with such an incident.

