

Blame the council? No, it's just down to shrewd management

LIFELONG Wanderers fans Eric Buckle stirred up a hornet's nest last week with a letter to the Bucks Free Press published under the headline, 'Blame the council for Blues' plight - a letter from a lifelong fan'.

This week another Wanderers supporter answers back:

'I AM writing this in response to Eric Buckle's strange rant at Wycombe Council, whom he blames Wycombe's current position in the league on.

'A move to a bigger stadium guarantees nothing. Is he not aware that it has almost been the death knell of Darlington FC? That is who I compare Wanderers to, not the likes of Reading or Southampton, who many often cite. They are far bigger towns with larger fan bases than Wycombe can ever aspire to. Forget all the extra thousands at Villa Park in 2001. Most of those just wanted to be part of a unique occasion.

'Stevenage have a chance of Championship football next season. They

haven't achieved this by moving to a larger stadium or by spending large sums of money. It's all down to shrewd management on and off the pitch.

'Remember also, Wycombe spent ten seasons previously in this division and apart from the first one, never looked like gaining promotion. During that time we had some quality players but that still wasn't good enough.

'Eric states that we will lose our better players to bigger teams. That is a fact of football life.

'Regarding attracting promising players to the club, I'm sure Harry Pritchard, an exciting prospect at Burnham, would jump at the chance of playing in the Football League, as would so many young players.

'Anyway, what's wrong with producing your own? Crewe never find this a problem.

'In closing, I assume Eric also blames Wycombe Council for the fall from grace of Wasps over the last two seasons.'

Dave Finch (supporter since 1964)
Totteridge

You can take the defender out of the defence, but...

Picture by ANITA ROSS-MARSHALL/ARM IMAGES

'Personally, I'd much rather keep a clean sheet than score a goal.'

By Andy Carswell

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DAVE Winfield said he'd rather keep goals out than score them after netting his first in more than a year.

The big defender scored his first goal since January 3, 2011 when he bundled in from a corner to wrap up a 3-0 win over Rochdale at Adams Park.

But stopping Dale from scoring gave him far more personal satisfaction as Wanderers kept their first clean sheet in four months.

He said: "Personally I'd much rather keep a clean sheet than score a goal so to get them both in one game is delightful.

"It's always nice to pop up with one or two throughout the season. It's an added bonus for a defender to sink one in, I'm really pleased."

Winfield said not keeping clean sheets had wounded Wanderers' pride this season but he hopes stopping Rochdale from scoring will prove a confidence boost he and the rest of the Blues backline need.

He said: "We've done it today, why can't we do it next week and



SWOOP TO CONQUER: Dave Winfield heads home

the following week? When you do it once it means you are capable of doing it.

"It was one of our goals this season, to keep as many as possible. Unfortunately it's not gone that way so far but hopefully this is something to build on.

"It has been frustrating. We're playing against better opposition as well so we've got to take that into consideration but I think there have been times where we could have done better with goals.

So long as we learn from the mistakes, we can kick on."

The win secured a vital three points against one of Wanderers' relegation rivals, and Winfield says they need to back that up in the coming months.

Only goal difference separated Blues and Rochdale at kick off and having overcome one hurdle Wanderers will be looking to jump over a few more in February and March when they play the likes of Yeovil, Walsall and Exeter.

Winfield said: "These are the games we've got to be desperate to win, when you're playing the teams in and around you.

"It's like a mini-league to stay up at the bottom. You've got to beat the teams around you - we managed to do that.

"It's a massive couple of months for us but it's been a massive season for us so far. We'll take every game as it comes and try to duplicate the performance today and we'll see where we are."