

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

WITH COLIN BAKER

The players are giving their all again

As a season ticket holder and Trust member of Wycombe Wanderers, I would like to congratulate Gareth Ainsworth and his team on the transformation that has taken place over the last few weeks.

Yes, we were put in our place by a strong Port Vale team last Saturday when we played half of the game with ten men, but the three games before that have given us new hope after an opening to the season that left some spectators feeling free to boo their own team.

It is always depressing to see the team you support tottering and playing indifferently, but true supporters don't boo their team. 'End of' as the current parlance has it.

But the same group of players that were sadly booed in what turned out to be Gary Waddock's last match as a manager has been energised by the irrepressible and resolute desire of our acting manager, Gareth Ainsworth, who seems to have enough passion and commitment for a whole team and then some.

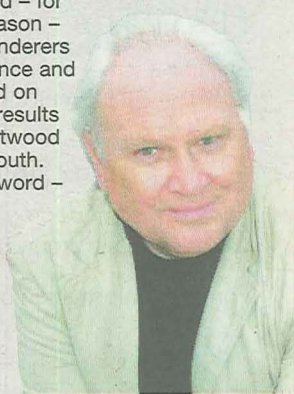
Such spirit is infectious, thank goodness, and he is slowly cranking us up from the bottom of the league towards the middle.

Our battling display on Tuesday to earn a draw against Barnet, a team that has recruited Edgar Davids, a former Barcelona player, as player/coach to help fight for its life in the League, may only have earned us a point, but was yet more evidence of a resurgent Wanderers team spirit.

Gareth Ainsworth tries to gee up the supporters too, with varying degrees of success. The will is there, but the elderly lungs and vocal chords are not always man enough for the task, although one supporter a couple of rows in front of us makes Brian Blessed look like the Horse Whisperer.

The combination of a new passionate manager and the settlement of the ownership cloud and uncertainty that hung over Adams Park for a while seems to have breathed new life into the club.

The town now needs to get behind the Trust and the players in whatever way they can in order to ensure that the recent lift in fortunes is maintained and built upon. If you were temporarily disenchanted – for whatever reason – give the Wanderers another chance and help us build on the brilliant results against Fleetwood and Portsmouth. Spread the word – the Trust is doing a great job and the players are giving their all again.



● Colin Baker is best known as BBC's Dr Who. He lives in High Wycombe with his family. See his archive of columns on our website bucksfreepress.co.uk