

No aim from the Wanderers

An open letter to Wycombe Wanderers' Gareth Ainsworth.

I was unfortunate to see the match against Oxford United over Easter, a rare event for me, but a friend and I went to see Wycombe, especially as they are doing so well.

Then I saw your picture in the sports section, of the two High Wycombe coaches looking somewhat puzzled.

Do they actually do any coaching?

1) Is it normal to walk up the field with your back to the ball when your goalkeeper is taking a goal kick? Some of the Wanderers players do.

2) Why, when he is taking the kick, do they all congregate just north of the halfway line – ON ONE SIDE OF THE FIELD?

Are they having a love in with the opposition, leaving the other half of the field empty?

3) Why does the goalie compound this schoolboy error, by kicking the ball into this mass?

4) Why do the Wanderers insist on playing 'headball' like ping pong? Aren't they capable of bringing the ball down to their feet and playing FOOTBALL?

5) Do they not know, when your side has the ball, you run into spaces, when they have the ball you run into them?

6) Do they not know, that when in doubt regarding a pass, you kick it out for obvious reasons.

I was pleased they took notice of



One reader has questioned Wycombe Wanderers' tactics on the field after watching a game over Easter. Pictured is action from the Wanderers v Oxford game at Adams Park.

Pic by ANITA ROSS MARSHALL WY88902 – p11

my instructions, from section A in the main stand, to hold the ball, play it back, take it to the middle and shoot, but not to hit the post.

But well taken on the rebound. Even the schoolboy sitting in front of me was horrified. Most schoolboy teams play better than

that, in spite of their complete lack of coaching.

The best of luck to them. – Michael Lesley, Seer Green



LOOK WHO'S TALKING

Colin BAKER

Blues winning on and off the pitch

No-one could fail to be impressed by the way Wycombe Wanderers have managed to achieve so much in the last year, both on and off the field.

With one of the smallest squads in the entire league, manager Gareth Ainsworth has somehow contrived to confound the pundits and with three games to go this season, the Blues are still in the automatic promotion spots. I am sure many other Wanderers fans will remember the pre-season predictions of who would be promoted or relegated. Given the last-minute escape from the drop last May, the majority named Wanderers as prime candidates for relegation. The combination of Ainsworth's clear genius for putting together a team that will go the extra mile for him and each other, some very skillful loan acquisitions and a great goalkeeper have kept the team in the automatic promotion spots for the majority of the season, and with the chequered flag in sight we are still there, thanks to the nail-biting victory against Exeter on Tuesday night that broke the midweek match jinx and a club points record. Whatever happens now the season will have been a resounding success. To go from down and out to promotion candidates on a budget that wouldn't pay a Premiership player's tax bill is miraculous. And heaven only knows how the physio and fitness team have managed to get a full squad on the pitch every week.

And off the field, the current Trust and its chairman have really achieved the impossible and kept the club afloat in the most challenging of financial circumstances. Many other clubs in similar situations have crumbled and tumbled down the leagues into oblivion.

Obviously the finances are now crucial and the fan-owned club is going out to the community it has served so well to try to get the necessary investment that will keep it going. In the week that a Blues fan raised £3,000 for the club by jumping out of an aeroplane, it launched its Enterprise Investment Scheme, set up to fulfil the ambitions of 'survival, security and then success.' It is hoped to raise from small investors £2m over five years, thereby increasing the community ownership and securing its future.

Check out the club's website for more information.

■ 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

Street survey

Does Easter trump Christmas as a holiday?

Easter holidays – are they better than Christmas holidays? Which do you prefer, and why?



■ Maggie Millin, a secretary for a housing association from Maidenhead, said: "I think I prefer Easter to Christmas. Christmas is nice, but the weather around Easter is usually much warmer and brighter and it means that spring is here."



■ Brian Millin, retired and from Maidenhead, said: "I do prefer the Easter holidays much more than Christmas. It's so cold and wintry in December but Easter is much milder and you can head outside and enjoy the warm weather."



■ Pam Arnall, retired who lives near Thame, said: "I think I prefer Easter because of the weather. It's just much nicer outside. Christmas is very family-orientated and I'm usually on my own at Christmas so I don't like it as much. Christmas is much better when you have younger children around, but with Easter, you don't need children to enjoy it."



■ Jackie Archer, retired and from Watlington, said: "I like Christmas much more because of the family thing. I don't have children of my own but I get to spend time with my siblings which is really nice and something to look forward to. The cold weather at Christmas doesn't bother me, because sometimes it's cold at Easter anyway."



■ Carole Baker, who works at Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and lives in Aylesbury, said: "I like the Easter holidays more than Christmas. At this time of year, the weather is just starting to get nice and it's so much more enjoyable than the cold weather at Christmas. The weather is wonderful at the moment and it's nice to be able to get outside and enjoy the sun."

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