

Chairboys Gas

*A Magazine by Supporters
of
Wycombe Wanderers F.C.*

INSIDE



**YOU PUT
YOUR
LEFT BOOT
OUT....**

PROMOTION/WEMBLEY/
BLACKLER STAYING/GOING
CELEBRATION ISSUE*

* Delete as appropriate

ALSO INSIDE

- *Going Up?*
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- *Kingstonian*

40p

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Chairboys

Gas

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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Wycombe Wanderers F.C. The Blues Club, or the Editor. This magazine has no official connection with Wycombe Wanderers F.C. or The Blues Club.

EDITORIAL

Come on down to Loakes Park! That's the plea that all current Wycombe supporters should be demanding of their friends over the next few weeks. Not that they should need demanding with so many attractive fixtures coming up starting with Kidderminster at home on February 18, then Merthyr in the F A Trophy on Feb 25 followed by Yeovil at home on March 4 - plus who knows what else?

There will be at least two more CHAIRBOYS GAS this season. Issue 5 will appear at the start of April and Issue 6 will be available at the start of May. I've got a feeling there'll be plenty to write about before the end of the season!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you wish to subscribe to CHAIRBOYS GAS for the remainder of the season (2 more issues) and receive your copy by first class post, the cost is £1.00. Cheques or PO's payable to CHAIRBOYS GAS.

BACK ISSUES

Back copies 1986/87 (7 issues), 1987/88 (8 issues) 30p each and this season 40p each but please be patient and please add the relevant postage. Cheques payable to CHAIRBOYS GAS.

OUTLETS

CHAIRBOYS GAS is now available, in addition to the BLUES CLUB SHOP on match days, from SPORTSPAGES, Cambridge Circus, London and FOOTBALL CRAZY, Spittal Street, Edinburgh. Don't forget we have also added a couple of local outlets in the town centre. They are at POPPS NEWSAGENTS in Frogmore and BARNES NEWSAGENTS in Castle Street. If you know of anyone who has missed out on this issue please direct them to one of the above.

Contributions and assistance for this issue from Ian Blackledge, Simon Burrage, Paul Lewis (Ed), Steve Maguire and Steve Peart.

Behind the Goal

with Simon Burrage

BANKS, WILSON, COHEN, STILES, CHARLTON J., MOORE, BALL, PETERS, HURST, CHARLTON R., HUNT - who can forget the names of the men who won the World Cup for England in 1966? BONETTI, HARRIS, McCREADIE, HOLLINS, DEMPSEY, WEBB, BALDWIN, COOKE, OSGOOD, HUTCHINSON, HOUSEMAN, HINTON - I'll never forget the players I watched as a young Chelsea supporter win the F A Cup in 1970. GRANVILLE, ABBLEY, NORMAN, CREASER, BARRETT, CROSSLEY, CARROLL, ROBINSON, KERR J., DURHAM, OSBORNE, BLACKLER, WEST - these are the names that will live for evermore as the heroes who won at Aylesbury for Wycombe Wanderers on Boxing Day 1988. I cannot recall a match in recent memory where sheer local pride has meant so much and the result so satisfying from our point of view. I still vividly remember that season when Slough Town (remember them?) beat us twice over the Christmas and New Year and went on to win the Isthmian Championship - a horrible experience. Aylesbury's presence in the Conference represents a serious challenge to our local supremacy and could do for some time to come - their spirited performance at Loakes Park and recent results suggest they are anything but certain to go down "BACK TO THE BEANO" (one of many wicked chants heard at our end at Buckingham Road on Boxing Day..tut,tut). However, if they fail to avoid the drop it is unlikely they will do so by a margin of more than 6 points and they will have every right to claim it was Wycombe Wanderers that sent them down...but all that is a long way off yet. For the time being we will all savour the memory of Boxing Day 1988. Somewhere in the region of a thousand Blues fans at Buckingham Road amongst a crowd of 2,400, the majority jammed in behind one goal (thanks to the segregation) creating an electric atmosphere and one which turned into one massive terrace party during the final minutes of the game. The only negative aspect from our point of view was the late dismissal of Martin Blackler, though most of us were still celebrating the second goal when that happened and were not too concerned (little did we realise the significance that split-second incident would have over the coming weeks.). Sean Norman's injury, that resulted in the sending off of Aylesbury's Albert Altenor, looked horrific at the time and it was a great relief - and surprise - that he recovered so quickly. The return match at Loakes Park on January 2 was a more subdued affair, despite a crowd officially given (rather conservatively?) at 3211 and an outrageous goal from the indispensable Westie, but produced an equally satisfying result.

The team had hit a slightly sticky patch just prior to Christmas - five Conference games without a win (hardly a crisis) - but the Boxing Day result began a remarkable sequence of results, with an 18 point maximum from 6 GMVC matches, including wins AWAY wins at Aylesbury, Maidstone, Newport and RUNCORN. Winning 3-1 away to Maidstone was something few of us dared hope for, and gave us extra reason to celebrate New Years Eve. As for winning at Runcorn for the second season running...well, I'm beginning to run out of superlatives. That big 'patio' terrace at the Canal end of the Runcorn ground is ideal for 'aeroplaning' to celebrate a goal and when John Kerr amazingly put us 3-1 up there was an aeroplaning display. The Runcorn fans (all 600 of them) must have thought we were all mad. It's wonderful to win at Runcorn because it's one hell of a depressing place to go to and lose. Would you visit Canal Street regularly if you lived in the Runcorn area? You can only admire the club for their consistent ability to attract good players, I suppose.

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The 5-3 win at Newport was a bizarre match played in even more bizarre surroundings. A ramshackle relic of a disused speedway stadium with, it seemed, more areas closed than were actually open. The whole of one side of the ground plus some of the seats in the main stand on the 'good' side were designated unfit for human habitation but any visiting fan will tell you that the only area of Somerton Park which really should be closed is the ridiculous caged section reserved for away supporters. Beforehand some of us may have felt some sympathy for the desperate plight of the Welsh club, but having been forced into an area which is not even terraced (they've simply concreted over the old speedway track) with a view restricted even further by Colditz-style perimeter fencing, charged £3 for the privilege and then had vehicles leaving the ground stoned by some of the local boyos (the heavy police presence noticeably absent at this point), few of us will shed a tear if they do go "down with the Aylesbury". Of course, none of the above could spoil our enjoyment of another spectacular away win over a lively and determined County side, inspired by their outstanding new signing, David Giles.

If the team's recent performances and results have been virtually beyond criticism and a joy to all the Club's supporters, it's perhaps a little disappointing to mention a couple of points which have, in the eyes of many fans, reflected badly on the reputation and dignity of Wycombe Wanderers F.C. Firstly the Martin Blackler affair (sounds like a title of a 1960's Micheal Caine film), and the Winslow United match. I believe most Wanderers fans supported the principle that Martin Blackler should be disciplined in some way for his second sending-off of the season. A fine of a week or two's wages maybe, possibly even a period of extended suspension from the team. But the public exhibition of putting his name on the transfer list backfired badly when Bath City immediately came in with a £10,000 offer. In the end it all became a thoroughly shabby little episode, dragging on for several weeks (albeit helped by the Midweek's apparent policy of running a background/scandal type story and headline over the back page in preference to a match report, now usually relegated to the inside pages). For what it's worth, the supporters made their feelings clear at Dartford; many of us found it difficult to comprehend that a talented, competitive member of the team was to be released as a 'disciplinary measure'. Was Blackler being punished, or his team-mates who would undoubtedly miss his qualities from the midfield? We then saw quotes in the Midweek to the effect that "it is up to the player whether or not he stays". A little confusing, I'd say, seeing as he'd not asked to go in the first place. Thankfully common sense prevailed, eventually, and Martin will hopefully now be given a fair chance to regain his place in the team (which will not be easy, given the team's current form). As for Bath City, they probably feel they have been led on a wild goose chase, and one can only sympathise with them for that.

Only 515 people paid to see the County Cup-tie with Winslow United - some were probably put off coming by the bad weather, some by the status of the opposition, and some by the ominous pre-match comments in the Midweek indicating that Wycombe were likely to field a side somewhat less than full-strength. Nevertheless, 515 fans did come down, probably in the hope and expectation of seeing Winslow soundly beaten by a superior side. Now, I'm not saying we should always field our best XI in Berks & Bucks matches, but if it was really necessary to field such a weak line-up (Capital League/Youth Team players included) then it says little for the strength of our First Team squad. What we saw that night was an embarrassing shambles. Winslow's enthusiastic band of followers were delighted, of course, to see their team (positioned 17th out of 18 in the Key Consultants South Midlands League) taking opposition from the top half of the G M Vauxhall Conference into extra-time. Personally, it continued over....

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made me squirm. Fortunately a goal just seconds from the end of extra-time put us through, but with it being that close to a replay - which also would have been played at Loakes Park - I wondered what sort of line-up would have been fielded in the second match. The full First Team, to do the job properly as it should have been in the first place? Or the same eleven, or worse? I'm well aware that many people at our level of the game tend to look down on the County Cup competitions as being of little prestige and significance, which I can understand up to a point. Ultimately it is our league position and performances in major competition like the F A Cup and F A Trophy that we are judged by. But as football club we are always in the public eye and should take pride in our reputation, locally as well as nationally. Being made to look stupid by Winslow United does not enhance that reputation. There will be considerable local interest around the High Wycombe area when we visit Marlow in the next round - let's hope we can hold our heads high when we leave Oak Tree Road.

OK, that's enough grumbling. Let it never be said we only moan when things are going badly - we moan when things are going well too! Yes, you can rest assured that, come the end of the season when we complete the first ever Conference/Trophy double (no Wealdstone you haven't done it before - that was the crummy old Gola League before the days of automatic promotion) by winning our final League game 6-0 at Northwich and beating Aylesbury at Wembley 29-0 (including own goals by Lissaman, Boyland and Hercules plus a headed goal by Glyn Creaser (what?), this column will be bemoaning a disappointing performance in the final of the Capital League Presidents Cup (Disgraceful! The 167 people present were incensed!)).

THE TROPHY — NICK JONES REPORTING

WEMBLEY'S NOT SO FAR AWAY

AYLESBURY United have the chance to take a giant step to Wembley on Saturday when they entertain Welsh side Merthyr Tydfil in the F.A. Trophy second round at Buckingham Road.

A place in the last 16 of the non-league F.A. Cup is at stake with United hoping a good run might boost both players' and supporters' confidence in the fight against GM Conference relegation.

"We must start favourites for this one," said manager Trevor Gould as he looked forward to the clash with the

Beazer Homes League Premier Division side: "Staying up is very much our main concern but a cup run generates interest and I wouldn't mind a day out at Wembley," he smiled.

Talk of the twin towers is obviously a little premature but the Trophy has a habit of being won by a side not contesting the GM Conference championship and Aylesbury have as much chance of success in this competition as any Barclays League Division 1 side would have in the F.A. Cup.

Aylesbury United 1
Merthyr Tydfil 3
AYLESBURY United crashed out of the F.A. Trophy with little credit at Buckingham Road on Saturday when Welsh club Merthyr Tydfil out-manoeuvred, out-thought and finally out-classed the home side.

Not only did United tamely leave the competition but they did themselves no favours with some tactics which made many Aylesbury supporters shudder.

THE BUCKS HERALD
9th February 1989

THE BUCKS HERALD
2nd February 1989



KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS maintained their position at the top of the Conference at the start of February. Harriers final 13 League games this season are split 8 at home and just 5 away (including a visit to Wycombe on February 18 plus later trips to Sutton, Kettering, Chorley and Barnet). Kim Casey was welcomed back to the Harriers side in January almost a year after breaking his leg. Casey scored his 92nd goal in 104 Conference appearances on his first full game back, against Runcorn.

Many peoples favourites for the Conference title are KETTERING TOWN who must now get back to League action following their well publicised F A Cup exploits and shock Trophy exit. Their Christmas programme saw their home unbeaten League record come to an end when they lost 2-1 to Boston United. Further bad news came for 'The Poppies' during the same match when 'keeper Kevin Shoemake broke his arm. Harvey Lim, signed following a spell in Finland, has stepped in during the expected six week lay-off for Shoemake. Kettering had 18 more League games to play at the start of February (9 at home and 9 away).

Are BARNET heading for their 3rd consecutive runners-up spot or can they finally clinch promotion this time? This is the question currently buzzing around the Conference now that Barnet have moved into the promotion pack. Barry Fry introduced his 39th player of the season during the 1-1 draw at Macclesfield Town when he brought on Adrian Mann as substitute. Mann joined Barnet on a free transfer from Aylesbury following a £2,500 move from Wycombe earlier in the season. Mann, who has also played for Newport, Altrincham and Bath City in the Conference, replaced striker Nicky Evans who suffered a knee injury after just ten minutes. Fry has also signed former Fisher striker Paul Shinnars from Leyton Orient on a free and has paid out £12,000 for Hayes midfielder Derek Payne. Barry Fry is also favourite to sign Hendon defender Phil Gridelet, a player he has chased for several weeks. Barnet had 15 Conference games to play at the start of February (9 at home and 6 away, including Kidderminster home and away) and have no further interest in the Trophy following their surprise exit at the hands of Gravesend and Northfleet.

Prolific scorer Steve Burr returned following injury for MACCLESFIELD TOWN during their Boxing Day defeat of Altrincham but lasted only one half after pulling a hamstring. To compensate for Burr's absence, Peter Wragg has signed ALTRINCHAM striker John Timmons. Timmons moved from Moss Lane to Moss Rose following 'The Silkens' double over 'Alty'. The deal involved Nigel Shaw and Keith Mountford moving to Altrincham.

MAIDSTONE UNITED did their promotion hopes no good over the Christmas programme - picking up just two points from their three games with Wycombe's 3-1 win at Watling Street on New Years Eve ending an eight match unbeaten run for 'The Stones'. Prior to the game with Wycombe, Maidstone officials were collecting signatures in support of a proposed move to a 15 acre site in the Sandling Road area of Maidstone. The plans, to be presented to the local council in the Spring, centre around a multi-purpose sports arena with a running track surrounding the pitch. 'The Stones' would be unlikely to move to any new site before 1991 and could well opt to share with Gillingham if they finished in the promotion spot. Noel Ashford marked his return to the Maidstone First Team with the winning goal in the 2-1 victory at Aylesbury.

Of course the 'dark horses' for promotion are the mighty WYCOMBE WANDERERS. We were the only club to boast a 100% record over the holiday programme - with further victories at Runcorn and Newport completing 4 consecutive away League victories. John Kerr's six goals in January earned him the Goalscorer of the Month award while Kevin Durham and Mark West and now amongst the League's leading scorers.

Football League officials are carrying out preliminary ground inspections at clubs in the top half of the Conference during January and February. They will be outlining initial stadia requirements to clubs challenging for promotion - with areas such as segregation, number of turnstiles and exits being high priority. Other clubs will be inspected before the end of the season. Meanwhile Conference officials were due to meet on February 12 to discuss sponsorship, the membership card scheme and television coverage.

The relegation battle appears to be developing into a five club battle that suprisingly includes Enfield and WEYMOUTH. Weymouth parted company with Manager Stuart Morgan following a record that saw Weymouth register just five victories from 23 Conference games. Ex-Yeovil Town boss, Gerry Gow, is the man appointed to try and save Weymouth while also moving from Weymouth during January was defender Shaun Teale, who joined Second Division Bournemouth for an initial fee of £50,000. Teale joined Weymouth last season from Northwich for £15,000.

Off the pitch activities at AYLESBURY UNITED continued last month with some of the Club's former Directors claiming some irregularities with the annual returns. The new Directors, meanwhile, continue to develop the commercial activities at Buckingham Road and will be visiting Bristol City, Weymouth and Cheltenham for assistance. Club sponsors for the past few seasons, K W Autos, have had their deal terminated with Aylesbury following the non-payment of their sponsorship money. New sponsors are Pura Foods in deal said to be worth up to £50,000 over three seasons, although this depends heavily on Conference status being retained. Manager Trevor Gould is said to be looking for a couple of new signings and has shown an interest in Wycombe defender Kevin Day who has requested a transfer from Loakes Park.

The annual ENGLAND v WALES Semi-Pro International takes place at Kidderminster on Tuesday 21st March. This is the sixth meeting between the two countries, with two wins apiece and a draw in the previous encounters. Newport's John Mahoney is currently in charge of the Welsh squad that is selected entirely from players who play their football for Welsh sides outside of the Football League.

The England team is managed by Wealdstone Manager and former England player Tony Jennings. His squad selection for the game with Italy came in for some criticism from Kettering Manager Peter Morris, whose players were not featured in the team. Writing in the Kettering programme he said "I believe we have several players whose performance this season compare favorably with those named, one of whom has been out of action with a long-term injury."

The England squad versus Italy was Andy Pape (Enfield), Mark Beeney (Maidstone), Paul Shirliff (Boston), Peter Densmore (Runcorn), Dave Howell (Enfield), Mark Golley (Maidstone), Andy Lee (Telford), Antone Joseph (Telford), Paul Bancroft (Kidderminster), Steve Brooks (Cheltenham), Steve Butler (Maidstone), Paul Davies (Kidderminster), Mark Carter (Runcorn), Mike Lake (Macclesfield) and Phil Gridalet (Hendon). Noel Ashford was forced to withdraw from the squad due to injury.

All 15 of the squad played at some point during the match which was watched by a 4,000 attendance in La Spezia. Mark Carter scored his 8th goal for England in the 1-1 draw which saw debuts for Bancroft, Lake and Gridalet.

G M VAUXHALL CONFERENCE



Up to and including Saturday 11th February 1989

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kidderminster Harriers	30	16	6	8	51	39	54
2	Barnet	29	16	5	8	57	48	53
3	Macclesfield Town	29	15	6	8	53	39	51
4	Wycombe Wanderers	29	14	8	7	60	41	50
5	Maidstone United	27	14	7	6	62	40	49
6	Kettering Town	25	14	5	6	38	29	47
7	Boston United	27	13	6	8	44	43	45
8	Runcorn	29	12	6	11	56	44	42
9	Welling United	26	11	8	7	36	27	41
10	Northwich Victoria	26	11	7	8	46	38	40
11	Fisher Athletic	28	11	6	11	49	47	39
12	Telford United	27	10	6	11	33	31	36
13	Altrincham	26	10	6	10	35	37	36
14	Cheltenham Town	27	9	8	10	39	41	35
15	Sutton United	24	8	10	6	39	30	34
16	Yeovil Town	28	9	7	12	33	31	34
17	Chorley	29	9	5	15	36	43	32
18	Enfield	27	8	5	14	40	47	29
19	Stafford Rangers	28	7	4	17	36	53	25
20	Weymouth	26	6	6	14	28	50	24
21	Aylesbury United	28	5	6	17	32	60	21
22	Newport County	29	4	7	18	31	62	19



FARNBOROUGH TOWN have emerged as favourites to take the V O L Championship this season despite a couple of defeats during January. Their 3-0 win at SLOUGH TOWN on December 27, watched by a crowd of 1,763, took them clear at the top of the table. Former Wycombe and Staines striker, Simon Read heads the goalscorers chart in the VOL.

Farnborough have recently issued a statement regarding the possibility of Conference football at Cherrywood Road. 'Boro are said to be investigating the implications of GMVC ground grading requirements and the increased financial burden that promotion would impose on the Club.

SLOUGH TOWN's poor form of late may be helped by their week-to-week arrangement with Wycombe 'keeper Gary Lester. Gary made his first appearance for Slough in their 4-1 victory over Bromley - a result that ended 'The Rebels' three match losing run.

Along with Leytonstone/Ilford, BISHOP'S STORTFORD are the Championship outsiders. Stortford, who have recently signed Wycombe striker Scott Young, can boast three of the VOL top scorers in Andy Weddell, Carl Zachau and Tom English.

Locally, WINDSOR & ETON have announced preliminary plans for the building of a new £3.1 million stadium at Stag Meadow. The proposed scheme will be a joint venture with the local Athletic Club, who currently occupy a site close to the town centre.

At the other end of the table HARROW BOROUGH have sacked Alan Mayes as Manager after just three months in charge. Meanwhile Alan Gane's STAINES TOWN are currently heading Division One, closely followed by KINGSBURY TOWN and BASINGSTOKE TOWN.



V S RUGBY and DOVER fought their way into the promotion race over the New Year break, while our F A Trophy opponents, WEALDSTONE have dropped alarmingly from the top half of the table following a good start. DARTFORD - still firmly in contention for the title - have announced plans for a new ground on an eleven acre site at Stone Lodge. Dartford, rather ambitiously, hope to start work on the multi-purpose 6,000 capacity ground by May of this year.

In the Southern Division, CHELMSFORD CITY appear to be heading for a quick return to the Premier Division - leading GRAVESEND AND NORTHFLEET, conquerers of Barnet and Kettering in the Trophy, by ten points at the turn of the year. Third placed are HOUNSLOW, who signed Wycombe striker John Regan for a £1,000 fee following a loan spell with the Middlesex club. Regan scored the goal that was enough to beat neighbours RUISLIP on Boxing Day. That game was watched by a seasonal best of 87 (Eighty Seven) at Ruislip, while at the other end of the scale Chelmsford's Boxing Day game at BURY TOWN attracted a gate of 1,200.

In the Midland Division, GLOUCESTER CITY headed the table at the start of February with 57 points from 25 games. Chasing strongly were ATHERSTONE with 53 points from 25 games and TAMWORTH with 47 points from 23 games.



The promotion race at the top of the Premier Division of the HFS Loans League is hotting up, with WITTON ALBION the leaders at the start of February. Witton have already discussed the possibility of promotion to the Conference with Conference officials, bearing in mind their forthcoming move to a new ground in Winsham.

Second placed in the Premier Division at the start of February were GOOLE TOWN. They have sold Defender Dave Kitchen to Stafford Rangers for an initial payment of £4,000 with further payments on appearances up to 30. 21 year old Kitchen joined Goole towards the end of last season from Yorkshire Main.

A crowd of 1,604 watched STALYBRIDGE CELTIC's home 'derby' game with HYDE UNITED on Boxing Day. They saw the Stalybridge debut of Frank Worthington, who has moved from Chorley, but he couldn't stop Hyde winning 1-0.

Aiming for promotion to the Premier Division from Division One at the first attempt are BISHOP AUCKLAND. Following their ambitious transfer from the Northern League at the end of last season, 'The Bishops' were second in the table at the end of January with 59 points from 26 games. The trail COLNE DYNAMOES who were unbeaten in their opening 32 League games and have 77 points, while in third place are LANCASTER CITY with 55 points from 29 games and in fourth place are LEEK TOWN also with 55 points but from 26 games and an inferior goal difference.

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Saturday 11th February 1989

POS		PL	W	D	L	Pts
1	Leytonstone/Ilford	23	18	8	3	62
2	Farnborough Town	28	18	6	4	60
3	Slough Town	23	17	3	9	54
4	Bishop's Stortford	30	16	2	12	50
5	Grays Athletic	27	14	8	5	50
6	Kingstonian	27	13	7	7	46
7	Hendon	27	11	12	4	45
8	Carshalton Athletic	23	11	7	5	40
9	Barking	27	10	10	7	40
10	Bognor Regis Town	24	12	4	8	40
11	Leyton Wingate	28	9	11	8	38
12	Windsor & Eton	27	9	9	9	36
13	Hayes	27	9	8	10	35
14	Wokingham Town	28	8	8	12	32
15	Bromley	29	7	11	11	32
16	St Albans City	28	8	8	12	32
17	Dagenham	29	7	9	13	30
18	Dulwich Hamlet	26	7	5	14	26
19	Tooting & Mitcham	27	7	4	16	25
20	Harrow Borough	28	4	8	16	20
21	Croydon	28	3	7	18	16
22	Marlow	28	3	7	18	16

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Saturday 11th February 1989

POS		PL	W	D	L	Pts
1	V S Rugby	25	15	5	5	50
2	Dartford	25	14	6	5	48
3	Cambridge City	30	12	8	10	44
4	Dover	21	12	6	3	42
5	Gosport Borough	23	12	6	5	42
6	Corby Town	28	11	8	9	41
7	Bromsgrove Rovers	26	10	10	6	40
8	Worcester City	26	10	10	6	40
9	Burton Albion	27	10	8	9	38
10	Ashford Town	25	10	7	8	37
11	Bath City	28	9	9	10	36
12	Dorchester Town	24	9	9	6	36
13	Crawley Town	26	8	11	7	35
14	Merthyr Tydfil	21	10	4	7	34
15	Wealdstone	24	9	7	8	34
16	Fareham Town	25	10	4	11	34
17	Moor Green	26	9	6	11	33
18	Alvechurch	27	9	5	13	32
19	Waterlooville	25	8	6	11	30
20	Leicester United	25	4	6	16	18
21	Redditch United	26	3	3	20	12
22	Bedworth United	27	2	4	21	10

H F S LOANS LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Saturday 11th February 1989

POS		PL	W	D	L	Pts
1	Witton Albion	29	16	7	6	55
2	Goope Town	29	16	6	7	54
3	Barrow	27	15	6	6	51
4	Marine	30	15	6	9	51
5	Hyde United	27	15	4	8	49
6	South Liverpool	26	12	10	4	46
7	Bangor City	25	13	6	6	45
8	Rhyl	26	13	5	8	44
9	Fleetwood Town	27	11	9	7	44
10	Shepherd Charterhouse	32	12	7	13	43
11	Matlock Town	28	13	3	12	42
12	Southport	29	10	10	9	40
13	Buxton	30	9	12	9	39
14	Caernarfon Town	30	10	7	13	37
15	Gainsborough Trinity	28	10	7	11	37
16	Mossley	29	10	6	13	36
17	Frickley Athletic	23	9	5	9	32
18	Stalybridge Celtic	32	6	12	14	30
19	Morecambe	29	8	5	16	29
20	Horwich R M I	32	5	8	16	23
21	Gateshead	30	4	9	17	21
22	Workshop Town	30	4	3	23	15



Football into the 1990s

Last issue we took a general look at the 'Football into the 1990's' conference held at the University of Leicester last September. This month we concentrate on the much publicised and nationally praised speech by ROGAN TAYLOR - Chairman of the FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION.

Taylor's speech, delivered under the heading "SELLING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL", began with his feelings on the current situation surrounding the professional game.

"Professional football has yet to really understand what "marketing" really involves. Nor has it properly understood the unusual relationship that exists between the product, the professional football match, and those who buy it, the football supporters. Professional football is NOT a normal market-place - the game is not a baked bean tin sitting on a shelf waiting for a supporter to come along and buy it. That alone makes proper "marketing" even more important than it would be otherwise."

"To be properly "market-orientated" - an American phrase but one that should be taken seriously - an organisation must focus ALL its operations on the customers rather than the product. In the old days products were produced, then salesmen were ordered out to find someone to buy it. That is no longer the way the commercial world operates - now we look at the customer and find out what he wants, then produce something to match it."

"From our point of view "marketing football" today is almost entirely limited to selling the game to "outsiders" - namely, the commercial sponsors. But, what makes football appealing to such sponsors? It's a combination of the enormous popularity and media exposure which follows in the trail of it. If no one watched football - no one would want to sponsor it! The "product" which is professional football in this country depends absolutely for its commercial value on the supporters themselves. In fact, the supporters are doubly valuable because of their peculiarly intimate relationship with the game. They not only buy the "product" when they go through the turnstiles, they also pay to watch themselves watching a match. Without them, the football match doesn't exist in the same way. Imagine a Cup Final without 100,000 people or without anybody at Wembley - what is it? Is it a saleable commodity? No of course it isn't. In an important way football supporters are part of the product."

"So professional football only exists as a saleable commodity because of its supporters. There may be some people in the game, there may be some people here, who think they can, in some way, replace supporter-income with sponsor-income. But any attempt will inevitably fail - for the latter rests on the former... Not only that, but the supporters themselves are the real perennial "sponsors" of the game. Contributing upwards of £60 million a season through the turnstiles alone in League matches - they still out sponsor the so called sponsors by three to one, yet who of you here imagine that one hundredth of the time spent negotiating with television companies is spent negotiating with the real sponsors of the game, the football supporters?"

"So the problem for those who "sell football" actually begins with the question: How do you create and keep the supporters of this great game? Also how do you make a football ground a pleasant place to go to?"

Taylor went on to describe a personal account of taking three youngsters to a top First Division ground. Emphasising the fact that he, as a season ticket holder, had to queue separately to the youngsters - at one stage abandoning them at the turnstiles while he queued at the season ticket holders gate.

"By the time I get in and, thank God, successfully rendezvous with the children in my charge, I'm hopping mad. Ready for a good match? I feel more ready for a fight - not with my long suffering fellow supporters - but with the management of a club

which seems so arrogant, so removed, that for them "marketing" is simply limited to winning and squeezing the maximum amount of money from a commercial sponsor."

"The club I refer to is no two-bit outfit either. The club sees itself as one of the "great clubs" of world football, with a record of achievement and success that bears comparison with the Real Madrids and Benficas of this world. When it comes to "creating and keeping customers", they're "bottom of the league" - they don't appear to care"

Taylor used this experience to help show that the supporters can, if given the chance help identify problem areas and show that even the biggest clubs are failing their supporters. For Taylor the football match is about giving supporters a "good all-round experience" and stressed that "Anybody who knows about the game know that people go to a football match for the first time, largely, when they are taken there by an existing football supporter." He went on to say "Existing supporters are therefore, the vital link in the commercial chain of actually "marketing" football - it is they who "create" new customers."

Three areas were singled out by Taylor where professional football must begin to seriously market itself: "a) Making parents feel that football grounds are good and safe places to take youngsters; b) Encourage teenagers to keep coming when they no longer depend on their adults; and c) Encourage new adults to go for the first time, and to bring back the 100's of adults who have left."

In all three areas, the supporters themselves can do an enormous amount, providing the clubs begin to adopt a more welcoming and responsible attitude. Existing features like family enclosures, school-trips and match-mate type schemes could and should be encouraged on a much wider scale. In fact, as several clubs have shown, the deeper and more intimate a club's relationship with its community - the better the business is."

"While we accept and, where we can, encourage the emergence of family enclosures, we must not forget that there always will (I hope) be boisterous teenagers at football matches, who want to jump up and down and shout their heads off. Promotion of a "family atmosphere" must not exclude these youngsters. To be noisy and boisterous at a football match is not "unacceptable behaviour" - in fact it contributes in no small measure to the very magic of the professional game. It would be a disaster to "sanitise" football out of all recognition."

Summing up, Taylor stressed the fear that the F S A held for the proposed I D Card scheme. He stated that "We are utterly opposed to such a scheme - which seems to more about political posturing and "appearing to be doing something" than with the realities of football hooliganism. The sadness this time is more profound - for such a scheme may irrevocably damage the fabric of our broadly based professional game. As crowds fall, which they undoubtedly will, a link with the next generation of supporters will be lost. The governments commitment to "freedom of choice" appears to boil down to "take it or leave it" - "watch football our way, or not at all". Unfortunately, many will say "not at all".

"The game is now "in extremis" - the priest is hovering at the door waiting to give the last rites. Football now has no choice about its relationship to supporters. If the compulsory scheme is muscled through by a Government used to muscling through unpopular legislation, the clubs must look to it as a major opportunity to include supporters in a novel way and I don't just mean commercially exploiting the possibilities of all members names and addresses. Let's make all supporters real members of their clubs - with all the privileges as well as responsibilities that "membership" traditionally confers in this' country - including, more importantly, the right to vote and the right to be properly represented. In turn we will do our part, representing and exciting young kids, offering new role models for supporters - an active involved one."

Taylor concluded his excellent speech with "One thing is certain, the supporters are the greatest asset the professional game has. Not only do they help produce the magic of the game, they also buy and sell it better than anyone else. If you ignore them any longer - there won't be anything left to sell!"

KINGSTONIAN - No Home Stadium!

Last month marked the first anniversary of Kingstonian's move from their Richmond Road home. It was a move that went virtually unnoticed, with the last First Team fixture taking place on 23 January 1988 versus Bromley - almost 66 years to the day since the main stand opened. But where is the new ground, you may ask, and why did Kingstonian have to move?

Unfortunately the answer is all too familiar for non-League clubs. Kingstonian do not at present have a ground and they have moved out because the financial benefits from the sale of a desirable housing plot became too much of a 'carrot'. The K's are currently sharing with Hampton F C while their new ground is being built a couple of miles away on the site of Norbiton Sports Ground. The site at Richmond Road is now a housing development - only the Club House, just off the Earle Gardens housing estate, remaining but soon to be demolished.

In all honesty the Richmond Road site had become economically unviable - crowds had dropped to an all time low and a wooden stand was proving too expensive to maintain. In the words of Chairman Freddie Jones *"The move to Norbiton by the K's is a dramatic and heartrending step, but a necessary one which keep the Club alive for, we hope, all time."*

Like most grounds the history of the Club is closely linked to the ground. When Kingstonian were formed in 1919 on the amalgamation of Kingston-on-Thames and Old Kingstonsias, matches were played on a pitch where the Earle Gardens houses now stand. This site was used by Kingston-on-Thames before the First World War while, rather ironically, Old Kingstonsias were located at the Norbiton Sports Ground which could have been purchased for £2,225 in April 1919 but the necessary finance was not available at the time.

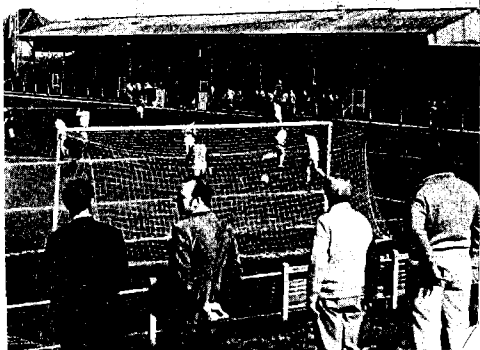
At the end of the First World War the Richmond Road (or Thorpe Road as it was also called) ground was being used as allotments and was owned by

the trustees of the Dysart estate. Negotiations with the trustees for the tenancy of the ground were successful and, after much hard work, it was ready for Kingstonian's entry into the Athenian League in 1919. At the end of the 1919-20 season, however, Leyland Motors, under the impression that Kingstonian F C were not continuing, secured a tenancy from the Dysarts with the result that the K's suddenly found themselves with nowhere to play. A great deal of argument and correspondence followed and eventually it was agreed that the clubs should share the ground. This arrangement was not, however, a comfortable one and came to an end when Kingstonian bought a building plot adjacent to the original pitch at the Richmond Road end. Within a couple of years, the whole eight acre site was bought by Kingstonian for £5,000, though a sizeable mortgage was required.

Permission was sought and granted for the building of a stand and terraces around the new pitch. The construction of the stand, which cost £1,100, was started on 21 November 1921 and officially opened on 28 January 1922. Early in the 1925-26 season a stand to hold 300 hundred spectators was obtained from the Surbiton Horse Show Society and this was placed alongside the larger stand taking the capacity to 1,200 and still remaining until demolition began last Spring.

Indeed, the character of the ground changed very little from those early days. Covered terracing was added to the Latchmere Road side in 1957, floodlights were installed in 1961, and a new Club House in 1975 being

the major additions to the site. The construction of the Club House was coupled with the sale of the Earle Garden section of the ground (which until then had been used as a reserve team pitch) for housing.



Going hand in hand with the development of the ground, on the playing side Kingstonian progressed to the Isthmian League in 1929 and in 1933 they lifted the Amateur Cup - beating Stockton in a replay at Darlington. The following season they became Isthmian League Champions - a feat to be repeated three seasons later.

Following the war The K's had a young Ted Croker playing in their side - he is now President of the Club. In season 1947-48 the runners-up spot was claimed in the Isthmian League while another highlight of their history came in season 1959-60 when they reached the Amateur Cup Final at Wembley - losing 2-1 to Hendon before a 60,000 crowd.

Fifty years in the Isthmian League coincided with The K's relegation from the Premier Division at the end of the 1978/79 season but they were to return in 1985 as runners-up to Farnborough Town in Division One. In their three seasons back in the top flight, and now under the managership of Chris Kelly, they have finished 8th, 12th and 14th and in 1987 they won the London Senior Cup.

The current situation at Kingstonian has The K's placed in 7th position in the table with a recent 3-0 victory over Farnborough Town emphasising their playing strength. Last season they invested in Wycombe striker Graham Westley and he now features in the VOL top goalscorers chart. Over the summer they added Jimmy Brown, top scorer with Slough last season, while at the back Mickey Droy is the 'old head' (case). However, one of the more worrying aspects for Kingstonian, and one expressed by The K's Supporters Magazine, NHS (No Home Stadium), is that while the Club is sharing at Hampton the spirit of the Club is diminishing. Crowds are down since last season - despite their improved form of late - and sharing grounds has been beset with problems that is testing the character of everyone within the Club.

The 'imminent' move to Norbiton is expected to take place at the start of next season. The pitch has been laid and the main Club buildings are now well underway. The design of the new ground is almost a carbon copy of Aylesbury's ground - the architect being the same as the one used at Buckingham Road. On a more positive note the move to Norbiton could well be the boost the Club needs to generate support among the local neighbourhood. The new site is located close to several large tower blocks and housing estates and if the Club can get it right on the playing side the advantages could be enormous. In the meantime however it's a case of 'grin and bear it' for the Kingstonian faithful - the move to the new site will not come soon enough.



DO THEY MEAN US? a media investigation

Predictably enough, for the start of this month's DO THEY MEAN US? you will have to cast your minds back to Boxing Day 1988 - the venue Buckingham Road, the match the first ever major League meeting between Wycombe and Aylesbury United. Not suprisingly the match had been built up so much by the local press that it was always going to be difficult to live up to such a billing. However, one could be forgiven for being confused with the preview in the BUCKS HERALD that commented *"While Wanderers might have significantly more league points than Aylesbury...their disciplinary record is far from good. They have had three men sent-off already this season in Kevin Day, Keith Barrett and Andy Kerr with former Enfield skipper and sharpshooting Scotsman Kerr only recently serving suspensions."* Leaving aside the fact that Andy Kerr was born in Birmingham and is a defender, reporter Nick Jones failed to mention the fact that 'The Ducks' had collected more than 25 bookings prior to the Wycombe game, although Altenor's sending off on Boxing Day was their first of the season in comparison to seven at the same stage last season.

The report of the game itself that appeared in THE BUCKS HERALD and THE BUCKS ADVERTISER group of newspapers was more accurate with Alan Bennett describing the match as *"..a shapeless and rather ordinary affair, often lacking the passion associated with such affairs."* He also described Wycombe as a *"side who looked competent on this evidence but little more"*. Summing up, Bennett said *"On a plus note, at least the trouble between the two sets of fans was restricted to mindless chanting. Wycombe's taunt of "going down" to the United fans was the final humiliation"*

The return game at Loakes Park proved something of an anti-climax with Mark West's long range strike being the main talking point. In the BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OBSERVER *"Mark West stepped in to power a shot into the top corner"* while in The BUCKS FREE PRESS they had the goal as *"Exquisite...a breathtaking 35-yarder...His goal alone was worth the entrance fee..which was probably just as well"*. Meanwhile, over at Aylesbury, in the BUCKS HERALD it was *"Mark West's long-range hit and hope strike..."* reporter Nick Jones also went on to say *"Hercules tested Trinidad and Tobago international (does anyone play football on Trinidad?) John Granville in the home net..."* Judging by the wide range of off the pitch activities at Buckingham Road lately, I'm inclined to say to Mr Jones, does anyone report on football in Aylesbury?

The Berks and Bucks Senior Cup game with Winslow United at Loakes Park left some of the loyal 500 who turned out very puzzled with Jim Kelman's team selection for what was, after all, a senior game. For Winslow the atmosphere was very different. THE BUCKINGHAM & WINSLOW ADVERTISER carried comments on the game on their front page, remarking that *"Winslow United came within a minute of one of the most remarkable results in their 98 year history...Up against non-League giants Wycombe Wanderers, United took the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup tie to extra time before losing 2-1."* Inside a report by Tony Moore began with *"If Wycombe go on to win the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup for the 24th time this year, they will remember well the fright given to them by Winslow United..."* Winslow's left back Graham Freshwater has been given a trial by Wycombe following his performance, which according to Tony Moore, was *"..by some way the best player on either side..."* *"A mixture of good defending, luck and abysmal finishing..."* were given as the reasons for Wycombe's lack of goals. In a game described as *"hugely enjoyable"* no mention in the report was made of Wycombe's unnecessary understrength side but included comment on the crowd, saying *"The large and vociferous band of travelling Winslow supporters made themselves heard much more than the home fans, and I suspect they thoroughly enjoyed their evening out, even allowing for the late sickener."*

The F A Trophy games with Bath City generated, as expected, the usual array of corny headlines, with The BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OBSERVER winning the award for the worst headline - "BLUES GRAB BATH BUBBLY" following our 4-0 victory in the replay at Loakes Park. At Twerton Park, Wycombe fans probably made up about half of the gate (declared at 1174 - Bath's second highest of the season) and those there early enough, would have heard an unusual announcement from the City Tannoy Man. In a broad Somerset accent, he calmly announced "Will anyone standing next to the two deaf supporters, please direct them to the main stand". Those that heard about the return game at Loakes Park would have noted an extremely low "official" gate of 1162 (our lowest gate of the season for a major game). Ah, the magic of the Cup...Paul Daniels couldn't have done a better disappearing trick. Strangely enough, the home Conference game with Fisher Athletic three days later saw the missing hundreds return - swelling the crowd to 1,694. Of course no one is questioning the validity of these figures and if anyone does they will probably be questioned away in an unmarked van, never to be seen again.

Further "BATH TIME" references came via the Martin Blacker episode. In the BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OBSERVER "Kelman completed the sale to Bath of disgraced midfielder Martin Blackler". Seven days later the same paper was saying "Blues' campaign will be strengthened by the return to favour of Martin Blackler who was taken off the transfer list this week."

The WYCOMBE STAR was the first paper to pick up on the fact that Gary Lester completed his 500th appearance for the Club during the Capital League game with Wokingham Town at Loakes Park. Also revealed in the report by Wycombe supporter Ruth Payne, was the fact that Gary has finally been awarded a testimonial by the Club. Gary will be arranging the game himself and hopes to announce details shortly. The report concluded with "So few players stay with a club for 10 years that Wycombe have said in future players will only have to be at the club for six years before being granted a testimonial." This means that Mark West is the next to qualify having joined the Club in December 1984.

Our fourth consecutive away League win was achieved at Newport County where RED DRAGON RADIO were on site to give regular reports. Wallace Brown described an "eventful first-half" a "25 yard shot from Kevin Durham, which really came out of nothing" and where Sean Norman was booked "after the latest of a series of fouls on full-back Paul Sanderson." With 8 goals scored, not surprisingly, one of the reports coincided with a goal - our late penalty being awarded and scored live on air - the level of cheering in the background clearly reflecting our level of support at Somerton Park, estimated at around 300.

Mike Brady was on the bench at Newport and therefore stimulated yet another lobotomised headline from the BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OBSERVER. "YANKEE DOODLE WANDERERS" headed a story about our U S duo Mike Brady and John Kerr. Brady, who at the time of the report had not even played a Conference game for the Club, commented "The fans are so knowledgeable. They know everything about you." (Everything?). John Kerr added "I've certainly had some stick from the crowds for being 'yankee'".

Around 100 Wycombe fans made the midweek 300 mile round trip to Stafford and would have noted that we scored first although Paul Hudson in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OBSERVER claimed Wycombe "dragged themselves back from a single goal deficit and clinched a draw at Stafford Rangers through another Kerr goal.". Before the game it was pleasing to read in the STAFFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER that Rangers were set to play "high-flying Wycombe Wanderers". This level of respect was extended following the 1-1 draw at Stafford when an article entitled "WANDERERS BACK ON THE RIGHT LINES" appeared in THE TIMES the following Friday. The two column report on Wycombe's rise up the table included Jim Kelman quoting "Lincoln got promotion last year by thumping the ball forward, but that's the easy way out. I like to try to play skilful, entertaining football."

What a difference all this makes from the "struggling...off-form...relegation candidate.." type of comments that we all got used to last season from the press.

CRAZY MANN

WHAT happy people there must be in the boardroom of Wycombe Wanderers, the area's premier football side. As the team piles victory upon victory, it edges nearer to the Football League proper, a place in the Fourth Division.

Who is ready to open their cheque book? For sure, someone will have to if the great occasion arises.

Or will certain gentlemen be urging the lads on the field to take it somewhat easier, not to sweep all before them? An interesting, if totally cynical thought. Slap my wrist!

Charles Mann

THE BUCKS FREE PRESS
6th January 1989

Mann on Friday

I FULLY realise that regular readers of this column regard me as a cynical, ageing grouch but there are times - just a few, mind you - when I am able to feel at peace with the world, regarding it with contentment and confidence.

How could it be otherwise in our bailiwick this week with so many items of heartening news?

Think of Wycombe Wanderers moving into fourth place in the GM Vauxhall Conference League, the club's highest ever position in the football hierarchy.

Of course, it is much too early to talk of Wanderers reaching the Football League proper but it can provide a rosy glow to consider that prospect. Such status would bestow benefits on most every aspect of life in the area.

If not this year, next year. No longer can we say sometimes, never, if the club continues on its present path.

THE BUCKS FREE PRESS
9th February 1989

I'm not sure who Charles Mann is but you can always rely on him to get his two Bobs worth of hypocrisy in.

G M VANDAL CONFESSIONS

SPELLING PROBLEMS?

Reading a copy of Just Another Wednesday, the fanzine from Sheffield Wednesday supporters, they showed what happens if the spelling checker on your word processor doesn't recognise proper names and replaces them with what it thinks to be the right word. This is what happened on our spelling checker when confronted with a list of clubs currently in the G M Vauxhall Conference - some of the results are amazing - can you spot the teams?

G M Vandal Confessions

Altering
Terror United
Ancestry United
Weakest
Welcome Wanderers
Rundown
Manifested Town
Banned
Stuffed Ranges
Kiddergarten Hairdressers
Kenneling Town
Maids United
Bottom United
Network County
Wearing United
Summon United
Chore
Envied
Fishey Atrocity
Northward Victor
Challenge Town
Yeti Town

MUSIC

ALBUMS

Bad Dream Fancy Dress: 'Choirboys Gas'

dl

Another 'good' record from the music industry's Namia, the indefatigable dl label, in which the middle-class cosmology of 'Y-fronts and antique shops' is devoured slowly and with relish like a Chelsea bun. But 'Choirboys Gas' is no black hole.

TIME OUT - December 14-28 1988

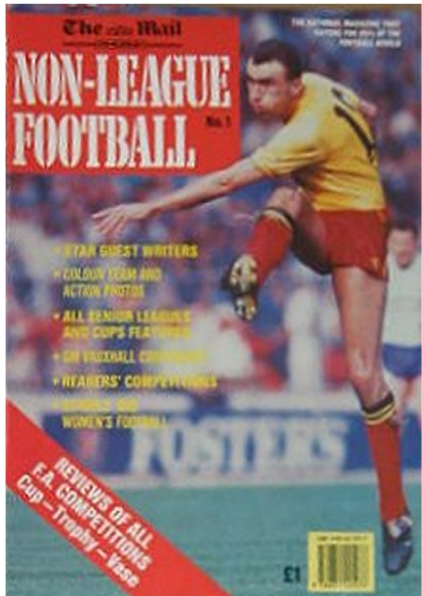
MURPHY'S MISSION

Have you ever asked yourself what would have happened if Wycombe had stopped Lincoln from winning promotion on the final day of last season? Mass murder of the Wycombe fans? Murphy talking his way to having the match replayed? One thing is for certain and that is MURPHY'S MISSION ACCOMPLISHED - a booklet celebrating 'The Imps' promotion back to the Football League - would not have been produced. In what appears to be a last minute thought - the only action photos are from games in the last month of the season - the publication is padded out with Club History, pictures of the ground and a piece entitled 'How does a football club survive?'. Producing rubbish like this perhaps? I suppose you can't blame them for gloating over their success last season but there's not even a piece by Colin Murphy to make the cover price of £2.50 near value for money. But don't let this put you off.

Send cheque or PO for £3.00 (inc. P&P)
or £2.50 with SAE to:
LINCOLN CITY F.C.
Sincil Bank
Lincoln LN5 8LD.

MURPHY'S FROG

From the makers of Cheltenham Town's MURPHY'S MOB comes Murphy's Frog - a brand new fanzine on life in Gloucestershire, but don't let that put you off - they talk about football too. Amongst otherthings they include a GMVC Lookalike Chart. Aylesbury's Dave Boterill gets rather unkindly compared to Colonel Gadaffi - I don't know what they mean! Send 30p plus an A5 SAE to 46 Long Mynd Avenue, Up Hatherly, Cheltenham, GL51 5QN to find out more.



Non-League magazines have been littered with problems over the years - usually forced into decline after a few issues due to unreliable Club Shops or over ambitious editors. When Chairboys Gas started back in October 1986, non-League publications had reached a low with not one serious, easily available issue on sale despite the fact that there is obviously a market for such reading.

The pilot issue of NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL is the first high quality non-League publication since Around Football and Rothmans Football News and according to Editor Tony Williams (I'm told he used to play for Wycombe), will not be bringing you transfer news, results or club gossip. This may account for the blandness of the first issue but at £1 it is still good value for money and more importantly widely available through many newsagents and good Club Shops. It will not be to everyone's taste but that largely depends on future contributors, meanwhile the real test will be issue No.2.



15 THINGS TO BE PLEASED ABOUT
AT WYCOMBE WANDERERS F C
by Ian Blackledge

1. The resurrection this season of a Reserve/Youth Team set-up. Their Manager's enthusiasm is clearly reflected in his very interesting and informative programme notes.
2. Loakes Park - our very wonderful home. It may be old and, in places, tatty, but in my opinion only two grounds in the Conference are better (York Street and Huish). I don't think I will be the only person choking back the tears when it's bulldozed away.
3. The consultation exercise last season via the programme with regards to what the supporters want out of the new ground. May this be the first of many similar gestures.
4. Getting the basics right in employing a full-time groundsman, who treats the job as a labour of love and does an excellent job. The dividends of this are clearly there for all to see.
5. The knowledge that the pitch at the new ground will NOT be plastic. Perhaps though, in the near future, an artificial surface could be constructed near the new ground for community use in co-operation with the local council.
6. The name of the new ground - Adams Park - couldn't be better. For those not in the know, the late Frank Adams, an ex-player of Wycombe Wanderers bought the freehold of Loakes Park and presented it to the Club as a gift in 1947.
7. The principle behind the Club's 'one person - one share' policy. Although in the future a wider distribution of these shares will give a truer representation of our regular support.
8. The Club's super-efficient day-to-day administration in the hands of Club Secretary John Goldsworthy. He does the job practically full-time - where would we be without him?
9. The large group of people who do a job for the Club in any capacity for no financial reward - especially those who regularly miss part of home games.
10. The fact that the Club pay a sizeable proportion of Kevin Day's wages in his occupation as Sports Development Officer for Wycombe District Council. This is a little known gesture that should be applauded for putting something back into the community.
11. Although some information still has to be dragged 'kicking and screaming' from the Club, they are a great deal more open and honest than most others I could mention.
12. The history, tradition and heritage that is Wycombe Wanderers F C. This is 90% of what football is all about and something that you cannot buy.
13. The Team - who so far this season have by far exceeded the expectations of all us 'realistic' supporters - well done.
14. The Supporters - in particular the one's who travel to the away matches in ever increasing numbers. These people are the true sponsors of Wycombe Wanderers F C - without them the Club is nothing.
15. The fact that we are Wycombe Wanderers and no one else.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I read with dismay, in Chairboys Gas No.3, item number 13 of "15 things to get angry about at Wycombe Wanderers F C" by Ian Blacklidge. As an organiser of the Executive Travel Club I would like to answer the criticism in the article.

Firstly we are accused of being "bandwagon jumpers". What bandwagon? Certainly we are taking advantage of increased interest in the Team. But then it is vitally important that the Football Club retains and does not take for granted the new support whilst on this current "high". The Executive Travel Club is one way to do this.

The relevance of the question "where were you during our season in the Isthmian League?" escapes me but I will gladly answer it. Assuming this means Vauxhall Opel League season 1986/87, I was working three evenings a week for the Club, supervising Lottery Agents whose nett contribution to Club funds that year was more than £16,000. My fellow organiser, sponsored a match at a cost of £300 and had a £90 advert in the programme. Between us we had three 30 Club Season Tickets at £60 each. Incidentally, between us, we have supported the Team, home and away, for a total of thirty five years. I hope this counts as real support.

As for the serious allegation that we have damaged the reputation of the Official Blues Club Transport, the only damage done to its reputation is by this inaccurate and misjudged piece of journalism by a Blues Club Committee Member.

The Blues Club Transport will always be the main means of transport for away supporters. Executive Travel Club coaches complement the Official ones and, as such, are aimed at a certain type of supporter, one who wishes to pay significantly more for a leisurely trip to an away game, enjoying a usually excellent meal beforehand and, circumstances permitting, a drink afterwards in

the bar. For logistical and economic reasons these coaches cannot be run to all away games. It is obviously important that there is no conflict of interest between the two types of coaches and so far there has been no problem. We are taking advantage of a hitherto untapped market of supporters who travel to away games by car or even not at all. It is important to remember that Executive Travel Club coaches are run as a service to supporters and any surplus profit at the end of the season will go into Blues Club funds.

In order to create a better understanding of what we are about, I would like to offer Ian Blacklidge a free seat on any one of the Executive Travel Club trips for the remainder of this season. I sincerely hope that Ian contacts me to take up this offer as it can only be mutually beneficial.

Yours Faithfully

Stephen F Peart, High Wycombe.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Just in case there is any doubt, despite the fact that some of the contributors to CG serve on the Blues Club committee, this magazine is NOT the mouthpiece of the Blues Club. Ian's comments were his personnel view and as an obviously dedicated helper of the Club, I felt he deserved space to air those views through his chosen outlet.

Any method that encourages support away from home must be applauded - there are not many Conference clubs that regularly organise two or more coaches to away games. However, if the organisers of the Blues Club Transport feel misrepresented in any way then they are welcome to contribute to a future issue. I'm also sure that the Blues Club look forward to receiving any "surplus profit" at the end of the season - remember, we are ALL here to SUPPORT Wycombe Wanderers but also remember the well worn cliché, COMMUNICATION.



Fixtures

Saturday 18 February 1989
 Cheltenham Yeovil
 Fisher Maidstone
 Kettering Telford
 Macclesfield Aylesbury
 Newport Altrincham
 Northwich Chorley
 Stafford Runcorn
 Sutton Welling
 Weymouth Boston
 Wycombe Kidderminster

Tuesday 21 February 1989
 Telford Cheltenham

Saturday 25 February 1989
 Aylesbury Kettering
 Chorley Fisher
 Enfield Stafford
 Kidderminster Weymouth *
 Maidstone Northwich
 Runcorn Barnet

Saturday 4 March 1989
 Altrincham Aylesbury
 Barnet Chorley
 Fisher Kidderminster
 Macclesfield Enfield
 Maidstone Cheltenham
 Newport Stafford
 Northwich Kettering
 Sutton Boston
 Welling Telford
 Weymouth Runcorn
 Wycombe Yeovil

Wednesday 8 March 1989
 Welling Newport

Saturday 11 March 1989
 Aylesbury Northwich *
 Boston Welling *
 Cheltenham Macclesfield *
 Chorley Newport *
 Enfield Wycombe *
 Kettering Fisher *
 Kidderminster Altrincham *
 Runcorn Sutton *
 Stafford Weymouth *
 Telford Barnet *
 Yeovil Maidstone

Tuesday 14 March 1989
 Newport Sutton *
 Aylesbury Enfield

Saturday 18 March 1989
 Altrincham Runcorn
 Barnet Cheltenham
 Fisher Aylesbury
 Macclesfield Telford
 Maidstone Kettering
 Newport Enfield
 Northwich Yeovil
 Sutton Kidderminster
 Welling Stafford
 Weymouth Chorley
 Wycombe Boston

Saturday 25 March 1989
 Aylesbury Stafford
 Barnet Welling
 Cheltenham Weymouth
 Chorley Boston
 Fisher Sutton
 Kettering Kidderminster
 Macclesfield Runcorn
 Maidstone Enfield
 Northwich Altrincham
 Telford Wycombe
 Yeovil Newport

Monday 27 March 1989
 Altrincham Telford
 Enfield Yeovil
 Kidderminster Barnet
 Newport Fisher
 Runcorn Cheltenham
 Stafford Chorley
 Sutton Kettering
 Welling Maidstone
 Weymouth Aylesbury
 Wycombe Macclesfield

Wednesday 29 March 1989
 Boston Northwich

Saturday 1 April 1989
 Aylesbury Newport
 Barnet Altrincham
 Cheltenham Wycombe
 Chorley Kidderminster
 Fisher Stafford
 Kettering Welling
 Macclesfield Sutton
 Maidstone Boston
 Telford Weymouth
 Yeovil Runcorn

* Provisional due to F A Trophy



F A TROPHY 3rd ROUND PROPER

Saturday 25 February 1989
 Dartford v Bishop Auckland
 Newcastle B S v Woking
 Windsor & E v Hyde United
 KIDDERMINSTER v TELFORD UNITED
 or Burton A
 WELLING UTD v BOSTON UNITED
 ALTRINCHAM v CHELTENHAM T
 or Barrow
 MACCLESFIELD v Gravesend
 WYCOMBE WAND v Merthyr Tydfil

F A TROPHY 4th ROUND PROPER
Saturday 11 March 1989

BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR CUP
 3rd Round (Quarter-Finals)
 by February 25 1989

Marlow v WYCOMBE WANDERERS
 Thatcham v Windsor & Eton
 Newbury Town v Maidenhead United
 Abingdon Town v Burnham
 or Buckingham T