

Chairboys Gas

*A Magazine by Supporters
of
Wycombe Wanderers F C*

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& N.P.L.
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FIXTURES, RESULTS



BRIAN LEE
THE INTERVIEW



GRAHAM BRESSINGTON,
THE NEW NOEL ASHFORD?

30p

1987-8

No 3

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.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the third issue for the season of 'Chairboys Gas'. A longer than normal gap between issues but as some sort of compensation there are four extra pages for this month.

A high percentage of this month's issue is taken by part of an extensive interview with the Chairman of Wycombe Wanderers F C, Brian Lee. I hope you find it interesting - your reactions are most welcome. Some of the regular features missing this month will hopefully return next month.

The present climate is a difficult one for players, officials and supporters alike. It is also a testing time of the loyalty of supporters especially those who have been attracted to Wycombe by the success of last season. The encouragement given to the players at Enfield was a credit to the Club, let us only hope that kind of support can be matched for the remainder of the season - there can be no doubt that frustration off-the-field can lead to the same on.

I heard some one say that last month "We had about as much fun as David Pleat and Lester Pigott". However, during this month we are scheduled trips to Boston, Altrincham and Weymouth - three of the smartest grounds in the Conference. Wouldn't they be so much smarter if we managed to pick-up some points? Meanwhile at Loakes Park, following the Lincoln game, we take on Isthmian 'old boys', Sutton United and Dagenham. Would it be too much to ask for a victory against our friends from Essex? Finally don't forget the Trophy draw on Monday 23 November - how about Aylesbury at home?.....me neither. Enjoy the reading.

Paul Lewis

Contributions and assistance for this issue from Phil Ball, Ian Blacklidge, Simon Burrage, Brian Lee, Steve Maguire, Pete Oxbrow, Andy Reston and P K Graphics.

BEHIND THE GOAL

by Simon Burrage.

Reading the programme for the recent Bognor Regis debacle gave me a couple of surprises....not only had the printers mysteriously credited me with Ian Blackledge's Programme Review column, but I found that my own comments in last months CG were under fire from Alan Parry. Perhaps I could just say that I think Alan has taken the remarks a little too personally, as no particular criticism was intended towards him (ie no disrespect intended). Indeed, as a professional journalist, I would hope that he, and all other officials of the Club, would recognise that "those cynics" who spend their time writing letters to their local paper, or produce magazines such as this, do so out of genuine affection and concern for their football club. If the day ever comes when there is no-one interested enough to create this kind of debate and discussion it will be a sad reflection on the Club and the esteem in which it is held by its public. There are probably plenty of football clubs who could start a season as badly as we have done without provoking any response from its supporters: I don't think we want to be one of those clubs. One way or another Alan, we're all on the same side.

To change the subject slightly, have you ever noticed, over the years, how whenever Wycombe Wanderers have had a bad season (or part of a season) other local clubs start proclaiming themselves to be the top club in the area? Slough Town were able to do so - with some justification - in 1981 when they made a clean sweep of the Isthmian Championship, Hitachi Cup and Berks & Bucks Cup. More recently we had Windsor & Eton (yes, Windsor & Eton) dubbed top dogs in Berks & Bucks during the 1984/85 season when they did the double over us in their first season in the Isthmian Premier Division. Now, of course, it's the turn of Aylesbury United. One of their recent programmes predictably, and perhaps understandably, took the opportunity to gloat over the September F A Cup result. Reasonably enough the author also questioned our hitherto apparently god-given right to F A Cup exemption, while 'The Ducks' always have to fight through all the qualifying rounds (well that's one chip they probably won't have on their shoulder for much longer - they will surely get exemption next season, whereas we certainly will not). But their claim that because they have now beaten us on two occasions out of our last four meetings, that Wycombe Wanderers are no longer the top football club in Bucks is, in my humble opinion, pure garbage. In case the Duckboys hadn't noticed, there is now a solidly structured non-League pyramid and the Beano Houses League is below the GMVC. As things stand at the moment, we are having a dreadful season, and they are doing very well. They may well beat us in other competitions this season; they may well achieve promotion to the Conference if they force a gallon of scotch down each member of the GMVC Ground Grading Committee and blindfold them all. It will then be up to them to finish above us in the Conference (assuming, of course, we are still in it!!!) before they can rightfully claim a higher standing in the football world. And if, or when, that happens, maybe an Aylesbury player will score a goal against Wycombe without doing a lap of the pitch to celebrate the achievement.

During this month most of us will be turning our attention to the international scene as England play what is effectively the deciding match in our European Championship Qualifying Group; a crucial fixture, as defeat for England will surely mean elimination from the competition and two months of radio, TV and newspaper reporters asking "What's wrong with our game?" (Of course, if we win in Yugoslavia, the media will feed us with stories of how we are probably favourites to win the whole competition). I just wonder though...am I alone in disliking the whole structure of competitive international football? Not that there is the remotest possibility of anything changing - the various Football Associations have enough trouble agreeing on dates for matches as it is - but that Jules Rimet

continued over....

....continuation

geezer has a lot to answer for. He, as every self respecting student of history will know, was responsible for the organising of the first ever World Cup tournament, in Uruguay in 1930. A good idea too; with international travel so much more difficult in those days it obviously made sense to assemble all the teams in one place. But the 'blueprint' has been followed religiously ever since, and now by UEFA with the European Championship. Don't get me wrong - when it's time for the Finals and we have three to four weeks of quality football on our TV screens, I enjoy it as much as anyone. But why can't we play competitive fixtures against the top nations more frequently - at home, and away? It seems crazy to me that we spend two years qualifying (or attempting to qualify) for these tournaments, playing endless fixtures - home and away - against the likes of Turkey, Luxemborg and Northern Ireland. Then, if we are successful, what happens? We spend months and months building up for a tournament which always seems to be over as soon as it's started; and that's it for another four years. Question: When did England last play Brazil in a competitive fixture? Answer: 1970. That seems quite ridiculous to me. It's like Manchester United having to play countless fixtures against Swindon, Huddersfield, Southend, etc and being allowed a crack at Liverpool once every ten years. Surely UEFA could organise the European Championship along the lines of their club competitions - on a knockout, two-legged basis, every season? As for FIFA, they probably have more pressing priorities to consider - like devising qualifying schedules that ensure that countries like Zaire, Cameroon and El Salvador continue to appear in the Finals.

I suppose it's obvious by now that I'm doing my best to fill this month's column without diving into any deep and meaningful discussion of the current situation at WWFC. The last thing anyone needs right now is for me to remind them of the sheer desperation now surrounding Loakes Park. We all know the Club needs players; and with the present squad aware of this, their sense of belonging and belief in their ability is further diminished. Peter Suddaby's statement in the vastly improved Bucks Free Press Sports Pages, that "Wycombe Wanderers is not not an attractive club to come to at the moment" is an appalling reflection on what has happened here since last May, and I will make no further comment than that.

For the time being I'd prefer to dwell on the one or two plusses for us so far this season. One is the fantastic increase in attendances at Loakes Park - one can only pray that they will not fall too dramatically in light of recent results. The other good point for us, as I see it, has been the form of Graham Bressington. Needless to say, it was great to see him back in action at Enfield following his spell out through injury, but with his style of play, injuries (and suspensions?) will never be far away. In the nine matches he has played so far this term his presence has been a tremendous influence on the players around him. Last season his tackling, shooting and even goalkeeping talents were a major factor in our success and some of his passing and tireless running in the Conference matches he has played has left me thinking that if he continues to improve his game as much as he has done since joining us from Beaconsfield United two seasons ago, how long will we be able to keep him? Already it is widely known that Barnet have recently dangled a substantial financial carrot under his nose: so Bressie, please don't leave us yet!

Finally, may I just say how pleased I was to hear that one of the great characters of our time is now sampling life in the Conference with his local club Altrincham. I refer, of course, to Frank Sidebottom who comes from Timperley (near Altrincham). This multi-talented superstar - pop-singer - TV and radio reporter, space explorer and magician will doubtless give a welcome boost to the fortunes of the Moss Lane club in his new, self-appointed capacity as Assistant Manager. Oh and by the way, I hear that Tommy Docherty will be helping him.

ALTERNATIVE FOOTBALL NETWORK reviewed by Ian Blacklidge

CHAIRBOYS GAS is just one of a wave of like minded magazines at Football League and non-League level currently sweeping the country. Whilst these alternative magazines differ in content and 'angle', they all have one basic aim - to give the much maligned-by-media terrace supporter a chance to be heard.

Here is a review of some of the national rags that reach the parts that bland Club programmes can't reach.



OFF THE BALL

Started by a bunch of disillusioned midlands Football League fans, to whom the Super-League plans were the last straw.

OFF THE BALL, aimed at a national readership, tackles head-on, such issues as Luton's disgraceful away fan ban, mergers and clogging without neglecting humour. It also raises what is a taboo subject amongst many football administrators', that of heavy handed policing, something which is turning decent fans away from the game. Messrs Croker and Kelly should be forced to sit down and read OFF THE BALL cover to cover.

Available from: P O BOX 851, SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM, B29 6PD

PRICE 40p + POSTAGE. ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE BLUES CLUB SHOP.

WHEN SATURDAY COMES

Another national magazine written in a similar vein to Off The Ball with a more humorous if not as cutting edge to it. In fact OTB and WHEN SATURDAY COMES complement rather than compete with each other.

The last issue continued the search for the winner of the coveted McAlpine award given to the club with the worst away end in the Football League. To give you some idea of the fierce competition for this award, York City haven't even been mentioned yet!

Available from: 12 SUTTON ROW (THIRD FLOOR), LONDON W1U 5FH.

PRICE 35p + POSTAGE. ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE BLUES CLUB SHOP.

THE ABSOLUTE GAME

This Scottish football fanzine does not take anything seriously and you don't have to be particularly interested in the game north of the border to appreciate the dry humour of such master-piece articles as "Hairstyles Through The Ages" and "The Italian Back Pasta".

For those who think Scottish football is just about Celtic/Rangers/Dundee United/Aberdeen etc, send away now.

Available from: BOX 99, 43 CANDLEMAKER ROW, EDINBURGH, EH1 2QB.

PRICE 35p + POSTAGE.

All the above plus many other Club Magazines can be purchased from:
SPORTSPAGES BOOK SHOP, CAMBRIDGE CIRCUS SHOPPING CENTRE, LONDON.
(NEAR TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD TUBE STATION).



KETTERING TOWN were the leaders of the Conference at the end of October and remain unbeaten since losing 4-0 at BARNET on 22 September. Included in their run was a 1-0 victory at LINCOLN CITY to become the first Conference side to take points from Sincil Bank this season. Kettering were 20-1 to win the Conference at the beginning of the season.

Meanwhile at LINCOLN CITY, 'The Imps' gained revenge for their defeat at BARNET on the opening day of the season when they inflicted Barnet's first away defeat of the season in a 'hot-headed' game at Sincil Bank. Watched by a crowd of 4,624 (the biggest in the Conference this season and the third highest of all-time), Lincoln took the lead a minute before the break through Trevor Matthewson. Two minutes into the second-half Noel Ashford was dismissed for an off-the-ball incident and fifteen minutes later, Lincoln increased their lead through John McGinley. Two minutes later substitute Herbie Smith (a new signing from FISHER ATHLETIC in an exchange deal for Barry Little), who had only been on the field for five minutes, was also dismissed for an off-the-ball incident. At one stage seven uniformed police officers had to go onto the field to restore order, with Barnet Manager, Barry Fry, and Lincoln Chairman, John Reeves, also joining the fray. Barnet pulled a goal back after 68 minutes through Kevin Millet but there was no further scoring and there will now be an F A inquiry into the events.

The Saturday previous to the Lincoln game, Noel Ashford scored his first goal for Barnet during their 6-0 victory over Willenhall in the F A Cup. There are 14 GMVC clubs through to the First Round Proper of the F A Cup - the eight casualties in order of failure have been WYCOMBE WANDERERS (lost at Aylesbury 2-0), KETTERING TOWN (lost 2-0 at Wisbech), STAFFORD RANGERS (lost 3-2 at home to Moor Green), FISHER ATHLETIC (lost 2-0 at Hayes), WEYMOUTH (lost 3-1 at home to Yeovil), WEALDSTONE (lost 2-0 at Tamworth), ENFIELD (lost 2-1 at home to Aylesbury) and BOSTON UNITED (lost 3-2 in a replay at Welling).

ENFIELD's defeat ended their run of eleven consecutive appearances in the First Round Proper of the F A Cup while CHELTENHAM TOWN's appearance in the competition proper is their first since season 1974/75 when they lost to Wycombe. Other sequences to be broken were KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS who made into the First Round for the first time since 1980 and SUTTON UNITED who qualified for the first time since 1981. The full First Round draw can be found on the back page.

One of Wycombe's scheduled trips during November is their first ever visit to WEYMOUTH's new ground. The 10,000 capacity stadium built to the latest safety specifications is situated on the site of the old Wessex Speedway track in Radipole Lane. Facilities include a covered grandstand with 850 seats, two covered terraces, the latest turnstiles, 350 car parking spaces plus coach parking and the main pitch, together with the practice pitch both have the most up-to-date drainage systems. The official opening of the ground was marked by the visit of a Manchester United XI during October for game which attracted a 5,000 plus gate. In the Conference Weymouth are currently unbeaten at their new home and have conceded just one goal in the process!

General Motors Vauxhall Conference

Up to and including Tuesday 3rd November 1987



POS	TEAM	PL	HOME					AWAY					PTS
			W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	
1	Kettering Town	16	6	2	1	15	6	4	0	3	10	8	32
2	Barnet	14	5	1	1	22	10	4	2	1	15	6	30
3	Stafford Rangers	15	5	1	1	17	10	3	4	1	13	8	29
4	Lincoln City	15	6	0	1	18	3	3	2	3	10	13	29
5	Weymouth	12	5	1	0	11	1	3	0	3	7	4	25
6	Maidstone United	16	4	1	4	15	13	3	3	1	13	6	25
7	Telford United	17	3	4	2	12	11	4	0	4	12	10	25
8	Runcorn	16	4	2	2	13	8	2	3	3	8	9	23
9	Kidderminster Harr	16	4	1	2	17	12	3	1	5	13	19	23
10	Enfield	16	3	3	1	14	10	3	1	5	13	16	22
11	Cheltenham Town	15	2	4	0	10	6	2	5	2	9	14	21
12	Altrincham	17	4	2	2	11	7	2	1	6	9	15	21
13	Sutton United	13	3	1	3	10	6	2	4	0	12	6	20
14	Welling United	14	4	1	3	14	7	2	0	4	8	18	19
15	Macclesfield Town	13	2	2	3	12	11	2	3	1	9	8	17
16	Fisher Athletic	13	3	2	3	9	11	1	2	2	4	6	16
17	Boston United	15	3	2	2	8	8	1	1	6	9	19	15
18	Dagenham	16	3	2	3	10	13	1	1	6	7	21	15
19	Wycombe Wanderers	15	1	3	4	8	25	2	1	4	8	11	13
20	Wealdstone	15	1	3	3	4	7	0	4	4	5	14	10
21	Northwich Victoria	13	1	2	2	5	6	1	2	5	5	17	10
22	Bath City	16	2	2	5	9	14	0	2	5	6	16	10

GMVC LEADING GOALSCORERS - CLUB BY CLUB (including Sat 31 October 1987)

ALTRINCHAM	Eddie BISHOP 5, Ronnie ELLIS 4, Mike FARRELLY 3
BARNET	Nicky EVANS 11, Dave SANSON 10
BATH CITY	Paul BODIN 7, Chris LILYGREEN 4, David PAYNE 2
BOSTON UNITED	Paul WILSON 6, Gerard CREENE 4
CHELTENHAM TOWN	Brett ANGELL 6, Steve BROOKS 3, Mark Boyland 3
DAGENHAM	John BOLLE 5, Samson OLALYE 3
ENFIELD	Nicky FRANCIS 11, Robin LEWIS 4
FISHER ATHLETIC	Herbie SMITH 3, Duncan HORMAN 2, Stuart MASSEY 2
KETTERING TOWN	Mark SMITH 6, Ian CRAWLEY 6, Doug KEAST 4
KIDDERMINSTER H	Paul DAVIES 10, Kim CASEY 8, Mick TUOHY 4
LINCOLN CITY	Mick WAITT 8, Paul Smith 5
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	Steve BURR 6, Bob ASKEY 3, Elfyn EDWARDS 3, Mike LAKE 3
MAIDSTONE UNITED	Gary ROBERTS 6, Mick DOHERTY 5, Steve BUTLER 5
NORTHWICH VIC	Paul REID 3, Stuart PARKER 2
RUNCORN	Mark CARTER 6, Gary ANDERSON 4, Don PAGE 4
STAFFORD RANGERS	Malcolm DUNKLEY 9, Phil DERBYSHIRE 9, Gordon HILL 2
SUTTON UNITED	Lenny DENNIS 6, Nigel GOLLEY 3, Mark GOLLEY 3, Paul MCKINNON 3
TELFORD UNITED	Steve NORRIS 10, Steve BIGGINS 4
WEALDSTONE	Byron WALTON 3, Mick FERGUSON 2
WELLING UNITED	Gary ABBOTT 6, Trevor BOOKER 5, Stuart WHITE 4
WEYMOUTH	Andy ROWLAND 6, Steve CLARIDGE 3, Peter CONNING 3
WYCOMBE WAND	Mark WEST 5, Graham WESTLEY 3, Rowan DODDS 3



In comparison to last season, this season's Premier Championship is wide open with just six points separating the top ten clubs at the end of October. At the same stage last season Wycombe led tenth position by twelve points.

FARNBOROUGH TOWN were still heading the VOL Premier Division at the end of October although cup involvement may prove fatal for the Hampshire side with interest still retained in the F A Cup, F A Trophy and A C Delco. Ex-Wanderer Simon Read is currently leading the scoring for Town with ten League and Cup goals so far this season.

Further down the table BROMLEY are enjoying their best season since winning the title in 1961. They have games in hand over the teams above them and will be looking to add to some impressive League and Cup results this season. In the GMAC Cup they won 4-1 at Fisher Athletic where Ronnie Murrock scored a hat-trick and he also scored both goals to dump ST ALBANS CITY out of the F A Cup.

It is a surprise to most people that YEOVIL TOWN are not amongst the early challengers for the title this season. Manager Brian Hall, who has added ex-Wealdstone 'keeper Bob Iles as cover for Dave Walters and striker Neil Cordice to his squad, has seen some erratic results returned this season. They recently lost 3-1 at WINDSOR & ETON in the League with Windsor scoring twice in the last two minutes. Ten days later they travelled to Weymouth in the F A Cup 4th Qualifying Round and returned with a 3-1 victory after a game watched by an all-ticket gate of 3,500.

Yeovil join BOGNOR REGIS TOWN, FARNBOROUGH TOWN, CARSHALTON ATHLETIC and HAYES in the First Round Proper of the F A Cup with Hayes entering the competition proper for the first time since the 1973/74 season. Hayes hope to attract around 3,000 for the visit of Swansea City to Church Road where fifteen years ago they beat Bristol Rovers 1-0 at the same stage before losing to Reading after a replay in the following round. It's certainly a bonus for new Manager Harry Manoe, in his first year in charge at Hayes. Manoe is a former Hayes player and although he played in the earlier qualifying rounds he wasn't selected for the game with Bristol. Manoe's signings this season include Mark Graves from Wealdstone and Clevere Forde after a short spell at Wycombe.

CARSHALTON ATHLETIC's run to the First Round included a 6-2 victory at Gravesend & Northfleet. However, the match was marred by the sending-off of Gravesend's Derek Williams in the 25th minute and Les Cleevly the Carshalton 'keeper with six minutes remaining. Cleevly allegedly became involved with a spectator from behind the goal who ran onto the pitch. Cleevly was sent-off and subsequently arrested along with the spectator by the Police. Both have been charged and released on bail. The matter is now being investigated by the F A.

Neil Price has become the latest ex-Wycombe player to join Alan Gane at STAINES TOWN. Price, who joined Wycombe in February 1986, made his debut for Staines in their 5-4 victory over Lewes where Staines' fifth goal came from Mark Dawber. Dawber rejoined his former Manager in late September for a fee in the region of £2,000. Other ex-Wycombe players currently in the Staines side placed ninth in Division One, are Leroy Messitt and Simon Pentland. Gane, who is assisted by Richard Teale, has also signed Barry Silkman but following his debut against Uxbridge in September, hasn't been seen since!

VAUXHALL-OPEL



Premier Division

	Pl	Home					Away					Totals					Pts.
		W	D	L	Gf	Ga	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	
Farnborough Town	11	5	0	1	13	4	3	0	2	12	8	8	0	3	25	12	24
Slough Town	14	4	2	1	12	5	3	0	4	14	11	7	2	5	26	16	23
Windsor & Eton	12	5	0	0	12	1	2	2	3	8	9	7	2	3	20	10	23
Bishop's Stortford	14	6	1	3	16	12	1	1	2	4	5	7	2	5	20	17	23
St. Albans City	12	6	0	1	21	11	1	1	3	6	6	7	1	4	27	17	22
Wokingham Town	11	5	1	0	11	3	2	0	3	9	9	7	1	3	20	12	22
Bromley	9	4	0	1	9	4	3	0	1	7	2	7	0	2	16	6	21
Bognor Regis Town	10	4	0	0	10	3	2	2	2	9	10	6	2	2	19	13	20
Leytonstone Ilford	9	3	1	0	10	1	3	0	2	9	10	6	1	2	19	11	19
Yeovil Town	10	5	0	0	12	2	1	0	4	5	9	6	0	4	17	11	18
Hayes	11	4	1	1	10	6	1	1	3	4	8	5	2	4	14	14	17
Carshalton Athletic	10	2	1	2	9	5	2	1	2	6	9	4	2	4	15	14	14
Kingstonian	13	3	3	2	14	12	0	1	4	1	10	3	4	6	15	22	13
Hendon	14	3	1	3	13	14	1	0	6	5	15	4	1	9	18	29	13
Harrow Borough	12	3	2	1	7	5	0	1	5	5	15	3	3	6	12	20	12
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	7	2	1	0	5	2	1	0	3	2	7	3	1	3	7	9	10
Basingstoke Town	7	2	0	1	5	3	0	2	2	3	9	2	2	3	8	12	8
Dulwich Hamlet	13	1	1	3	3	9	1	1	6	5	20	2	2	9	8	29	8
Barking	11	1	1	2	6	5	0	3	4	5	11	1	4	6	11	16	7
Leyton-Wingate	7	1	1	1	4	6	1	0	3	4	7	2	1	4	8	13	7
Croydon	6	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	4	1	2	3	3	5	5
Hitchin Town	11	0	1	4	4	15	0	2	4	4	13	0	3	8	8	28	3



GOALSCORER OF THE YEAR

LEADING GOALSCORERS:

		Lge	AC	GMAC
11:	Allan Cockram (St. Albans City)	9	2	0
10:	Simon Read (Farnborough Tn)	9	0	1
	Carl Zachau (B. Stortford)	9	0	1
9:	Jimmy Brown (Slough Town)	8	0	1
7:	Murray Jones (Carshalton Ath.)	5	1	1
	Eurshall Fearon (Wokingham Town)	6	0	1
	Iain Dowie (St. Albans City)	6	1	0
6:	Gary Keen (Hendon)	4	2	0
	Devon Gayle (B. Stortford)	5	1	0
	Mark Graves (Hayes)	5	0	1
	Sean Baker (Leyton-Wingate)	4	1	1
	Ronnie Murrock (Bromley)	3	0	3

LEADING ATTENDANCES CLUB BY CLUB:

2002:	Yeovil Town v. Leytonstone Ilford
885:	Basingstoke Town v. Yeovil Town
835:	Slough Town v. Windsor & Eton
731:	Farnborough Town v. Slough Town
683:	Bromley v. Kingstonian
548:	St. Albans City v. Hendon
497:	Bognor Regis Town v. Yeovil Town
489:	Hitchin Town v. St. Albans City
483:	Wokingham Town v. Basingstoke Town
467:	Windsor & Eton v. Yeovil Town

DIVISION ONE:

	Pl	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts.
Grays Athletic	14	11	2	1	24	4	35
Marlow	12	10	0	2	28	13	30
Basildon United	13	7	1	5	20	20	22
Wembley	11	6	1	4	22	14	19
Woking	10	6	1	3	25	18	19
Uxbridge	8	5	3	0	15	5	18
Boreham Wood	10	6	0	4	17	14	18
Leatherhead	10	5	2	3	19	12	17
Staines Town	12	5	2	5	22	21	17
Chesham United	12	5	2	5	18	20	17
Lewes	13	4	4	5	24	23	16
Worthing	12	4	3	5	23	18	15
Oxford City	12	3	4	5	19	21	13
Billericay Town	13	4	1	8	19	30	13
Kingsbury Town	8	3	3	2	12	13	12
Hampton	11	3	3	5	15	19	12
Walton & Hersham	12	2	6	4	9	14	12
Stevenage Borough	12	3	3	6	13	19	12
Walthamstow Avenue	12	3	2	7	15	17	11
Southwick	10	3	2	5	9	15	11
Bracknell Town	10	2	3	5	13	16	9
Wolverton Town (MK)	13	1	0	12	9	44	3

VAUXHALL-OPEL



League

SEASON BY SEASON

1957-8

SUMMARY by Steve Maguire.

1957/58 was a reasonably successful season for the Club as it was always going to be a difficult job to emulate the previous year's Championship win and Wembley appearance. In addition the side had lost players of the calibre Frank Westley (retired), Geoff Truett (signed for Crystal Palace) and Len Worley (who spent most of the season playing as an amateur for Charlton's reserve side). The new faces included young full-back John Beck from Slough and former Maidenhead inside forward John Reardon, while Jim Moring took over as Captain.

For most of the season we vied with Walthamstow for second place behind Tooting, and although we held hopes of winning the title again after beating Tooting just before Christmas, our challenge faded after we were knocked out of the Amateur Cup in February. Things were not helped by a bad injury to centre-half Michael Wicks which kept him on the sidelines for half the season, or the calls on the team by the County FA's representative side. On the day our chances of catching Tooting finally died at Bromley, four key players were playing in front of just 200 people at Wellington (now Telford) for the Berks & Bucks versus Shropshire.

In the Amateur Cup we were tipped as one of the favourites. After beating Leytonstone in a game played in terrible conditions with howling winds and snowstorms we found little difficulty in disposing of Winchester in the Second Round. There was a problem, however, for John Reardon who had a quick dash from Slough where he got married less than two hours before the game. Our run was ended by Ilford who gained revenge for their defeat at Loakes Park in the Quarter Final the previous season - winning in a game of three penalties, Ilford's two beating our one.

There was some consolation when the reserve side won the Isthmian League (Reserve section) for the third year running while the senior side brought the County Cup back to Loakes Park after a narrow win over Maidenhead United at Marlow.

As well as providing half the County side, season 1957/58 saw other representative honours for the Club - Dennis Syrett toured Uganda and Ghana with the FA XI at the end of the season and Michael Wicks played in the Amateur International trial held at Lincoln. Injury prevented Wicks from gaining further honours, although the Club could boast another England player when Ron Fryer joined from Barking. Coach Sid Cann, who had signed a new six year contract during the season, was also appointed manager of the England Youth team, while off the pitch patients in Wycombe Hospital were able to hear commentary on games for the first time.



Johnny Reardon

COMPETITION	PL	W	D	L	FOR	AGA
Isthmian League	30	19	4	7	78	42
F A Challenge Cup	1	0	0	1	2	3
F A Amateur Cup	3	2	0	1	9	2
Berks & Bucks Senior Cup	5	4	1	0	22	7
Battle of Britain Cup	1	0	0	1	0	5
Wycombe Hospital Cup	1	1	0	0	3	2
Friendly/Tours	5	4	1	0	21	7
TOTAL	46	30	6	10	135	68

RESULTS FOR SEASON 1957-1958
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GAME	DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP.	V	RESULT	H-T	ATT	SCORERS
1	24/08/57	Kingstonian	IL	A	L 2-5	(2-1)		Bates, Tomlin
2	31/08/57	Walthamstow Avenue	IL	H	W 4-1	(1-1)		Reardon, Bates, Trott 2
3	04/09/57	Oxford City	IL	A	D 1-1	(1-1)	4000	Reardon
4	07/09/57	Barking	IL	A	W 2-0	(2-0)		Tomlin 2
5	14/09/57	Dulwich Hamlet	IL	H	W 5-2	(1-2)		Trott, Rockell, Reardon, Lawson, Bates
6	18/09/57	Charlton	BoBC	H	L 0-5	(0-1)	2000	
7	21/09/57	Walthamstow Avenue	IL	A	L 0-1	(0-0)		
8	28/09/57	Clapton	IL	H	W 4-2	(1-2)		Tomlin 2, Trott 2
9	05/10/57	Tooting & Mitcham United	IL	A	D 1-1	(0-0)		Rockell
10	12/10/57	Wimbledon	IL	A	W 2-1	(1-0)		Rockell, Reardon
11	14/10/57	Crystal Palace	Fr	A	D 3-3	(2-2)	3000	Bates 2, Rockell
12	19/10/57	Bromley	IL	H	D 2-2	(0-0)		Reardon, Day
13	26/10/57	Dulwich Hamlet	IL	A	L 1-2	(1-0)		Trott
14	02/11/57	Kingstonian	IL	H	W 6-0	(5-0)		Bates 2, Rockell, Trott, Reardon, Tomlin
15	09/11/57	Romford	IL	A	W 2-0	(2-0)		Reardon, Trott
16	16/11/57	Dorchester Town	FAC 1	A	L 2-3	(1-2)	4800	Rockell, Reardon
17	23/11/57	Tooting & Mitcham United	IL	H	W 2-1	(1-0)		Bates, Rockell
18	30/11/57	Saint Albans City	IL	H	W 7-1	(4-0)		Bates 3, Reardon 3, Rockell
19	07/12/57	Corinthian Casuals	IL	A	D 4-4	(2-2)		Trott 2, og, Bates
20	14/12/57	Saint Albans City	IL	A	W 4-1	(1-0)		Bates 2, Tomlin, Trott
21	21/12/57	Wimbledon	IL	H	W 3-1	(1-0)		Rockell, Tomlin, og
22	26/12/57	Oxford City	IL	H	W 4-2	(3-0)		Trott, Reardon, Tomlin 2
23	28/12/57	Wolverton Town	B&B 1	A	W 8-1	(2-0)		Bates 2, Reardon 2, Tomlin 2, Trott, Rockell
24	04/01/58	Woking	IL	A	L 1-2	(0-2)		Reardon
25	11/01/58	Leytonstone	FAAC1	H	W 2-0	(0-0)	7209	Trott 2
26	18/01/58	Ilford	IL	H	W 1-0	(0-0)		Tomlin
27	25/01/58	Winchester	FAAC2	H	W 6-0	(4-0)	8032	Bates 2, Trott, Rockell, Reardon, Tomlin
28	01/02/58	Huntley & Palmers	B&B 2	H	W 8-3	(4-0)		Trott 5, Bates, Reardon, Tomlin
29	08/02/58	Ilford	FAAC3	A	L 1-2	(1-0)	9788	Bates
30	15/02/58	Woking	IL	H	L 0-4	(0-1)		
31	22/02/58	Leytonstone	IL	A	L 0-1	(0-1)		
32	01/03/58	Windsor & Eton	B&B S/F	N	D 2-2	(1-0)		Edwards, Moring
33	08/03/58	Clapton	IL	A	W 4-3	(1-0)		Edwards 3, Trott
34	15/03/58	Windsor & Eton	B&B S/F	N	W 3-1	(1-1)		Edwards 3
35	22/03/58	Berkhamsted Town	Fr	H	W 2-0	(2-0)		Trott, Fryer
36	29/03/58	Romford	IL	H	W 6-0	(3-0)		Bates 2, Trott, Rockell, Tomlin, og
37	04/04/58	Draconian (Wales)	Fr	H	W 5-1	(2-0)		og, Edwards 2, Trott, Bates
38	07/04/58	Maidenhead United	B&B F	N	W 1-0	(0-0)	5000	Edwards
39	12/04/58	Wormerveer (holland)	Fr	H	W 4-1	(1-1)		Bates 4
40	16/04/58	Army	Fr	H	W 7-2	(4-2)		Bates 3, Edwards 2, Rockell, Tomlin
41	19/04/58	Bromley	IL	A	L 2-3	(1-1)		Edwards, Howson
42	23/04/58	Corinthian Casuals	IL	H	W 1-0	(0-0)		Edwards
43	26/04/58	Barking	IL	H	W 2-0	(0-0)		Bates 2
44	29/04/58	Leytonstone	IL	H	W 2-0	(1-0)		Bates, Tomlin
45	01/05/58	Ilford	IL	A	W 3-1	(1-1)		Bates, Rockell 2
46	10/05/58	British Police	WyHC	H	W 3-2	(2-1)		Rockell, Bates, Tomlin

1957-58

GOALSCORERS SUMMARY FOR SEASON 1957-1958
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	IL	FAC	FAAC	B&B	BoBC	WyHC	Fr	TOTAL		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
									Tooting & Mitcham U	30	20	6	4	79	33	46
									Wycombe Wanderers	30	19	4	7	78	42	42
									Walthamstow Avenue	30	17	5	8	63	35	39
									Bromley	30	13	9	8	66	51	35
									Oxford City	30	13	6	11	59	48	32
									Leytonstone	30	13	6	11	49	48	32
									Wimbledon	30	15	2	13	64	66	32
									Corinthian-Casuals	30	12	8	10	62	68	32
									Woking	30	12	7	11	70	58	31
									Barking	30	10	6	14	49	61	26
									St Albans City	30	11	3	16	56	76	25
									Clapton	30	8	9	13	42	65	25
									Kingstonian	30	7	8	15	45	66	22
									Dulwich Hamlet	30	7	7	16	49	64	21
									Ilford	30	8	4	18	46	70	20
									Romford	30	6	8	16	45	71	20
Totals	78	2	9	22	0	3	21	135								



BEAZER HOME LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
up to including Wednesday 4 November 1987

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AYLESBURY UNITED	9	6	2	1	20	8	20
CRAWLEY TOWN	13	5	5	3	23	20	20
CAMBRIDGE CITY	10	6	1	3	21	14	19
BROMSGROVE ROVERS	10	6	0	4	13	9	18
DORCHESTER TOWN	9	5	3	1	11	5	18
FAREHAM TOWN	10	5	3	2	15	12	18
DARTFORD	11	5	3	3	17	16	18
LEICESTER UNITED	8	4	3	1	19	11	15
BURTON ALBION	11	3	3	5	17	18	12
CORBY TOWN	10	3	3	4	14	16	12
GOSPORT BOROUGH	10	3	3	4	12	16	12
CHELMSFORD CITY	10	2	5	3	12	11	11
SHEPshed CHARTERHOUSE	8	3	2	3	10	11	11
ALVECHURCH	7	3	2	2	8	11	11
V S RUGBY	9	2	4	3	14	11	10
ASHFORD TOWN	9	3	1	5	14	17	10
NUNEATON BOROUGH	10	2	3	5	14	14	9
REDDITCH UNITED	10	2	3	5	11	17	9
BEDWORTH UNITED	8	2	3	3	10	16	9
WITNEY TOWN	8	1	2	5	5	15	5
WORCESTER CITY	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
WILLENHALL TOWN	6	1	1	5	4	9	4



The Northern Premier Football League

LEAGUE TABLES UP TO AND INCLUDING SATURDAY, 31ST OCTOBER 1987

Pos.	Club.	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Pos.	Club.	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1	Morecambe	18	9	7	2	31	18	34	1	Accrington Stanley	15	10	2	3	30	11	32
2	Frickley Athletic	18	9	4	5	28	23	31	2	Fleetwood Town	14	10	1	3	38	16	31
3	Southport	17	9	3	5	21	19	30	3	Congleton Town	16	7	7	2	22	14	27 *
4	Hyde United	16	8	5	3	31	17	29	4	Eastwood Hanley	13	7	4	2	21	13	25
5	Goole Town	15	8	2	5	30	17	26	5	Farsley Celtic	12	7	3	2	26	17	24
6	Chorley	13	8	2	3	18	11	26	6	Stalybridge Celtic	13	6	5	2	29	16	23
7	Bangor City	18	7	5	6	30	26	26	7	Droylsden	13	6	4	3	23	18	22
8	Rhyl	15	6	7	2	22	11	25	8	Leek Town	12	6	3	3	22	18	21
9	Barrow	12	7	2	3	19	10	23	9	Winsford United	16	6	3	7	27	24	21
10	Worksop Town	14	6	5	3	27	23	23	10	Penrith	14	5	5	4	19	51	20
11	South Liverpool	13	5	6	2	22	15	21	11	Radcliffe Borough	14	4	6	4	28	21	18
12	Witton Albion	14	5	5	4	18	15	20	12	Lancaster City	12	4	3	5	14	20	15
13	Caernarfon Town	14	5	5	4	15	12	20	13	Harrogate Town	9	3	5	1	16	9	14
14	Marine	12	5	3	4	22	14	18	14	Irlam Town	13	3	5	5	14	20	14
15	Buxton	13	3	6	4	22	23	15	15	Eastwood Town	13	3	2	8	18	27	11
16	Matlock Town	12	4	3	5	18	21	15	16	Alfreton Town	12	3	1	8	20	21	10
17	Horwich	12	4	2	6	17	15	14	17	Netherfield	9	1	2	6	7	23	5
18	Gateshead	18	4	2	12	26	35	14	18	Sutton Town	15	1	2	12	14	59	5
19	Mossley	14	2	4	8	18	27	10	19	Curzon Ashton	15	1	1	13	18	44	4
20	Gainsborough Trin.	16	2	4	10	13	36	10									
21	Oswestry Town	14	1	4	9	8	33	7									
22	Workington	16	1	2	13	9	44	5									

* Denotes one point deducted for breach of rule.

UP FOR THE CUP by Pete Oxbrow

I'm sure you'll agree that whilst League matches are the 'Bread & Butter' of any club's season, there is something special about cup ties. These days we are inundated with cup competitions, ranging from the F A Cup and F A Trophy to the B&B, the GMAC Cup and the Capital League President's Cup. There is almost one for each club to win!

However, even in the past, cup ties have not always been that wonderful, indeed they have sometimes become farcical.

In May 1968 Wycombe competed in the A F A Senior Cup (A F A stands for Amateur Football Alliance which is something to do with some clubs falling out with some other clubs in the early part of the century). Anyway, back to the A F A Senior Cup. Well because Wycombe had won the competition the previous year, we were exempt until the semi-final stage (even better than the President's Cup. Pity we can't arrange for something similiar in the Trophy). In the semi-final we played Corinthian Casuals at Loakes Park. Casuals turned up with only eleven players, so we lent them a sub but still scraped a lucky 7-0 win and we were told faithfully in the programme that the final would be played at the start of the following season. The start of the following season turned out to be the following May! In fact we played against Dulwich in the final a week after we had been knocked out of that seasons competition. Rumour has it that the 1970/71 A F A Final will be played later this season.

Then there's the Mithras Cup, which was a mid-week cup in the 60's for club's with those new fangled things called 'floodlights'. Well having spent thousands buying the things club's invented competitions to make use of them (nowadays these competitions are the Capital League and GMAC Cup). Now you'd be quite reasonable in assuming that to enter the Mithras Cup you'd need floodlights - but no one told Ruislip Manor who were Wycombe's first opponents in our only year of entry in season 1968/69. Consequently we were allowed to play both legs at home - winning 8-0 and 5-1. After beating Southall in the next round we then faced Dagenham. After winning 2-1 at home we ran out of season again and had to wait until the following August before losing the second leg 5-0.

Moving on to an almost respectable competition - the Berks & Bucks Cup - we must have set some sort of record when we went two seasons in the B & B without losing a game but without picking up the cup on either occasion. In the 1975 final we played Thatcham where after having two goals disallowed in normal time (with a free-kick awarded to Wycombe on each occasion) we had Keith Mead sent off and then went on to win 4-0 in extra-time. Then the real trouble began. Wycombe were currently in dispute with the B&B because they had refused them entry to the then prestigious London Senior Cup and the team refused to collect the cup leaving the B&B officials with a cup they didn't know what to do with! A few weeks later the Cup was awarded to Thatcham.

The following season we reached the Semi-Final and were drawn away at Chesham, scene of the Thatcham game. After conceding a record breaking 'four second' own-goal, Chesham were beaten 4-3. However, it was later discovered Wycombe had fielded a cup-tied player, Graham Mackenzie (now of Kidderminster), and we withdrew from the competition.

Finally I must mention the Bowyers Cup which we played for against Amersham Town during the 1979/80 season when the crowd was treated to free pork pies at half-time - honest!

BRIAN LEE — THE INTERVIEW

conducted by Ian Blacklidge and Andy Reston.

Brian Lee, our much vilified Chairman, kindly agreed to an interview with Andy Reston (alias Tannoy Man) and Ian Blacklidge (alias Club Shop Man) over a few drinks at Bisham. They discussed a variety of subjects including the career of Brian Lee, journalism, hooliganism, the new ground and LeagueLine. The following is part of the discussion - we hope to include more next month. In the meantime let us hear your views on the subjects brought up this month.

Andy Reston: I'd like to talk a little firstly about you, your background, your achievements in football. How did your footballing career begin?

Brian Lee: I was a successful schoolboy player, I suppose, but I got injured early on. I played in the Cheshire County League for Altrincham and Port Vale, got injured and took up coaching at 17. I qualified as a coach at an early age and became coach and manager of Wellington Town (now Telford United) during seasons 1962/63 and 1966/67. It was a full-time Manager's job and I didn't want to do it full-time. I moved down here in 1967 and became Manager at Wycombe in December 1968.

AR: What was your '9 to 5' job in those early years, apart from the spells at Wellington?

BL: I was in education, then I became Deputy Director at Lilleshall and then Director at Bisham Abbey. I did a lot of coaching with the FA as a Staff Coach. I was the youngest ever Staff Coach at the time - I don't know whether that record has been surpassed since?

AR: How easy was it for you to combine your main job with coaching and managing football teams?

Brian: It's all right if you are coaching but for managing you have to do all the 'off the field' things. The most satisfying thing is to be with a group of players and with coaching you can take it in your stride - Malcolm Allison and Dave Sexton both found this. When you are a Manager and successful, as I was at both the clubs I've managed, the demands on your time increase and I resigned at Wycombe - which was probably the worst thing I ever did - because I couldn't do the job to the level of my own personal satisfaction. Since then, I'm sure that I could have continued but I wouldn't have been honest to myself, at the time, with Bisham Abbey developing. I couldn't give enough time to do the job, and at Wycombe I didn't want to let anyone down. Unfortunately, because it was the most enjoyable job to do, it's the worst thing I ever did!

AR: How did you get the job at Wycombe?

BL: The Club approached me while I was still coach with Oxford University - I may have been recommended as a coach by someone in the FA. Quite a few 'big names' had been coach at Oxford - I followed Don Howe, and Ron Greenwood was also coach there at one time.

AR: When you joined Wycombe, what state was the Club in?

BL: The Manager was Barry Darvill, an ex-player, they were an averagely successful team and it needed an injection of enthusiasm more than anything. It wasn't so much about changing personnel - not like the situation now where we've got to change personnel. I mean, a lot of those players: Maskell, Horseman, Rundle were there for years. Instead of shouting at people it's about encouraging players, reorganising them, putting a bit of spirit into them. Recently, the last 5 or 6 games, the players haven't done themselves credit - they may not be as good as we'd like them to be but they are better than they have shown over the last few matches.

I now feel that I am the victim of my own success because naively all I wanted to do as manager was to be successful - the pinnacle of success being the

Isthmian League Championship. There were two highlights of my career; winning the League, because that's exciting; and also retaining the League, because that's hard work and everyone wants to beat you. The players that were there at the time were there because I was the Manager in the same way as now half the players are there because of the new Manager and half because of the old Manager. It's a myth that people want to play for Wycombe Wanderers, they agree to play for you, the Manager.

But the success I had as Manager rebounded in my face - I lifted the Club up, had a few years of success but the supporters also lifted the Club up onto a pedestal and then took success for granted. Therefore, there's been a certain amount of pressure on the Managers' that have followed. It saddens me in my 19 years with the Club, that I've failed to educate supporters that you can't win all the time.

At this time, we're trying to get players and I can assure you the conversations I've had over the phone just this evening are remarkable, but it's not everyone who wants to come to Wycombe Wanderers - supporters can't understand that. One of the worst things that happened was the departure of the one of the best players in non-League football - Noel Ashford - but I supported his desire to play League football and at his age he has a more immediate chance at Barnet to fulfill his wish.

Ian Blackledge: I've been supporting Wycombe Wanderers since 1972 and I think he's the best player I've ever seen in that time.

BL: I wouldn't quite go as far as that but on his day he was. The trouble is, he is a moody player, therefore a bit unreliable. Larry Pritchard, for me, was the more complete player. He didn't reach the heights of Noel but he was more consistent, more reliable.

IB: More Club Chairman's seem to be getting involved in the signings of players. Is this true?

BL: Not signing players, but negotiating - the business side of it. Kenny Dalglish would have gone to the Chairman of Liverpool, John Smith, and said he would like to sign Ray Houghton. I bet there wasn't an obstacle to that deal but when you're down and trying to sign players, you keep coming up against problems. We've just wasted two weeks on trying to sign a player. I don't want to go back to what happened in the past but the time to strengthen the team is when you're winning - that's what we should have done last year. But now - and it's not always a problem of money, we're one of the happier clubs in the non-League land financially - you've got to get a blend to make things happen.

AR: Going back to your appointment as Chairman, what did you see as the purpose of your job?

BL: I was concerned that we couldn't get the quantity and quality of people coming through a democratic club organisation to run the Club. That's why we got into the business of forming a limited company. It is limited by guarantee, therefore no one person can purchase it and 'do a Robert Maxwell'. I have one share, you have one share. We brought new blood into the Club as a result. The new board was only activated from 1st October 1986 and during that time we have done remarkably well. We are now faltering on the field of play - off the field we are doing well.

AR: Can you briefly describe the duties of the Directors.

BL: Let me say first that the Directors are elected by the shareholders and the Chairman is elected by the Directors. Also let me say that I am by no means the ideal Chairman or necessarily the most suitable but we do have an able Deputy Chairman. From my point of view, my contributing factor is the football side. We have a financial Director who covers the commercial aspects, lottery, LeagueLine and general financial matters. We also have a Director responsible for match sponsors and advertising, another Director is responsible for trading accounts of the Club, The Blues Club, tea bars and so on. There is a Director responsible for

continued over.....

continuation.....

the legal aspects, a Director who is Chairman of the Management Committee - who is also the Ground Controller who deals with the staging of matches. We also have a Patron, who is a former trustee, a President and of course the Company Secretary.

AR: One of the Directors has the title of Ground Controller and we notice that segregation has been put up in time for the Lincoln match. Now, as supporters, we're a little worried that this may cause more problems than those solved.

BL: I don't want to ride roughshod over supporters but we as a Club have to do as we are told. You can rest assured that there is an intelligence going on between clubs now, at higher level than ever before and intelligence tells us that are going to be a number of Lincoln fans visiting and we have been told they ought to be segregated. My principles are fair play and honesty and segregation is totally against my nature. I find it appalling, it's the sort of thing which will drive people away at the end of the day, but we have to do as the Police say.

AR: This is a personal view, but I believe many problems at Wycombe matches in the past could have been solved by the Police, simply standing with the away fans. An obvious example was the Yeovil game where a number of Police standing with the Yeovil fans would have stopped the trouble.

BL: But you have to understand, we can't control that, the Police are the professionals - we can't direct them. At the end of the day it is a Police matter. The ground will now be segregated and there will be toilets at the hospital end. People will be able to go from goal to goal if they want to, except for certain games. I was at the ground today and it is poor in certain areas. We've got to gear the Club professionally on the terraces. We've done very well in restructuring the Club through the company, but we have now got to take another step forward. What we have done and what we are doing is assuring the Club of a future. After the Heysel riot and the Bradford fire, when it comes to ground safety and control, we are not, as clubs, in control of our own destiny.

AR: I think it will strike a blow in most people's hearts when they see the segregation.

BL: Whilst you are right, what you can't do is to forget the Colchester and Chelmsford games. No one in Wycombe deserves what football has given, i.e. they don't go shopping in Wycombe because of the football. Accepting that football is an anti-social game at the moment and talking about new grounds, if I had to choose a ground now, I'd place it 10 miles into the countryside. As a Club we don't know when trouble is going to break out and despite the intelligence, neither do the Police all the time.

AR: Moving onto the subject of the new ground, I know you can't talk in detail because of the appeal going on at the moment. Can you first give a quick history of Loakes Park and why we should move?

BL: The ground was left to us in trust for amateur football but then of course amateur football was done away with and the company now owns the ground. If you want to know why we're looking at a new ground, there are a variety of reasons. First, the ground is old and following Heysel and Bradford, we don't have enough entrances and exits to allow us to move up in the football world - we can't actually build entrances and exits all the way around the ground and there's obviously got to be segregation. We have a wooden stand and with the new regulations, and these are going to get worse, not better, we've got to ask ourselves whether it will be acceptable at a higher level of football.

AR: What would be the ideal ground?

BL: First of all the structure must be fireproof and maintenance free, so you're looking at brick, concrete and steel structure - that's fairly straightforward. We have got to set a ground limit and we've applied for planning permission for a ground to hold 6,000 people. Now you might not think that's enough? But from a marketing point of view, it's better to have 6,000 people fighting for tickets

than have an open house, as it were, that you only fill once in a blue moon, like in the F A Cup. Therefore there's a lot to be said for personalising a ground, keeping it a family ground to make it an intimate site. But Wycombe Wanderers will never fill Loakes Park in the future and I'll tell you why. We were 90 minutes away from Wembley when we played Altrincham in the Trophy and we attracted 5,500 people. Now if there was another 'Middlesbrough', there is no doubt that we would be advised by the Police to play it somewhere else. You've also got to consider that the crowd was limited to 12,000 against Middlesbrough and in those days they erred on the side of safety. Well, they've doubled the safety angle now. You've got to apply for a crowd figure and we chose 6,000 which I think is reasonable.

AR: But there are a lot of 6,000 capacity grounds that are incredibly small and what worries me, as a terrace supporter, is that we're going to have a ground similar to Aylesbury's, where when you've 1,500 people in the ground you are struggling for a view.

BL: Aylesbury is only a good example of the construction materials the ground will be in. It will be covered on four sides, there will be seating for 2,000 out of 6,000, which is a higher proportion than most grounds, which is strongly recommended. Hopefully, the amenities of the ground will be better than any other ground we go to.

AR: But will it cater for the terrace supporter better than Aylesbury?

BL: Terrace supporters have got to change and grow with the modern world because it is terrace supporters that have got us into this mess to start with.

IB: But not all of them by a long margin.

BL: Of course not all of them, I understand that but you don't understand that it's the minority that rule the world. We are forced to spend money on complying with the law otherwise the ground will be closed.

IB: I think that 6,000 is remarkably unambitious when you consider that Slough's ground holds more than that and it's little more than a stand and a rail around the pitch. If that is what we're going to have then that is going to upset a lot of people.

BL: It may upset a lot of people, so will those people come along and throw themselves into the Club, rather than criticise from the outside, get involved and they may be able to change the views of people making the decisions.

I happen to think the site at Sands is a particularly good one from a sociological point of view - a third of a mile from the nearest house, next to an industrial estate, next to agricultural land in the Green Belt. If you're asking if it's a good site from the supporters viewpoint, of course it's not. We'd like it in the middle of the town but there's no available site, so you can't win either way. We will of course provide courtesy transport to the ground - and anything else we can do for the supporters.

AR: You've mentioned some of the problems of Loakes Park but personally, I like Loakes Park and I think 90% of our supporters do.

BL: Well again it depends how you look at it, perhaps you do and people of your age group. But if you want to sell the Club to sponsors, to put money into the Club, the hospitality side, car parking for instance is a total pain. Entrance to the ground is a problem and it puts people off.

AR: But people do not come because of lack of parking - sponsors maybe but not supporters. Supporters might moan about it but they'll still come.

BL: You've made a very wide statement there. You don't know who would have come if things had been easier. We've never, apart from one occasion, done any market research. Do you not think that we live in a world of convenience? People do not like to be inconvenienced. What we're trying to do is improve facilities at the new ground and move into the next century.

continued over.....

continuation....

AR: Despite the criticisms of Loakes Park, the terracing and the view of the pitch is excellent.

BL: *Couldn't agree more, but you've got to remember that it's all about money at the end of the day. But I've looked at some of our terracing today, it's crumbling away and will cost an absolute fortune to put right.*

AR: I would say that it would put off a lot more people who can't see the match than it puts off people who have to walk a long way for a cup of tea. What I'm worried about is that the terracing is going to be as bad as Aylesbury's.

BL: *The ground is going to be a 'blown-up' Aylesbury, the terracing won't be as steeply angled as at Wycombe but it will be better than Aylesbury.*

IB: Putting our cards on the table, Andy is very anti-moving, while I would support the move if I knew more details and was happy with it.

BL: *Don't get me wrong, I'm anti-moving but I also have to be realistic.*

AR: What would you say to the view, sometimes heard, "The only reason we want a new ground is to make a fast buck". Selling land in the middle of the town and moving to a smaller ground and cashing the difference?

BL: *Rubbish. Why would we want to make a 'fast buck'. If Brian Lee owned the company - like Robert Maxwell - then that would be a good reason. The company is set up by guarantee so that one share, one person prevails. Now this is where some of the supporters view of me as Chairman is absolutely wrong. If I owned the Club or was the major shareholder I could understand people deriding me but I have one share like other members. By restructuring the company we've preserved the future of Wycombe Wanderers F C and people don't realise it.*

Whether we like it or not, we live in a very convenience based era where people like their creative comforts and the only way to get these creative comforts is to 'man-make' them. Whilst I'm totally sympathetic with all the supporters who pay their couple of quid, the people who we get in terms of match sponsors, advertisers, is worth more than a couple of quid. In other words, we are in a business. Awful thing to say but it's a fact of life.

IB: But sponsors are fickle, if you're not doing well they go away. I know supporters do to a certain extent, but sponsors don't have the feel for the Club like supporters do.

BL: *So we get another sponsor and then another. Nobody knows more at Wycombe about sponsorship than I do and nobody is more 'anti' sponsorship than I am. Whilst I'm a great one for traditions and roots, there are certain things we have to face. Society is different now and we have to do as the law says.*

AR: Have you anything to say to supporters, especially at this difficult time?

BL: *Yes it is a difficult time. spirits are low at the moment so we've all got to get together and work together to improve it. Nobody sets out to play badly and therefore the players need encouragement. Wrong assessments may have been made, but everyone needs encouragement now. A lot of people are putting in a lot of work to try and put the Club where we all think it should be. There is no point in destroying the Club within. We are all involved in the game because of the exciting and the unexpected, when it works for us, terrific, when it works against us, not so good. We have to take the rough with the smooth. Over the years, Wycombe has enjoyed far more smooth than rough. No one, I can assure you, has slept less recently than the Chairman of this Club.*

That's it for this month but please remember if you feel strongly about any point brought up in this interview please let us know - it is vital that supporters concerns and reservations are voiced. Brian Lee would be happy to answer any letters we receive - so drop us a line.



<i>Monday 14 September 1987</i>		
Dagenham	1-2	Welling 606
<i>Tuesday 15 September 1987</i>		
Fisher	0-3	Maidstone 841
Kettering	3-0	Boston 840
Stafford	2-1	Runcorn 1096
Wealdstone	1-0	Enfield 916
Wycombe	0-7	Barnet 1606
<i>Wednesday 16 September 1987</i>		
Cheltenham	3-0	Telford 1623
<i>Saturday 19 September 1987</i>		
Altrincham	0-0	Maidstone 1271
Barnet	4-1	Northwich 1535
Boston	1-0	Weymouth 1332
Fisher	0-2	Runcorn 582
Kettering	3-0	Dagenham 810
Kiddermster	0-0	Stafford 1315
Lincoln	4-0	Enfield 2503
Sutton	3-0	Cheltenham 507
Wealdstone	1-1	Macclesfield 865
Welling	2-1	Bath 704
Wycombe	2-1	Telford 1069
<i>Monday 21 September 1987</i>		
Dagenham	0-3	Weymouth 508
<i>Tuesday 22 September 1987</i>		
Altrincham	2-3	Kiddermster 1125
Barnet	4-0	Kettering 2141
Bath	0-4	Sutton 429
Enfield	0-0	Fisher 663
Macclesfield	2-3	Stafford 1682
Runcorn	4-1	Lincoln 970
<i>Wednesday 23 September 1987</i>		
Boston	1-2	Welling 1431
Cheltenham	2-2	Wycombe 1529
Maidstone	1-1	Wealdstone 1064
<i>Saturday 26 September 1987</i>		
Bath	2-0	Altrincham 454
Dagenham	4-2	Boston 400
Enfield	5-2	Kiddermster 609
Runcorn	1-0	Wealdstone 722
Telford	0-1	Lincoln 2025
<i>Monday 28 September 1987</i>		
Kiddermster	3-2	Macclesfield 1317
<i>Tuesday 29 September 1987</i>		
Altrincham	2-0	Runcorn 2328
Fisher	0-0	Boston 468
Sutton	0-1	Barnet 979
Telford	1-1	Northwich 1310
Wealdstone	2-3	Dagenham 887
Wycombe	2-2	Bath 1386
<i>Wednesday 30 September 1987</i>		
Lincoln	0-1	Kettering 3145
Maidstone	3-2	Enfield 1228
Weymouth	4-0	Welling 1760

<i>Saturday 3 October 1987</i>		
Barnet	2-2	Stafford 2282
Boston	3-3	Maidstone 1377
Cheltenham	1-1	Enfield 1429
Dagenham	1-0	Northwich 461
Fisher	3-2	Altrincham 481
Kiddermster	5-2	Welling 1254
Lincoln	3-0	Bath 2494
Macclesfield	1-1	Sutton 1056
Wealdstone	0-2	Kettering 651
Weymouth	1-0	Telford 1628
Wycombe	2-2	Runcorn 1362
<i>Saturday 10 October 1987</i>		
Altrincham	4-1	Boston 1364
Bath	0-0	Wealdstone 501
Kettering	1-0	Stafford 1060
Maidstone	1-2	Lincoln 1101
Runcorn	2-0	Kiddermster 733
Telford	1-0	Dagenham 1115
Wycombe	1-5	Enfield 1459
<i>Monday 12 October 1987</i>		
Kiddermster	3-2	Bath 1169
Northwich	1-2	Altrincham 1164
<i>Saturday 17 October 1987</i>		
Barnet	3-1	Altrincham 2598
Boston	0-0	Sutton 1293
Cheltenham	2-2	Maidstone 1250
Dagenham	1-1	Bath 441
Fisher	1-2	Stafford 437
Macclesfield	0-3	Enfield 1046
Wealdstone	0-0	Lincoln 1107
Welling	1-1	Northwich 760
Weymouth	0-0	Runcorn 1658
Wycombe	0-3	Kettering 1387
<i>Monday 19 October 1987</i>		
Kiddermster	2-4	Telford 1661
<i>Tuesday 20 October 1987</i>		
Stafford	2-2	Cheltenham 1063
Sutton	2-0	Fisher 514
<i>Wednesday 21 October 1987</i>		
Welling	1-0	Wycombe 732
<i>Saturday 24 October 1987</i>		
Altrincham	0-3	Telford 1492
Kettering	1-1	Kiddermster 1223
Stafford	3-0	Wycombe 1185
<i>Monday 26 October 1987</i>		
Northwich	0-0	Cheltenham
<i>Tuesday 27 October 1987</i>		
Telford	0-0	Macclesfield
<i>Wednesday 28 October 1987</i>		
Lincoln	2-1	Barnet 4624
Maidstone	2-4	Sutton 1066
<i>Saturday 31 October 1987</i>		
Bath	3-4	Macclesfield 593
Enfield	3-2	Wycombe 671
Fisher	1-0	Weymouth 494
Kettering	3-1	Northwich 1135
Lincoln	5-1	Cheltenham 2241
Maidstone	2-0	Dagenham 880
Runcorn	0-1	Barnet 1081
Stafford	5-2	Wealdstone 1179
Sutton	2-0	Kiddermster 593
Telford	2-1	Boston 1308
Welling	0-1	Altrincham 1020



Fixtures

Saturday November 7 1987

Altrincham	Sutton
Barnet	Bath
Boston	Runcorn
Cheltenham	Fisher
Dagenham	Stafford
Kidderminster	Kettering
Macclesfield	Welling
Northwich	Enfield
Wealdstone	Telford
Weymouth	Maidstone
Wycombe	Lincoln

Saturday November 14 1987

Boston	Wycombe
Enfield	Wealdstone
Kettering	Fisher
Weymouth	Stafford

Tuesday November 17 1987

Enfield	Maidstone	*
Wealdstone	Cheltenham	*
Stafford	Macclesfield	*
Wycombe	Sutton	*

Saturday 21 November 1987

Altrincham	Wycombe
Bath	Kettering
Cheltenham	Barnet
Enfield	Stafford
Fisher	Macclesfield
Lincoln	Weymouth
Maidstone	Boston
Runcorn	Telford
Sutton	Dagenham
Wealdstone	Kidderminster

Monday 23 November 1987

Kidderminster	Northwich
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Tuesday 24 November 1987

Stafford	Telford
Wycombe	Dagenham

Saturday 28 November 1987

Barnet	Wealdstone
Boston	Bath
Fisher	Northwich
Kettering	Altrincham
Macclesfield	Cheltenham
Stafford	Maidstone
Sutton	Lincoln
Telford	Enfield
Welling	Runcorn
Weymouth	Wycombe

Monday 30 November 1987

Dagenham	Fisher
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Saturday 5 December 1987

Cheltenham	Stafford	*
Dagenham	Barnet	*
Enfield	Bath	*
Fisher	Sutton	*
Macclesfield	Telford	*
Maidstone	Welling	*
Northwich	Kettering	*
Wealdstone	Weymouth	*
Wycombe	Kidderminster	*

Saturday 12 December 1987

Barnet	Boston
Bath	Fisher
Cheltenham	Macclesfield
Enfield	Welling
Lincoln	Northwich
Maidstone	Kettering
Runcorn	Wycombe
Stafford	Kidderminster
Sutton	Wealdstone
Telford	Altrincham
Weymouth	Dagenham



F A CUP FIRST ROUND PROPER
Saturday 14 November 1987

ALTRINCHAM	v	Wigan Athletic
BARNET	v	Hereford United
Billingham Syn	v	Halifax Town
Bishop Auckland	v	Blackpool
Bognor Regis Town	v	Torquay United
Brentford	v	Brighton & H
Bristol City	v	Aylesbury United
Bristol Rovers	v	Merthyr Tydfil
Burnley	v	Bolton Wanderers
Cambridge United	v	Farnborough Town
Chelmsford City	v	BATH CITY
Chester City	v	RUNCORN
Chorley	v	Hartlepool
Colchester United	v	Tamworth
DAGENHAM	v	MAIDSTONE UNITED
Doncaster Rovers	v	Rotherham United
Gillingham	v	Fulham
Halesowen Town	v	KIDDERMINSTER HAR
Hayes	v	Swansea City
Leyton Orient	v	Exeter City
LINCOLN CITY	v	Crewe Alex
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	v	Carlisle United
Northampton Town	v	Newport County
NORTHWICH VICTORIA	v	Colwyn Bay
Notts County	v	Chesterfield
Peterborough United	v	Cardiff City
Preston North End	v	Mansfield Town
Rochdale United	v	Vrexham
Scarborough	v	Grimsby Town
Scunthorpe United	v	Bury
Southend United	v	Valsall
Sunderland	v	Darlington
SUTTON UNITED	v	Aldershot
TELFORD UNITED	v	Stockport County
Tranmere Rovers	v	Port Vale
V S Rugby	v	Atherstone
WELLING UNITED	v	Carshalton Ath
Wolves	v	CHELTENHAM TOWN
Worcester City	v	Yeovil Town
York City	v	Burton Albion

All fixtures correct at time of going to press

Fixtures marked * are provisional due to cup involvement