

Chairboys

Gas

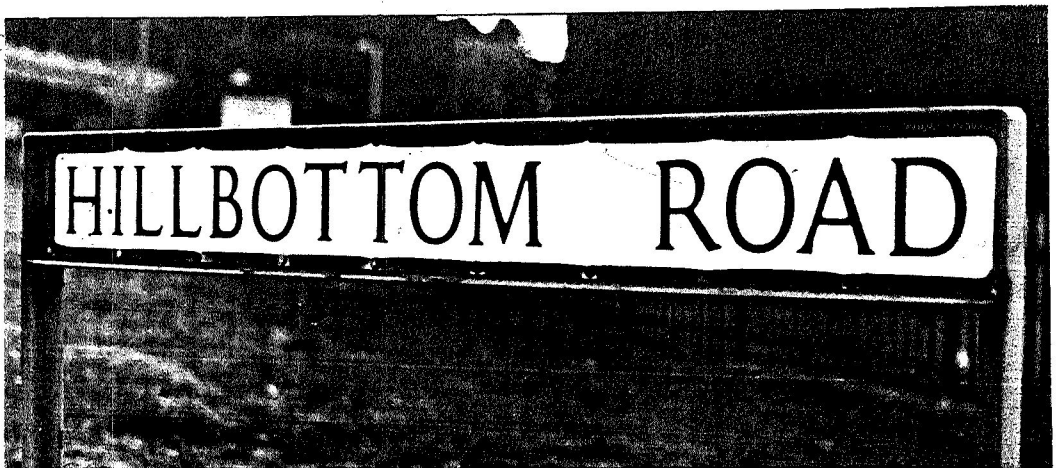
*A Magazine by Supporters
of
Wycombe Wanderers F.C.*

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40p

NO.2 OCTOBER

1988/89

Chairboys

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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

Dare I say that the spirit that carried us through the second half of last season is beginning to return again? Or perhaps I'm getting a little over excited about an away win at Welling and another thoroughly deserved point at Fisher. Doesn't sound very impressive but we know how important every point is. While we're on the subject of Fisher, what a pleasant change it made to actually score ourselves in the famous '89th' minute.

Before I sign off this ever decreasing intro, it would be gratifying to receive the occasional contribution from some more Wycombe supporters than the usual bunch. Surely there's something you don't agree with? Then again perhaps not.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you wish to subscribe to CHAIRBOYS GAS for the remainder of the season (4 more issues) and receive your copy by first class post, the cost is £2.00. Cheques or PO's payable to CHAIRBOYS GAS.

BACK ISSUES

Back copies of the first 16 issues are now available from the above address at 30p each. Please add the relevant postage.

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. In addition to these we have added a couple of local outlets in the town as an experiment. They are at POPPS NEWSAGENT 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 (Editor), Steve Maguire and Pete Oxbrow.

Behind the Goal

with Simon Burrage

Those of you who read the interview with Jim Kelman in the last issue of CHAIRBOYS GAS may recall part of his response to the question: "What do you think of Chairboys Gas?" was "I don't think there should be so many knockers and knives in the back jobs". Now, I can only assume from this that Jim is not a regular reader of CG because if he was he would know that backstabbing and criticism of players - even when it may be justified - is not one of the purposes of this magazine. This magazine is, hopefully, a reflection of supporters enthusiasm and commitment to our game and our Club. Commitment is a very important word in football, and I would certainly not want to question in print any individual players commitment to WWFC; Mr Kelman can be the judge of that. However, I must tactfully suggest that here on the terraces there are actually quite a large number of people who would go so far as to incur the wrath of wives or girlfriends (or husbands or boyfriends for that matter) to ensure that their annual holiday does not cause them to miss the start of the football season. Of course supporters know little of players own personal circumstances, however it is inevitable that those fans will be inclined to feel a little disgruntled when it appears (and I stress the word appears) someone at the Club does not show the same commitment.

Despite our less than encouraging start to the season, it was great to get back into the old routine of going to matches after that dreadful thing called the close season. Yeovil was an ideal trip to start the season with, and despite the volume of holiday traffic causing a few minor hold-ups there was still plenty of time to sample some excellent local liquid; this of course, led to the necessity of having to use the outrageously inadequate toilet facilities at the Yeovil 'away' end. As for Chorley, a hugely enjoyable day was only marred by an horrific collapse to a Chorley side which looked quite dire (ie no better than us) for the first hour of the match and will surely(?) have descended from their initial high placing in the league by the time you read this. In his match report in the Midweek, Rolf Niven asked of the journey "was it all worth it?" Probably not, but just try stopping us doing it all over again next time; Some of us actually enjoy it (don't we?). I certainly enjoyed the Welling result anyway, and particularly Dave Carroll's performance and another excellent goal. Welling is one of those places (dare I say "no disrespect intended") where you have to see your team win to get any satisfaction from the trip at all, especially in midweek. Someone described it as our GMVC equivalent of that old Isthmian fixture at Hayes, which just about sums up that feeling of drab irritation perfectly.

continued over.....

.....continuation

I feel our congratulations and thanks must go to Jim Kelman (TV star of BBC's London Plus!) for capturing proven, quality defenders in the shape of Andy Kerr from Telford and Glyn Creaser from Barnet. The total cost for the pair is believed to be in the region of £20,000 but even at this early stage of the season it is clear that such amounts cannot be regarded as extravagant - the importance of retaining GMVC status for the move to Hillbottom Road cannot be overstated. It was a pity that Glyn's arrival at Loakes Park will be followed by a 3 match suspension for flattening one of our own players! For the benefit of anyone who doesn't already know, Glyn played his last game for Barnet against us at Loakes Park and, not knowing he was due to sign for us the following day, most of us celebrated in customary football supporter fashion as he was dismissed by the referee for flooring Mark West. Wouldn't we all have loved to have been a fly on the dressing room wall when 'Westie' was introduced to his new team mate?!!

It was also regretful - particularly so in view of the way the game turned out - that Glyn Creaser's debut for us at Kettering coincided with the absence of Andy Kerr at right-back. Personally, I was also pleased to see Mark Boyland back in the side that afternoon - a player I feel is ludicrously under-rated by many Wycombe fans. The basic fact is that we need a striker with some strength and ability to actually score some goals regularly playing up front with Mark West (he can't do it all alone). Also welcome back John Granville - even in that jersey.

Having disposed of Haverhill Rovers (or should I say Hayvahill) those of us who love to see Wycombe on 'new' grounds will be looking forward to the chance to 'tick-off' Finchley. Should we win there (and surely we should win there?) we could well find ourselves travelling to Staines in the 3rd Qualifying Round - a prospect which will no doubt appeal to Alan Gane, the Manager of Staines, than it will to our Board of Directors!

One Cup tie coming up I will not be looking forward to, however, is the 'Premier Inter-League Cup' (formerly the 'General Motors Acceptance Corporation Challenge Cup') game at Wokingham. The name of this competition may have changed, but it is still a stupid waste of time. Now that General Motors have withdrawn their support of the competition there is even less reason for it's continuation. Basically, it's a third rate midweek version of the F A Trophy, severely regionalised all the way up to the semi-finals, and potentially is one big pain in the backside for any Club's fixture secretary if there happens to be a bad winter or their Club has a long cup run in other genuine cup competitions. What was wrong with having a knock-out competition amongst the 22 Conference clubs for the Bob Lord Trophy - as it used to be in Gola League days and before - at least then the competition had some status. I never like to see Wycombe Wanderers lose, but I don't think I shall be crying in my beer if we lose at Wokingham on October 4 or whenever we eventually get around to play it; Give me an extra GMVC point anyway. COME ON YOU CHAIRBOYS!



Murphy's Message

As the season draws to a close the 'job' is just commencing. By this I mean to be successful in the Fourth Division it will be necessary to immediately plan and effect the strategy in order that we are able to be as successful in the Fourth as we were during my previous spell.

The support this year has been absolutely magnificent and I observe the average gate is 3,762 which at the start of the season maybe not too many people would have profiside. There are many ways that we can possibly express or reflect our thanks for this abundance of numbers but possibly the best thanks you can be given is the return of your League Status and League Football once again prevailing within the community.

The good news is that Mrs. Ashtons cheese rolls are now on sale again in the Fourth Division but the bad news is, George doesn't like the cheese.

WHAT? - Lincoln v Scarborough programme May 1988

Worlds collide at Barnet

EVEN AT this early stage in the FA Cup — 11 wins from Wembley — it is safe to say there will be few more polarised pairings than the one which sends Epsom and Ewell to Barnet in tomorrow's first qualifying round.

Both clubs have been to the twin towers before — Barnet for the Amateur Cup final in 1959, Epsom to contest the Vase 16 years later.

The only other link emphasises the disparity between them; this week, both have negotiated transfers to bring in club-record fees.

Subject to a medical the Barnet winger Lee Payne, a free transfer signing from Hitchin, joins Newcastle for £150,000 tomorrow. In the First Division he may encounter defender Malcolm Elliott, for whom Charlton have just paid Epsom £5,000.

The Surrey club, struggling in

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

the Vauxhall-Open League's Second Division (South), have also sold their West Street ground to a property company. Epsom were given four years in which to relocate, which left their chairman, Steve Delaney, so out of step with his board that he resigned.

That discord, and Barnet's form, points to a big home win, though even on Underhill's slope the Cup might prove a leveller: The GM Vauxhall Conference side have scored 10 goals in winning their last two games, at Wickham and Newport, with a Gary Abbott hat-trick in each. Epsom lost 5-0 at St Albans in an AC Delco tie on Wednesday.

The Payne deal, incidentally, is

a non-League record and brings Barnet's transfer revenue to £415,000 since last season; perhaps, as one pundit quipped, chairman Stan Flashman is saving up for his beloved Arsenal. If the money is used to bolster Barnet, the team who missed promotion to the Fourth Division by a point should make it this time. They are seven points behind leaders Kettering — themselves involved in a tie against lowly opposition at Ware — with a match in hand.

Newport are off the bottom, although a last-minute Yeovil equaliser denied them a first victory on Tuesday. A crowd of 1,262, three days after a 7-1 home battering by Barnet, gave the lie to the notion that the Gwent town does not care about its team.

'Park Avenue'

WHAT? - The Independent 16 September 1988



KETTERING TOWN have emerged as the early season league leaders in the Conference following a 100% home record from their opening 6 Conference fixtures at Rockingham Road. Kettering, who began the season at 25/1 for the title, have had their odds shortened to 11/2 by bookmakers William Hill. Kettering's only Conference defeat after 8 games was a surprise defeat at Welling United, where they lost 2-1.

Still favourites for the Conference title are BARNET who are quoted at 7/2. Barnet, who began the season with just one victory in their opening five Conference games, have been in the headlines following the sale of three of their players for a reported combined total of £355,000. First to go was Nicky Bissett who joined Brighton for £115,000 - Bissett joined Barnet last March from Dagenham for £20,000. A few days later the same fee and the same Club took England Semi-Pro midfielder, Robert Codner to the Goldstone Ground. Codner had also joined Barnet from Dagenham - a free transfer in August 1985. The most incredible move out of the trio, however, is the transfer of forward Lee Payne to Newcastle United for a fee of £125,000. Payne joined Barnet on a free transfer from Hitchin Town during last season and made just two Conference appearances before the close of the season - making his full debut in the last game of the season at Welling. Payne, who trained with Coventry City earlier this season and also played for Leicester City's Central League side (against Newcastle), had made only one Conference appearance this season before making the move to St James Park. Completing this crazy tale is the news that Payne suffered a suspected broken ankle in a Central League match for Newcastle against West Brom during his first week with United.

These three departures take Barnet's transfer income since the end of last season to over £400,000 with movement in the opposite direction seeing striker Frank Murphy moving to Underhill for £10,000 from Kettering, former Brentford Captain Wayne Turner moving on a free from Griffin Park and Trevor Slack moving from Northampton Town.

MAIDSTONE UNITED, second favourites for the title, started the season with five wins and a draw from their opening six Conference fixtures this season. Included in this run was a 7-2 home victory over ALTRINCHAM and a 4-1 victory at BOSTON UNITED, the latter attracting a gate of 2,701 to York Street. Maidstone's opening 'home' games at Dartford F C have attracted gates of 624 (Altrincham), 1005 (Runcorn), 1332 (Welling) and 910 (Kidderminster). Scoring the majority of the goals for Maidstone have been Mark Gall, who had 13 Conference goals after only 9 games and Steve Butler, who had clocked 7 at the same stage. Gall was signed by Maidstone last January for £2,000 from Greenwich Borough and must now be approaching the £100,000 rating. On the negative side for Maidstone, Noel Ashford, received a leg injury during the game with Boston but was hoped to have regained fitness by the end of September.

The surprise package in the Conference this season are CHORLEY who have seen their odds reduced from 80-1 at the start of the season to 14/1 following a run of six consecutive victories which took them to the top of the Conference. Their run of victories, which have seen attendances average 1,371 at their Victory Park home, was ended at BOSTON UNITED before a crowd of 2,402.

BOSTON UNITED have enjoyed a resurgence of interest this season, and have yet to register an attendance under 2,000. The crowds have been attracted by a wealth of signings - including Paul Shirtliff for a Club record fee of £12,500 from Frickley Athletic, Martin Hardy from Worksop Town for £10,000, Gary Simpson from Stafford Rangers for £7,000, Stewart Hamill from Scarborough, Allen Crombie and David Mossman from Lincoln City and Glen Beech from Grantham Town. Both Shirtliff and Simpson are regulars in the England Semi-Pro side and have seen United drop just four points from their first eight Conference games of 1988/89.

NEWPORT COUNTY have begun their first ever Conference campaign in disastrous fashion - picking up just two points (home draws with AYLESBURY UNITED and YEOVIL TOWN) from their initial 9 Conference games. County began the season with a 3-0 defeat at STAFFORD RANGERS before a crowd of 1,654. The following Tuesday they played their first home game of the season at Somerton Park, where a gate of 1,871 saw County beaten 2-1 by KETTERING TOWN. They have since collapsed 7-1 at home to BARNET a late goal by Evans for Newport preventing them from equalling the record Conference home defeat set by Barnet last season against yours truly. Newport have had their odds extended to win the Conference from 20-1 at the start of the campaign to a massive 1000-1.

AYLESBURY UNITED may have had a poor start in the Conference but their current problems appear to be 'off the pitch'. The Daily Telegraph reported that a group of four local business men backed by a property company was aiming to take the Club over and sell off Buckingham Road. This was dismissed as a 'red herring' by one of the four but a statement is expected from the Club soon. According to the Bucks Herald it is estimated that the Club is valued at over £5m with £4m of this tied up in the ground alone. United Chairman and Director for the past 12 years, Charlie Doherty said *"I told our members and supporters I would build them a club they could be proud of. I believe we have achieved that but now others are trying to jump on the bandwagon"*

The nine Conference clubs involved in the First Qualifying Round of the F A Cup all made it safely through to the next round on Saturday 1st October. BARNET and BOSTON UNITED had the best wins, with respective 7-1 and 8-2 victories over Epsom & Ewell and Coventry Sporting.

BERKS & BUCKS CUP

1st Round Draw

Milton Keynes Borough	v	Burnham
Flackwell Heath	v	Bracknell Town
Wantage Town	v	Chalfont St. Peter
Wolverton Town	v	Maidenhead United
Newport Pagnell Town	v	Buckingham Town
Hungerford Town	v	Reading
Newbury Town	v	Abingdon United
Winslow United	v	New Bradwell St. Peter
Wycombe Wanderers	v	Chesham United
Marlow	v	Beaconsfield United
Slough Town	v	Aylesbury United
Didcot Town	v	Abingdon Town
Wallingford Town	v	Amersham Town
Bye: Thatcham Town		
Exempt to Round 2:- Windsor & Eton		
Wokingham Town		

Games to be played by 17th December 1988.

HILLBOTTOM ROAD — UPDATE September 1988

On the 14th September 1988 the detailed plans for the new ground at Hillbottom Road were given the OK by the local council.

The detailed plans were first submitted to the Council on the 8th June 1988 but an ammended version, after extensive consultation with various authorities, was put forward on 26th July 1988. The planning report on the ammended application stated *"During processing of the application, the proposals have been revised to turn the facility through 90° such that the ground now lies on an east-west axis. This amendment, brought about for a number of reasons, enables better use of site contours and sections submitted with the proposals indicate that existing ground levels will be substantially reduced on the south side of the valley to enable the ground to be dug into the slope. The architects identify a series of benefits arising from the re-orientation and re-siting of the pitch, terraces and ancillary facilities."*

The Council Officers summarised the proposals with *"In general, your officers consider that the detailed proposals, including the design of the stands, terraces and ancillary buildings, have been sensitevely conceived bearing in mind the location and characteristics of the site. Accordingly, permission is recommended"*. The Officers also advised at the time of the meeting that the football pitch, stands and terraces *"shall be used only for the playing and watching of football and for no other purpose unless first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority."*

A great deal of information regarding the new ground was announced by Brian Lee, the Club Director responsible for the move to Hillbottom, at the recent Club A G M in August . Mr Lee explained that work on the new ground was hoped to start in late Autumn 1988. The sowing of the pitch was also originally intended for this date but this has been put off to the Spring of 1989 because of the delays in obtaining detailed planning permission.

The extensive consulatation regarding the new ground has taken in talks with authorities including, The County Fire Officer, Thames Valley Police, The Sports Council, The Football Trust, floodlighting consultants, pitch consultants, Southern Electricity and Thames Water. The latter require a diversion of the existing supply, a task that has cost the Club over £60,000. Work has already started on this diversion.

Getting to the real 'bones' of the plans, the capacity of the new ground has been stated all along as 6,000. Many supporters have shown concern over this matter but Mr Lee reassured members at the A G M regarding this point. He said *"That to get into the Football League you must have a Conference 'working' capacity of 5,000 and a 'potential' for 10,000"*. He stessed that there would be this *"potential"* at Hillbottom Road. Other concerns by supporters have been the steepness of the terracing. The terracing on the plans show terracing that is not as deep as at Loakes Park but is steeper and almost as high. Putting actual figures in shows a height of 3 metres (about 10 feet) with a depth of terracing of 6.5 metres (over 20 feet). The terracing is separated from the pitch perimeter fence by a flat 'walkway' 3 metres wide with the pitch being another 4.5 metres from the fence. These last criteria are figures laid down by the safety officers and in the case of the 'walkway', is space not allocated in the 6,000 capacity.

The plans, which show such features as 320 car parking spaces, emergency vehicle turning points, an 'away' car-park, as well as covering all around the spectator areas, were termed by Mr Lee as *"The master plans"* and he went on to say *"although we may not be able to afford it all in one go, it has been a resolution of the Board that the Club will spend everything that it gets for Loakes Park on the new ground"*. This is a turn around from the original intention of banking approximately half the proceeds from the sale of Loakes Park, and has come about due to the change in climate of football at this level. Mr Lee also pointed out there is also a possibility of getting grants from one or two different sources and stressed that if they had done their figures correctly then the plans could be carried out to the full. He added *"If we can't do something, at least we've got permission to do it when we can afford it."*

Returning to a more detailed look at the plans, the 90° shift of the ground now means the pitch runs goal to goal along the valley, parallel to Hillbottom Road. The main stand is situated on the north side of the ground and is fully seated. The floodlights, five each side, are mounted on an unusual 'praying mantis' type design on the roof of the main stand and on columns on the south side. The main Club buildings are built beneath the main stand - including function rooms, club shop, and various Club offices. Toilet and tea bar facilities are shown at each corner of the ground and although not shown there will be segregation to be used if necessary.

Although it remains to be seen if the plans are carried out to the letter, first impressions are of a well thought out ground. The fact that all the money from the sale of Loakes Park is to be used on the new ground is also welcome news. Some areas of safety may seem 'over the top' but as Mr Lee pointed out at the A G M since Heysels and Bradford, regulations have become tighter and the current regulations are a *"belt and braces"* attitude.

If all goes according to plan there will be one match played at the new site at the end of the 1989/90 season - probably some form of celebration match against First Division side. The main start being season 1990/91.

We'll be keeping you updated on the progress at Hillbottom, meanwhile enjoy Loakes Park while you can, even though we'll be taking the famous Loakes Park gates with us.



A G M REPORT

by the C G Shareholders

On Monday 15th August 1988, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club Limited held it's Third Annual General Meeting. No report was carried in the local press or in the Club programme, yet many interesting points were raised and discussed. In our effort to improve communication with supporters, here is our report.

The first real point of interest of the meeting was item 2 on the agenda, 'The Report of the Directors presented by the Chairman'. This was recited by Ivor Beeks and began with *"We believe that we should be looking forward and not back at this time of the year"*, but placed on record the effect that Manager Jim Kelman had had on the Club since his arrival in January. He also mentioned the increase in attendances and also thanked the various sponsors of the Club. The move to the new ground at Hillbottom Road was highlighted as the major event of the future at which point he passed to Brian Lee, who gave a fairly extensive report on the new ground (See 'Hillbottom Road - Update').

Item 3 on the agenda was the 'Balance Sheet'. This was analysed by Financial Director Graham Peart who said *"The long term planning for the Club is to operate as a professional company"*. He pointed out that the Club had made a loss of over £25,000, the first loss in over 7 seasons but the Club had financially *"made progress in virtually all areas"* and had set out the year with a budget to break even.

Mr Peart in his analysis of the income expenditure account described gate receipts as *"which is what this business is all about"*. He also highlighted that sponsorship was up and even the programme made a profit of £612 - the first profit for several seasons. It was pointed out that a profit would be guaranteed again this season as all advertising has been sold for the programme at an increased rate of 50%, which according to Mr Peart *"Reflects a good effort by, certainly, a number of Directors and also by our commercial department"*. No thanks or mention was acknowledged to the effort put in by the Programme Editors.

Continuing, Mr Peart said the only disappointment during the season was the number of LeagueLine members who resigned during our *"difficult period"* when it was claimed that the Club was not spending money on players. Mr Peart pointed to the figures to oppose this view but was concerned that the members had not returned.

Summing up, Mr Peart said that the loss over the season was *"disappointing"* but they would be budgeting to break-even again next season, the Club had a surplus of over £155,000 and that there were *"no skeletons in the cupboard"*

Item 4 on the agenda was a 'Special Resolution', namely that Article 27 of the Articles of Association of the Company *"A Director or Officer shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration in respect of his office as Director, Officer or Employee of the Club"* be amended by adding the following words *"Save that in accordance with Football Association Rule 34(a)(iv)(b) the Directors of the Company shall have the authority to appoint, if they so desire, a member of the Board to receive remuneration, provided that the terms of such appointment are notified to and approved by the Association and the League of which the Club's First Team is a member and that such appointment is in respect of full-time employment"*.

This Special Resolution was explained by the Clubs Legal Director, Mr John Roberts who claimed that *"We are turning ourselves from an amateur form of organisation into one which the emphasis is professionalism"*. It was pointed out that this Resolution will be proposed because, in the opinion of the Directors of the Company, it will be of assistance to the Company if they have the power to appoint someone as some form of *"Chief Executive"* especially with regard to the new ground where the number of paid staff will be a lot higher than at the present. It was emphasised that, as with any Club, they could only have one paid Director but they would have a *"voice on the board"*

As with any Special Resolution, a 75% majority is required to carry the motion, and the shareholders present were urged to show their approval. A shareholder commented that if we are going to act *"properly"* as a Limited Company, that the vote should be done by a paper ballot and not by a show of hands. Mr Roberts replied that *"so far as our memorandum of Articles is concerned, it's done by a show of hands"*. Another shareholder then pointed out that the articles also state that if five members demand it a poll could be called for. This was confirmed by Mr Roberts where on a necessary five members showed their approval for a ballot.

This appeared to be rather embarrassing for the officers present who had to hastily arrange a paper ballot. In the ensuing time Item 5, 'The re-appointemnt of Mr John Goldsworthy and Brian Lee' was passed unanimously as was the final item on the Agenda, 'Appointment of Auditor' - R.M. Blaikie & Co.

After a short delay the ballot was held and as expected was duly passed with a 64 for and 6 against decision. This was greeted by ferocious applause by some members. The Chairman thanked he members *"for their confidence"* and closed the meeting.

Out of the official confines of the meeting, Jim Kelman, then spoke a few words claiming that *"after two weeks in the job he had aged 20 years"*. He described how he had introduced a scouting system *"to keep in touch"* aided by John Reardon (Home Counties), Ian Crossley (South & West) and John Randall (Midlands, Wales and the North). He went on to discuss his youth and reserve team plans where perhaps we might *"unearth a few diamonds of Rome"* bearing in mind the escalation of transfer fees in the Conference.

Youth Team Manager Alan Hutchinson spoke of his hopes of forming *"an association of Wycombe Wanderers F C with the youth of the Town"* and highlighted the fact that with Wycombe in the Conference this would act as a *"carrot"* as far as the young player was concerned. The articulate Hutchinson said that the average age of the youth side was 18 or 19 and that *"if we could get one or two local boys into the First Team it would be a real achievement"*.

In a question and answer session with the members many questions centred around the move to Hillbottom. Concern was shown by a member that if all the money from Loakes Park was to be spent on the new ground, would this restrict the Manager in building a team. The Chairman assured those present that *"there would always be money to buy players but the biggest problem was finding players to spend it on"*.

The Chairman also said *"The answer now is communication - we need to communicate with you and you with us"*.

The night was closed with a thank-you to the Directors by one shareholder.

DO THEY MEAN US?

a media investigation

Despite the postal strike (well someone had to mention it), there has been an absolute deluge of material this month and we include a look at the local radio coverage given to the Conference clubs we've played.

The Wanderers have never enjoyed very good coverage on local radio, with RADIO 210 giving only occasional coverage. This is mainly due to Wycombe being on the fringes of several local radio stations and being in close proximity of London. Other Conference Clubs enjoy a better service from their local stations. Down at Yeovil, RADIO BRISTOL had a half-time report where Wycombe had "looked useful on occasions", whilst in the full-time round-up "a bitterly dissappointing second-half performance by Yeovil" summed up the 1-1 draw where Yeovil were "frustrated by the Wycombe off-side trap".

Moving up to Chorley, the local radio had pre-match, half-time, full-time and after match interviews. Dave Swanton reporting for RADIO PICCADILY said in his half-time report the "very resolute Wycombe back-four" and also a "very ugly incident" where "Kevin Day, who I can only say, was the hatchet-man for Wycombe" was sent-off. The full-time report described the events as "a superbly entertaining game - a game of two halves..." where Chorley fought back from two goals down to win 3-2 and send their fans "absolutely wild". Wycombe fans who didn't see the funny side of conceding 3 goals in eight minutes, also went absolutely wild.

Completing this trio of radio reports is RADIO NORTHAMTON who had a mobile at the Kettering/Wycombe game. Their half-time report by Ray Gardner opened with mention of Mark Boyland, who "always seems to be a bogey player for Kettering" and who laid the ball off for Martin Blackler to score Wycombe's equaliser. An extensive report also pointed out that "Kettering really should have this game sewn-up" against a side "that have conceded the most Conference goals this season....haven't looked very comfortable...and haven't played particularly well and to be honest don't deserve to be level". Nigel Taylor's booking for a foul on Neil Edwards, who was "cold-bloodedly felled" was also mentioned. The full-time report contrasted Kettering who "maintained their 100% home record" with Wycombe who "never looked liked levelling the scores". Not even Wycombe supporters were exempt from criticism when it was pointed out that "Kettering have good support behind them - 1,500 here - probably only 50 to 60 travelling up from Wycombe". I thought too many double gins made you see double, not half. I can't imagine any other team in Wycombe position taking quite so many away from home. We even took more than three Directors!

Following our Capital League game with Barnet at Loakes Park, the BARNET PRESS commented "After last Tuesday's Capital League game, Wycombe made bids for Nicky Evans (£20,000), Glyn Creaser (£15,000), Ian Fergusson and John Margerrison (£10,000). The Evans and Creaser bids were rejected but both midfielders were also due to talk to Wycombe officials after last night's Conference game". Elsewhere in the report Barry Fry described the fee for Nicky Bissett as "Ridiculous" and went on to say "I really only kept him in the team because things were happening, Glyn Creaser is a more dominant figure". The report also mentioned that Fry still had Lincoln midfielder Graham Bressington still on his "hit list" but bearing in mind that 'Bressie' has now commanded a First Team spot at Sincil Bank, the move appears unlikely.

The report of the Conference game with Barnet, also in the BARNET PRESS, saw the Wycombe forwards described as "a dubious home attack". Elsewhere in another report on the coming and goings at Underhill "...Glyn Creaser, more unexpectedly, joined Wycombe for £17,500 and Kevin Millet decided to 'call it a day' as far as Conference soccer is concerned". Continuing with Kevin Millet, a report on his retirement included "And although Wycombe offered £6,000 to Barnet for him last week he said that the chances of him going to team up with his friend Glyn Creaser were 'very slim' "

A couple more players to have been on the verge of signing for Wycombe has been former Everton star Andy King and current Northwich striker Malcolm O'Connor. King, who played three Conference games for Aylesbury before seeking pastures new, gave an extensive interview to the BUCKS HERALD in which he said "I sent a letter to Aylesbury, Wycombe, Barnet and Enfield...Trevor (Gould) was the first to get in touch so I said I would play for him at the weekend". NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS reported that Malcolm O'Connor had "turned down £15,000 moves to both Weymouth and Wycombe Wanderers". O'Connor eventually joined Northwich in a £12,000 deal from Hyde United after being shocked by the house prices in Weymouth!

Returning to local radio, our very own Andy Reston has branched out into the wide world of radio broadcasting and can now be heard 'reporting' on Luton Town for RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE. Andy, in case you didn't know, has been in charge of the 'tannoy' at Wycombe since we were in the Gola League and has certainly livened things up on the odd occasion. Playing 'Always look on the bright side of life' following home defeats in the Gola; 'Behave little children' when trouble broke out against Chelmsford and various other incidents too obscure to make any sense. Andy's last match on the 'tannoy' was against Maidstone and he even got a mention in the BUCKS FREE PRESS. No not because it was his last match but because he played Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons' before the kick-off and therefore contrived the headline of "CULTURE CLUB GOES OFF KEY". Andy returned to Loakes Park with Radio Bedfordshire for the Barnet match later that month and telephoned a short report back. Unfortunately there were no crass errors or 'Colemans'.

Finally, did you see the boss on the box? Jim Kelman was shown training some local youngsters at Bisham Abbey on LONDON PLUS - the same night that England were training there. Rumours that he pinched the England shorts for use in the Wycombe kit are not true.

Much joy for the faithful

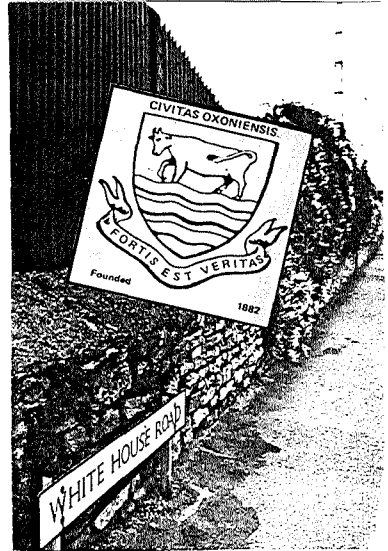
WYCOMBE Wanderers' fans at last had something to cheer about with their team's 1-0 win over Cheltenham Town.

And what a loyal lot they are! Despite a depressing start to the new term - three consecutive defeats - Saturday's game drew a crowd of more than 1,300.

IS THERE ROOM IN THE MAXWELL HOUSE?

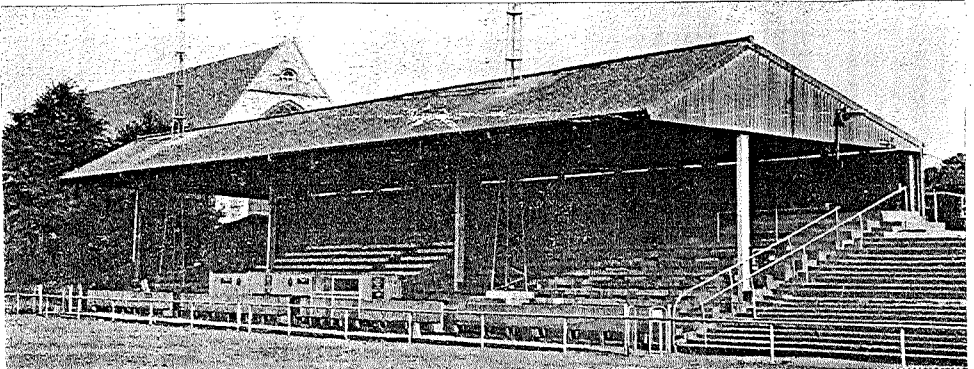
The sad demise of Oxford City F C
by Pete Oxbrow

Some of you may have heard about the problems facing Oxford City F C. For those who haven't, briefly, the story is that City have been evicted from their White House Ground by landlords Brasenose College following an alleged breach of their lease agreement. The college successfully claimed in court that the lease could only be assigned to new tenants with its permission. The company which used to run the Club went into receivership two years ago but was rescued by a new company, led by Chairman Les Goodchild, which bought the lease for the ground. The college apparently have no firm plans as to the future of the ground, although its value is considerable and the bursar Dr Robert Gasser has indicated that the present tenants are unsuitable. At the time of the court appeal by Brasenose College last March, Dr Gasser said *"The Club's gates are not very large and it has probably come to a natural end to its usefulness in the City"*. Attempts to resolve the problem or to find a suitable ground to share have been unsuccessful. The result being that Oxford City will not be playing football during season 1988/89.

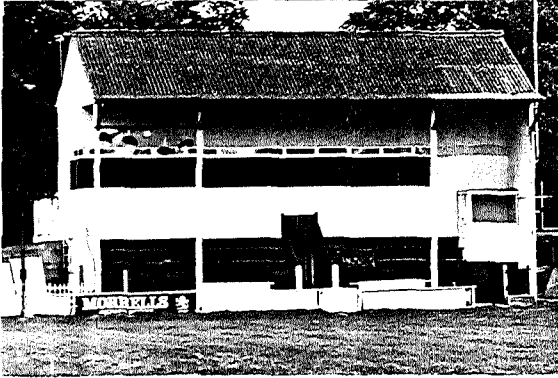


Hopefully this is only a temporary situation as Oxford City are an important part of this Country's non-League heritage. Founded in 1882, the Club spent many years near the top of Amateur Football's 'Pyramid'. They joined the Isthmian League in 1907/08 and remained there to the end of last season. They never quite managed to win the Championship (runners up on two occasions) and were relegated from the top division at the end of the 1975/76 season, City regained their Premier Division place in 1978 but were relegated again in 1980. They were Amateur Cup Finalists on three occasions (winning once in 1906), winners of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup a record 28 times and F A Cup ties against the likes of Bristol Rovers, Luton Town and Bournemouth chequer their illustrious history.

Perhaps, more importantly however, they possess(ed!) a fine ground. Situated near the City Centre, it was almost unique in non-League circles in having seating, until recent years, on both sides of the pitch as well as behind one goal. With a 9,000 capacity (800 seats) and some £17,000 having recently been spent on ground improvements, it was certainly of GMVC standard.



Wycombe have strong connections with the City. In the days of the 'old' Isthmian League and pre-motorways, Oxford City v Wycombe or vice-versa was the traditional Boxing Day Local Derby, eagerly anticipated by supporters of both clubs. Wycombe have benefitted from obtaining many fine players from down the A40 over the years. John Maskell and Ian Rundle in the '60's, Micky Hollifield in the '70's and more recently Dave Burgess and Kevin Durham.



Personal recollections of matches with City go back to the 1960's when they were a force to be reckoned with. Indeed the first ever Wycombe away game that I attended was for an Amateur Cup tie with City at The White Horse Ground that we lost 3-2 during season 1968/69. A few years later towards the end of season 1970/71, Wycombe went there needing a point to clinch our first Isthmian League Championship for 14 years. Hollifield (then of Oxford) gave City the lead but Keith Searle equalised to clinch a 1-1 draw amidst great scenes of celebration.

During the early 1970's City's playing fortunes began to dwindle. In 1972 we won there 8-0. However, during the next season we lost there in bizarre fashion when Wycombe defender Dave Bullock picked up the ball in the penalty area thinking it had gone over the line for a goal-kick. The referee disagreed and awarded a penalty for the game's only goal. Another game of note, and City's last Isthmian League game at Loakes Park, came in April 1980 when George Borg (now at Barking) made his Wycombe debut. Wycombe were 3-nil up in 30 minutes when George attempted a back pass to Gary Lester from the half-way line which caught him off his line and made the score 3-1. Encouraged by this good will gesture, City pulled back to 3-3 before we finally won 5-3.

City played their last Vauxhall-Opel League game at The White House Ground on the 23rd April 1988 - beating Bracknell 3-0. Five days later they made their last competitive appearance at the ground when they lost 4-3 to Witney Town in the Semi-Final of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup. The last game to played at the White House Ground was the 1987/88 Final of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup between Banbury United and Witney Town in May.



Hopefully City will not become just another memory like Bedford, Walthamstow and others. They have been given a years grace by the Vauxhall Opel League who will allow them to return as a Division Two club for the 1989/90 season if they can acquire a new ground. Perhaps their more famous neighbours in Headington can help them out! What about it Mr Maxwell?

YOU MUST BE JOKING?

Standing within earshot of the turnstiles on match days is not always a pleasant experience. This was especially true when those fans loyal enough to turn out for the pre-season friendlies with Harrow Borough or Kingstonian were shocked to be greeted with an entrance fee of £2.50. I didn't actually see anyone turn away when they were confronted with this astronomical price but it was not my idea of a friendly welcome.

The logic of this charge is even more confusing when you consider that £2.00 is being charged this season for Capital League games, but even this seems too high. Now, the Capital League may have been expanded but this has taken away, rather than added to the relevance of these matches. With games being now being played home AND away and therefore home clubs keeping the gate receipts surely there is no reason why season ticket holders shouldn't be admitted free. Far be it for me to predict that attendances in these games will be down to double figures by the end of the season but there is a limit to what people will turn up for.

The Capital League and the Youth side now functioning at Wycombe has been set up to attract the local community into the playing side of the Club. Is it not logical therefore that the local community should also be attracted to watch these games? Holding a season ticket should count for more than paying for 21 League games in advance with the smallest of discounts.

Over the years Wycombe have made a name for themselves by being one of the cheapest, if not the cheapest, in the League. The minimum charge set by the GMVC is £1.50 plus VAT - Wycombe charge

£2.50. This isn't poor value for money but it's a little bemusing that Clubs like Welling, Northwich and Runcorn, who all average below 1,000 gates, are charging £2.00 this season.

What a relief, though, to read in the Wycombe/Barnet programme that the Club could not run without spectators. The reason for this statement from the Club's Financial Director? *"Match Sponsors, Board Advertisers and above Team Sponsors pay the Club substantial sums to promote their activities and products to you, the paying supporter"* Damm, and there I was thinking that we could all stay at home in the knowledge that the Club would be functional viability without the supporter (not spectator). Just when I was ready to sit at home on a Saturday watching the afternoon film, paging teletext for the final score whilst scratching off a lottery ticket to pay for the privilege and checking the letter box for the slim chance that a LeagueLine bulletin had arrived.

Financing the players, I hear the justifying cry. I suggest the commercial side can cover this, and this doesn't mean exploiting the name of the Club with bland merchandise or elitist events. When sponsorship brings in as much revenue as the hard cash through the turnstiles then perhaps there will be a case to raise the cost for the supporter, in the meantime don't take anything for granted because that's the worst insult of all.

PL



OUR NEW PLAYERS

No. 3 — Jimmy Kelman

Jimmy is one of those rare players who realises too well his usefulness to the side and his limitations. In many ways, he is too modest.

Question him about his footballing ability and he will tell you: "I'm in the game simply because of my high work rate. Not everyone can be a Bobby Charlton or a Denis Law."

But those who watch him closely when he plays will know that there is more to Jimmy than hard running and boundless energy.

He is a player who will delight the purists by always trying to make a clever, inventive pass. It doesn't always work but Jimmy has learned to take criticism in his time in senior amateur football.

When he was at Maidenhead, the crowd derided him for a season and then began applauding his clever touches the following term.

The crowd at Slough — where he helped the Rebels to reach the Amateur Cup quarter-finals before going out to Skelmersdale — are also inclined to turn on certain players, he says.

In fact, Hayes supporters can take a bow, for Jimmy rates them as very fair during his short stay.

His other clubs have been Wokingham, from whom he joined us, and Reading, where he was an amateur on the league club's books.

Jimmy (25) lives at Theale near Reading with his wife, Diane, and daughter Nicola, who will be three at the end of this year. But he originates from Scotland.

He works as a technical officer with the G.P.O. (or what used to be the G.P.O.) helping to make our telephone conversations that much clearer.

Football and training — he reckons he needs to train harder in his position than many other players — occupy most of his time but he also enjoys do-it-yourself and collecting L.P. records.

Up to now, honours seem to have eluded him. All he can look back on are appearances with Berks. and Bucks. Juniors and Reading Juniors.

This likeable player is intriguing to talk to and a pleasure to watch. Everyone connected with the club will be overjoyed if he can gain his first senior honour with Hayes.

DERIDED - Hayes Programme October 1969

Boardroom fans

NOBODY can accuse elected to the main board.

GM Conference premier Will they be directing
division side Slough manager Alan Davies' atten-
Town of being undemo- tion to the fans' playing abili-
cratic. ties? During the summer

During the close season, Slough lifted the National Fe-
three officials from the Sup- deration - of Supporters
porters' Association were Clubs five-a-side title.



PLAYING FOR UNREAL

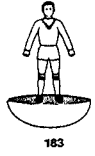
Right then, let's get down to some serious business...SUBBUTEO, or to be more specific, BBC TV's 'Playing for Real' (or was it un-Real?). My first reaction, when I saw that the BBC had run themselves so short of repeats that they were heading their Friday night schedule with a new drama-comedy (?) series about a Subbuteo Table Football Team, was that it couldn't fail to be a tremendous boost for the World's second most important game. Having now seen the series, or as much of it as I could tolerate, I am not so sure. It was all so pathetically immature that it would probably have been laughed off the screens at 4.30 in the afternoon, along with 'Jossies Giants' and 'Murphys Mob'. Having said that, if TV controllers can glorify snooker and bowls as ideal TV sports, why not make millionaires out of Subbuteo players? In any case, I dare say 'Playing for Real' did a lot of good for the manufacturers sales figures - even I went out and bought a new set of goals (only joking of course - but how much would 5 hours of advertising cost on ITV?!).

If we are to believe our TV screens, it would appear that anyone interested in Subbuteo has to be some kind of imbecilic retard - which we probably are, but not quite in the way that writer Julie Welch portrayed us. I say 'we' and 'us' because, I must confess, I was once an addicted flicker myself - as a schoolboy, I hasten to add. I probably would still be now, but for the fact that my old playing partner transferred to the Sheffield area when he left school, and made it too far to travel for away matches.

In Julie Welch's world grown adults play crucial matches in front of crowds of excited spectators singing cheerfully and waving their scarves, ra! ra! They frequently have tender

moments in their bedrooms with their favourite player, gazing at a figure in their palm and whimpering 'Oh Charlie, Charlie'. From my own experiences no one was ever stupid enough to come and watch us play. As for individual attention for one player, that only ever happened when one was accidentally trodden on ('that's Charlie Cooke you've just stepped on!') and had to have a heavy dose of UHU to both knees. In Julie Welch's dreamworld, enthusiasts wear caps and meet masonic-lodge style in grotty clubhouses. In our world games were usually sandwiched between 'Man About the House' or 'Dads Army' and the previous night's French homework (parents often wondered why revision of French reflexive verbs was interspersed with the sound of four feet jumping on the ceiling - and shouts of 'Goooooal! That's 6-1 to Wycombe in the European Cup Final'.

Pitches were fully fenced, mounted on wooden boards - not to mention the stands and floodlights. Carefully organised league and cup competitions were arranged and it was not uncommon for a meeting of the Subbuteo Challenge Cup Committee to spend more time over deciding on a 'neutral' venue for a cup-tie second replay - compasses and set-squares used along with a road atlas to find the ground nearest to the half-way point between the two teams - than it actually took to play the game itself. Needless to say, all match results, team line-ups, scorers, minutes of goals, league tables, attendances, weather conditions etc., were all immediately recorded and presented at school each week for classmates inspection. They were all avid followers of the mini-Subbuteo world that Beaconsfield unquestionably was in the mid 1970's. Julie Welch, you don't know the half of it.



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THE WESTENDER (Coventry City)

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Fixtures

Saturday 24 September 1988

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

Monday 26 September 1988

Kidderminster	Cheltenham
Northwich	Macclesfield

Tuesday 27 September 1988

Barnet	Fisher
Chorley	Telford
Wycombe	Newport

Wednesday 28 September 1988

Boston	Runcorn
Maidstone	Aylesbury
Welling	Weymouth
Yeovil	Kettering

Saturday 1 October 1988

Enfield	Kidderminster
Macclesfield	Chorley
Newport	Maidstone
Runcorn	Welling

Saturday 8 October 1988

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

Monday 10 October 1988

Northwich	Telford
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Tuesday 11 October 1988

Weymouth	Wycombe
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Wednesday 12 October 1988

Welling	Aylesbury
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Saturday 15th October 1988

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

* provisional due to probable involvement in F A Cup 3rd Qualifying.

Saturday 22 October 1988

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

Saturday 5 November 1988

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

Monday 7 November 1988

Kidderminster	Stafford
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Tuesday 8 November 1988

Runcorn	Northwich
Sutton	Newport
Wycombe	Enfield

Saturday 12 November 1988

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



Saturday 29 October 1988

F A Cup 4th Qualifying Round

Exempt to this stage are;
Altrincham, Aylesbury, Bognor, Burton,
Caernarfon, Chelmsford, Chorley,
Dagenham, Farnborough, Halesowen,
Kidderminster, Macclesfield, Newport,
Runcorn, Slough, Sutton, V S Rugby,
Welling, Whitby and Yeovil.

Saturday 19 November 1988

F A Cup 1st Round Proper

Exempt to this stage are;
All Third and Fourth Division Clubs
+ Bath, Enfield, Maidstone & Telford.