

# Chairboys

# Gas

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

INSIDE



NEWS  
&  
FIXTURES

# MUD, GLORIOUS, MUD



## WARNING

THIS MAGAZINE  
CONTAINS  
DANGEROUSLY HIGH  
LEVELS OF PLASTIC  
AND SOUR GRAPES

## ALSO INSIDE

- *Colour Crazy*
- *Community Spirit*
- *Behind The Goal*
- *Do They Mean Us?*
- *Adams Park*
- *Semi-Pro Report*

40p

NO.5 APRIL

1988/89

# Chairboys

## Gas

Digital re-issue by chairboys.co.uk  
to mark the 25th anniversary of  
original publication.

1988/89

---

*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

At the start of the season I didn't expect to be starting a column in April wondering where our tenth Conference away win of the season would come or discussing if we will get 4,000 or 5,000 for the next League game at Loakes Park.

It is very encouraging to see that we have got this far - and once again Wycombe Wanderers are the Talk of the Town. But we musn't be complacent and hopefully we will be able to retain the majority of the extra support gained over the last couple of months - even when we inevitably lose a Conference game.

At the time of writing we have 7 Conference games left this season, with the finalé being a visit to Northwich Victoria on Saturday 6 May - make the effort to get there because they must be wondering what all the fuss is about down here.

### NEXT ISSUE

There will be one more issue this season which will be available in early May. If you miss it at a game, check out one of the outlets below which we will keep stocked throughout the summer, or drop us a line.

### BACK ISSUES

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

### OUTLETS

CHAIRBOYS GAS is now available, in addition to the BLUES CLUB SHOP on match days, from SPORTSPAGES, Cambridge Circus, London, and locally at POPPS NEWSAGENTS, 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 Simon Burrage, Geoff Hutchinson, Paul Lewis (Ed), Steve Maguire, Pete Oxbrow and Simon Wilde.*

# Behind the Goal

## *with Simon Burrage*

I must admit there have been occasions when preparing this column when I have asked myself "What on earth can I write about this time" (don't tell me, you've noticed). These days it seems quite the opposite. It's more a question of which thoughts to leave out. Looking back at what has been happening at WFC since the last issue, the lists begins with a midweek draw at Stafford which is mainly due to the fact that John Kerr's goal earned him The Mail on Sunday Goalscorer of the Month Award for February. This was followed by a 1-0 in at Wealdstone in the F A Trophy (virtually a home game in terms of support). The Monday morning 3rd Round draw then gave us a welcome home tie with Merthyr Tydfil and suddenly the Trophy was looking very winnable indeed. There being little doubt that our team was good enough to go all the way, it seemed all we needed was for the excellent current form to be maintained and the Club would be at Wembley for the first time since 1957. With local and national interest in the Club growing by the week, Stafford were thrashed 6-1 in front of over 2,000 at Loakes Park (even after the visitors had dared to score first) by courtesy of 2 remarkable hat-tricks - the 1st, 2nd and 3rd goals by Mark West followed by Nos. 4, 5 and 6 by John Kerr. Westie seems to become a better player every season - a prolific goalscorer, and one of the growing number of Wycombe players who really enjoy celebrating a goal with the fans keep it up chaps, we love it!) What a shame his talents have been mysteriously wasted in midfield in some recent games - and in preference to Martin Blackler that. JK from the USA has worked hard to win over the fans after some very early performances but has used his lightning acceleration to good effect recently and scored some vital goals. It was great to see the 2 strikers receiving a match ball each from Chairman Ivor Beeks after the Stafford game in the Supporters Bar of the Blues Club.

The visit of Kidderminster, then the Conference leaders, 7 days later drew an extraordinary crowd of 4,239, a figure beyond everyone's expectations, and only the small contingent from the Midlands could have been disappointed by what they saw. It really was a superb performance and a victory far more clear-cut than the 1-0 scoreline might suggest but adequate revenge for the defeat suffered in controversial circumstances at Aggborough back in November (I wonder if the Kidderminster tannoy announcer - what is it he calls himself, Captain Stupid? - has stopped announcing them as "The current Champions of the WMC" yet?). I have been reliably informed - no I'm not making this up - that the roar which greeted Andy Kerr's goal was clearly heard on the Rye and inside shops in the Octagon - a roar from 4,000 people realising that the unbeaten run stretching back to early December was pushing Wycombe into genuine contention at the top of the Conference table.

Things were rather different the following Wednesday at Marlow - I've already clearly voiced an opinion on our commitment to the County Cup competition in the last issue following the Winslow fiasco. At least this time there was a reasonable explanation for the under-strength line-up, the match taking place just 3 days before the F A Trophy 3rd Round, but nevertheless it was difficult not to feel acutely embarrassed by the whole thing. The Marlow club, understandably, were treating the fixture as a very prestigious local occasion, selling advance tickets and printing an excellent souvenir programme containing detailed pen pictures of all the Wycombe Wanderers First Team squad - absolutely none of whom turned out on the night. To be fair, Jim Kelman did make it very clear in the Midweek what his intentions were, but there were a

continued over...

.....continuation

number of people who apparently turned up at the ground but left before the game started on hearing the line-up, and certainly many many more left at half-time. Believe me, I had one hell of a time the next day at work convincing people that Marlow had beaten 'Wycombe' 5-0 - no honestly, it really was 5-0.

The visit of Merthyr Tydfil for the Trophy 3rd Round tie was given an unusually competitive edge on the terraces by the impressive presence of several hundred Welsh fans, who obviously appreciated the segregated away section at Loakes Park being under cover (You're getting wet, you're getting wet, we're not) as it poured with rain throughout the 90 minutes and our chaps had to overcome the soggy conditions and a spirited resistance from Merthyr, but they did so admirably. (In any case, I'm convinced we play our best football on wet pitches). Following the 2-0 victory over Merthyr there was the nervous wait for the Monday lunchtime Quarter-Final draw and once Hyde United had won their replay with Windsor, all that barred our way to a semi-final place was a better-than-average Northern Premier League side.....and a plastic pitch.

Another 3,000 plus crowd saw the 1-1 draw with Yeovil which was a rather frustrating afternoon as Yeovil obviously came with one aim in mind - to prevent much football being played - and I suppose we should take it as a compliment that Conference opponents are happy to take a single from Loakes Park these days. (At the time of writing, no-one has taken 3 since the win by Barnet in the first week in September). Dropping the 2 points was hardly a disaster, but by this time the demise of Newport County was looking likely to deprive us of another 6. In any case, the Trophy quarter-final was only a week away, and most of us were having dreams of walking up Wembley Way rather than of Friday nights in Tranmere and Stockport.

We've all had disappointments before. We've all seen the dreams shattered. Many of us remember the Trophy semi-final defeat by Altrincham after we'd drawn the away leg. But Hyde was hard to take. And if you think I'm going to blame our defeat on the artificial pitch, you are quite right. Or do you think it was some kind of coincidence that the in-form Conference team, consistently out-playing all opponents for months on end, suddenly couldn't put two consecutive passes together against rather ordinary NPL opposition? We all know football is an unpredictable game, and none of us can say for sure that Hyde would have been beaten on a 'real' pitch, but I think we can safely say we'd have created a lot more than one clearcut scoring opportunity. I'm expected to express a personal opinion in this column and I'll nail my colours to the mast right now - I despised plastic pitches before we went to Hyde, and I still do now. No, not because I'm some kind of footballing luddite, opposing new ideas, but simply because the football played on them absolutely stinks. And no, I'm not saying it gives the home side an unfair advantage as such - clubs with these pitches do not generally have significantly improved home records - but they do reduce EVERY game to a scrappy, shapeless combination of head-tennis, knocking early balls and dashing around at 90 miles an hour clattering into anyone who gets in the way. Hyde were simply much better at that game than we were. If our team/management made one mistake, it was going there and attempting to play good open, attractive football - our normal game. It just wasn't on. Presumably Hyde United F C are happy with that situation; perhaps they are happy that Ewen Fields is no longer the proud home of HUFC, as it was when we first visited the place in 1982. Now they are just a team that runs onto a plastic pitch underneath a sign which says 'Thameside Leisure Park'. Still, they can always trot out the standard old clichés pioneered by QPR (all credit to them for seeing the light and ripping theirs up) and still used by Luton about 'Community Involvement', other uses for the ground, etc, etc. 90 minutes of crap football every week, but what do they care, money matters more. Instead of

ruining our sport, why can't Luton, Preston, Oldham, Feltham and Hyde all form their own league for themselves, and sod off and leave the rest of us alone to play the game properly? As for the Midweek's despicable accusations that we had lost because our players hadn't tried hard enough or wanted to win badly enough, thank God the vast majority of the near 1,000 Wanderers fans present showed their sympathy for the team as they trooped off, looking quite shell-shocked. At least one Wycombe player looked to be in tears at the end - we all felt the same. Apart the Midweek reporter, that is.

It obviously needed something pretty big to take our minds off that crushing disappointment, and something very big indeed came along within a few days, namely the size of the fee the Club was apparently paying Barnet for one Nicky Evans. £25,000, £28,000, £32,000, take your pick from the fees publicised - it didn't seem to matter the following Saturday when 2 quite spectacular debut goals at Loakes Park ended Boston United's long unbeaten run and extended ours to 12 Conference games. Another Evans goal at Telford, another fine performance by the team, splendid support from the ever-growing number of Wycombe away-dayers, and another 3 points. Our draw at Telford nearly a year earlier had secured our safety from the fear of relegation. On this occasion the win was our 8th away Conference win of the season and took us to 3rd place in the table - our highest ever position. Our Wembley dream may not have come true this season but many others already have.

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



AND THEN COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING; "I THINK HYDE UNITED SHOULD BE THROWN OUT OF ALL FA COMPETITIONS AND THEIR FITCH ROLLED UP AND THROWN IN THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL BECAUSE, . . . ."

ONE BUNCH OF SOUR GRAPES AND TEAR STAINED PROGRAMME TO THE WINNER



KETTERING TOWN and MAIDSTONE UNITED are the joint favourites to take the Conference title this season. Kettering entered April with a eight match unbeaten run - including a home victory over Kidderminster and a draw at Maidstone. Meanwhile, at the same stage, Maidstone remained unbeaten in the Conference since their New Years Eve defeat to Wycombe, with that defeat also being their only reverse in 22 Conference outings.

MAIDSTONE UNITED's arrival in the promotion race has been followed by the announcement that they are to embark upon a £70,000 programme of safety and improvement work at their temporary Watling Street ground. New toilets, a junior supporters enclosure, additional turnstiles and upgraded floodlights form part of the work currently planned to be completed by the end of the season. Maidstone have also agreed with Dartford a new 10 year lease which would continue should the Beazer Homes side move to a new ground before United secure planning permission to develop their proposed site in Maidstone.

BARNET increased their income from transfers this season to a staggering £550,000 following the moves of Nicky Evans to WYCOMBE WANDERERS and Gary Abbott to ENFIELD for £32,000 and £40,000 respectively. The latter move represented the largest fee between two non-League clubs - exceeding the £35,000 paid earlier in March by MAIDSTONE UNITED for striker Ken Charlery from FISHER ATHLETIC. Barnet, who appear to be treating players like stocks and shares this season, invested in two further commodities when Barry Fry bought 31 year striker George Reilly from Cambridge United for £10,000 and Dave Regis from Windsor and Eton for a reported £12,000. Regis, younger brother of Cyril, had a remarkable debut for Barnet against Welling United at Underhill - scoring the equaliser after coming on as substitute and then being sent-off for violent conduct as Barnet conceded a late goal to lose 3-2. Regis became the 49th player to play in Barnet's First Team this season adding to other recent signings Paul Shinnars and Steve Ketteridge from Leyton Orient. Shinnars has since been advised to quit the game following a knee injury received against Chorley. Shinnars had scored 5 goals for Barnet in 12 First Team appearances.

Barnet, Wycombe, Telford and Cheltenham Town will be the worst hit from the demise of NEWPORT COUNTY, whose record is likely to be expunged following their failure to clear £126,000 worth of outstanding payments. Club affairs have taken over by liquidators Touche Ross following a winding-up order by the High Court. The playing staff have been made redundant and the Conference finally expelled the club following their failure to complete their home fixture with Enfield on Saturday 18 March. Enfield travelled to Somerton Park to find the match officials and a few supporters standing puzzled at lock gates. A last minute appeal by the Welsh club was lodged but is unlikely to be successful following the auction of many of the Somerton Park fittings. Newport had played 29 Conference games - winning 4 (against Maidstone, Weymouth and Chorley twice), drawing 7 (against Aylesbury, Yeovil, Kidderminster, Boston twice, Sutton and Runcorn), and losing 18 (against Stafford, Kettering, Macclesfield, Fisher, Altrincham, Enfield, Kidderminster, Northwich, Maidstone, Welling, Cheltenham twice, Telford twice, Barnet twice and Wycombe twice).

Automatic promotion to the Football League has been the major reason behind the incredible rise in Conference attendances, although the success of traditional crowd pullers, Kettering and Wycombe, have helped to boost the figures even more this season. Kettering recorded the largest Conference crowd to date when 4,450 spectators saw their 2-1 victory over Welling United on 1 April and further 4,000 plus gates are expected for their three remaining home games against Yeovil, Macclesfield and Enfield. Since the turn of the year 'The Poppies' have attracted an average of 3,348 to home games and had an estimated 1,000 supporters at the recent meeting with Maidstone United at Watling Street. During the same period Wycombe have averaged 2,890 for home Conference games and have also invaded Hyde, Telford and Cheltenham in remarkable numbers. All this sets up a potential 'monster' gate for the scheduled Wycombe/Kettering meeting at Loakes Park on Saturday 8 April.

The relegation dogfight, complicated by the problems of Newport County, appears to have developed into a 2 from 4 situation - the four being STAFFORD RANGERS, CHELTENHAM TOWN, WEYMOUTH and AYLESBURY UNITED. 'The Ducks' collected two draws from their games with Stafford and Weymouth over the Easter holiday but are still in serious trouble following a 5 match unbeaten spell by Stafford that comes after a sequence of 14 Conference games without a win. That disaster run brought to an end the short stay of Manager Bryan Chambers at Marston Road who was dismissed following their 6-1 defeat at Loakes Park - his replacement is former Rangers boss Ron Reid.

CHELTENHAM TOWN will be drawn more into the relegation picture if they lose their Newport points but can draw relief from the return of Mark Boyland from Aylesbury for a £7,000 fee. 'Boyle', who joined Aylesbury from Wycombe for £5,000 in October but scored just 4 times, scored 4 times on his Cheltenham debut and a further 2 goals during March earned him The Mail on Sunday Goalscorer of the Month award.

There has not been much success for WEYMOUTH's new boss Gerry Gow who now has a desperate task to avoid taking 'The Terras' into the Beazer Homes League. 37 year old Gow has resorted to registering himself as a player following several injuries to his squad and the lack of luck in the transfer market. Gow, who was appointed in February, made a futile 1,200 mile round trip to Inverness during his first week in charge in an attempt to sign Highland League's leading scorer John McGinlay from Elgin City. Unfortunately Gow arrived in Scotland only to learn that the club had accepted a £25,000 bid from Shrewsbury just half an hour earlier.

AYLESBURY UNITED's quest to avoid the drop has been strengthened by the arrival of defenders Herbie Smith and Kevin Day from Barnet and Wycombe respectively. Day joined for a £6,000 fee after his return to fitness while Smith has signed from Barnet to the end of the season, with a view to a permanent move. That permanent move must now be in jeopardy following some 'lively' first games for Aylesbury. Smith scored on his debut during 'The Ducks' 2-0 win at Fisher - Aylesbury's first away win of the season - but marred his performance when he got involved in a scuffle with the Fisher management. Smith then followed this with another incredible outburst against Stafford the following Saturday when he was sent off for elbowing an opponent off-the-ball.

ENGLAND won their meeting with WALES in the Semi-Professional international held at Kidderminster on Tuesday 21 March (see report elsewhere). A rather disappointing attendance of 1,156 saw debuts given to Sutton's Paul Rogers and Kettering's Robbie Cooke. The team have now lost only once in their last nine matches. The team that played was Pape (Enfield), Shirliff (Boston), Watts (Leytonstone/Ilford), Gridet (Hendon), Howell (Enfield), Golley (Maidstone), Joseph (Telford), Rogers (Sutton), Carter (Runcorn), Butler (Maidstone), Bancroft (Kidderminster) sub Cooke (Kettering).

## G M VAUXHALL CONFERENCE



Up to and including Tuesday 4th April 1983

Pos	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	AV. ATT
1	Kettering Town	36	22	7	7	54	35	73
2	Maidstone United	35	20	9	6	75	42	69
3	Wycombe Wanderers	35	18	10	7	68	45	64
4	Kidderminster Harriers	36	19	7	10	58	44	64
5	Runcorn	36	18	7	11	72	49	61
6	Barnet	35	18	6	11	67	57	60
7	Macclesfield Town	35	17	8	10	61	48	59
8	Boston United	33	15	8	10	47	48	59
9	Welling United	34	14	10	10	43	35	52
10	Northwich Victoria	34	13	9	12	56	54	48
11	Telford United	35	13	7	15	39	37	46
12	Sutton United	33	10	14	9	51	43	44
13	Yeovil Town	35	11	10	14	57	52	43
14	Chorley	37	12	5	20	51	67	41
15	Enfield	34	11	7	16	53	57	40
16	Fisher Athletic	34	11	7	16	51	56	40
17	Cheltenham Town	36	10	10	16	49	57	40
18	Altrincham	32	11	7	14	40	49	40
19	Stafford Rangers	35	11	5	19	47	65	38
20	Aylesbury United	36	7	9	20	38	56	30
21	Weymouth	35	6	9	20	34	54	27
22	Newport County	29	4	7	18	31	52	19



LEYTONSTONE/ILFORD closed the gap at the top of the Premier Division following their 2-0 victory at FARNBOROUGH TOWN on Easter Monday before a 1,347 crowd at Cherrywood Road. Leytonstone then went top with a 1-0 win at Tooting as Farnborough crashed 6-2 at home to SLOUGH TOWN.

Managed by Ted Hardy, 'The Stones' are currently negotiating to sell Green Pond Road and possibly move to the former site of Chingford Town. After amalgamating with Walthamstow Avenue last summer, the Club will be known as Redbridge Forest from next season. Leytonstone play their return with Farnborough on the last day of the season - Saturday 6 May.

At the bottom of the Premier Division, CROYDON played their last game of the season at the Arena on 6 March as the local council are carrying out improvements to the stadium. The ground will not be available until 23 September when the Club will boast a brand new eight-lane all-weather running track.

In Division One STAINES TOWN needed three wins from their final 8 games to gain promotion back to the Premier Division, although a question mark must hang over their ground. BASINGSTOKE TOWN are the other likely promotion candidates.



V S RUGBY strengthened their position at the top of the Premier Division during March but F A Trophy Semi-Finalists DARTFORD are still in the running after a 2-1 victory at outsiders MERTHYR TYDFIL before a gate of 1,496. DOVER ATHLETIC, who have averaged gates of over 1,000 since the new year slipped up at home when a lone John Freegard goal took the points for BATH CITY.

Bath have had a remarkably bad run since losing to Wycombe in the Trophy and this culminated in the resignation of Manager Les Alderman after just five months in charge. Alderman apparently resigned because the Bath City board would not give him the security of a contract.

BEDWORTH TOWN are already one of the four clubs to be relegated from the Premier Division. In the regional divisions CHELMSFORD CITY still headed the Southern Division at the start of April with 81 points from 36 games, followed by GRAVESEND & NORTHFLEET with 72 from 35, BURNHAM 69 from 37, POOLE TOWN with 67 from 35 and BURY TOWN with 64 from only 31. In the Midland Division GLOUCESTER CITY have a clear lead at the top with 77 points from 35 games, second placed are HALESOWEN TOWN with 70 from 35, Vase Finalists, TAMWORTH have 69 from 33 and ATHERSTONE 68 from 34.



BARROW made use of their games in hand to take the leadership of the Premier Division at the start of April. Barrow are aiming to return to the Conference after a three year absence and are currently attracting gates in excess of 1,000 to Holker Street. Barrow play second placed WITTON ALBION on 8 April.

HYDE UNITED still have a slim chance of the title but are likely to become bogged down in cup fixtures as, apart the Trophy, they are also involved in a two legged Cheshire Senior Cup semi-final against Runcorn and also take on Runcorn or Kidderminster in the semi-final of the Club Call Cup.

In the First Division COLNE DYNAMOES are almost certainties to go up after extending their unbeaten League run since the start of the season to 38 games. Included in that run was a 2-2 draw at ACCRINGTON STANLEY on Easter Monday which drew a staggering 2,015 attendance - a crowd almost double the previous best at Accrington since the Club was reformed. Colne needed just 4 points from their final 4 games to achieve promotion. DROYLSDEN, BISHOP AUCKLAND and LEEK TOWN are fighting out the remaining promotion spot.



VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Tuesday 4th April 1989

POS		PL	W	D	L	Pts
1	Leytonstone/Ilford	37	23	10	4	79
2	Farnborough Town	38	23	8	7	77
3	Slough Town	38	21	5	12	68
4	Grays Athletic	36	17	10	9	61
5	Bishop's Stortford	37	18	5	14	59
6	Carshalton Athletic	32	16	10	6	58
7	Kingstonian	35	15	9	11	54
8	Sarking	37	14	12	11	54
9	Sognor Regis Town	35	15	9	11	54
10	Hayes	35	13	12	11	51
11	Hendon	36	12	15	9	51
12	Leyton-Wingate	36	12	14	10	50
13	Windsor & Eton	35	13	11	11	50
14	Wokingham Town	37	13	9	15	48
15	Bromley	36	11	12	13	45
16	Dagenham	37	10	12	15	42
17	St Albans City	37	11	8	18	41
18	Dulwich Hamlet	36	10	8	18	38
19	Harrow Borough	37	7	11	19	32
20	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	36	8	4	24	28
21	Marlow	37	6	9	22	27
22	Croydon	37	4	9	24	21

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Tuesday 4th April 1989

POS		PL	W	D	L	Pts
1	Dartford	33	19	7	7	64
2	V S Rugby	31	18	10	3	64
3	Worcester City	36	15	13	8	58
4	Merthyr Tydfil	32	17	6	9	57
5	Cambridge City	37	16	9	12	57
6	Bromsgrove Rovers	36	14	14	8	56
7	Dover	31	15	9	7	54
8	Burton Albion	34	14	10	10	52
9	Gosport Borough	31	14	10	7	52
10	Dorchester	33	12	13	8	49
11	Corby Town	34	13	9	12	48
12	Wealdstone	34	12	10	12	46
13	Ashford Town	34	12	10	12	46
14	Crawley Town	35	10	15	10	45
15	Moor Green	34	12	9	13	45
16	Bath City	35	11	12	12	45
17	Waterlooville	36	11	11	14	44
18	Fareham Town	34	12	6	16	42
19	Alvechurch	35	11	8	16	41
20	Leicester United	35	6	8	21	26
21	Redditch United	35	5	6	24	21
22	Bedworth United	36	4	6	26	18

H F S LOANS LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Tuesday 4th April 1989

POS		PL	W	D	L	Pts
1	Barrow	34	21	7	6	70
2	Hyde United	34	20	6	8	66
3	Witton Albion	35	19	9	7	66
4	Goole Town	35	20	6	10	66
5	Marine	33	19	7	12	64
6	Bangor City	34	17	9	8	60
7	Fleetwood Town	35	15	14	6	59
8	Rhyl	35	16	8	11	56
9	Caernarfon Town	38	15	10	13	55
10	South Liverpool	36	14	12	10	54
11	Frickley Athletic	35	14	9	12	51
12	Matlock Town	35	15	14	6	49
13	Mossley	37	14	7	16	49
14	Buxton	36	12	12	12	48
15	Southport	39	11	12	15	45
16	Gainsborough Trinity	35	11	9	15	42
17	Morecambe	36	12	6	18	41
18	Shepshed Charterhouse	37	12	7	18	37
19	Stalybridge Celtic	40	8	12	20	36
20	Horwich R M I	38	7	11	20	32
21	Gateshead	37	5	13	19	28
22	Worksop Town	38	5	5	28	20

\* 6 points deducted for breach of rules

# 1 point deducted for breach of rules

# Football into the 1990s



FOOTBALL AND THE COMMUNITY - a popular and perhaps overused statement - but what exactly is a 'Football in the Community' scheme and how can it help clubs like Wycombe? Some of the answers were available at the Football into the 1990's Conference in Leicester last September.

A major influence on community schemes has been the FOOTBALL TRUST who were set up after the Ibrox disaster in 1971 to fund essential safety work to Football grounds in Great Britain. Funded by the Spot the Ball competitions and the Pools, the Trust has been active in funding CCTV at nearly all Football League grounds; improved transport facilities for spectators (ie the reopening of railway stations near to grounds), police costs and this season they are concentrating on facilities for women. In 1984 they moved into non-League football and now regularly pay out 75% of costs of essential safety work. In season 1986/87 the FT paid out over £160,000 to Clubs in the Conference, including grants of £15,000 to Fisher Athletic and Barnet and £41,250 to Scarborough prior to their promotion to the Football League. A grant of £3,946 was also paid to Wycombe for safety work at Loakes Park during 1986/87.

The need for stronger links with the local community surrounding a Club has probably come about due to the fall in gates. As the gates have declined so new methods of attracting fans have been thought up. Preston North End, Millwall, Crewe Alexandra and Manchester City have been the forerunners in the community schemes and have subsequently noticed a stronger and more loyal connection with their supporters.

Back in 1978 the Football Trust began a set of initiatives to encourage more involvement with the local community. One of these schemes - the Manchester City Platt Lane scheme in Moss Side has continued to grow. The present scheme enjoys a great deal of local support from community groups and organisations drawn from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and increasingly caters for the leisure needs of females as well as males. However, Manchester City's success is a rare case and it is only in recent years that further declining gates have forced Directors to look to the community for support. In March 1986 the then Minister for Sport, Mr Richard Tracey, said *"In our continuing discussions with the football authorities we are giving very active encouragement to strengthening family and community involvement with football clubs. This will help to encourage participation in sport, it represents effective marketing for football and in the longer term it will help to remove the threat of violence."*

Hand in hand with the development of community schemes has come the often controversial introduction of membership schemes and 'family enclosures'. How often have you heard that "we must attract the families back to football"? This is a highly dubious notion, bearing in mind that families were rarely at football in the first place. Since its beginnings football has been a male dominated sport and it is only in recent times that females have been actively encouraged to attend matches. Football's aim to attract more women is also riddled with contradictions - for example many boardrooms still have still to open their doors to females, even, as guests of the club. In many cases the schemes are seen as little more than of benefit because of the 'potential income' from the so called 'families'.

PATRICK MURPHY, a director at the Norman Chester Centre for Football Research at Leicester, told the Conference that *"Many Directors have a rather proprietorial attitude towards their Club - they cherish the power, they cherish the exclusive status, they cherish the local autonomy"* he also warned that these attitudes could create a *"siege mentality and do so at a time when Boards of Directors should be throwing open their doors to their supporters and community"* Murphy recognised that some clubs had done some work with the community but also said that many clubs used the schemes as *"photo opportunities rather than seeing them as elements in a*

*systematic programme of bridge building"* He went on to say *"The attitude of we want your money but not your participation is a failed one - it is no basis for developing ties of loyalty and commitment."*

True community schemes include the ground as major local resource. The local community is encouraged to use the facilities and at a cost that is not out of range. Many schemes regularly invite local schools to matches and to use the facilities during the week. Club staff are also involved with improving links with the community, with players involved in training sessions with school kids. Many forward thinking clubs are also writing into players contracts a set number of hours per week to be dedicated to community activities.

The taboo subject of artificial pitches has occasionally been discussed at Wycombe - and thankfully the Club appear to be against such a surface as a First Team pitch. However there is no doubt that such surfaces provide a valuable asset to the community with use throughout the week. Yeovil Town and Chorley have both recently stated that they intend to build such surfaces but in addition to their normal grass pitch with possible financial backing from their respective local authorities and Cheltenham Town are due to open such a facility during April.

As an incentive for Clubs to develop their community schemes the Football Trust will this season for the first time be making national awards to Football League clubs in recognition of local community activities. The award scheme reflects both past achievements and a desire to encourage future developments. An award of £20,000 will be made to one club from each division and in addition a further £20,000 will be awarded to the overall, national winner.

The awards will be made in recognition of the role of clubs, directors, administrative staff and players in fostering closer ties between themselves, their supporters, and their local communities. The Football Trust will pay particular attention to facilities inside the ground (eg. special facilities for young people, family groups, people disabilities, the unemployed, senior citizens etc.); Match-day activities (eg. pre and post match entertainment, club competitions, initiatives to bring rival fans together; travel clubs etc.); Outside community activities (eg. contacts with schools, youth clubs, the unemployed, hospitals, people with disabilities, senior citizens, initiatives involving the police etc.); Levels of supporter involvement (eg. dissemination of club news, access to club officials and players, levels of supporter consultation and representation etc.).

Of course, at present, these awards are not open to non-League clubs but with the increased national prominence of the Conference, it is highly likely that awards will be extended to the Conference in the near future.

Wycombe have made some minor inroads into these community initiatives. Three fun courses for boys and girls aged 6 to 12 years have been run by Kevin Day at Bisham Abbey although the course price of £12 for six one hour sessions may have been prohibitive to many. Groups of children have been admitted free to some games this season at Loakes Park but do not match similar schemes at other Conference clubs such as Kidderminster Harriers, Cheltenham Town and Aylesbury United who all let children free of charge if accompanied by an adult into ALL Conference games. The Welling game earlier in the season also saw a group of disabled people accommodated in a noble gesture by the Club but one that appeared to lack any real planning or consideration for the guests.

I suppose much of this will be looked upon in cold financial terms, yet many clubs have already found out that the closer the club is to the community, the better the business is. The schemes will not work overnight but the benefits in the long term will be a greater sense of belonging to your club and not the feeling of being just another customer to be exploited to the full.

Paul Lewis

# Football into the 1990s

## TUESDAY NIGHT - WEDNESDAY MORNING

Sean Norman's inclusion in the 27 man England Semi-Pro squad to face Wales at Kidderminster aroused the interest of a few Wycombe fans. Even when Sean was left out of the final squad of 16, GEOFF HUTCHINSON and SIMON WILDE decided they'd still go anyway. This is their, definitely all expenses NOT-paid, report of their trip.

Starting out from Wycombe we drove to Watford Junction station in mid-afternoon and arrived at Birmingham from where we travelled to Kiddy and their colossal 50,000 seater Aggborough Sports Complex?!!?

On hearing the ever annoying Kidderminster Tannoy Man, Captain Crazy, announce the teams we were delighted to hear that Mark Golley had been included in Tony Jennings' Maidstone and Enfield, er sorry, England side. Nice one Tone!

Indeed much of the team selection seemed misguided to put it mildly. For example, Paul Watts, the Leytonstone/Ilford Captain who kept Sean out of the side showed little inclination of moving more than ten yards out of the penalty area that he was 'defending'.

Paul Bancroft was the token Kidderminster inclusion in the team and was egged on by the home crowd - "Come on Nancy" they were heard to mutter. However, despite setting up the first goal for England he was substituted in the second-half to be replaced by Robbie 'Roy of the Rovers' Cooke.

The match itself was less than exciting and after seeing the twelfth Mark Golley clearance come down with snow on it inside the first twenty minutes, it was a novelty to see the first scoring opportunity on 25 minutes. It fell to Ceri Williams, the Merthyr striker, but his shot was smothered by England 'keeper Andy Pape.

The rest of the first-half was dire, with the Welsh midfield apparently playing 'pin the tail on Mark Golley' for most of the time. On 44 minutes, however, England went ahead when some good work on the left by 'Spike' Carter and Bancroft provided Sutton's Paul ROGERS with the simplest of chances on his debut.

An improved second-half saw the 'sprightly' Golley show why he is an England player, with a rasping 25 yarder which clipped the corner flag before trickling over the line for a Welsh throw.

It was apparent, however, that the Welsh were not going to score had they played on until Newport were finally expelled from the Conference and England's inevitable second goal came in the 65th minute. Even more inevitably it was Mark CARTER, scoring his ninth goal in seven games for England, who supplied the finishing touch to Steve Butler's cross.

The game deteriorated again after this and was completed with the familiar site of Paul Watts passing the ball back to Pape.

The journey home from Aggborough - home of Kidderminster Harriers, G M Vauxhall Conference Champions - oh no I'm turning into Captain Crazy - was a nightmare from start to finish.

We had to catch a train from 'Kiddy' to Birmingham which would allow us 13 minutes to catch the connecting train to Watford. However, in true British Rail style this was 14 minutes late on arriving and the connection was missed.

Fortunately there was a later train to Watford at 12.15am and we wasted away 85 pleasurable minutes in the delightful surroundings of Birmingham New Street's café. When we finally boarded the train to Watford we were so tired we would have probably only beaten Mark Golley by 10 minutes over 100 metres.

However, our ordeal was not over yet! Fifteen minutes after leaving Birmingham the train stopped for no apparent reason. When we asked an annoyingly cheerful looking British Rail employee hour long the delay would be, we were told "I'd go to sleep if I were you".

We didn't heed his advice for fear of missing Watford and ending up stranded in London. 45 minutes later we finally got moving and reached Watford 2½ hours later than scheduled.

We didn't arrive back in Wycombe until 4 o'clock in the morning but it was all worth it just to see the treacle like acceleration and frighthening shooting accuracy of Mark Golley - he's always good for a laugh.

MAN OF THE MATCH - MARK GOLLEY.

# FIVE ALIVE!

MARLOW added a real five star touch to the Berks and Bucks Cup on Wednesday when they thrashed their rivals 'from over the hill' in the quarter finals.

With the prospect of promotion to the football league and a visit to Wembley in the pipeline, Wycombe could have been forgiven for fielding an under strength side. But the team that took the field was, to be blunt, an insult to Marlow and the competition itself.

A mixture of inexperienced reserve and youth team players provided no resistance to brilliant Blues who punished Wycombe boss Jim Kelman's complacency in the best possible way.

The former Maidenhead United manager had been reported as saying he treated the competition as second rate. He may well be eating those words by the end of the season.

Marlow, themselves with other things on their mind, treated the tie with the respect and enthusiasm it merited. The Oak Tree Road ground was full to bursting, but most of them would have felt cheated when they saw what the Vauxhall Conference giants had to offer.

There were no disappointments from the Marlow side of things however and they easily brushed aside the 'Kel-

## Marlow 5, Wycombe Wanderers 0. By Stuart Roach.

man babes' with a clinical display.

The Blues even had the luxury of missing a second touch of sparkle to what has been an otherwise dull season.

It was like a trip down memory lane for the home supporters, who must have grown used to such displays after successive promotion in the last couple of years.

The most unfortunate player on the field was Wycombe 'keeper Steve Crompton, who spent two months on loan with Marlow during the earlier part of the season.

He must have wished the swallow would open up and been at fault for four of the five goals. All came from shots that he had blocked but not held, and Marlow exploited this fact to romp to season.

Crompton couldn't be blamed for the opener however, as Anthony Dell sent a perfect chip flying home from the edge of the area after a good Marlow build up had been half cleared in the third minute.

The good start got better. Marlow gradually increased the pressure as the game went on and chance after chance

followed. There were plenty of glaring misses, but in a win as emphatic as this, those are quickly forgotten.

Kevin Stone netted Marlow's second in the 21st minute after Crompton had fumbled Kevin Davies' header following a twice taken free kick. Crompton initially did well to block the effort after Graham Pierce's cross but he was slow to po- nce on the loose ball and Stone was on hand to poke home.

Stone nearly grabbed his second two minutes later but Crompton redeemed himself somewhat, parrying Stones shot, and Matt Elworthy completed the clearance.

Davies was forced to leave the field with a back injury before the break but his re- soon set about trying to ex- tend the margin.

It was he who was brought down in the box five minutes into the second period by El- opted to take the kick him- self, crashed the spot kick against the bar.

Three minutes later that miss didn't seem to matter as Godfrey Cordice got the first of his two goals. David Lay did well to work over a hard,

## Wycombe are sent packing

low cross and Paul West's snap shot was well blocked, but once again not held, by the luckless 'keeper, and Cordice was on hand to strike.

On 67 minutes Marlow clinched the comfortable win with two goals in a minute. Lay struck first after he had started and finished a move which ended in Dell's shot being blocked by the 'keeper.

Seconds later Cordice wrapped things up nicely with a good run and shot that was saved, but fell nicely for him to fire home at the sec- ond attempt.

From the start, the result was a formality. Even the local police station didn't be- lieve the result when the policeman on duty at the ground radioed over the scoreline!

Wycombe's attacks were rare to say the least, but they did look a trifle disappointed when the final whistle blew. They were in the Marlow half!

Marlow: Ellis, Toll, Pearce, Hubbick, Harman, Dell, Lay, West, Cordice, Stone, Davies. Subs: Punnam, Cook, Poole, Araguez, Russell.  
Wycombe: Crompton, Sidley, Elworthy, Dean, Hinton, Sullivan, Spurr, Osborne, Brady, Dale, Kipping. Subs: Mizi, Wilson, Lester.

### 44. CLUBS TO FIELD BEST AVAILABLE TEAM

Clubs must field their best available team in all matches in the Cup Competitions, any complaint made for any alleged breach of this Rule must be made in a similar manner as stated in paragraph (2) of Rule 39 and the conditions as stated in paragraph (4) of Rule 39 shall also apply.

## HILLBOTTOM ROAD - UPDATE

April 1989

It's now over a year since the appeal for the new ground at Hillbottom Road was upheld. A press release on the 16 March 1988 stated that *"It is hoped that work will start in the late summer and the Club will be playing on the new ground sometime during the 1989/90 season"*. A year on, however, little has been carried out at Hillbottom Road, apart from some drainage work by the water authorities, and a move in by the projected date now seems highly optimistic. But what have been the reasons for the delays?

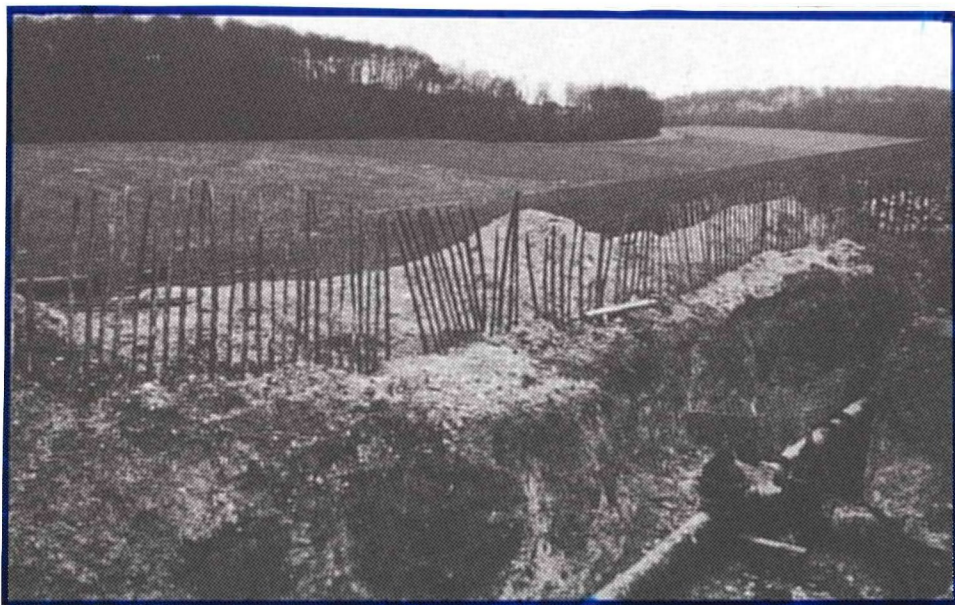
Since the detailed plans were passed in September 1988 there has been an almost 'stone-wall' of silence surrounding the new ground, although according to Brian Lee, the tenders for work at the new site were due in early February of this year and work was hoped to have started by the end of March.

Another interesting turn of events has been the unexpected success of the team, leading to talk of promotion to the Football League before the new site is ready. Football League officials visited Loakes Park in February and although NO information has been carried in the Club programme, press reports gave encouraging news for Loakes Park fanatics.

The Daily Star on 21 February stated that *"If Wycombe Wanderers win promotion to the Football League they are ready to spend £100,000 on a ground that is going to be pulled down"*. In the Buckinghamshire Observer on 24 February it was reported that *"Four Football Association members including the president, met with Wycombe police and fire officials at Loakes Park for talks on safety."* While in the Daily Telegraph on 6 March they said *"The Football League have, given permission for Wycombe to continue to use their infamous sloping pitch should they win the title as building work has already begun on a new ground, Adams Park which will be ready by the start of the 1990/91 season."*

The lack of any direct information from the Club regarding the new ground has obviously lead to many rumours and inaccuracies - both of which do little to settle the nerves of those who are worried by the move to a new site. I think it's about time we heard something as I'm no expert, but surely an untouched field is no place for Fourth Division Football.

Paul Lewis



## COLOUR CRAZY

PETE OXBROW, a man who has seen Corinthian Casuals play in Chocolate and Pink halves, airs his views on the sometimes confusing aspects of Club Colours. For the record Wycombe play in Oxford and Cambridge Blue and not Sky Blue as some seem to have suggested on the terraces this season.

Following a Football Club is, to the devoted supporter, a very emotive experience. It is the sense of identifying with one's own team that is the strong bond between fan and club. Socialogologists put it down to the 'tribal instinct' that exists in all of us and the sense of constancy which means, in changing times, there is still Saturday afternoon to look forward to, no matter what.

One thing perhaps emphasises this sense of belonging more than any other; whilst players, managers and directors change, you can always identify YOUR team by its colours.

Manchester United wouldn't be Manchester United if they played in green and who would believe Celtic were Celtic if they played in Red? However in recent years there has been an alarming tendency to try and throw tradition out of the window. What ever happened to the traditional claret and blue of West Ham and Aston Villa, the bold red and white stripes of Southampton, or the sky blue shirts of Coventry City? Some teams seem to change their designs every season, which must surely annoy some of their supporters. Coventry took this process one stage further a few years back when they incorporated the 'T' from Club sponsors Talbot Motors in their kit design - the ultimate sell-out!

I suspect that mere fashion does not only come into this. There is the lucrative market in replica kits, which means that every time the kit design changes, the Club can make a financial killing selling the new design. Parents are often faced with an annual digging into pockets so that their child can keep up with his or her schoolchums.

Another increasing trend amongst clubs seems to be the 'away' strip as opposed to the 'change' strip. I always thought that a club wished to play in its own colours at all times and only changed when playing away to a team in similar colours. However, some clubs, especially those in the top divisions of the Football League seem to change at every away game. Two recent examples I have seen were Arsenal playing at Everton. Arsenal in fact wore yellow shirts with blue sleeves for this game - more of a colours clash than their normal colours! Similarly when Notts Forest entertained Leeds United in the F A Cup, Leeds wore all-yellow when their usual all-white strip didn't clash with Forest's red shirts! I also remember Spurs wearing an all-light blue strip at Loakes Park a few years ago, with Wycombe wearing an all-yellow strip. A friend who arrived a few minutes late spent the first few minutes thinking Wycombe were Spurs and vice versa! (*what a horrible thought for Wycombe fans*)

If you think the above actions defy logic and deprive supporters of seeing their team in their usual colours, then a solution suggested a few years ago went to the other extreme. Some bright-spark came up with the idea of 'standardised' kits. eg. The home team always wears red and the away team white. I suspect the person who thought of this probably dreamt up I D Cards or the Club Call Cup.

Finally, I'd certainly like Wycombe to revert back to their old 2nd strip of red shirts and white shorts - the present all-yellow makes it hard to pick out the players under lights and how about Wycombe returning to their traditional Light and Dark Blue quartered shirts?.

## DO THEY MEAN US?

*your friendly editor analyses the latest media outbursts*

Media interest in the Wanderers has increased even more since the last issue of CG, with the BUCKS FREE PRESS showing a marked improvement on earlier season efforts. But it has been the national media's perception of the Club that has been the most encouraging - in particular the previews of the Wycombe/Kidderminster game at Loakes Park on 18 February. Many of the 'serious' nationals, including THE INDEPENDENT and THE TIMES carried lengthy pieces on the rise of the 'mighty' Wycombe and both predicted a crowd of over 3,000 but like most, the actual crowd of 4,239 surprised even the most optimistic of us.

THE WORCESTER EVENING NEWS carried a report of the game where *"Kidderminster's 14 week reign at the top of the GM Vauxhall Conference was ended by a Wycombe side who did more than enough to suggest they could capture the promotion spot to the Football League at the end of the season."* The report went on to say *"A good game in difficult conditions on a muddy, sloping Loakes Park pitch added yet even more weight to the argument that many of the Conference's top sides could hold their own in the Football League. And the bumper 4,239 gate - Wycombe's biggest ever in the Conference - was surpassed by only one of the day's Fourth Division clashes."*

The week before the Kidderminster game an extensive piece on Jim Kelman appeared in the BIRMINGHAM SPORTS ARGUS which commented *"Kelman returned to Maidenhead as manager but after a short while was poached by Wycombe to keep them in the Conference."* and continued with *"The directors may have got more than they bargained for and now talk of the Fourth Division is not out of the question"*. Jim was also interviewed shortly after the 'Kiddy' game by NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS where he was quoted as saying *"When I arrived the squad must have been worth something like £80,000, now it is close to a quarter of a million."*

THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OBSERVER never fails to amaze and there was another gem by reporter Paul Hudson in the 3 March issue as he discussed the loss of Newport County effecting Wycombe's title chances. He said *"Blues have beaten them twice - and scored 10 against them. To add insult to injury, higher placed Barnet would escape any penalty because they have yet to play Newport."* You don't have to be any kind of Conference expert to remember that Barnet beat Newport 7-1 away from home earlier this season and less than a month before the report had beaten them at Underhill by 4 goals to 1. Better luck next time Paul.

On Saturday 4 March THE DAILY TELEGRAPH sent reporter John Ley to Loakes Park for the meeting with Yeovil. He commented on the fact that Mark West, Kevin Durham and John Kerr have scored 53 goals between them this season *"a fact not lost on several League scouts - including representatives from Newcastle and Crystal Palace - gathered in the small main stand"* He concluded his full match report of the 1-1 draw with *"Whether the Wycombe defence is solid enough to see the club into the Fourth Division is another matter."*

Our increased coverage by the media has not yet extended to television coverage but we've still been mentioned a couple of times on SOUTH EAST AT SIX. A preview of the Windsor/Hyde F A Trophy game had Michael Wale commenting to Windsor Manager John Clements that Windsor was not really a football area. Clements replied *"Well not really, but Wycombe are just down the road."*

Clements was obviously disappointed in missing out on a tie with Wycombe in the Quarter-Final following their 2-0 midweek replay defeat at Hyde and bemoaned in THE SLOUGH OBSERVER *"I'm sure we would have had a packed house here for that game...we would have been hoping for around six or seven thousand and even though Wycombe are a good side, I'd have fancied our chances of reaching the last four"*. Six or seven thousand at Stag Meadow? Sounds like fun to me! Perhaps more fun than losing 1-0 at Hyde on an artificial surface?



"WAITING FOR WYCOMBE" was the headline that greeted readers of the sports section of the NORTH CHESHIRE HERALD previewing our visit to Hyde and immediately dismissed the myth that Wycombe train on synthetic surfaces by saying *"...contrary to popular belief they do not train on plastic every week...until they heard that they were to play the Tigers, had not used it since pre-season training."* Hyde's Manager Pete O'Brien also commented *"I'm getting a little tired of people telling me how good Wycombe are when they haven't even seen them play"*.

The defeat at Hyde was made even worse by the fact that the local reports chose to play down on the plastic factor or in some cases not even mention the surface at all. My favourite quote, though, came from Jim Kelman who said in THE BUCKS FREE PRESS *"We were not nasty enough. . The owner of the hotel in which we stayed on Friday night said we were the best behaved football team he has ever had....perhaps we should have smashed a few glasses and psyched ourselves up but that is not our way and never will be."* Future hotels be warned!

The signing of Nicky Evans, following the defeat at Hyde, was a shock to many, as was the fee. Barnet fans were particularly surprised but Barry Fry put them straight in their match day programme against Welling. He said *"I have taken a lot of criticism over the sale of Nicky Evans to Wycombe Wanderers for £32,000. Nicky has been a brilliant servant to the club for the last six years....Nicky felt if he left now it would be financially right for him and this will probably be his last contract in football. Both the player and the club were happy with the deal."* Nicky has also been granted a testimonial by Barnet to be arranged in the near future.

Hyde United now play Telford United in the Semi-Finals and the travelling Chairboys had a chance to savour the marvellous Wembley fever that has obviously incaptured the football hot-bed that is Telford, when we travelled there in the Conference on 25 March. Actually, Telford play in Wellington and their local radio station BBC RADIO SHROPSHIRE were not in two minds about the task that awaits them against Hyde - a five minute rant running down synthetic surfaces during their preview of the Wycombe game. The game itself was previewed with *"This is a game that Telford must win....but Wycombe have just gone twelve matches without defeat and they're now promotion candidates and they must have five bus loads of supporters down here this afternoon, so there's going to be a lot of noise."* The half-time report by Bert Newson suggested that Wycombe had *"played some beautiful one touch football and some good attractive open style football as well"*. He went on to say that *"this Wycombe defence are very very clever, ably backed by this chap John Granville"* This led to comments about World Cup internationals and the humorous suggestion that the match should have been *"all-ticket"*. Summing up at full-time after our 2-1 victory, more praise was directed at Wycombe *"Quick, slick, one-two passes with players really outstanding and classy John Kerr, Kevin Durham and new boy Nicky Evans showing the Telford United players the way home."*

There wasn't the same kind of praise heaped on Wycombe by SEVERN SOUND who were reporting on the game at Cheltenham on 1 April. Chris Musk reported at half-time *"there is an end of a long season feel to this game - oh for a Keegan, a Georgie Best or just one of these 22 players to borrow a pair of magic boots"* and went on to say *"the visitors have been extraordinarily disappointing"*. In his full-time round-up 'Old Musky' did his best at a Stuart Hall impression with a highly passionate report including *"but hurtling across his cage like a wild and ferocious black cat, visitors "keeper John Granville brought off a stupendous save clawing the white hot ball around the right upright"* following a free kick from Chris Burns. He continued with *"Then, as as with the Agatha Christie thrillers 'Murder was Done', Cheltenham killed off with the run against play break away"* after Kevin Durham had cheered the sun-drenched away following with the only goal of the game. He concluded his report with *"1,772 witnessed theft at it's highest - stealing the points when Cheltenham so badly needed them.....then so do Wycombe"*.

# FANZINES

A few more non-League fanzines have hit the terraces this season, with Boston United's FROM BEHIND YOUR FENCES in it's fourth issue, Kidderminster's THE SOUP at issue two and a double effort from Barnet, WHERE'S THE NUMBER ON YOUR BACK and BUZZTALK both making their debuts in March.

FBYF from that club with the 'good' ground and the 'big' fence, hence the title, was on sale at our Club Shop on the day of the Boston game. Good stuff on their recent games - which usually includes at least one nightmare defeat to Welling.

THE SOUP from Kidderminster is a very professional package, with some excellent humorous articles on the usual targets - ie I D Cards, Moynihan and local rivals - in this case Worcester City. Ex-Wycombe kid, Graham MacKenzie also comes in for several cheap jibes including making the cover of the debut issue. But no mention of their tannoy man!

WTNDYB, apart from being a mouthful of a title, is the more anarchic of the two Barnet fanzines. Recent transfers are questioned even before the loss of Evans and they haven't forgot Lincoln either. BUZZTALK carries an interesting interview with Barry Fry (also before the Evans transfer) where he is quoted as saying "Nicky is the best striker in non-League football. We would be a Football League club now if he hadn't broken his leg. We've had two bids from Northampton Town, both turned down by Nicky, as well as a £35,000 offer from Wycombe at the start of the season when he was injured." Barnet fans obviously worshipped Nicky, so the next issues should make good reading.

Why not drop them all a line and read some more?

# ADDRESSES

FROM BEHIND YOUR FENCES  
82 Osprey Road,  
Biggleswade,  
Beds, SG18 8HE.  
40p each plus A4 SAE

WHERE'S THE NUMBER ON YOUR BACK  
26, Oakwood Park Road,  
Southgate,  
London, N14 6QG.  
40p each plus A5 SAE.

BUZZTALK  
4 Seymour Road,  
London, N3 2NH.  
50p each plus A5 SAE

THE SOUP  
c/o 29 Gilgal,  
Stourport,  
nr Kidderminster,  
Worcestershire.  
50p each plus A5 SAE

also;  
NO HOME STADIUM (Kingstonian)  
34 Hunters Road,  
Chessington,  
Surrey, KT9 1RU.  
50p each plus A5 SAE

ELMSLIE ENDER (Wealdstone)  
37 Grange Road,  
Kenton,  
Middlesex, HA1 2PR.  
50p each plus A5 SAE

TALK OF THE TOWN END (Enfield)  
20 Calder Close,  
Enfield,  
Middlesex, EN1 3TS.  
30p each plus A5 SAE

**The SOUP**  
Kidderminster Harriers fanzine  
50p  
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS  
PUDDING ISSUE

FROM BEHIND YOUR FENCES  
The Independent Box  
football fanzin.  
50p each plus A5 SAE  
VITAL: 'FBYF' IS BANNED BY THE CLUB SO REMEMBER TO SWALLOW YOUR COPY AFTER READING

WHERE'S THE NUMBER ON YOUR BACK?  
NO.1  
PRICE 40.  
the truly  
independent Barnet  
fanzine  
50p each plus A5 SAE

## LETTERS

Dear Chairboys,

Congratulations on the win over us on Saturday, although I hope you agree that Merthyr had the majority of the play, especially in the second half.

Another good turnout from Merthyr and thankfully, we were undercover; but for a large home support it seemed very quiet to us.

I'm afraid none of your players spring to mind but your goalkeeper obviously has a good pair of hands and his penalty save was excellent.

Although you won't agree it's a pity that you won't be travelling to our ground for a replay as you would then see our ground, which is far better than yours. Most of your supporters seemed to think that we were a small, rustic club which had a park pitch on which to play.

Anyway enough talk of Merthyr, I think that your name is on the Trophy and good luck in the next round - whoever you play. See you at Wembley in the final.

Yours Faithfully,  
Mark Evans, Merthyr.

P.S. Why weren't we allowed in your, social club and why wouldn't the majority of town centre pubs serve us?



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Following last month's mention of the release of an album called CHOIRBOYS GAS by BAD DREAM FANCY DRESS, what should squeeze its way through the CG letter box other than a copy of the said album courtesy of 41 record label's former boss Mike Alway.

Mike, who was the chap responsible for the subtle amendment of our title, hasn't been to Loakes Park for years but has noticed our recent success and says we "must take Kettering all the way".

In his own words Bad Dream Fancy Dress are a "surrealistic Shangri-Las". So forget the bland drivel that regularly infects our so called pop charts - Choirboys Gas is pure fun. Pester your local record shop for a copy now!



As coincidence would have it, Mike is also currently putting together a massive compilation of football songs for release on his new record label, Confections. The Album will be called 'FLAIR' and will be a double LP for the cost of a single LP. He's trying to include as many non-League efforts as possible and already has suitably dreadful examples from Wealdstone and Newport County.

CG has managed to unearth part of the lyrics of the classic 'We are the Stones' from Wealdstone released in December 1984 - altogether now;

*Come on, you'll have a ball,  
Now we're in the Alliance,  
'Cos under Brian Hall it's the appliance of science,  
All around the ground,  
You'll probably hear some humming,  
Well, that's just the sound of the Morritts coming,  
We go to places as far away as Barrow,  
But one place we always like to win and that's Harrow*  
CHORUS: *We are the Stones. We are the Stones. We are the Stones and we are out on our own* (Repeat until brain dead or you enter the Southern Division of the Beazer Home League).

Wycombe supporters may also remember a couple of really unbearable attempts by Fisher Athletic and Kettering Town this season and of course Frank Sidebottom has helped out Altrincham. Thankfully Wycombe have yet to produce a record - unless you different!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



## Fixtures

*Tuesday 4 April 1989*  
 Aylesbury Welling  
 Kettering Yeovil

*Wednesday 5 April 1989*  
 Boston Northwich

*Saturday 8 April 1989*  
 Altrincham Fisher  
 Aylesbury Enfield  
 Boston Yeovil  
 Kidderminster Maidstone  
 Runcorn Barnet  
 Sutton Chorley  
 Welling Northwich  
 Wycombe Kettering

*Tuesday 11 April 1989*  
 Altrincham Boston  
 Enfield Wycombe

*Wednesday 12 April 1989*  
 Welling Cheltenham

*Saturday 15 April 1989*  
 Boston Stafford  
 Cheltenham Kettering  
 Chorley Fisher  
 Enfield Sutton  
 Kidderminster Welling  
 Northwich Weymouth  
 Wycombe Altrincham  
 Yeovil Barnet

*Tuesday 18 April 1989*  
 Runcorn Telford  
 Stafford Sutton  
 Weymouth Maidstone

*Wednesday 19 April 1989*  
 Cheltenham Macclesfield

*Saturday 22 April 1989*  
 Altrincham Welling  
 Aylesbury Cheltenham  
 Chorley Yeovil  
 Fisher Telford  
 Kettering Macclesfield  
 Kidderminster Boston  
 Northwich Barnet  
 Runcorn Enfield  
 Stafford Maidstone  
 Sutton Wycombe

*Tuesday 25 April 1989*  
 Telford Barnet

*Saturday 29 April 1989*  
 Barnet Kidderminster  
 Boston Altrincham  
 Cheltenham Fisher  
 Enfield Aylesbury  
 Macclesfield Wycombe  
 Maidstone Weymouth  
 Northwich Sutton  
 Telford Runcorn  
 Welling Chorley  
 Yeovil Stafford

*Monday 1 May 1989*

Altrincham Yeovil  
 Barnet Maidstone  
 Fisher Boston  
 Kettering Enfield  
 Stafford Macclesfield  
 Sutton Telford  
 Wycombe Weymouth

*Monday 3 May 1989*

Telford Aylesbury

*Saturday 6 May 1989*  
 Altrincham Cheltenham  
 Boston Telford  
 Chorley Enfield  
 Kidderminster Aylesbury  
 Northwich Wycombe  
 Runcorn Maidstone  
 Stafford Kettering  
 Sutton Barnet  
 Welling Yeovil  
 Weymouth Fisher

TO BE ARRANGED;

Altrincham Sutton  
 Boston Welling  
 Kidderminster Altrincham  
 Macclesfield Fisher  
 Maidstone Northwich  
 Weymouth Macclesfield



F A TROPHY SEMI-FINALS

First Leg

*Saturday 8 April 1989*

Dartford v Macclesfield Town  
 Hyde United v Telford United

Second Leg

*Saturday 15 April 1989*

Macclesfield v Dartford  
 Telford Utd v Hyde United

BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR CUP FINAL  
 at Marlow F C

*Saturday 8 April 1989*

Abingdon Town v Windsor & Eton

A. F. N.

---

DISTRIBUTION

THE FIRST AND ONLY MAIL ORDER SERVICE  
FOR FOOTBALL FANZINES.

BIG SELECTION ALWAYS AVAILABLE.  
FOR A FREE LIST, SEND S.A.E. TO-

A.F.N. DISTRIBUTION, 127 LANGBROOK ROAD,  
LONDON, SE23 8RA, ENGLAND;

Please note - this address is strictly for mail  
order purposes only.