

BUCKS FREE PRESS

Wycombe Wanderers

v

Middlesbrough

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F.A. CUP ROUND THREE

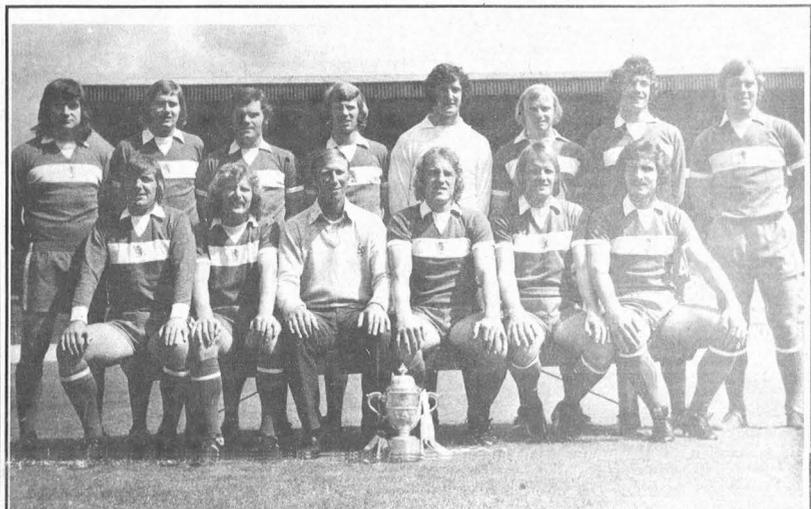


F.A. CUP ROUND THREE

F.A. CUP MIRACLE?



Wycombe Wanderers: Back row (from left to right): Dylan Evans, Keith Searis, Keith Mead, Paul Birdseye, John Maskell, Dave Bullock, Steve Ponn; front row (from left to right): Tony Horseman, Dave Alexander, Howard Kennedy, Alan Phillips, Terry Reardon.



Middlesbrough: Back row (from left to right): Alan Foggon, Peter Brine, John Craggs, David Mills, Jim Platt, David Armstrong, Willie Maddren, Frank Spragg; front row (from left to right): Bobby Murdoch, Malcolm Smith, Jack Charlton (manager), Stuart Boam, John Hickton, Graeme Souness.

ARRANGEMENTS

WYCOMBE WANDERERS will be opening their gates at 12 noon tomorrow (Saturday). Once again, ticket holders are asked to arrive early and all turnstiles will be open to take tickets. The club have hired the services of the Thames Valley Police Band for entertainment. Wanderers had a surprise week when the Middlesbrough club returned 1,000 tickets for the game — they were originally expected to sell their share of 3,000 tickets. These tickets were on sale during the Blues' friendly against Watford on New Years Day and also yesterday (Thursday). The club has asked us to give a final reminder of the kick off time. It is now 2 p.m. and not 3 p.m. as printed on the tickets. This is due to the television coverage.

Wanderers all set for the match of the decade

WYCOMBE Wanderers, a club with a proud history spanning some 90 years, will be breaking new ground when they walk out in front of 12,000 excited spectators for tomorrow's (Saturday) F.A. Cup tie against Middlesbrough.

This match, which has kindled more interest than any other game since the 1957 Cup final, is the first time the club have ever reached the third round of the competition. To do it, they have had to beat Bournemouth, a Third Division side, away from home and before five other amateur clubs.

Their prize for that achievement is the visit of one of the finest sides in the whole of Great Britain — Middlesbrough. The 'Boro' deserve that title for the way they have performed in the First Division this season.

Many felt 'Boro' wouldn't cope with the additional pressures of the First Division. Charlton has proved them wrong. With the players available, he had blended them into a hard, talented and thoroughly workmanlike team that has shocked the footballing world this term. His record must be unique.

So just what chance have an amateur team got against one of the finest clubs in the country? Will it be a five or six goal lesson for Wycombe or can they hold their own in such distinguished company?

Wanderers have several things going for them. Firstly, there's the partisan crowd to urge them on, there's Lookes Park itself which will surprise the Middlesbrough players, and there is a belief in the home team that they can do well. Against them, there are 12 highly trained professional footballers currently on the crest of a wave, who have been defeated only a handful of times this season and who can't afford to lose this match at any cost.

remotest chance of pulling off victory, perhaps not even a draw. They key to the whole question of tomorrow's game is in the difference between the amateur and professional world. Wycombe manager Brian Lee has a glowing respect for that difference. He has stated on both television and radio: "We have no chance."

He watched Middlesbrough in action last week at Goodison Park where they drew 1-1 with Everton. He feels their main strength is in their work rate and organisation. "Their success has stemmed from team work. No one individual impressed me. They have no prima donnas in their team, hard work is their key. I fancy them to reach Wembley and take the cup this year."

As for any weaknesses in the side, Brian replied, "I would not be so arrogant to suggest any weakness at all."

"I've got too much respect for Middlesbrough and professional football to fantasise about a Wycombe victory. Our great moment is that we're in the third round. I hope the town enjoy it. We'll probably get slaughtered and if we play at our best I expect to lose by three or four goals."

Latest team news from Middlesbrough is that their veteran midfielder general Bobby Murdoch will definitely not play. The ex-Celtic star began a two week suspension on Wednesday after going over the 12 point limit. His place will probably go to Peter Brine, who was originally the substitute. Otherwise Boro field their full strength side.

Wanderers will not select their team until shortly before the kick-off. One man unlikely to play, though, is Dave Bullock, who has his ankle in a

BORO BY COACH

MIDDLESBROUGH are travelling down for the game by coach, setting off at around 11.30 to 12 o'clock on Friday morning and arriving at their Beesonfield hotel about 5 o'clock. On Saturday morning they plan to visit Lookes Park to view the pitch and facilities and then return to the hotel for lunch. After the game they will be heading straight back to Middlesbrough. The Mayor of High Wycombe, Councillor Victor Lay has had to cancel plans for a civic reception for both teams after the game, due to Boro's prompt departure.

INDEX

Page 21 Meet the managers, full results and league tables plus action from the previous rounds of the Cup. Page 19 A complete rundown on the Middlesbrough players plus the Bucks Free Press' special competition. Page 44 The history of Middlesbrough, a look back at the 1957 Cup match against Leeds United and a report of the Wycombe-Watford friendly.

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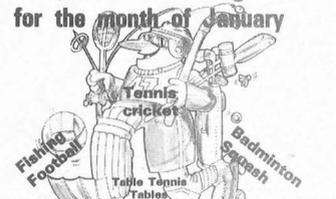
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F.A. CUP ROUND THREE



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE TWO MANAGERS

WHEN manager Brian Lee was recorded on television and radio as giving Wycombe Wanderers no chance whatsoever of beating Middlesbrough in the third round of the F.A. Cup, there must have been many who were surprised to hear his words.

They probably expected something like "We're in with a chance," or "You never know in cup games."

Brian Lee did not even contemplate such thoughts. He has such a respect for the world of professional football and an equally high regard for Boro manager Jack Charlton, that he sincerely believes his players cannot beat Middlesbrough.

And coming from a man who has brought Wycombe Wanderers more trophies, championships, respect and general success than any other manager in the club's history, one has to heed his words.

Brian took over as Wycombe's boss in 1969. At the time it is fair to say Wanderers were an above-average Isthmian League club. Lee changed them into a great one. In his first season the club finished league runners-up. In the following year, retained it in 1972 and also reached the Amateur Cup, semi-final.

In '73 the Blues finished fourth in the league, but won the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. Last season they won the League Cup, the first ever Rothmans Isthmian League title and Lee also secured them into the second round of the F.A. Cup, beating Newport 3-1 on the way. And this year? This time, he has written a new chapter in Wycombe Wanderers' history by reaching the third round.

The secret of much of Brian's success stems from coaching. A fully qualified F.A. coach, he first attended coaching courses in 1954. Before that Brian, born in Sale, Cheshire, in 1936, had met with a good deal of success as a schoolboy sportsman. He won district soccer honours and when joining a rugby school, Sale G.S., was a place in the First XV as a fly-half or centre, again playing in the county schools team.

During that time, however, he badly dislocated his elbow and a few years later, when playing soccer in the gym, he broke a toe which turned arthritis. That virtually ended any hopes Brian had fostered of full time sport. He turned his attentions to coaching.

After attending courses at Manchester he spent weekends at Lillishall and passed his preliminary coaching exam at the age of 18. He then studied at Shoreditch College to train as a teacher in handball — his other great love. An accomplished wood and metal worker, Brian moved from Shoreditch to Bishop Vesey's G.S. in Sutton Coldfield and then on to the Holt School, Norfolk, where he was appointed deputy headmaster after three years. At both schools he was busy with the physical education.



Honesty is Lee's key to success

By STUART EARP
Bucks Free Press Sports Editor

In 1960, Brian joined the staff at Lillishall, leaving behind him the teaching profession. He joined as the deputy director. After seven years, he moved on to the National Sports Centre, Bisham Abbey, in 1967, where he has been ever since.

His childhood injuries have not robbed him of a full sporting life. Squash, cricket and golf are three of his other favourite sports. An 18 handicap golfer, he also played a game for Cheshire in a Minor County championship "warm-up" match, keeping wicket.

When Brian Lee decided to take on the job as manager of Wycombe Wanderers, he brought with him fresh ideas which he soon implemented. The reserve team was used and new players gradually began to join the club, players Lee himself wanted. At the time and still now he says: "My basic principles in football are honesty and sincerity. I share the

ideals of the Rothmans sponsorship — attacking football and sportsmanship."

Two men he most admires are former West Ham boss Ron Greenwood, a personal friend, and Walter Winterbottom. Included with these two is Jack Charlton, who he describes as "a credit to the game and one of the rare breed of managers who doesn't manage by the checkbook."

"To succeed, you need to find the right kind of people," he says. "We all spend a lot of time together training, travelling and playing. It is so important we all get along together. The players have got to believe in me and mutual respect is essential. Above all, you must be honest to succeed."

Lee's triumphs at Wycombe, and also the success he achieved when Wellington's (now Telford United's) boss earlier in his

career, has inevitably brought him offers from professional clubs. But Brian says: "I'll admit it is a great temptation to go pro but I enjoy my football at the moment and I also enjoy my life at Bisham. I've been lucky at Wycombe but you have to work hard to get what you deserve."

Brian, who was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1971, has strong views on professional soccer's current trends and feels much of the football world reflects on present day society.

"We have problems in society today which affects the game. I would like to see greater honesty all round."

But back to tomorrow's match with Middlesbrough. Does he still firmly believe his team has no chance?

"There's still no persuading the manager. And if someone the Blues do pull off a footballing miracle tomorrow, I honestly believe the most surprised man of them all will be Brian Lee."

Full league results and tables

Middlesbrough results this season (Middlesbrough goals first) — Birmingham (away) 3-1, Carlisle (home) 0-2, Luton (h) 1-1, Chelsea (h) 1-1, Tottenham, Football League Cup, 2nd round (a) 4-0, Sheffield United (a) 0-1, Manchester City (h) 3-0, Leicester City (h) 1-0 abandoned after 28 mins., floodlight failure; Tottenham (a) 2-1, Wolves (h) 2-1, Leicester City, League Cup, 3rd round (h) 1-0; Liverpool (a) 0-2, Luton (a) 1-0, Coventry (h) 4-4, Derby County (a) 3-2, West Ham (a) 0-3, Newcastle (h) 0-0, Liverpool, League Cup round (a) 1-0; Sunderland (a) 2-2, O.P.R. (h) 1-3, Arsenal (a) 0-2, Manchester Leeds, United (a) 2-0, Ipswich (h) 3-0, Leicester (h) 3-0, Birmingham (h) 3-0, Manchester United, League Cup replay (a) 0-3, Bursley (a) 1-1, Sheffield United (h) 1-0, Everton (a) 1-1.

HOW THEY STAND

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Division 1	Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F.A	P	W	D	L	F.A		
Birmingham	25	6	4	2	22	12	9	4	4	15	16	30
Leeds	24	5	7	1	19	12	3	6	2	14	13	29
Everton	24	5	7	1	19	12	3	6	2	14	13	29
West Ham	23	7	3	2	26	13	5	5	14	20	28	
Sunderland	23	7	3	2	26	13	5	5	14	20	28	
Manchester City	23	10	2	3	23	8	1	4	7	8	25	28
Sheff. United	24	7	2	2	24	12	5	14	20	27		
Newcastle Utd.	23	8	3	2	22	8	3	6	11	23	26	
Leeds Utd.	24	7	2	2	24	12	5	14	20	27		
Wolves	24	6	4	2	23	14	2	5	9	16	25	
Sheff. Weds	23	8	3	2	22	8	3	6	11	23	26	
Derby County	24	7	2	2	24	12	5	14	20	27		
Nottingham	24	7	2	2	24	12	5	14	20	27		
Coventry City	23	9	2	2	24	12	5	14	20	27		
Birmingham	24	7	2	2	24	12	5	14	20	27		
Tottenham	23	8	3	2	22	8	3	6	11	23	26	
Derby	24	4	4	3	17	9	3	2	8	11	21	20
Arsenal	24	4	4	3	17	9	3	2	8	11	21	20
Leeds	24	3	3	0	10	12	2	3	7	12	26	16
Luton	24	3	3	0	10	12	2	3	7	12	26	16

Wycombe results this season
Wycombe Wanderers v. Kingstonian (home) 2-0, Slough (h) 1-0, Sutton (a) 2-2, Hendon (a) 2-1, Tooting (h) 2-1, Dagenham (a) 0-1, Hayes (a) 2-1, Marlow (a), F.A. Cup, 1st qualifying round, 1-0, Leatherhead (a) 1-2, Walton and Hersham (h) 1-0, Slough (a) 1-1, Luton Rovers (a) 5-1, Hendon (h) 5-0, Milton Keynes, F.A. Cup, 2nd qual. round (h) 2-0; Hayes (h) 2-2, Dulwich (a) 0-0, Leatherhead (h) 1-0, Chesham United, F.A. Cup 3rd qual. round (a) 3-1; Oxford City (h) 2-1, Barking (a) 1-1, Oxford University (h) 5-0, Margate F.A. Cup 4th qual. round (h) 2-1; Stevenage (h) 0-0, Clapton (h) 2-1, Hford (h) 3-3, Loughborough Colleges (h) 3-0, Cheltenham Town, F.A. Cup Round 1 (h) 3-1; Hford, F.A. Challenge Trophy (a) 0-3, Swindon Town (h) 0-1, Walthamstow (h) 1-0, Basingstoke (h) 3-3, A.F.C. Bourne, F.A. Cup, 2nd Round (h) 0-0; A.F.C. Bourne, F.A. Cup replay (a) 2-1; Kingstonian (a) 2-3, Sutton (h) 3-2.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

P	W	D	L	F.A	Pts	
Enfield	21	14	3	4	42	41
Dulwich	22	13	3	5	42	41
Wycombe Wanderers	20	12	4	4	48	41
Lidlington	18	12	4	4	38	41
Dagenham	18	12	4	4	38	41
Sutton	20	11	4	5	22	38
Surrey	19	11	4	5	22	38
Barnet	26	9	10	4	48	43
Grays	22	11	7	8	40	31
Kingstonian	24	10	1	13	29	31
Bishop Cleeve	21	10	7	9	39	32
Hendon	22	8	6	10	31	29
Hayes	21	7	5	9	34	28
Walthamstow	23	7	6	10	30	28
Clapton	22	6	11	10	30	28
Woking	23	6	6	11	28	39
Leavesden	25	5	12	12	20	20
Clapton	22	8	12	12	32	46
Milton	18	5	2	9	24	17
Bromley	23	4	1	18	16	49
Walton	23	4	1	18	16	49

IN his playing days for Leeds and England, Jackie Charlton earned the nickname "The Giraffe". A long neck he may have, but his head is certainly not in the clouds.

As that's why he is not treating tomorrow's FA Cup tie with Wycombe Wanderers any less lightly than the Football League meetings with such teams as Liverpool, Stoke or Ipswich.

For one name sticks in his memory like a bad dream — that of little Fourth Division Colchester.

He was in that spot-specific Leeds team of just three seasons ago that went to Layer Road and were sensationally knocked out of the Cup by the Fourth Division "minnows".

Don Revie's side went on to finish as runners-up to the double-winning Arsenal team that season — so Charlton knows that championship form counts for very little when it comes to the glamour of the Cup.

So what was the Boro boss's reaction when he heard the Wanderers had pulled off the impossible by beating Bournemouth at Dean Court in the second round replay. Well, if looks could kill there'd have been a few dead people around him at the time. And when someone suggested his side had been given a passport to round off the 1974-75 season he became decidedly icy.

Later, when I spoke to Charlton about the tie at Loakes Park, he was as honest and forthright as ever: "I simply hate going to play non-league clubs. They're a complete unknown quantity. I just don't fancy it at all."

"For a start I've heard about the slope on the pitch. It will be something we haven't come up against before and I'd have much preferred the Football League team. There's no joy in playing a non-league club. You're expected to beat them — and beat them well. If anything goes wrong and you happen to get a bad result, then it's a disaster. So we'll obviously be treating this game very, very seriously indeed."

Charlton is treating it so seriously in fact that assistant manager Harold Shepherdson has already been down on a couple of spying missions to watch the Wanderers.

The former England trainer, who now draws up dossiers on future Boro rivals for Jack Charlton, watched the replay at Bournemouth and came back with a glowing report about Wycombe's play. In fact, he told his boss at Aylesbury Park that the Blues looked every bit as good as any Third or Fourth Division side he'd seen this season.

"They were well organised and played with real skill, flair and determination and I think we'll have a real battle on our hands," Shep reported.

The FA Cup, of course, has never been a lucky competition for Boro. They've never progressed beyond the sixth round — and they've only got



Deadly serious — that's Big Jack

By JOHN TAYLOR
Former 'Free Press' Sports Editor now with B.B.C.

there on three occasions . . . 1936, 1947 and 1970.

Big Jack, as he's affectionately known in the town now, has had an almost unbroken run of success since taking over as manager of Boro in May 1973.

Within a few months of his appointment the whole atmosphere around Aylesbury Park became electrically charged. His personal magnetism was almost all that was needed to change one of the most consistent Second Division sides for four or five years into title winners by the staggering margin of 15 points — a record for Division Two.

I say almost, because Charlton's other magical move was to persuade Bobby Murdoch, who was a free transfer by Celtic in recognition for his tremendous services, to go to Aylesbury Park.

Like Murdoch, Charlton was a one-club man until he came to Middlesbrough. Big Jack had

been at Leeds since leaving his home town of Ashington as a raw 15 year-old.

He made his debut for United against Doncaster Rovers as long ago as April 1953. That was in the Second Division. He had to wait another 10 years before Leeds won promotion. That, of course, was under Don Revie and it was he who told Jack that he'd never make a footballer.

That brought Charlton to his senses — and later Revie told him he could eventually fill the No. 5 shirt for England.

Sir Alf Ramsey — then just plain Alf — agreed. In 1965 Charlton won his first cap in the match with Scotland. He went on to earn 34 more including playing a vital role in England's historic World Cup win in 1966.

His club career continued for almost another three seasons in which time he'd carried off virtually every honour going. How about this for an impressive list: 1964 Second Div.

championship medal; 1965 FA Cup runners-up medal; 1966 World Cup winners' medal; 1967 Footballer of the Year & FA Cup winners' medal; 1969 League championship medal; 1970 FA Cup runners-up medal; 1971 FA Cup winners' medal; 1972 FA Cup winners' medal.

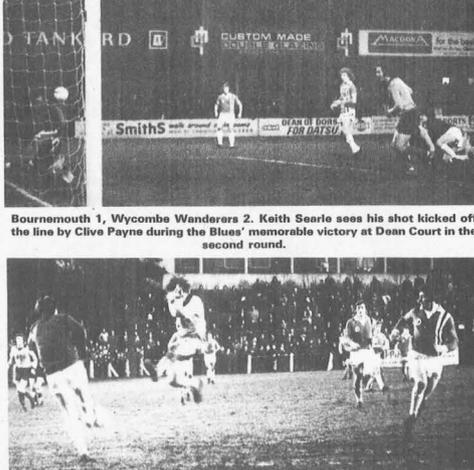
That, by any measurement, is a magnificent list. Charlton added the Second Division title and Manager of the Year awards to it last season. His first as a manager. He's after more of the glory this season . . . and an FA Cup Final appearance at Wembley, leading out his team is one of the targets.

And that's why Wycombe Wanderers, who stand in his way at the first hurdle, will be treated with the same respect as any First Division opponents. So if there is an upset on Saturday it won't be because he's underestimated the Blues. As Big Jack says himself: "No way."

Action pictures from some previous rounds of the Cup



Wycombe Wanderers 3, Cheltenham Town 1. Probably the best game for soccer skills at Loakes Park this season. Here Ken Skeon (second right) goes up for a corner during the first round tie with John Maskell, Keith Searle and Paul Birdseye waiting in the six-yard box.



Bournemouth 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2. Keith Searle sees his shot kicked off the line by Clive Payne during the Bournemouth victory at Dean Court in the second round.



Chesham United 1, Wycombe Wanderers 3. Howard Kennedy and Tony Horsman (light shirt) in pursuit of a defender during the third qualifying round tie at the Meadow.

