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***Bucks Free Press***  
PUBLICATION

Wycombe Wanderers  
move to Adams Park

# NEW ERA FOR THE BLUES





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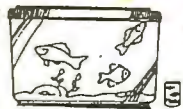
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# Running up the slope for 95 years

LOAKES Park has carved its own special place in the hearts of Wycombe Wanderers' loyal supporters.

It was with heavy hearts, therefore, that they paid homage to a sloping ground which possesses a rich 95-year history.

Here is the history of Loakes Park in summary form:

In 1894 the club decided to rent Spring Meadows to get away from the difficult conditions on the Rye.

Lord Carrington was approached to see if Loakes Park could be rented.

The first match to be played at Loakes Park was a friendly against Park Grove on September 7, 1895.

On May 21, 1896, it was announced that Wycombe's application to join the Southern League had been accepted.

The AGM of 1896 heard that receipts in the first season at Loakes Park had been just under £408, compared with £114 at Spring Meadow.

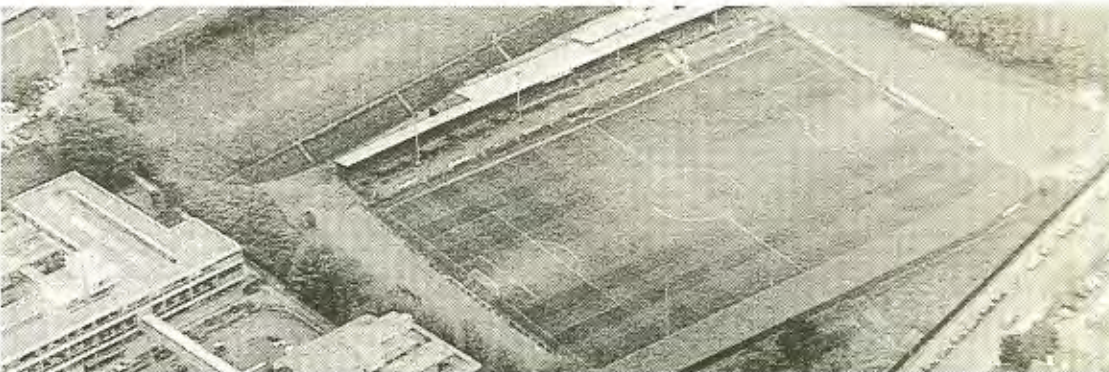
Following a disturbance during a Southern League fixture against Portsmouth RA, Loakes Park was closed for one week by FA ruling.

At the end of the 1898/99 season it was decided to level the pitch.

In October 1903, Harry Browning of the Red Lion Hotel, initiated a scheme to build a stand on the upper side of Loakes Park. The new stand was ready by January 9, 1904, when Southampton Reserves were the visitors in the Southern League.



**Then: A field on the edge of town at the turn of the century**



**Now: The famous sloping pitch, awaiting re-development as Wanderers move on**

During a Berks & Bucks Senior Cup first round match against Chesham Generals at Loakes Park, Chesham right back, A Bone, broke his leg, which was later amputated. The accident happened in November, 1905, and a benefit match was later played.

Wycombe's application to join the Spartan League was accepted just before the outbreak of the First World War.

Work started on extensions to either side of the stand in December 1922, the money being raised by loan. The stand was opened for the visit of St Albans in an Amateur Cup second round match on January 20, 1923.

New dressing rooms were opened at Loakes park at the start of the 1923-24 season.

Wycombe won the Ama-

teur Cup in season 1930-31.

The bottom stand was opened by RA Lunnon, President of the Berks & Bucks FA, on February 13, 1932.

Before the start of the Second World War, Loakes Park was used for gas chamber demonstrations to the general public.

Frank Adams presented Loakes Park to the club as a gift during the 1946-47 season.

Loakes Park's record attendance is 15,850, recorded against St Albans in the fourth round of the FA Amateur Cup, on February 28, 1950.

Wycombe thrashed the Ugandan touring team 10-1 at Loakes Park in 1956.

Bishop Auckland beat Wycombe 3-1 before a 90,000 Wembley crowd in the 1957 FA Amateur Cup Final.

Wycombe through to

the second round of the FA Cup for the first time in their history in 1959-60 season.

Wycombe opened their floodlights in their Isthmian League match against Enfield on September 25, 1963.

Wycombe reached the third round of the FA Cup for the first time in 1974-75 season. Two classic matches against Jackie Charlton's Middlesbrough.

Wanderers entered Europe in 1975. The club was invited to represent non-league football in this country against AC Monza of Italy in the Anglo-Italian Trophy.

Wycombe won their seventh Isthmian League title in 1982-83, having led the race for most of the season.

Centenary season, 1984-85, the club announced its aim was membership of the Alliance Premier League

(Gola League).

Season of mixed fortunes in the Gola League, 1985-86.

Agreement reached with developers and the Hospital Board to redevelop Loakes Park and for the club to be re-located on a new ground at Sands, subject to planning approval.

Programme of safety work carried out at Loakes Park, costing some £8,000. A grant of 75 per cent was obtained from the Football Trust.

The planning application for a new ground at Sands received a planning refusal by Wycombe District Council in 1986-87 season.

Wanderers finished their Conference season in fourth place in season 1988-89.

Wanderers will depart from Loakes Park on Monday, May 14.

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Ivor Beeks and Verco's managing director Roger Vere sign the club's new sponsorship deal

# Past heralds a great future

ONE hundred and six years of history is by any standard a mammoth undertaking for any organisation to detail, but our centenary brochure published in 1984 certainly gives you a look into past glories and disappointments.

Sir Stanley Rous wrote: "In its long life the club has contributed much to the town and also to the history of the game, and has been a valued member of the Football Association and the Berks and Bucks County FA."

A fitting tribute from a man so highly respected within the Football Association.

Many of you will have particular memories of games played in the league and cup over this long period and some of these were expanded upon in our last match at Loakes Park, now on video. It was a wonderful sight to see — so many old players recalling their own achievements and disappointments.

I certainly will never forget the ordeal of seeing the gates closed and locked for the last time, nobody really wanted to close them.

The move from Loakes Park gave us the opportunity to look into cupboards and under the stand to ensure we had not left anything behind, and to our joy we found many old pictures and books relating to the club's history. These were found under the main stand and will be preserved in our archives at Adams Park.

Thirteen amateur caps were won by players during

By Wycombe  
Wanderers' chairman  
IVOR BEEKS



our period at Loakes Park showing we were graced with our share of international honours.

It is to the future we must now look, the past merely sets the stage for the future, our new foundation has been laid at Adams Park and we have been entrusted with the management of the future.

In the changing and challenging world of football, one objective always remains the will to win, but in the best possible style. I believe we have the management on the field to win, the style will ultimately be left to the twenty two players who will participate for 90 minutes.

No one I am sure, will have a better stadium to open another chapter in the history of this well-respected and organised club, but we must all be patient — both on and off the field.

To have a clean piece of paper to build a new stadium and start is perfect, but in every case it is not possible at the first time of asking to get it all right. Remember it was 106 years ago the last stadium for Wycombe was started.

The facilities are here for your use and comfort, please make use of them and ensure you tell others of the new found luxury which will be the envy of many league as well as non league clubs.

We are particularly

grateful to all our sponsors for furnishing many of the rooms, indeed our sponsorship this year has reached an all time record. It is not possible at this juncture to name all of these companies, but our acknowledgement board in the front foyer will in due time express our thanks.

This has been a major undertaking building and moving away from Loakes

Park and my colleague and director Brian Lee has indeed played a large part in his role as development director, I would therefore like to take this opportunity of thanking him, my board of directors and the staff at Wycombe Wanderers for all their time and effort that they have put into a project which I am sure you will agree is excellent.

It only remains to wish you all a very enjoyable season and to thank the Bucks Free Press for publishing this supplement, which I am sure you will read with pride.

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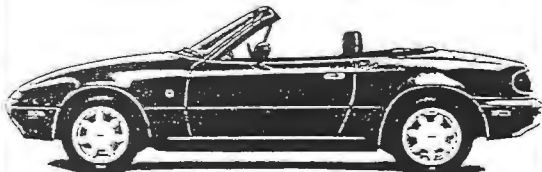
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**Wycombe Wanderers' supplement**

Page 4

# Fan recalls 65 years

**By Reg Holt, of Maybrook  
Gardens, High Wycombe**

I HAVE been a member of the Wanderers for 65 years. My father made me a junior member when I left school at 13. It cost five shillings for juniors and £1 for adults.

The line up for the first full team I can remember was as follows: In goal, Alf Keating, backs Nelson Rolfe and Frank Dideot. Half backs Fred Gates, Archie Gomm and Salt Smith, and forwards Joey Grace, Tommy Jackeman, Reg Boreham, Klon Smith and Alf Fryer.

In those days the formation was a goal-keeper, two backs, three half backs and five forwards.

Archie Gomm was the first player to sign professional. He went to Millwall for the then maximum fee of £8 per week.

Frank Adams took over his position at centre-half. We were then playing in the Spartan League which we won on a number of occasions.

The stand in those days was only the centre part that we now know. The dressing room was a thatched roof building attached to the rear end of the stand.

Later the stand was extended to the full length of the pitch with dressing rooms built at the rear.

The groundsmen was Charlie Tilbury. His roller and mower were pulled by horse-power.

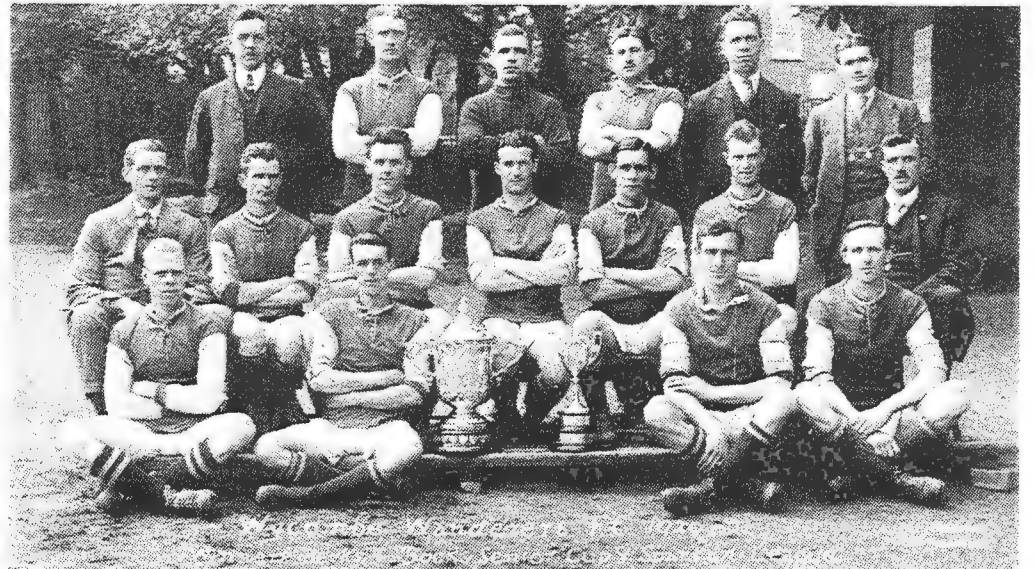
There were no loudspeakers and the music before the game and during half-time was by the Furniture Trades Band or the Marsh Silver Band.

In those days most of the travelling was done by train but on some occasions, horse transport had to be used.

Our colours were always Oxford and Cambridge quarters and we were always known as the 'Chair Bodgers'.



**The 1911 side which toured Guernsey**



**The 1920-21 team who won the Berks and Bucks Cup and the Spartan League**

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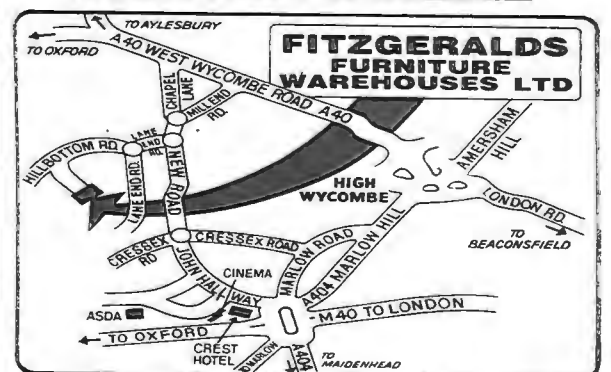
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Frank Adams presents the deeds of Loakes Park to the president of Wycombe Wanderers C. P. Vine, watched by Mayor C. W. Lance on April 19, 1947.

# My glorious years

A FEW of memories since I joined Wanderers in 1935.....

A.Britnell, R.Cox, B.Brown, A.Greenwell, P.Broderick were playing from the Amateur Cup winning side of 1931.

I had a mixed bag of first and reserve games for two years then established a regular first team place.

The side that played the last games of 1939 was, I think, the best of the few years, winning every game until the war stopped the football:

N.Hollman, J.Gearing, J.Meeks, L.Chapman, B.Crump, G.Walker, P.Ridgeley, F.Gearing, W.McCallum, D.Busby, J.Andrews, A.Britnell.

Four of this team were killed in the war. R.Boreham was secretary and B.Spatchet, chairman with a selection committee of old players. No football

was played for about two years then the Great Western Combination was formed.

I was discharged from the Navy with perforated ear drums in 1935 and was exempt from service and found myself the only pre-war player other than A.Britnell in the side we could get together. The rest of the first team and reserves were in the forces and could only play when on leave or stationed nearby.

Alf Britnell, the goal scorer in the 1-0 win in the final retired and I took over the captain's job.

We used my works team of B.J.L. in the Sunday League as reserves and won the league twice. We were better prepared than most when the Isthmian League got going again.

I was very lucky or hard and did not get injured

**By J. McCallum**

much but caught one the Saturday before our patron and ex-captain Frank Adams handed over the deeds of Loakes Park to the club.

I am in the souvenir programme photo at the end of the line with my overcoat on and my left arm a passenger.

Bert Crump was captain for the day. I carried on as captain until '49-'50 season then F. Gearing took over.

The season '50-'51 was good for the club. We had several gates with large attendances and one with St.Albans of nearly 17,000 (a record).

This game was the quarter-final of the Amateur Cup. The team was: Lodge, Flippance, Cruper, Jackson, Gearing, Way, Blizzard, McCallum(2

goals), Mackrut(1), Butler(1), Birdseye, reserve Westley.

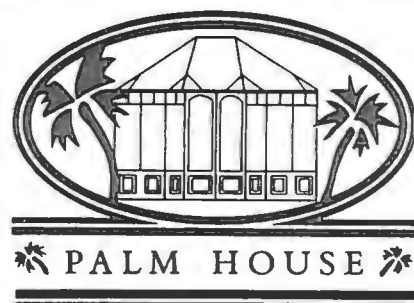
1952. I felt I should retire at 38 but was still playing fairly well. Then J.McCormick was made manager. He naturally wanted a young side and introduced the Tottenham style of push and run.

I would have welcomed a reserve team job but it was plain the old players were out. Jackson, Gearing, McCallum were snapped up by Aylesbury Unit-

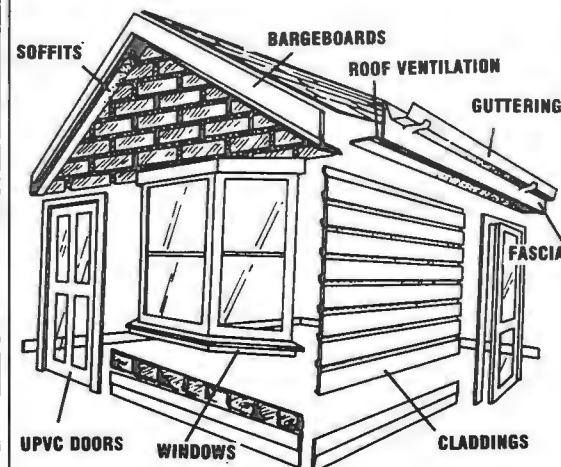
ed. It was with mixed feelings that we lined up for an F.A. Cup tie on Loakes Park.

After being told we were too old, we won 2-1 and I scored the winner. This match was played four weeks after we finished at Wycombe.

I finished playing for Aylesbury at 42 with my son John in the same forward line. Then four years as Aylesbury team manager and I called it a good innings.



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Dennis holds up his treasured scrapbook of the 1931 Cup final

DENNIS Gray recognised his-  
tory in the making when he saw  
it.

As a young Wycombe Wanderers  
supporter, Dennis, who lives at Par-  
sonage Close in High Wycombe, read  
of his team's progress in the 1931 Ama-

teur Cup Final, and kept the newspaper  
cuttings in a scrapbook.

As the Blues went on to the final  
played at Highbury, and Dennis com-  
pleted his scrapbook with the pictures  
and detailed match reports, a unique  
collection was stored for posterity.

Dennis holds  
up history

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# Magical day when we won the cup

By Ron Barrington

DESPITE hazy memories of the two great players, Frank Adams and Reg Boreham, my first vivid recollections are of the Amateur Cup Final at Highbury in 1931 when Wycombe Wanderers beat Hayes by one goal to nil.

Never can I forget how Bill Brown's penalty kick was saved and how Alf Britnell latched on to the loose ball and slammed home the winner.

My mother insisted that I, then a boy of 11, was the first person to hold the cup after the captain.

What a thrill it was to have been in the Guildhall on the evening of that wonderful cup final and to look through the window into the crowded High Street to see the old wagonette carrying along the victorious Wanderers and officials together with the cup.

My father, Ted, served on the committee for years, and it was great fun to travel in the coach with the team to away games when dad was "in charge".

Although the Highbury final was an epic, I will always remember the thrilling games, the wonderful teams and the outstanding players who graced the famous slope at Loakes Park.

There were some wonderful characters on the terraces, too. The inoffensive wit and good natured leg pulling which rang from the crowd seldom, if ever, upset the visiting supporters.

What a pity it is that some of the old expressions are no longer heard. These days we never hear "come on Wycombe, dip yer bread in! That's the 'ammer!"

There was the elderly lady who used to stand down in the bottom corner who was frequently surrounded by a bunch of lads. From the way she dressed, her appearance was that of a mature Mary Poppins, but her vocifer-



The winning team from the 1931 Cup Final

The Amateur Cup Competition, Final Tie.

HAYES

Saturday, April 11th, 1931.

1 T. HOLDING Goal.	2 J. MASKELL Right Back.	3 H. H. GOWER Left Back.
4 E. CÆSAR Right Half.	5 A. WAINWRIGHT Centre Half.	6 A. BUTCHER Left Half.
7 C. KNIGHT Outside Right.	8 R. G. ROWE Inside Right.	9 T. D. WELSH Centre Forward.
10 A. J. BRITNELL Outside Left.	11 F. C. BRAISHER Inside Left.	12 D. S. VERNON Centre Forward.
13 A. GREENWELL Left Half.	14 L. R. BADRICK Centre Half.	15 W. BROWN Inside Right.
16 R. S. COX Left Back.	17 J. E. KIPPING Goal.	18 F. C. RANCE Right Half.
19 E. LLOYD Outside Left.	20 C. SIMMONS Outside Right.	21 S. CRUMP Right Back.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

The line-up from the 1931 original programme

ous shouts of encouragement in no way compared with the delicate tones of Miss Julie Andrews.

Even the large crowd attracted by First Division Middlesborough in 1975 did not compare with the record gate of nearly 16,000 when the Blues met St Albans at Loakes Park in 1950.

How we enjoyed watching the talented visiting players such as Leon Joseph and Bernard Joy.

All the same, Wanderers' stars of past years are those who will live longer in my memory.

There was the prowess of Cliff Trott or Jock McCullum; the shooting power of Dennis Atkins; the scissor kicks of George Jackson; Charlie "Waggle" Green's delightful humour and enthusiasm; and Dickie Braisier or Len Worley dazzling us with their footwork.

There was also the sliding tackle carried out with

clinical precision by Freddie Gearing; the scoring magic of Tony Horseman; and the superb goalkeeping of Jim Kipping.

They are but a few of the reasons why I have loyally supported the men in the light and dark blue colours.

Yes, it was a visit to old friends each time I went to a match at Loakes Park, the home for 95 years of Wycombe Wanderers.

Long may they flourish.



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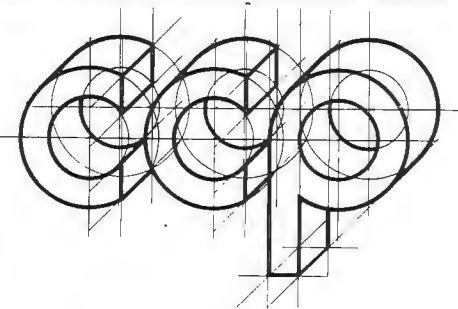
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A dinner held for some of the cup team

# Thousands cheer

By **NICK GOODMAN**

WYCOMBE Wanderers enjoyed the glitter and glamour of an appearance in the 1957 Amateur Cup Final at Wembley.

The season had begun with a tour of Switzerland with matches against Schaffhausen (1-1), FC Cantonal (won 3-0), and FC Winterthur (won 4-1).

The club were honoured to be selected to play the Ugandan touring team in August, 1956.

It was an historic occasion which attracted nationwide interest partly due to the visitors playing football in bare feet.

Newspapers gave wide coverage of the game and television cameras were at Loakes Park to record the occasion.

The Wanderers were in fine shooting form and scored ten goals to one against their African opponents, who later on their tour defeated the England Amateur team.

At a dinner held in their honour at the Red Lion Hotel, Sir Stanley Rous, Secretary of the Football Association, in proposing the Toast to the visitors advised them not to be too despondent in losing by so high a score as they had been playing against the possible winners of the Amateur Cup.

How true those words nearly became as the Wanderers went on to reach Wembley for the first — and so far only — time in their history.

The trail started with a journey to St Albans in the First Round and a 4-1 win. The next round, at home to Clapton, produced a thrilling display when a hat-trick by Paul Bates helped Wycombe to a 4-2 win.

Then Hounslow tested the Blues at Loakes Park in an exciting match in front of 12,000 before Wycombe ran out 3-1 winners.

The quarter final was played in torrential rain at Newbury Park, Ilford. Both sides gave a terrific display to entertain the rain-soaked 12,000 fans in a 3-3 draw.

The replay at Loakes Park attracted a crowd of 15,500 — just 350 short of the record attendance — who saw Wycombe win 2-0 with goals from Smith and Trott.

The semi-final draw threw up some interesting memories of 1931. Wycombe were to travel to Highbury — the scene of their earlier triumph — to play Corinthian-Casuals.

In the other semi-final Hayes were to play Bishop Auckland — a repeat of 1931 when Hayes won to play Wycombe in the final.

But Bishop Auckland were bidding to complete a hat-trick of Amateur Cup wins and made no mistake this time.

Wycombe's match with Corinthian-Casuals was a classic game of

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Front page of the Bucks Free Press after the team's return

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The team itself: S. Cann, G. Truett, F. Lawson, M. Wicks, D. Syrett, J. Truett, J. Moring, F. Westley, capt, W. Hayter, sec, L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, F. Smith and D. Atkins

## on cup team

skill, speed, sportsmanship and courage.

The Wanderers were a goal down in the early minutes but then took the lead with Paul Bates scoring twice.

Casuals then equalised and with the score at 2-2 injuries forced both Frank Westley and Frank Smith to leave the field.

Down to nine men Wycombe took the lead through Len Worley.

Westley was able to return to hobble about on the left wing, but Smith was then taken to hospital with a dislocated shoulder.

"Never stop attacking" had been the instructions of Sid Cann, and with only minutes to go Len Worley scored his second and Wycombe's fourth to book their place at Wembley.

The final attracted a crowd of

90,000. The first half was fairly even with Frank Smith scoring to equalise for the Wanderers.

But the second half found the Bishops in dominating mood and two further goals gave them a 3-1 win and their third consecutive Amateur Cup triumph.

Wycombe: D Syrett, F Lawson, F Westley, J Truett, M Wicks, G Truett, L Worley, C Trott, P Bates, J Tomlin, F Smith.



Elusive Amateur Cup



Souvenir supplement which went out with the Bucks Free Press before the cup final

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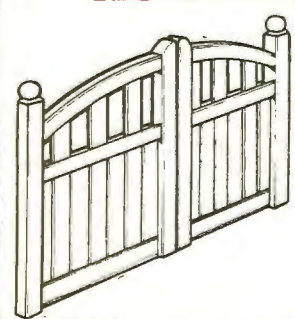
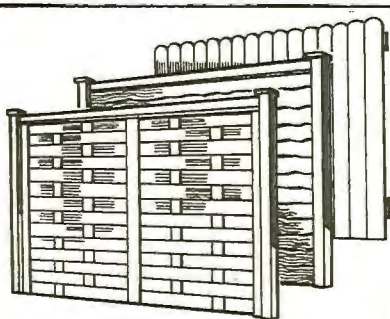
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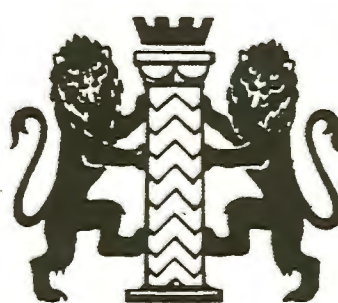


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## Wycombe Wanderers' supplement

Page 10



A master at work: Legendary skills from George Best round off the final game at Loakes Park

# Best way to say goodbye

By NICK GOODMAN

IT was the match everyone had eagerly-awaited. It was the match in which football superstar George Best helped to give Loakes Park a fitting farewell.

Best starred in an International X1 full of household names from the past.

The date was May 7, 1990. The match: Wycombe against Martin O'Neill's International X1.

It was an unforgettable occasion — not only the last ever match at Loakes Park but an opportunity to catch a rare glimpse of the master Best.

He strutted the pitch with the calm decisiveness which marked his playing days mesmerising crowds at Manchester United.

He waved to an adoring crowd of nearly 4,000. And clearly enjoyed lapping up the emotional atmosphere.

He hadn't changed. His slick, black shoulder-length hair was streaked with grey, but his beard was still intact, and the fans instantly loved this bronzed manufacturer of superlative football skill.

They acclaimed him when his name was read out before the game and

throughout the memorable 57 minutes he was on the pitch the fans coaxed and cajoled him.

He responded in the only way he knows how. Everytime the ball came to his feet Best seldom made a wrong move.

The highlight of all Best's first half efforts was his goal in the 24th minute. Former Nottingham Forest star, John Robertson, set up the goal with a cross from the left.

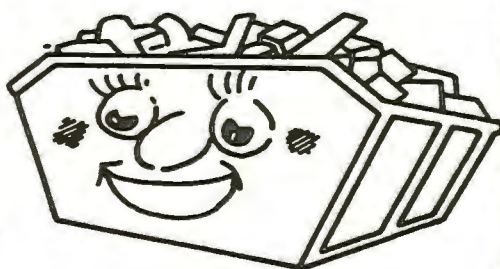
Once Best had turned Matt Crossley inside out it remained for him to provide the sparkling left-foot finish to help the International X1 to a 8-4 win.

But this emotional occasion was not just about famous players providing entertainment. It was about the fans who were about to leave, which for many, was their second home.

But the overriding memory of a hugely enjoyable day was the huge crowd leaving the ground for the last time — leaving an overwhelming sense of sadness engulfing Loakes Park.

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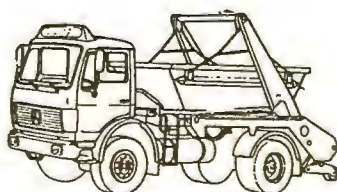
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# Slow-start Blues ended season well

By ALAN HUTCHINSON,  
club secretary

FOR the third successive season the side got off to a poor start, collecting just two points from the first four matches.

Another disappointment followed when the home match against Merthyr was stopped after 16 minutes when Wycombe led 1-0 with a goal from Andy Kerr, who had been switched to a centre-forward role because of lack of goals and injury to Nicky Evans.

Relief came when a 2-0 win in the FA Cup at Baldock was followed by an eight-goal thriller at Enfield in mid-week with Wycombe scoring five.

One of the best performances of the season saw a 1-0 defeat at Kettering after the team had played some sparkling football.

Luckily, another good performance followed and Runcorn felt the wrath on the Saturday, going down 5-0 at Loakes Park.

The FA Cup jogged along with a win against Borehamwood, and after three tough games, Gravesend finally folded 3-0 in the second replay at Kent.

All in the camp were very hopeful when we were paired with Stafford Rangers, a team who were going through traumas themselves at the time.

On a cold and windy October Saturday, Stafford Rangers regained their pride by thrashing Wycombe 4-1, and once more questions were being asked about the team's lack of consistency.

In the league, defeats by Chorley, Yeovil, and a draw at home to Telford did not inspire confidence, but a win over Boston and a resounding result against Barrow continued the see-saw form that had become the pattern of the season.

The club looked set for a happy Christmas when Barnett went down at Loakes Park to a mis-hit Martin Lambert shot.

A 2-1 win at Sutton on Boxing Day was quickly forgotten when Cheltenham came to Loakes Park to record the biggest defeat of the home side, 4-0.

The New Year did start well when Sutton were defeated 3-2, recording the first double of the season.

But problems were just around the corner when the match at Telford ended in humiliation with Martin Lambert being sent off, culminating in a 4-1 drubbing.



Moment of glory as Blues win the County Cup

Even the 3-0 win at Flackwell Heath in the Berks and Bucks Cup did little to restore the confidence, and on the following Saturday one of the best forgotten memories of Loakes Park saw the team dumped out of the FA Trophy at the first attempt by a hard-working Met Police side, 3-1.

The repercussions of this defeat were felt very deeply by all associated with the club, and on the following Tuesday manager Jim Kelman parted company with the Wanderers after 18 months at the helm.

During that time Jim had taken the club from the basement of the Conference, reached the quarter-final of the Trophy and generally created a team fit to compete in the Conference.

Into the breach stepped the ever-faithful John Reardon in the capacity of caretaker-manager, and a difficult game at Barrow turned into a superb 3-0 win, followed by victory over Merthyr in the Bob Lord Trophy and a home draw against Macclesfield.

On Thursday, February 8, Martin O'Neill, the former Nottingham Forest, Manchester City, Norwich, and Northern Ireland international took over the managerial reins and gained a useful draw at Merthyr Tydfil in his first outing.

A real air of optimism prevailed at the club and results began to improve

as the team climbed up the table, with good runs in the Berks and Bucks Cup and Bob Lord Trophy.

The first defeat for the new manager came at Macclesfield after the team had played really well but a "bum" intervened to create the only chance for Macclesfield which they gratefully accepted.

The final of the County Cup had been reached with the defeat of Chesham at The Meadow, and Slough awaited the meeting at Hungerford.

The two-leg semi-final of the Bob Lord Trophy saw us matched with Yeovil, a team Wycombe had never beaten.

At the Hiush in the first leg it was 1-1 with three minutes left when Yeovil got their second goal.

The return at Wycombe was an amazing encounter, going into extra-time after a game where fortunes changed as quickly as the weather, and although Wycombe won 3-2 on the night, the away goals rule took Yeovil into the final.

Disappointment turned to joy when on the following Saturday Darlington were beaten in Co. Durham by the only goal of the game and on the Monday, the County Cup was won after extra time against Slough at Hungerford.

In the last four games of the season two were lost and the last two ended in victory, the very last match 2-1 at Altrincham.

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# Back with Cloughie again

WYCOMBE boss Martin O'Neill renews acquaintances with Brian Clough and Nottingham Forest at the big opening of Adams Park on August 9.

It will be an emotional occasion for O'Neill when he talks over old times with his former boss.

It will also be an emotional occasion for the fans who will be getting to know their new home.

O'Neill played under Clough when Forest were one of the most formidable club sides in Europe.

By PETER LANSLEY

Wycombe's amiable boss played in the Forest side which beat SV Hamburg 1-0 in Madrid to win the European Cup Final in 1980.

Before a 50,000 crowd he played in a Forest side which included Peter Shilton, John Robertson, who scored the only goal of the game, and Gary Birtles.

O'Neill enjoyed a fabulous career with Forest, which also included two League Cup Final appearances, and international appearances for Northern Ireland.

The opening match at Adams Park is sure to bring back happy memories for O'Neill. But times change and so has the Forest side.

Forest now possess World Cup stars Des Walker, Stuart Pearce, and Steve Hodge. Walker, born in Hackney, will be remembered for his immaculate defensive displays in Italy.

Pearce will be remembered, along with the unfortunate Chris Waddle, as the players who missed their penalties in the lottery of a shootout after England's magnificent 1-1 draw with West Germany in the World Cup semi-final.

Forest fly in from their pre-season tour of Sweden on Wednesday, August 8, to stay in a nearby hotel the night before the game.

Playing Forest before a big Wycombe crowd will be the opening Adams Park deserves.



Stars in his eyes: Martin awaits the moment

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The Bucks Free Press has been supporting Wycombe Wanderers for 106 years, which probably makes us their longest surviving supporter. Like most people in the area who support the club, we hope that the move to Adams Park will bring with it a period of success, perhaps leading to playing in the Football League in 1991.

To mark this event, and to introduce a little fun into the pages of this special publication, we are inviting you to take part in a simple to enter competition.

Hidden on this page are a number of football boots. All we want you to do is to count the number of boots you can find on this page, enter that figure in the space provided, add your name, address and telephone number, and finally place your entry in an envelope and post it to the address shown.

The first three correct entries opened after the closing date will each be given a £50 cheque to spend in any one of the outlets that appear on this page. Simple isn't it!

**RULES:** Employees of Bucks Free Press publications, Wycombe Wanderers FC and their families are not eligible to enter.

The winners will be the first 3 correct entries opened after first post on the closing date, and will win the prize stated. No alternative prize will be given. The judges' decision is final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into.

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# Manager Martin looks to future

NEXT week Adams Park will witness its first ever game.

Martin O'Neill has enticed his former club Nottingham Forest to bring their World Cup-laden team to Wycombe.

Sitting in the new offices at Adams Park recently, files, cabinets, and desks strewn around following the move, O'Neill's excitement was evident.

"It's great and I know Nottingham Forest will definitely bring the first team.

"It's nice to open with a team of that calibre and I think they'll parade the Littlewoods Cup, and more importantly they'll parade their World Cup players — they're definitely playing."

With this match O'Neill will be starting out on his first full season of management at GM Vauxhall Conference level.

O'Neill's pedigree for this job comes not only from playing at the highest level, but also spending that polished career under the influence of some of the most charismatic managing personalities of the last two decades.

Obviously O'Neill says he learned much from Brian Clough but added with a wry smile: "I also learned a lot from managers I didn't have time for as well, and it's putting a lot of that stuff into use."

The 38-year-old Irish man has clearly worked out what techniques of management he can utilise at Wycombe Wanderers. Anyone who has worked under Brian Clough must have a head start.

With pre-season training, O'Neill has had

## Report by PETE LANSLEY

the opportunity to arrange playing matters his way. So what are his ideas on management?

"I'd like to get involved with the players. I love coaching. I think a lot of players are over-coached and I honestly do not know whether they understand it, or do the people in charge understand what they're coaching about.

"Coaching is a lot to do with common sense. Brian Clough didn't coach us on a daily basis, but he would make points which would stand the test of time — that type of stuff.

"It's so simple, it's unbelievable; I don't want to over complicate matters because, and I know you've heard it before, but it is a simple game.

"I'd like us to be pretty strong at the back, and then inventive from then on. That's what I'm looking for."

On the basis of what he saw last season does O'Neill consider the current Wycombe team will be able to do this?

"What will help enormously to everyone concerned is if I do get three or four good players who will improve the club.

"Quite obviously, while we have a good nucleus, we are not good enough.

"We would not have finished tenth otherwise."

Rather than rushing out and buying famous but withering star names, the canny Wanderers boss has lured some ex-professionals to

train at Adams Park, with a view to permanent contracts.

O'Neill is confident enough in the club's attractions — Adams Park is a major plus factor — and his own abilities, to invite them down to see what they think.

O'Neill, whose first five months of management at Wycombe Wanderers were part-time while he continued working with a Nottingham-based insurance company, has decided to give the club even more commitment for the new season.

He took up full time duties last month and this will enable him to spread the attraction of the Blues into the heart of the town.

"It's a chance to get involved with the community. I do think it's important to get Wycombe Wanderers into the community.

"If Wycombe Wanderers are wanting to be anything other than a GM Vauxhall Conference team — we've got the ground — there's only one place for us to get support, and that's in the community.

"First of all we'll get into primary schools, get coaching sessions going there. There's been a terrific response from schools. We're doing two half terms: from September until the end of October and then when the weather breaks again in the spring.

"If we're going to promote a family atmosphere here we might as well go down to grass roots level."

His family are now moving down here to join him as his two children have found places in local schools.

"That's how much I intend to give it a go."



Praying for success: Martin looks ahead

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# Super stadium is dream come true



The fabulous new Adams Park stadium in Sands

WYCOMBE WANDERERS will not be able to blame Loakes Park's famous sloping pitch for any future lack of success.

Their new ground, called Adams Park, in Sands, is flat, and measuring 115 yards by 75, as big as Wembley, thus giving teams the chance to play with width.

The new site, at the end of an industrial estate in Sands, has taken 18 months to build, but years to bring about.

Wycombe General Hospital was to acquire the Loakes Park site ten years ago, and 16 different venues had previously been rejected for various reasons.

Now, with the sale of Loakes Park financing the new ground, Wycombe have a ground for the twentieth century,

that will hopefully keep Lord Justice Taylor happy, following his report on ground safety after the Bradford fire.

The capacity is around 6,000, with 1,200 seats down one side of the all covered stadium.

Conversion to an all-seater stadium will be attainable if and when Wycombe's progress necessitates such a change.

Director Brian Lee has masterminded the move.

As he looked back on 95 years at Loakes Park, he said: "The people who planned that had the vision then that I hope we will have now to take Wycombe into the next century and hopefully the Football League."



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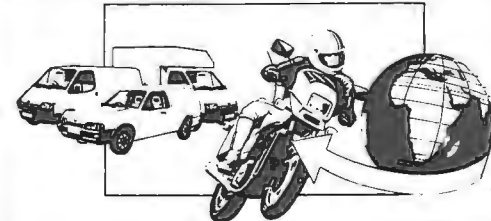
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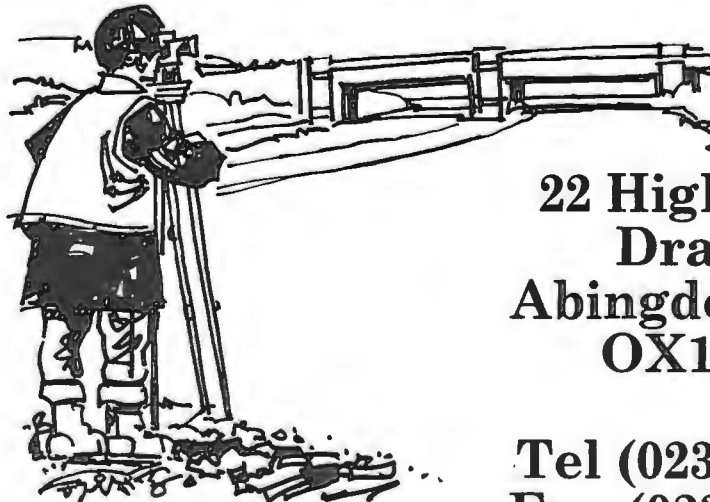
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An aerial view of the Wanderers' new stadium in Sands, at the end of Hillbottom Road through the industrial estate

## Fixture list

### AUGUST

Sat 18 Wycombe.....vs Runcorn.....  
 Sat 25 Wycombe.....vs Macclesfield.....  
 Mon 27 Wycombe.....vs WELLING.....

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 1 Wycombe.....vs ALTRINCHAM.....  
 Tues 4 Wycombe.....vs Bath (Bob Lord 1/1).....  
 Sat 8 Wycombe.....vs NORTHWICH.....  
 Sat 15 Wycombe.....vs MAIDENHEAD (FA Cup 1st qual).....  
 Tues 18 Wycombe.....vs Barnet (7.45pm).....  
 Sat 22 Wycombe.....vs RUNCORN.....  
 Tues 25 Wycombe.....vs BATH (Bob Lord 1/2).....  
 Sat 29 Wycombe.....vs (FA Cup 2nd qual).....

### OCTOBER

Tue 2 Wycombe.....vs BOSTON.....  
 Sat 6 Wycombe.....vs Telford.....  
 Tue 9 Wycombe.....vs FISHER.....  
 Sat 13 Wycombe.....vs (FA Cup 3rd qual).....  
 Tue 16 Wycombe.....vs Slough.....  
 Sat 20 Wycombe.....vs Gateshead.....  
 Sat 27 Wycombe.....vs (FA Cup 4th qual).....

### NOVEMBER

Sat 3 Wycombe.....vs KETTERING.....  
 Sat 10 Wycombe.....vs YEOVIL.....  
 Sat 17 Wycombe.....vs Fisher (FA Cup 1).....  
 Sat 24 Wycombe.....vs Colchester.....

### DECEMBER

Sat 1 Wycombe.....vs KIDDERMINSTER.....  
 Sat 8 Wycombe.....vs Bath (FA Cup 2).....  
 Sat 15 Wycombe.....vs SUTTON.....  
 Sat 22 Wycombe.....vs Merthyr.....  
 Wed 26 Wycombe.....vs CHELTENHAM.....  
 Sat 29 Wycombe.....vs Yeovil.....

### JANUARY

Tue 1 Wycombe.....vs Cheltenham.....  
 Sat 5 Wycombe.....vs TELFORD.....  
 Sat 12 Wycombe.....vs (FA trophy 1).....  
 Sat 19 Wycombe.....vs Kidderminster.....  
 Sat 26 Wycombe.....vs BARROW.....

### FEBRUARY

Sat 2 Wycombe.....vs MERTHYR (FA Trophy 2).....  
 Sat 9 Wycombe.....vs Stafford.....  
 Sat 16 Wycombe.....vs MACCLESFIELD.....  
 Sat 23 Wycombe.....vs (FA Trophy 3).....  
 Tue 26 Wycombe.....vs BATH.....

### MARCH

Sat 2 Wycombe.....vs Altrincham.....  
 Tue 5 Wycombe.....vs Kettering.....  
 Sat 9 Wycombe.....vs SLOUGH.....  
 Sat 16 Wycombe.....vs GATESHEAD (FA Trophy 4).....  
 Sat 23 Wycombe.....vs Barrow.....  
 Tue 26 Wycombe.....vs Welling.....  
 Sat 30 Wycombe.....vs Sutton.....

### APRIL

Mon 1 Wycombe.....vs.....  
 Sat 6 Wycombe.....vs BARNET (FA Trophy semi/1).....  
 Sat 13 Wycombe.....vs COLCHESTER (FA Trophy semi/2).....  
 Sat 20 Wycombe.....vs Boston.....  
 Sat 27 Wycombe.....vs Northwich.....

### MAY

Sat 4 Wycombe.....vs STAFFORD.....  
 Sat 11 Wycombe.....vs FA Trophy Final.....  
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