Chairboys Gas

INSIDE

G.M.V.C. VAUXHALL OPEL BEAZER-HOME & N.P.L. NEWS

A Magazine by Supporters
of
Wycombe Wanderers F C

"FIVE THOUSAND MORE MR FLASHMAN AND I'M YOURS"



ALSO INSIDE

"DO THEY MEAN US?"
"SEASON BY SEASON"
"BEHIND THE GOAL"
FIXTURES, RESULTS
& MORE

30p

1987-88 No 2

Chairboys Gas

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1987-88 No 2

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Wycombe Wanderers F C, The Blues Club, or the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

Welcome to the second issue of 'Chairboys Gas' for this season where as non-members of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art we won't be judging performances of players based on one appearance on a wet & windy night in Maidstone. Also rest assured that we won't be slagging -off players as soon as they leave the Club.

I was suprised to read the reasons that Noel Ashford left Vycombe. 'Chairboys Gas' can now exclusively reveal that the real reason Noel left was that he was dissapointed that the Club had not offered him tickets for the recent Madonna concerts. Barnet, who provided free tickets for their squad courtesy of Stan Flashman, moved in to sign Noel who said "I want to see Madonna perform - I have no chance at Wycombe they refused to pay the 50p booking fee on the ticket". Noel was also heard to say after signing for Barnet "I may have made a mistake...in joining Wycombe in the first place".

Well we all know the reason why Alan Gane left the Club? It is great to see Alan back in football having taken the Nanager's job at Staines Town - one of his former clubs. Good-luck Alan.

Our chance of meeting the 'big boys' in the F A Cup has gome for another year but it was good to see (as well as painful) that some clubs still regard beating Wycombe as one of the highlights of the season. Let's hope that by the end of the season it is still a highlight and not just another result. Enjoy the reading.

Paul Lewis

Contributions and assistance for this issue from Phil Ball, Simon Burrage, Steve Maguire and Pete Oxbrow.

"Too many people seem reluctant to move forward. In some quarters, there's still a hankering for the good old days of amateur football".

A fairly predictable theme, in the present climate, with which to open this column, wouldn't you say? The only catch is that these are not my words, but those of Alan Parry, writing for this season's Club Handbook (on sale now and excellent value at £1, incidentally). The fact that it is now Mr Parry's task, as Press Officer, to defend the Club's board of directors against such criticism may cause him some temporary embarrassment but there are some serious issues at stake here. This issue of CG could easily be filled with endless diatribes against Messrs. Lee, Beeks, Cox, Goldsworthy, Peart, Richards and Roberts but it has become quite obvious that the opinions of mere supporters cuts little ice where it matters - behind the doors of the boardroom. In many ways this is not a bad thing - if the opinions which are mouthed from the terraces during most home matches are anything to go by - and after all, the directors have been democratically elected and few of us would seriously question that they must surely have the best interests of the Club at heart. But to supporters there are a lot of unanswered questions. Like - why did our popular and successful Manager resign just a few weeks before the new season began? ('Personal reasons'? Don't make me laugh. He has immediately been offered and accepted the Managers chair at Staines Town - why would he rather be at Staines than at Wycombe?) How can WWFC expect to attract other top non-League players to Loakes Park after the Noel Ashford affair? How is a supporter of the Club supposed to feel when he reads that the new manager admits to knowing little about non-League football? Has the lesson of 1986 been learnt at all are we going to see Wycombe Wanderers suffer relegation again? And something I've always wanted to know for a long time is what does "Get it down you Zulu Wariors" (note the mis-spelling) mean, and just how long has it been written on the bus-station wall at Lilys Walk?

By the time this issue is on sale we will have all had a nice visit to Aylesbury. For the time being I'm not concerning myself with whether or not we have won, drawn, or been stuffed, but with the wider issue of the ground Aylesbury have at Buckingham Road. Every time I go there (yes I did pop over a couple of times last season) I am terrified by the fear that our new ground (Department of Environment permitting) at Hillbottom Road will be anything remotely similar to this ground, with one step of terracing behind the goals and difficulty in finding a decent vantage point whenever more than a thousand people turn out. At the moment, if anyone were to ask me whether or not I am in favour of the ground move, I couldn't really give a straight yes or no, because there are so many unknown factors involved. What we have at Loakes Park is one of the best stadiums in non-League football. If a move is attempted and carried out badly, the sight of bulldozers flattening the place could become a very painful one indeed. All I can say is that if we establish a good ground - and I mean good, not just acceptable to the ground-grading committee's minimum standards, and the surplus funds are actually used to help the Club progress in the football world, I will be quite happy to follow the Club to Sands. But if what we are likely to get is another Buckingham Road and a few thousand quid left in the bank to accumulate interest, the move could well be an unforgiveable error, and one which could not be reversed. There is one extra, crucial consideration which I hope is appreciated at this stage. move goes ahead, and even if it is well managed, it will inevitably be a shaky, uncertain period of transition. The Club could lose much traditional support, or it could gain impetus for a new, exciting period in its history. ESSENTIAL, in my humble opinion, that such a move MUST take place with the Club in a strong, healthy state. In other words, if we attempt such a move as an Isthmian club, with public interest at a low level, we could quickly find ourselves being just another insignificant, anonymous little non-League club

continued over....

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playing in front of a couple of hundred people. On the other hand, if the move was made with Vycombe Vanderers a well established and respected Vauxhall Conference club the scheme might just send us forwards rather than backwards. Furthermore, one of the major advantages - so we are told - of the Westbruton deal is that the Club will be left with a substantial cash profit. events at Loakes Park do not exactly demonstrate a willingness to spend even the money the Club already has (recently published accounts show £180,000 sitting in the bank, though there are probably countless reasons why this money is not being used to strengthen the playing squad). Can supporters be expected to believe that the Westbruton deal will be of any benefit to the Club if such reluctance to spend appears to be so deeply rooted in the board's policies? Mr Lee explained the board's attitude to transfer fees at the recent A.G.M. by likening the purchase of a player to buying a car, saying that it's never good business to pay more for something than it's worth. My own view is that if you need something badly enough there are occasions when you simply have to pay the asking price. If the Club enquires about a player they rate at £5,000 and are quoted £6,000, then if we need that player enough, we should be prepared to pay £6,000; it's no good to wait for bargains like last season's Ashford & Barrett deal to come along.

On the subject of Noel Ashford and his move to Barnet, I just wish the Club had made some attempt to present the more positive aspects of the deal. could have been stressed that, in purchasing Ashford for £5/6,000 and selling him for £17/18,000 the Club had made a very handsome profit in the space of 12 months, and that his presence for that relatively short time had helped us regain our Conference status. Put it that way, and the Club doesn't look so daft after all, particularly if it had been pointed out that by the end of the season Noel's current contract would have expired and he could have been transfered without a penny being received. But, in the event, the only official comment on the fee - or at least, the only one reported by the Midweek/BFP was the usual, half-hearted attempt at concealing the amount of money involved. "More than we paid for him"!!! It's fast becoming a standing joke amongst Wycombe fans that whenever WW are involved in a transfer where a fee is paid, we have to refer to the local papers from other areas to learn how much was paid (Bobby Dell's transfer, reported by the Harrow Observer at £1,750, and Rowan Dodds, in the Slough Observer at £2,500 are two examples that spring to The end result of this "keep it quiet"... "it's none of your business" attitude is simply that the figures are subsequently estimated and probably exaggerated when they are reported - hence the £20,000 now being generally quoted for Noel Ashford. I would hope, but don't really expect, that Alan Parry - when he gets back from Rome - will endeavour to keep us better informed in

At this point it occurs to me that, in expressing these opinions, I may well be appearing to have joined the ever-present minority of whingers and moaners (after all, all I do for the Club is buy a season ticket and stand on the terraces). I drove nearly 400 miles on September 5 because I wanted to watch Wycombe play at Northwich. I want to be making similar trips next season, and the season after that, and the season after that. I do not want to go back to the Croydon's and Barking's of this world. I left the game at Northwich with part of me proud of the team's effort in the last 10 minutes to recover the 2 goal deficit, but with another part of me annoyed that opponents so inept as Northwich had been allowed a 2-0 lead in the first place. Perhaps it is arrogant of me to think that Wycombe Wanderers should have a team capable of pi**ing all over a team like Northwich; perhaps not. To be honest, I'm not really looking for WW to "do a Wimbledon" or even "a Scarborough" yet. At the moment, I don't believe the Club can really match the Maidstone's, Weymouth's, Barnet's and Lincoln's of the Conference anyway. But what I do expect is a team capable of holding a respectable position in the Conference. How about it, Wycombe?

DO THEY MEAN US? investigated by Steve Maguire

It's not often that this column starts off by praising the BUCKS FREE PRESS, but the new Conference Spotlight feature is a good idea. Let's hope they keep it up, as obtaining details of scorers and attendances for midweek matches would have been a problem this season since the demise of the London Daily Maxwell.

Attendances and scorers for Saturday games are, of course, to be found in a number of national Sunday newspapers, although they don't always get their facts 100% correct. Despite what it said in the MAIL ON SUNDAY there were only 1,126 and not 7,126 witnesses present to see Kevin Durham's aeroplane impression at Kidderminster.

The SLOUGH OBSERVER has been a more reliable source of information during the early part of the season, devoting a whole page (plus banner headline) on the story of Rowan Dodds' transfer from Windsor to Wycombe. They also quoted the fee involved as being £2,500, but no doubt a Club shareholder wanting to confirm this will take up the invitation given at the A.G.M. and ask the Club's financial director.

Further revelations from the Slough Observer were that Neal Stanley (remember him - he played a few Capital League games last season) joined Slough from Wycombe without any money changing hands. After being on the transfer list for most of last season, Neal eventually appealed successfully to an F.A. Tribunial and obtained release from his contract. I saw Neal make his Slough debut when Barnet beat them 5-1 at Wexham Park and it was a pleasure to hear some of the comments from the Slough crowd, ie "He must be a good player - he played for Wycombe".

Three days after that defeat, Slough conceded another five goals when they played at Loakes Park. The Slough Observer commented "Slough are unlikely to come up against forward lines as classy as Barnet's or Wycombe's in the League". Before anyone asks, yes, it was the same forward line that played at Northwich and against Fisher.

The Northwich programme reminded visiting supporters that a certain player, sometimes referred to as God, has departed Wycombe to join the already impressive Barnet forward line. They mentioned a transfer fee of £20,000 which also appeared in the GMVC press release. As the information in the press release's are provided by the clubs' concerned, can we assume that this was the correct asking price for a player described by his new Manager, Barry Fry, as "The most complete player in non-League football". Sounds like good value for money to me.

Finally this month, it was reassuring to read that the Club "are committed to a professional approach both on and off the field" in the September issue of FOOTBALL TODAY. Anyone caught sniggering at that last remark will be required to report to Mr Lee's study after school (sorry, the game).



WEYMOUTH have lept into an early lead in the Conference following a 100% record from their opening five Conference matches. Their first ever league fixture at their new ground attracted an attendance of 3,500 to witness a 3-0 victory over Lincoln City. New Manager Stuart Morgan has introduced nine new players into 'The Terras' squad, including five from Football League clubs.

Football League 'drop-outs', LINCOLN CITY, had begun their first ever Conference campaign with a 4-2 defeat at BARNET but won few friends at Underhill when City defender Andy Moore (a £34,000 signing from Grimsby) left Barnet defender John Margerrison with a seriously damaged left leg. On a brighter note Lincoln attracted 2,000 plus gates for their first two home games in the Conference (against Dagenham and Runcorn) - indeed the attendance against RUNCORN on Bank Holiday Monday was higher than that of 18 Football League matches staged at Sincil Bank last season. Following victories over Dagenham and Runcorn, City ended STAFFORD RANGERS unbeaten run - inflicting a 4-1 home defeat on the early Conference pacemakers.

Noel Ashford made his BARNET debut against WELLING UNITED on Bank Holiday Monday at Underhill. Noel had a quiet game in Barnet's 5-2 success over the Kent side who included Gary Abbott in their line-up. Abbott is still drawing the attention of several League clubs and was also the subject of an unsuccessful bid from Barnet. However, Abbott's place at Welling has been made more secure by the fact that their new Club sponsor, Jefferson Lyons Marketing Group have offered Abbott terms of employment. Wycombe are due to make their first ever visit to Welling this month.

Noel's second game for Barnet saw a surprise 2-0 home defeat to TELFORD UNITED. Amongst the scorers for Telford that day were Steve Norris who should be remembered by Wycombe fans from the V S Rugby debacle last October. Norris was signed in the close season by Telford Manager Stan Storton following a two year spell with V S where he was a proflic scorer — he scored 33 League goals during last season's Championship campaign in the Midland Division of the Southern League. On the outgoing side, Telford have lost the services of former England Semi-Pro Colin Williams who has joined Altrincham. Also on the move is Ken McKenna (joint third highest scorer in the Conference last season) who has joined Tranmere Rovers for a £15,000 fee.

Wycombe are due for a midweek journey to CHELTENHAM TOWN later this month where former Loakes Park favourite, Anton Vircavs is Club Captain. Anton once said of Wycombe "We make the amateurs of Corinthian Casuals look like millionaires" during our F A Cup run two years ago. The first phase of redevelopment work at Whaddon Road is also due to begin this month with the construction of an external training area, together with a one tier stand at the Prestbury Road side of the ground. Cheltenham begun the season unbeaten in their opening six Conference matches.

Visitors to Loakes Park in early October are RUNCORN who have retained the services of their leading scorer, Mark 'Spike' Carter. Carter turned down the chance of a £20,000 move to Scottish Premier side, Hibernian due to matromonial involvement. Runcorn have also taken the advantage of a clear out by ALTRINCHAM, by signing Phil Densmore and Gary Anderson. However moving in the opposite direction are John Imrie and Ossie Smith who have both been captured by John Williams, Manager at Moss Lane.

General Motors Vauxhall Conference

Up to and including Saturday 12th September 1987

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First Round Proper w/c 5 October 1987
Second Round Proper w/c 2 November 1987
Third Round Proper w/c 30 November 1987
Fourth Round Proper w/c 2 February 1987
Semi-Finals
w/c 22 February 1987
Final Tie
w/c 21 March 1987

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AND
"WHEN SATURDAY
COMES"

For the alternative look at Football

SUMMARY by Steve Maguire.

1967/68 was truly a season to forget with the Club finising in it's lowest ever position in the Isthmian League and suffering defeat at the first hurdle in both major cup competitions.

After a reasonable start to the season, mainly due to Tony Horseman's goals, things started to go wrong. On a very heavy pitch we were knocked out of the FTA Cup by a powerful Dagenham side, and the following Saturday Len Worley was sent-off against Walthamstow (the first Wycombe player to be dismissed in an Isthmian League game for forty years). Slough beat us 5-1 at Loakes Park (a good job they had three other efforts disallowed) and the only club we could take League points from were rock bottom Maidstone United. A number of depressing runs started - we won just three times in eighteen league games and the Loakes Park faithful had to wait three months to see a League victory. Then to cap it all came probably the most embarassing defeat in the Club's history when we lost in an Amateur Cup tie at City of Norwich School Old Boys Union.

"I sat on the bench in a daze" said Manager Barry Darvill in the Bucks Free Press the following week, as he tried to explain how Wycombe came to lose a game which they dominated throughout, to such an extent that the home side had just two shots on target all game!

In the County Cup there was nearly another upset as we struggled to beat Wolverton Town in the semi-final. Then against all the odds we captured the trophy by the odd goal in five in an exciting game with old rivals Slough at Chesham.

The Wycombe Floodlight League (which Slough won) saw a few high scoring games, although the fixture at Woking saw another Wanderer sent-off, this time John Maskell for punching out a Woking forward. Despite this, John had a good season and signed amateur forms for Brentford shortly after we had beaten the Fourth Division side to win the Hospital Cup. Another good crowd saw the visit of Q P R in aid of Mike Keen's Testimonial Fund just a few weeks after Q P R had won the Football League Cup Final at Wembley.

On the representative front, we supplied our normal quota of players for the Berks & Bucks side, Barry Baker captained the Southern Counties in the International trial versus The North but the happiest Wanderer was Tony Horseman, once again our leading scorer, who finally gained a much soughtafter honour when he was included in the Great Britain side for the Olympic Qualifying match v West Germany at Hendon. Sadly, Tony only played for the first half, and despite his incredible scoring record he never received another chance.



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F A Amateur Cup	1	0	0	1	0	1
Berks & Bucks Senior Cup	4	3	1	Ò	13	6
Wycombe Floodlight League	10	4	3	3	26	21
A F A Invitation Cup	1	1	0	0	7	0.
Vycombe Hospital Cup	1	1	0	O	2	1
Friendly	7	5	0	2	15	10
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               GOALSCORERS SUMMARY FOR SEASON 1967-1968
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BAME DATE

OPPOSITION

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ATT SCORERS

The VAUXHALL-OPEL



Opel League Premier Division are FARNBOROUGH
TOWN who boasted a 100% record from their
opening five league games against Viscolt St Albans, Dulwich, Hayes and Harrow Borough.

Farnborough Manager Ted Pearce was clearly unhappy with his side's mid-table position last season and has virtually rebuilt the team over the summer. Out has gone Club Captain Brian Broome, transferred to WOKINGHAM TOWN, plus Tony Carter, Chris Hodge and Richard Walden, who have all joined BASINGSTOKE TOWN. Included in the newcomers are Martin Roderick, a 19 year old winger from Portsmouth, David Groom, an experienced defender from Chelmsford City and Brian O'Donnell, a midfielder from Bath City and one game for Wycombe this season. Helping out Ted Pearce is newly appointed Club Coach Alan Taylor from Fulham who has also brought with him three young players from Craven Cottage. Last season's joint top scorer Jimmy Bolton, has yet to return from playing in Sweden but will hope he can regain his place alongside his partner last season, former Wanderer Simon Read, who has scored twice already this season.

YEOVIL TOWN, after opening the season with three straight victories, faltered at league newcomers BASINGSTOKE TOWN and then at BROWLEY. Bromley, who have appointed ex-Charlton and Gillingham centre-back, Peter Shaw as Player/Coach, are perhaps the surprise contenders for the top spot Bromley recently signed Paul McMenemy, nephew of former Sunderland Manager Lawrie, Southampton and from Vest Ham McMenemy scored 35 goals in the Football Combination and still had one year of his contract left but West Ham agreed to release him provided he did not sign for another Football League club. Bromley opened the season with four impressive victories over Slough, Hendon, Carshalton and Yeovil.

It is no surprise to see LEYTONSTONE/ILFORD amongst the front runners. Some bookmakers are already quoting them as title favourites despite losing their first game of the season in the last minute against Yeovil before a 2,002 attendance at Huish. 'The Stones' recovered from their defeat in Somerset by beating ST ALBANS CITY 4-3 at Clarence Park. Losing 3-1 with 13 minutes left Tony Burman (a new signing from Dartford) levelled the scores after earlier missing a penalty and then Terry Sullivan (another former Dartford player) scored the winner. Also joining former boss John Still at Green Pond Road is Francis Cowley, yet another ex-Dartford player who has joined from Basildon United.

Also near the top of the table are BISHOP'S STORTFORD whose Manager John Radford has signed Carl Zachhau a striker from Yeovil Town for a four figure fee. Also moving to Rhodes Avenue is Devon Gayle, former Dagenham, Walthamstow and Hendon striker from Woodford Town, and Martin McCayna a defender from Dartford. The most recent move to Stortford came when Carl Hoddle, brother of Glenn and emergency midfielder for Wycombe last season, joined from Barnet in a straight swap for Ian Ferguson. Ferguson, who also plays in midfield, was the subject of an offer from Wycombe last season but the clubs could not agree terms. Ferguson had an impressive debut for Barnet - setting up both goals in their 2-2 draw at Macclesfield and scoring in his home debut against Welling United.

Finally another ex-Wycombe player and long servant of the Club, Bobby Dell has been transfer listed by HARROW BOROUGH - a fee will be required.



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Farnborough Town	5	3	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	6	2	5	0	0	10	3	15
Leytonstone Ilford	5	2	0	0	7	0	2	0	1	7	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Slough Town	5	2	0	0	5	1	2	0	1	8	3	4	0	1	13	4	12
Bromley	4	2	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	4	Ō	4	0	0	8	2	12
Bishop's Stortford	5	2	0	1	7	4	1	0	1	4	4	3	0	2	11	8	9
Yeovil Town	5	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	3	4	3	0	2	6	5	9
Bognor Regis Town	3	2	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	0	7	4	7
Wokingham Town	5	2	1	0	5	1	0	0	2	2	4	2	1	2	7	5	7
Basingstoke Town	4	2	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	5	4	7
Hayes	5	2	1	1	7	6	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	7	8	7
Tooting & Mitcham	5	2	1	0	5	2	0	0	2	1	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
St. Albans City	5	2	0	1	10	6	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	3	10	8	6
Hendon	5	2	0	1	7	4	0	0	2	2	5	2	0	3	9	9	6
Carshalton Athletic	5	2	0	1	6	1	0	0	2	1	6	2	0	3	7	7	6
Kingstonian	5	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	3	1	8	2	0	3	6	9	6
Windsor & Eton	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	3	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
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Harrow Borough	5	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	4	11	1	1	3	6	12	4
Croydon	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	2	3	3
Barking	4	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	2	3	5	2
Hitchin Town	5	0	1	2	4	11	0	0	2	2	9	0	1	4	6	20	1
Dulwich Hamlet	4	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	3	1	9	0	0	4	2	13	0

VOL PREMIER DIVISION ATTENDANCE SURVEY 1986/87

Club	Aver	<u>Best</u>	Versus (Date)
YEOVIL TOWN	1888	3169	Wycombe Wanderers (27/9/86)
VYCOMBE VANDERERS	1130	2473	Yeovil Town (14/2/87)
ST ALBANS CITY	524	1173	Wycombe Wanderers (31/1/87)
FARNBOROUGH TOWN	455	1120	Wycombe Wanderers (7/2/87)
SLOUGH TOWN	452	1435	Wycombe Wanderers (11/10/86)
BOGNOR REGIS TOWN	379	665	Vycombe Wanderers (13/4/87)
BISHOPS STORTFORD	364	474	Barking (2/9/86)
WORTHING	344	1005	at Yeovil Town (4/10/86)
BROMLEY	324	448	Wycombe Wanderers (6/9/86)
HAYES	304	633	Wycombe Wanderers (2/9/86)
WINDSOR & ETON	297	757 .	
HARROW BOROUGH	286	647	Wycombe Wanderers (7/10/86)
HITCHIN TOWN	270	676	Wycombe Wanderers (18/4/87)
DULVICH HAMLET	269	580	Vycombe Vanderers (2/5/87)
HENDON	249	489	Wycombe Wanderers (6/12/86)
VALTHAMSTOV AV	235	337	at Slough Town (3/1/87)
WOKINGHAM TOWN	230	614	Wycombe Wanderers (8/11/86)
TOOTING & MITCHAM	210	460	Vycombe Wanderers (7/3/87)
CARSHALTON ATH	206	439	Vycombe Vanderers (28/3/87)
CROYDOM	202	458	Wycombe Wanderers (3/1/87)
KINGSTONIAN	164	379	Wycombe Wanderers (19/8/86)
BARKING	160	305	Wycombe Wanderers (29/11/86)



It what looks like being the closest and most competitive Championship battle for many years, it is no suprise to see AYLESBURY UNITED heading the Beazer Home League Premier Division at this early stage of the season with four wins and draw from their opening five games. NUNEATON BOROUGH will not be happy with their start, however, following relegation from the Conference. They have just two points from their opening five games.

Gaining the greatest publicity this month for the Beazer Home League will be MERTHYR TYDFIL who begin their European campaign following qualification for Europe by winning the Welsh Cup. They have been drawn against Atlanta of Italy and the first leg of the Cup Winners Cup tie takes place at Merthyr on September 16. The ambitious Welsh side, who are aiming for a place in the Football League within five years, have been busy preparing their Penydarren Park ground for the match. The Club have been forced to spend around £150,000 on their 10,000 capacity ground, although the local council have offered £45,000 towards the work. Merthyr have three players with previous European experience – former Everton striker Bob Latchford played in Europe for Swansea while Kevin Rogers and Ceri Villiams have appeared with Vrexham and Newport County respectively. Up front Merthyr will be relying on the goalscoring talents of Dave Webley who finished with 45 out of Merthyr's 95 league goals last season.

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AYLESBURY UNITED CAMBRIDGE CITY BURTON ALBION LEICESTER UNITED DORCHESTER TOWN CHELMSFORD CITY DARTFORD FAREHAM TOWN GOSPORT BORDUGH BROMSGROVE ROVERS ALVECHURCH CORBY TOWN V S RUGBY CRAWLEY TOWN BEDWORTH UNITED WORCESTER CITY SHEPSHED CHARTERHOUS WITNEY TOWN WILLENHALL TOWN	including 0.5554456445445445445445445445445445445445	aturda\\44322222222222	12 Spin 022221 0022221 00		7989946655747866441	4443-374668666666557	# 000000000000000000000000000000000000
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The Northern Premier Football League

Former Football League clubs BARROW and SOUTHPORT are both challenging for the top spot this season. Also amongst the front runners are CAERNARFON TOWN, now managed by ex-Liverpool defender Tommy Smith who has been rebuilding the Welsh side following the departure of Ken Jones, Dave Higgins, Dave Martindale and Steve Craven, who have all followed former boss John King to Tranmere Rovers. Also departed is leading scorer Austin Salmon, who played against Wycombe for his new club, Northwich Victoria, at the start of September. Included in the signings of Smith is Chris Seagraves the former Liverpool reserve, Grimbsy and Wealdstone player and who also spent a very short spell at Wycombe early last season.

At the other end of the table, GATESHEAD have begun the season disastrously following relegation from the Conference last season. After losing their opening four games they picked up their first point of the season with a 1-1 draw with Witton Albion at The International Stadium.

WITTON ALBION have apponted former Altrincham player and last season's coach, Stan Allan as manager as replacement for Terry Nurphy who has moved in the opposite direction to become assitant to John Williams at Moss Lane. Joining up with Allan, as player/coach, is John Davison a former 'Alty' team mate and holder of a record twenty-one appearances for the England Semi-Pro side. Off the field, Witton's projected move from their Central Ground home is progressing steadily and the latest estimate is for the start of next season. A party of Witton Albion directors have visted Aylesbury United's new ground in hope of learning from a similar move by 'The Ducks'.

PREMIER DIVISION

FIRST DIVISION

LEAGUE TABLES UP TO AND INCLUDING SATURDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER 1987.

Pos.	Club.	<u>P</u>	W	D	L	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>P</u>	Pos.	Club	<u>P</u>	W	D	L	F	<u>A</u>	<u>P</u>
1	Southport	5	4	1	0	6	1	13	1	Accrington Stanley	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
2	Caernarfon Town	5	3	2	0	7	3	11	2	Fleetwood Town	4	3	. 1	0	9	2	10
3	Barrow	4	3	1	0	8	4	10	3	Stalybridge Celtic	4	2	2	0	9	6	8
4	South Liverpool	5	2	3	0	11	6	9	4	Farsley Celtic	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
5	Hyde United	5	2	3	0	9	4	9	5	Winsford United	4	1	3	0	7	5	6
6	Witton Albion	5	2	3	0	8	5	9	6	Congleton Town	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
7	Frickley Athletic	5	2	2	1	7	5	8	7	Penrith	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
8	Bangor City	5	2	2	1	8	8	8	. 8	Irlam Town	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
9	Horwich	5	2	1	2	8	4	7	9	Eastwood Town	5	2	0	3	9	12	6
10	Rhyl	5	1	4	0	6	3	7	10=	Leek Town	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
11	Chorley	4	2	1	1	5	4	7	10=	Radcliffe Borough	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
12	Goole Town	5	2	1	2	9	10	7	12	Droylsden	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
13	Morecambe	5	1	3	1	5	4	6	13	Netherfield	5	1	1	3	5	13	4
14	Marine	5	1	2	2	8	9	5	14	Alfreton Town	4	1	0	3	8	7	3
15	Buxton	5	1	2	2	7	9	5	15	Eastwood Hanley	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
16	Gainsborough Trinity	5	1	2	2	5	7	5	16	Harrogate Town	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
17	Worksop Town	4	1	1	2	4	7	4	17	Lancaster City	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
18	Matlock Town	5	1	1	3	5	10	4	18	Sutton Town	4	0	1	3	3	9	1
19	Mossley	5	0	2	3	5	11	2	19	Curzon Ashton	2	0	0	2	4	7	0
20	Workington	5	0	1	4	5	9	1			_	•	·	_		·	J
21	Gateshead	5	0	1	4	5	11	1									
22	Oswestry Town	4	0	1	3	0	7	1									

TIMES DO CHANGE..OR DO THEY? by Pete Oxbrow

During the close season I have been enjoying a nostalgic browse through my collection of Wycombe programmes and non-League magazines. Here are some of the extracts that you may find interesting. The Amateur Footballer Magazine August 1968.

Preview 1968/69 Isthmian League..."Can anyone challenge Enfield? The Champions will once again be a most formidable side"..."Wealdstone with a new Manager anxious to taste success quickly, have enough players to be there or thereabouts next spring"..."It would take a brave man to forecast much success for Bromley, Clapton, Woking, Casuals, Ilford and Maidstone"..."Wycombe Wanderers recovering from a disappointing season are not running an 'A' side this term so will be introducing a youth policy to their senior sides. With wonderful support in the area it won't be long before the Loakes Park roar will be echoing around Wycombe again"...Enfield won the League again, Wycombe finished 4th, Wealdstone 5th while Maidstone finished in the bottom half.

Wycombe v Kingstonian (Isthmian League 28/11/70)

Brian Lee, then Manager, commented on the mid-week Cup replay at Slough... "As in the first game the opposition were crude and ruthless whilst the Referee was a mere spectator"... I don't think Slough had a chance to be crude and ruthless last month against Wycombe, they were too busy chasing shadows.

Leatherhead v Wycombe (Isthmian League 27/1/73)

Following rumours that there had been a dressing room punch-up the previous week at Leatherhead, The Club Notes wrote "questions are bound to be asked whenever there is unrest at Fethcham Grove, I can assure you that this is pure fantasy as the spirit has never been better"...During the game that afternoon two Leatherhead players were booked for hitting...each other! One of the players involved, Barry Davies, was sacked by Wycombe earlier that season after walking out of Loakes Park (literally) after being relegated to the subs bench.

Wycombe v Oxford City (Isthmian League 18/9/73)

Brian Lee in his Manager's Column.... "One of the most significant happenings in Amateur Football was when Sid Cann left Sutton under somewhat dubious circumstances. Certainly results on the playing field had not been that bad this season to warrant such action. Last term saw Sutton finish seventh in the Isthmian League." ...He went on to say "They say that you are as good as your last game, but where does the logic begin?"...I'll let that speak for itself!

Chalfort St Peter v Wycombe (B&B Senior Cup 20/12/75)

The programme recalled how, when the clubs met in 1973 that Wycombe won 9-0. The programme went on to say..."As for todays game, Wanderers are unlikely to put out their strongest side and will probably bank on the team that beat Buckingham 7-1 in the previous round"...Yes, times do change, don't they?

Remember this magazine always welcomes contributions such as the above and would also be glad to receive any letters on Wycombe Wanderers or non-League football in general. Contributions or letters can be sent to the editor's address or handed in at the Blues Club Shop.



Results

Saturda Barnet Bath Boston Cheltenham Dagenham Kettering Macclesfield Northwich Sutton Welling Wycombe Tuesda Altrincham Bath Enfield Fisher Runcorn Stafford Telford Wealdstone	22 22 22 22 21 21 21 21 21 21	August 1987 Lincoln Telford Kiddermster Wealdstone Altrincham Enfield Maidstone Fisher Runcorn Weymouth Stafford August 1987 Northwich Cheltenham Boston Barnet Macclesfield Kettering Kiddermster Sutton August 1987	2598 15607 15607 1575 1010 8507 1010 8517 1217 1465 646 11000 1383 1714 518
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Wycombe	1-1	Cheltenham Fisher	1169
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Boston	0-2	Kettering	1815
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Welling	4-0	Wealdstone	739
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Runcorn	2-1	Dagenham Wealdstone	468
Telford		Weāldstone	1304

NEW NON-LEAGUE MAGAZINE - OUT NOW

PHAROAH

Features include;

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- * A PICKLEO BRAINED TRAVELLERS TALES
 THIS MONTH "THE DAY I FITTED IN A
 DOUBLE-HEADER BEFORE BREAKFAST" by BOB
 LOONEY
- * NEWS FROM THE ATTLEBOROUGH & PUDDLEOGCK DISTRICT REFUSE COLLECTORS SUNDAY COMBINATION (RESERVE SECTION) PREMIER DIVISION
- * A HAND-DRAWN MAP OF SOME FOOTBALL GROUNDS IN SOMERSET (NO USE WHATSDEVER TO THE NON-LEAGUE TRAVELLER)
- * SKETCH-A-SHED (SOME 13 YEAR-OLDS VAGUE IMPRESSION OF A GROUND HE WENT TO ONCE)
- * DIARY OF A COMPLETE NON-ENTITY
- * HOW TO 'TICK-OFF' THREE NEW GROUNDS, A COUPLE OF ALES AND A BUS DEPOT ON THE WAY BACK FROM DOING THE WEEKLY SHOPPING
- * OTHER PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE: "CRAPHOLE TOWN TO WEMBLEY", "CRAPHOLE TOWN TO WEMBLEY AGAIN", & "QPR QPR CHA-CHA-CHA"
- ALL ENQUIRES TO PHONEY NONCENSO BsC, ABc ArSe (CON), etc

(PLEASE NOTE THAT PHAROAH MAGAZINE IS NOT ACTUALLY ON SALE ANYWHERE BUT CAN BE OBTAINED BY PAYING £22,50 IN ADVANCE FOR A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION)



Fixtures

Monday 14 September 1987 Dagenham Welling Kiddermster Bath
Tuesday 15 September 1987 Fisher Maidstone Kettering Boston Stafford Runcorn * Wealdstone Enfield
Wealdstone Enfield Wycombe Barnet Wednesday 16 September 1987 Cheltenham Telford Lincoln Macclesfield * Saturday 19 September 1987
Barnet Northwich Boston Weymouth Fisher Runcorn Kettering Dagenham
Kiddermster Stafford Lincoln Enfield Sutton Cheltenham Wealdstone Macclesfield Welling Bath
Wycombe Telford Monday 21 September 1987 Dagenham Weymouth Tuesday 22 September 1987 Altrincham Kiddermster
Barnet Kettering Bath Sutton Enfield Fisher Macclesfield Stafford Runcorn Lincoln
Wednesday 23 September 1987 Boston Welling Cheltenham Wycombe Maidstone Wealdstone
Saturday 26 September 1987 Bath Altrincham Dagenham Boston Enfield Kiddermster Runcorn Wealdstone
Sutton Northwich * Telford Lincoln <i>Monday 28 September 1987</i> Kidermster Macclesfield *

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Runcorn	Kiddermster	
	Macclesfield	常小家
Sutton	Fisher	*
Telford	Dagenham	
Wellina	Wycombe	4
Tuesdav 13 L	October 1987	
Enfield	Weymouth	4
Kettering	Barnet	*
Stafford	Macclesfield	
Sutton	Fisher	小年 小年 小年
Wednesday 14	October 1987	
Welling	Wycombe	
Patundau 17	October 1987	eg*
Barnet	Altrincham	
	Sutton	
	Maidstone	
Daganham	Bath	
Fisher	Stafford Telford Enfield	
Kiddermster	reliord	
Macclesfield	ENTIGIO	
Wealdstone	LINCOIN	
Welling	Northwich	
Weymouth	Runcorn	
Wycombe	Kettering	
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All fixtures correct at time of going to press Fixtures marked * are provisional due to cup involvement