

The Independent Magazine by Supporters of Wycombe Wanderers F.C.

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BACK ISSUES

Currently in stock are all 6 issues from last season plus issue 1 from this season at 40p each plus postage or SAE. Cheques or PO's in all instances should be made payable to CHAIRBOYS GAS.

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Vol 4. No.2 November 1989 EDITORIAL

It has been an unusual beginning to the season - no league wins from the first five games, then an avalanche of goals, then disaster at Stafford in the F A Cup.

One small consolation is that it emphasises a point, that entertainment is not necessarily relative to league position and that success. - in winning terms - should not always be the ultimate demand from the public.

It's no secret that Wycombe fans have been particularly demanding recently and the nature of some of the inhabitants of Loakes Park to have worsened appear this season. Although these attitudes can be partly attributed to the rise in profile of the Club - together with the rise in cost - it is certainly not condusive to a pleasant atmosphere to hear a stream of meaningless swearing aimed at the opposition, usually without provocation. The mentality here can also involve singing "Jimmy Jimmy give us a wave" when we're winning and then trotting out the "Do something Kelman" ritual when we're not.

Moving up the non-League Ladder not be should an excuse for inheriting the media distorted image that is prevalent in the higher ranks of football. If the problem is ignored it is only a matter of time before it escalates into physical Positive action needs to violence. be taken, firstly by the Club - not just the "let us seen to be doing something" measures, that achieve nothing but fill spaces in Club press releases and secondly by the sensible majority of supporters who can condemn verbally at every opportunity.

Currently these people are in a small minority but for those of us who can behave, they need to be erradicated before their influence spreads and ruins it for the rest of us.

Next issue out by the middle of December. Articles (past or present subjects), photos, cartoons, cuttings, etc, most welcome.

Inside information

The past couple of months have seen three loan periods at Wycombe come to an end. First to go was Paul Sanderson who was returned to Newport County's liquadators Touche Ross after 6 games and no goals in a Wycombe shirt. Sanderson has since moved to Cheltenham Town where he joins former Newport teammate Phil Williams.

David Gipp's month loan from Barnet began with a goal in the 5-3 victory at Enfield and he made it 4 goals in 5 appearances before returning to Underhill. Gipp has since been linked with moves to Welling and Aylesbury, with an fee of well over £10,000.

John Kerr's short return to Wycombe got underway with a remarkable headed goal against Kidderminster at Loakes Park but finished on a low during the 4-1 defeat at Stafford in the F A Cup. Kerr is now on trial at French Club San Sourrine of Bordeaux. Kerr made 10 appearances during his second spell with Wycombe - scoring on 4 occasions. There was no report of any fee being received for Kerr.

The Club have kept fairly quiet about the departure of Steve Wicks after just 8 appearances for Wycombe. The ex-Chelsea and QPR player was signed amid much publicity and ego massaging at the start of the season but after missing the mid week trip to Kettering due to "work commitments", has apparently left the Club. Wicks, a General Manager of a sports agency dealing with the commercial management and promotion of top soccer players, was signed on a two year contract with apparently no fee involved but the whole affair brings little credit to the Club or the League.

Martin Blacker is nearing full fitness again after playing just one Conference game this season. His return to fitness, however, will renew speculation of a move for the unsettled midfielder. Other departures since the start of the season include a double move to Chesham United. £4,000 took close season signing Paul Benning to The Meadow and he was closely followed by Mark Butler for £5,000. Benning had failed to make the First Team while Butler had made just 7 First Team appearances since moving from Egham Town last March including just one this season, a two minute spell as substitute against Darlington.

■ New signings since the last issue of CG include Steve Guppy (signed from local football in Southampton) who has carved a regular spot on the subs banch but scored on his full debut in the 1st replay at Gravesend in the F A Cup. The same night, Robert Thorpe also made his First Team debut when he came on as sub for Guppy in extra-time. David Gumbs, a 22 year-old attacking defender from Flackwell Heath, became the 22nd player to used for First Team duty when he made his debut against Yeovil Town.

After an originally scheduled programme of three home Conference games in 12 days to finish the last ever season at Loakes Park, fixture re-arrangement has left Farnborough Town as the final visitors on Saturday 21st April 1990. Barrow at home is now due for Saturday 18th November and Northwich at home is for set Saturday 2nd December.

The abandoned game with Merthyr Tydfil has been re-arranged for Tuesday 28th November. The Club have set admission prices at £2.50 for adults (50p less than normal) and free entry for OAP's and Children plus a free re-printed programme.

The Club's Information Line on High Wycombe (0494) 446763 has been re-instated after a "technical fault" on the line. This line gives match day information and is charged at local rate.

Behind the Goal with Simon Burrage

As the new stadium at Hillbottom Road gradually begins to take shape, on the footballing side the season still seems curiously shapeless for the Chairboys. At the time of writing these notes, with a quarter of our league games over, we stand just two places above the feared relegation zone, but do any of us feel any danger yet? Perhaps not, but maybe if our position has not improved by the time this is being read then we will not be quite so complacent.

Having begun the season with basically the same playing squad that proudly took us to a final League position of 4th last season, we have a team of players who have already proved their ability but who so far this season have not, apart from a few occasions, lived up to the expectations they themselves have set. Any neutral watching the victories over Enfield away (5-3) and Fisher and Runcorn at home (6-1 and 5–0) would have gone away thinking they had been watching potential Conference champions, but I know many of us feel our best performance of the season so far finishing apart - was at Kettering, when we were ludicrously unfortunate to lose 0-1. Rather a frustrating evening all around really ... Kettering away in midweek is not a fixture many of us would have to take time off work to get to, but it means a bit of a rush up the M1 in rush-hour traffic (fingers crossed there's no hold-ups) to arrive at the ground just in time for the kick-off - or so I thought, until I found we had to queue outside with at least 500 other people at one of only two turnstiles

for the first 10 minutes of the game. Losing the match was no surprise, but losing despite playing them off the park for most of the game, was. Another surprise was the number of trouble-seekers who followed us to this game and spent some time after the game chasing gangs from Kettering around the streets (and probably being chased themselves as well, you can never tell which group is which these days).

Probably the highlight of September and October was the splendid Gary Lester Testimonial match, with Tottenham generously fielding a strong side and not far short of 3,000 people turning out for Gary, generating receipts of over Gary, having not played £7,000. serious First Team football for so long, then found himself thrown into two F A Cup ties as a result of John Granville's injury. The first of these ties - the 2nd replay at Gravesend - did not present too many problems but Gary was surely just one of several Wycombe players who cannot have been happy with their performance in the dreadful 1-4 capitulation at Stafford the following Saturday. (Is there any chance of a kinder draw if we get to the 4th Qualifying Round next season than we've had these last two years?). Kevin Durham will not thank me for reminding everyone of his horrible first-half miss with the game poised at 0-0 when a goal to Wycombe would have been vital. 'Durrers' himself made a good job of reminding us of the incident 7 days later when he re-enacted the scene with great precision at Chorley, again at 0-0, and again we went home defeated by a very average team. So what's going on? My own theory is that some Wycombe players

remember last January when William Hill's offered 33-1 against us winning the F A Trophy after quite a poor first-half of the season; they're obviously looking for 50-1 this time. But lads it only works if you then win the Trophy! (Do that, and ye shall be forgiven).

OK that's enough boring waffle matches, about results and performances. If you wanted to read that sort of stuff you'd pick up your Bucks Free Press, wouldn't you? (Heavy Irony, as Alexi Sayle would say. What's heavy irony? Something you use to get the creases out of your shirty. I hope this joke is edited out or if not, sold to the BBC). And no I'm not about to start slagging off the unbelievable sports section of the Bucks Free Press, as it appears they don't care much anyway.

At least we know their apparent dis-interest is not limited just to Wycombe Wanderers. Remember the Women's International match played at Loakes Park recently? Hardly an every-day occurance in High Wycombe, is it? Extensive coverage in national newspapers, mentioned on TV and radio, two camera crews at the game, but where was the BFP report the following Friday? When did you last see a footballing issue affecting Wycombe Wanderers Football Club properly reported or discussed in your local paper? It's obviously still up to Chairboys Gas to comment on such heart rending topics like...like...well you'll have to wait to next month.

Simon Burrage

P.5. Any readers who follow greyhound racing and who frequent the Oxford Stadium, look out for a couple of dogs by the names of Chairboys Pride and Chairboys Queen. (What on earth is he on about now? - Ed)

WANDERINGS

🛛 Grass-banks, a rail around a pitch, bus-shelter stands. It can only mean one thing, it's the F A Cup qualifying rounds. In fact 1 wouldn't miss them for the world although some people did there best at Baldock Town, where quite a few Wycombe fans made their way to the game via the automated door type Network S.E. trains. Two early arrivals at Baldock made their way to the doors only to be blocked by a giant Labrador the size of Glyn Creaser. The last I saw were their sad faces behind the tightly closed doors as the train pulled away. Saw them again 1% hours later claiming they had done some groundhopping in Cambridgeshire.

What's all this about Andy Pape being England's No.1 Semi-Pro 'keeper? The last four times we've played at Southbury Road he's conceeded 14 goals. Personally I like his salute to a goal being conceeded which usually involves drop kicking the ball in the direction of his defenders/ stand/opposing supporters. A true sportsman.

It is appears that a crucial requirement to become a member of Wycombe's Capital League side is to have an obscure surname. Latest additions are Tony Bonaventura and Mark Sciaraffa who join such previous classics as Choriki Moussaddik, Charlie Okonkwo and Russell Goodenough.

Welling isn't 0 the most inspirational of places to go to but there was midweek extra incentive to arrive early this season - the Sweden/England was live on TV in their Club House. Of course you could have left later, got stuck in massive traffic jam on the M25, arrive at half-time and then wonder why Welling hasn't got the car-parking facilties of Wembley, but we're not that stupid are we?



Who's going to stop DARLINGTON making an immediate return to the Football League? Unbeaten in their opening 13 Conference games, with just 6 goals conceeded and crowds averaging well over the 3,000 mark, Darlington appear to be enjoying the rivitalised interest in the Club their 'drop' to caused by the BARNET finally ended Conference. 'Darlo's run with a 2-1 success before a 3,886 crowd at Feathams, and should again be among the title chasers at the end of the season.

Darlington's early good form has in their odds being resulted shortened from 8-1 at the start of the season to 4-7 favourites. They followed by Kidderminster are Harriers at 11-2 and Barnet at 8-1 - Wycombe's odds have moved from 10-1 to 33-1. Meanwhile the pre-BOSTON 6-1 favourites. season UNITED have seen their odds lengthened to 100-1 following their abysmal start to the season. Just two wins (at Barnet and at home to Enfield) from the opening 14 Conference games and an FA Cup exit to Matlock Town leaves them in a similar position to Weymouth last season. The pressure will be on Boston by the time Wycombe make the visit to York Street on Saturday 9th December. Boston General Manager George Kerr should remember that his first game in charge for Boston was a 4-0 victory over Wycombe back in November 1987.

Saturday 25th November may well be the last chance for Wycombe fans to make the visit to Huish for a Conference game with YEOVIL TOWN. Work commenced at their new £3m ground on the site of the former Houndstone Army Camp during October with the initial completion date hoped to be July 1990. Yeovil, who first played at Huish in 1920, also hope to include a full-sized artificial pitch adjacent to their new 8,000 capacity stadium as part of a community initiative. Wycombe fans travelling to Huish in November may like to take note of some new ground regulations now in force. The regulations, that were brought into action last February, include measures to stem racist chanting, taunting of the opposition's fans and general abusive behaviour.

The Club have already used these rulings to impose a 5 year ban on a supporter following racist comments during their home game with Northwich Victoria in September. On a more negative note, segregation is now common place at Huish, away fans are detained after the final and facilities whistle, for travelling supporters are also very poor. Latest addition to fortress Huish is the installation of £15,000 worth of closed circuit TV The equipment which equipment. forms part of Yeovil's "extensive safety programme" is the first to be used at non-League level and continues a disturbing trend at this level of football. Safety is of course paramount but these measures only create more barriers between opposing fans, barriers that in the vast majority of cases are not neccessary and totally inapproriate to non-League football.

BARNET is a Club who have so far backed down on introducing too many restrictive measures. Wycombe have a re-arranged game at Underhill to be arranged and it is perhaps a credit to both sets of supporters that despite crowds of well into 4 figures, that there has been no instances of crowd reportable disturbances during our recent meetings.

FARNBOROUGH TOWN is another away fixture to be arranged and it should be interesting to view the improved facilities at Cherrywood Road following their move into the Conference. Farnborough have recently added covering to behind one of their goals while on the pitch ex-Wanderers Simon Read continues to get goals. He was leading scorer in the Conference during November with 14 goals from 16 games. His spell at Wycombe in season 1985/86 brought 12 goals in 38 Gola League outings.

Programmes in the Conference are trying increasingly hard to emulate their Football League counterparts, but on most occasions failing to meet a pleasant compromise between advertising, content and price. KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS have managed to become the first Club to hit the 80p barrier. They are closely followed by MACCLESFIELD TOWN and CHELTENHAM TOWN who are charging 70p, although both Clubs had started the season charging less. Height of originality award goes to MERTHYR TYDFIL who were obviously 50 impressed with Wycombe's programme last season, that they copied the cover.

Good value awards go to **BARNET** and especially to **KETTERING TOWN** who have shown that the cost of success on the pitch need not neccasarily be reflected onto the supporter. You pays your money...



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G M VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Up to and including Saturday 11th November 1989

									PROG.
Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	А	Pts	PRICE
1	DARLINGTON	15	10	4	1	29	8	34	60p
2	BARNET	16	9	з	4	30	17	30	50p
з	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	15	9	2	4	31	22	29	80p
4	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	16	7	7	2	27	15	28	70p
5	KETTERING TOWN	17	8	4	5	25	18	28	50p
6	RUNCORN	16	6	6	4	26	26	24	60p
7	YEOVIL TOWN	17	7	З	7	22	24	24	50p
8	WELLING UNITED	15	6	5	4	26	17	23	60p
9	NORTHWICH VICTORIA	16	7	1	8	20	26	22	60p
10	ALTR INCHAM	16	4	8	4	20	15	20	60p
11	BARROW	14	5	5	4	17	15	20	60p
12	TELFORD UNITED	16	5	5	6	20	29	20	65p
13	FARNBOROUGH TOWN	16	5	4	7	31	33	19	50p
14	CHORLEY	16	6	1	9	19	31	19	50p
15	SUTTON UNITED	16	5	Э	8	25	24	18	60p
16	STAFFORD RANGERS	15	4	6	5	12	17	18	60p
17	CHELTENHAM TOWN	13	5	з	5	14	22	18	70p
18	MERTHYR TYDFIL	14	4	5	5	17	22	17	60p
19	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	14	4	4	6	23	18	16	60p
20	FISHER ATHLETIC	13	13	4	1	8	16	13	60p
21	ENFIELD	16	4	1	11	21	36	13	60p
22	BOSTON UNITED	14	2	з	9	11	20	9	60p

A fact that John Motson would love to use: Of the 23 Conference goals scored by Wycombe to date, 19 came in 4 games.

A WOMENS GAME

introduction of The Women's football team at Wycombe Wanderers and the of the Women's staging International Friendly between England and Italy at Loakes Park, should have increased local awareness of a rapidly growing sector of our national game. CG takes its own brief look at the past, present and future of women's football.

Womens' football is by know means a new concept, in fact it can be traced back to the late 1880's when many women's matches took place, mainly for charity. Loakes Park first staged a women's match at the turn of the century with an exhibition South v North match (The north won, incidently).

Women's football, however took a step backwards in 1921 when the F A outlawed the playing of organised women's football. That rule was still in force in November 1969 when the Women's FA was founded with 44 member clubs and it was not until 1970 that the FA rescinded the ruling. Indeed it was as late as 1984 that the FA finally invited the WFA to become a member.

Internationally the first ever Women's World Cup took place in Italy in 1970. England were 'represented' in the main by Chiltern Valley, a team who played in the East Midlands Alliance but were outside the jurisdiction of the WFA. who dissociated itself from the venture. Denmark became the first winners of the competition, beating Italy 2-0. The following year Denmark again won the competition beating Mexico before over by 100,000 people at the Aztec Stadium. Play however was excessively violent - England's match with Argentina in the 1971 competition led to eight English players needing medical attention and two returned home with legs in plaster.

Proper organisation of the women's game came in November 1971



when FIFA and UEFA insisted that members recognise women's football in their countries and ensure proper control and administration.

The first 'official' international match for an England team was in 1972 and since then their major honours have been in winning the Little World Cup in Italy in 1985 and 1988; and reaching the final of the UEFA competition in 1984 and 1987. The next UEFA finals will take place in June 1991 with England aiming to qualify via a group containing Norway, Finland and Belgium.

Media coverage of the women's game in this country has generally been very poor. Yet how can the game expand without the backing of the media? As Linda Whitehead, Secretary of the WFA, has said "Who knew what American Football was until Channel 4 started to cover it?". Live TV coverage is common place in Sweden where there are over 100,000 registered players, whilst in West Germany there are 700,000 players and 3 to 4 million in America. This compares to the WFA with 8,000 registered players in 245 clubs, competing in 21 Leagues in 9 regions.

Last season a major breakthrough was made when extended highlights of the WFA Final was shown on Channel 4 and the England/Sweden game was played at Wembley prior to the men's game with Chile.

Wycombe Wanderers Ladies team was launched as part of the Club's 'Football in the Community' scheme. Initial reaction to the team was predictable. "I see Wycombe have started a women's team". Reply "I thought they've had one of those for years". Just one of a number of and prejudiced comments tedious associated with women's Football. Of course, few are suggesting that women can compete on equal terms with men's football. However, given the correct amount of media coverage, the game could evolve to become a popular part of the game particularly if teams are able to with use associate and the facilities of their local club. Wycombe Wanderers Ladies. who exhibition six-a-side played an match at Loakes Park prior to the home game with Runcorn, are hoping to compete in the Greater London League next season. The GLL is currently made up of 28 teams, all within a 35 mile radius of Marble Arch, and split into four divisions. The top division consists of Spurs, Watford, Leyton Orient, Friends of Fulham Reserves, Spurs, Walton & Hersham, Millwall Lionesses Reserves and Romford. The strongest Women's Leagues are generally accepted to be the Home Counties League Division

includes

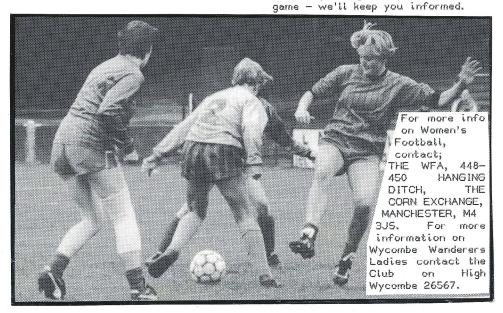
Millwall

One

which

Lionesses and Friends of Fulham and The North West League which Pacific includes Leasowe (last season's WFA Cup winners). Further development of the Womens' game may lead to national leagues being set up with a structure not dis-similar to the 'pyramid' arrangement in mens' non-League football.

The Women's game can draw further parallels with the mens non-League game in the way that, in general, it is treated as a novelty watched by a minority. Yet the women's game has more obstructions and hypocrisies to overcome. The traditionally masculine game is a breeding ground for sexist attitudes. On the terraces, female supporters are often subject to sexist comments and abuse. While away from the terraces women are still banned from entering boardrooms or of many clubs functions and stereotyped into a role of being either "persuassive female" a selling the raffle tickets or at the game only because their husband or boyfriend has dragged them there. Wycombe's attempt to introduce a ladies team may be seen by some as purely a publicity seeking exercise under the guise of a community initiative but if the project is carried through to its potential it can only do good for the Club and







SUMMARY by Paul Lewis The 1969/70 season was a time of change for Wycombe Wanderers. It was to be the first full season in charge for Manager/Coach Brian Lee who despite criticism axed the reserve team in favour of a squad system. Lee was also assisted for the first time by former Wycombe player John Reardon who had moved from Chesham United where he had taken them to the final of the Amateur Cup two seasons earlier.

Behind the scenes Bill Hayter, of the Club for the Secretary previous 20 years, did not stand for re-election at the Football Club's AGM in July 1969 following an "lack of interest apparent being shown by other members of the Committee". Mr Hayter, a local printer whose company also printed the Club programme, told the Bucks Free Press prior to the AGM "Oh for Bob Spratchett or Johnny a Timberlake, whom I served under and who insisted that duties were done and that all games were attended by officers and committee men".

Other departures included Req Maskell who stepped down from his role as Treasurer to be replaced by ธเแ Roger Lee, while Hayter's position was taken by Bert Crump. On the Supporters Club front the Football Club announced they would be taking over the amenities at Loakes Park, including the running of the tea-bars and Club House. However, in a shock turn-around by the Football Club, they reversed their decision and in a statement to the press said "The parent body has apologised for the inconvenience caused to the Supporters' Club by its earlier decision." The statement also went on to say that "For the benefit of the Club as a whole, it was essential that the two bodies should have frequent meetings to ensure smoother working and to obviate misunderstandings of this nature arising in the future." Season Tickets cost 2 guineas and programmes were 6d (21/2p)



On the pitch Brian Lee announced new signings before the several League programme got underway, most noteably, centre-half John Delaney from Slough Town, and Welsh International Geoff Anthony from Carnegie College. They were joined in November by Oxford University Student Peter Suddaby and Dulwich midfielder Keith Hamlet Blunt. Suddaby was one of many Wycombe players to receive representative honours during the season. Suddaby gained England Amateur Caps, as did Delaney, while Julian Lailey toured with Japan the Combined A young Viv Busby Universities. also represented the F A before leaving Wycombe to become a fulltime professional at Luton Town. With so many new additions to the squad in was inevitable that there would be departures. After 15 years with the Club, demon winger Len Worley played his last game in a Wycombe shirt. Also departing was former Club Captain Keith Samuels, also unable to gain a regular place. Results wise the season began well but an extended run in the F A Cup ended at Barnet where after a 0-0 draw at Loakes Park before a gate of 4,200, the Wanderers were 3-0 losers in the replay at Underhill in front of 2,956. When The Amateur Cup got serious with a trip to Wealdstone, Wycombe were top of the League with 38 points from 24 games, 2 points clear of Enfield who had played 2 games less. The game at Wealdstone was won by a single Tony Horseman goal in the 34th minute to the delight of the estimated 2,000 plus Wycombe fans in the 4,129 crowd. The game also marked the return to Lower Mead of former 'Stones strikers Keith Searle and Johnny Hutchinson who had both joined Wycombe during the first half of the season.

Any hopes of a League and Amateur Cup double were though were dashed when 5t Albans City shocked a crowd of 9,520 at Loakes Park with a 2-0 victory in the Quarter-Final. After a surprise defeat to Maidenhead United in the Berks and Berks Senior Cup, the League Championship race hotted up with Wycombe only drawing their final game at Kingstonian, leaving Enfield to pip them for the title by winning their remaining two games (away to Clapton and home to Hitchin).

The Club's only honour during an eventful season was The Premier Midweek Floodlight League which was won following a victory at Leatherhead seven days after a bruising encounter at Loakes Park.

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WOKINGHAM TOWN are turning out to be AYLESBURY UNITED's main contenders for this season's promotion place to the Conference.

'The Ducks' have boasted several new signings this season, including Steve Cox from Barnet and more recently striker Glenville Donegal a £15,000 signing from Northampton Town. Average League gates at Buckingham Road this season have been around the 1,000 mark, with over 1,800 turning out for the midweek 3-1 home defeat to Wokingham Town which saw Alan Churchward in goal on loan from Cheltenham Town.

Aylesbury have recently despelled renewed rumours that their ground is to be sold. In a statement issued by Chairman, Neil Stonnell he said "the present Board of Directors have never considered selling the ground for any reason whatsoever." Stonnel didn't rule out any future sale if the conditions were right for the Club and confirmed that the previous Board were negotiating to sell the ground. Stonell also suggested that "The previous Board of Directors were wasting the precious assets of the Club", referring in particular to 18 building plots which had been sold for £150,000 in 1988.

Disturbing news at DULWICH HAMLET where the three terrace sides of their ground have been closed due to safety requirements leaving a 300 limit imposed on their main stand. Work is hoped to take place soon to raise the limit to 500 but with money and time at a premium there appears to be difficult times ahead for one of the most famous of the amateur Clubs. Planning permission is being sought to re-develop the site and re-locate the ground on the training pitch but an appeal may be necessary before success.

up to and includi	ng	11th	Nover	nbei	r
	ΡĹ	W	D	L	Pts
AYLESBURY UTD	15	10	З	2	33
WOKINGHAM TOWN	13	9	з	1	30
KINGSTONIAN	12	7	з	2	24
BASINGSTOKE T	11	8	0	З	24
CARSHALTON ATH	15	7	З	5	24



There couldn't be more of a contrast between the early pacemakers in the HFS Loans Premier Division. Leaders at the start of November

were SOUTH LIVERPOOL who are still recovering from the loss of their Club House through fire at the start of the season. The Club House provided South's major source of income but despite operating on a shoe-string budget have topped the table for the first time since they joined the Northern Premier League as founder members 21 years ago. Continued success at South Liverpool will be even more remarkable as deals worth £5,000 have taken winger Peter Withers to Runcorn while a massive £25,000 fee took striker Karl Thomas to nearest rivals, Colne Dynamoes.

COLNE DYNAMOES, last season's First Division Champions, are continuing with their climb up the non-League Pyramid thanks to a heavy financial backing from their 94 year old Club Chairman, Harry Pickup. Colne currently boast a several full-time players squad and administrative team and in addition to the purchase of Thomas have also signed Andy Lee from Telford United for a £25,000 fee and Tony Rodwell from Runcorn for another 'substantial' fee. Colne's style is proving popular with the locals, with crowds regularly nearing the 1,000 mark, but may not be so popular with the rest of the league Former Everton midfielder Andy King has continued his 'groundhopping' exploits with a move to SOUTHPORT. King spent a short spell with Irish Club Waterford last season as Player-Manager having previously 'ticked-off' Aylesbury, Kingstonian and Chesham. It almost goes without saying that King lasted less than a month at Southport before packing his bags for pastures new.

PREMIER DIVISION - TOP FIVE up to and including 11th November Pi W D i Pte

	22	ŶΫ	υ.	E P65
COLNE DYNAMOES	16	12	2	2 38
SOUTH LIVERPOOL	18	11	4	3 37
WITTON ALBION	14	10	2	2 32
BISHOP AUCKLAND	15	8	з	4 27
HYDE UNITED	15	8	З	5 27



As usual the Beazer Homes League is a closely fought race with DOVER ATHLETIC and BATH CITY setting the early pace ahead of the previous two seasons' runners-up DARTFORD.

Dover's unbeaten start to the season was ended by WEALDSTONE who are now managed by former Wycombe boss Alan Gane. Gane replaced Tony Jennings in September who resigned after a run of poor results and reported discussion of his position by the Directors without his Jennings moved knowledge. toWealdstone in December 1987 but despite heavy spending in the close season, had failed to get results. This season will almost definetely be 'The Stones' last at Lower Mead. A meeting of Club Members in July voted overwhelmingly for a temporary move to Willesden Stadium, some eight miles from Lower Mead, in the Borough of Brent. The move to the artificial pitch at Willesden will take place at the end of the season when the sale of Lower Mead, valued at around £7m, will clear current debts of more than £1m. As yet no permanent site has been found in their home Borough of Harrow and this surely must be a top priority. Former Wycombe player, George Borg, finally accepted the Manager's job at CHELMSFORD CITY during November. Borg leaves the Manager's position at Barking to join a side struggling in 21st place in the Premier Division and who are currently undergoing major changes to their ground. 'The Barn', a full length piece of covered terracing opposite the main stand has been completely demolished and the resulting area turfed in preparation for Phase Two of the scheme. This will involve turning the pitch 90° and rebuilding the rest of the ground to suit.

PREMIER	DIVISION	- TOP	FIVE
		- 4411	N P

up to and includ	ing	lith	Nover	nbei	r -
	PL	W	D	L	Pts
BATH CITY	16	10	з	з	33
DOVER ATHLETIC	15	10	2	з	32
BURTON ALBION	16	9	Э	4	30
DARTFORD	13	9	2	2	29
GRAVESEND & N	14	8	4	2	28

How do you get from Fisher Athletic to Liverpool via Scunthorpe, Newport and Burton in 2 hours 3 minutes and 37 seconds? Answer; listen to the double-album package of football songs compiled by Confection Records impresario Michael Alway. Mr Alway, the man responsible for issuing the delightful Choirboys Gas album by Bad Dreams Fancy Dress, has managed to capture 46 'songs' from all ranks of football dating back to Glasgow Rangers' 1961 'Follow Follow' to Kingstonians' 1989 'These Nearly Nearly Glory Glory Days'. From Blackpool to Brighton, from Hartlepool to Hearts, from Chelsea to Charlton, from Wealdstone to Maidstone. from Bournemouth to Gravesend, there's enough "Here we go's" and "We're the best team in land's" to get you rushing to the bathroom faster than a burger from Kidderminster.

As the wonderfully illustrated cover says "The records were, almost without exception, appaling, many ranking among the worst indignities ever inflicted on the human ear. But that is not the point. It was enough that (most of) these cultural icons were supremely skilled in another performing art."

A prime source of inspiration for collection has been the the Independent Network of Football Fanzines and where a few fanzines have included a free flexi-disc of their Club's song, FLAIR includes its own free fanzine. The FLAIR Magazine contains 17 new articles including two reprinted programme notes from Lincoln's Colin Murphy which I can assure you are ten worse/better than when times Lincoln were in the Conference.

FLAIR is a perfect Christmas present for someone who thinks they know all the football songs.

Would-be buyers of FLAIR, having trouble in tracking down a copy, can order copies from the Blues Club Programme Shop on match days for delivery in time for Christmas.

אצעל גשעפע

Since our last major update on Adams Park back in June there appears to have been a change of attitude by the Club in releasing information about the new ground at Hillbottom Road. At the time of writing, the programme has been used on two occasions by Brian Lee to update proceedings and plans were posted in the Club House along with a revised artists impression of the stadium.

After a couple of changes in design, the final project has been designed by Design Services of Boreham Wood - the same facility that have been responsible for the grounds at Aylesbury and Kingstonian. Adams Park is by far the largest football stadium undertaken by Design Services and includes a contract Atcost for the pre-cast with framework for the ground worth close to £750.000.

On paper it looks an adequate ground, but how do the plans compare to the reality at the site? By the start of November the first pre-cast concrete structures were being put in place following the completion of the foundations. Seeding of the pitch took place in mid September and there is already a thin layer of grass covering the level playing area. The actual brickwork between the framework is likely to start in December.

The main stand - on the north side of the pitch - has been the first structure to take shape. When completed it will seat 1,200 people in seven tiers of seats along the entire length of the pitch. This small represents a suprisingly increase on the current seating capacity at Loakes Park - which stands at fractionally under 1,000 when in full use. Although big when compared to Aylesbury's 400 seater stand at Buckingham Road, it may prove to be inadequate if we are challenging for honours in the Conference. Seats could of course be added to the opposite stand but bolting seats to areas designed for standing would be a compromise to comfort and further reduce capacity.

A question often asked by supporters of Wycombe is, why has the design of the ground been compromised from the previous submission? As reported in the summer edition of CHAIRBOYS GAS, the final plans for the new ground were modified from the originally tendered version as the costs were "unacceptably high" to the Club. Estimates for the total cost of revised project are reported to be in the region of £3million, which will be funded almost entirely by the sale of Loakes Park. The 6.74 acre site at Loakes Park is prime building site but the Club will not benefit from the enormous escalation in land prices of the last three years as the contract to sell the ground to developers Westbruton, drawn up in December 1985, was at a fixed price. Which means that while the new ground is obviously being built at 1989 prices, Loakes Park is being sold at a bargain 1985 price. Quite how much the Club has potentially lost from the these unfortunate circumstances is a matter of great debate. A 1.75 acre plot of land in London Road, High Wycombe was sold in October of this year for over £2.5million and equating these figures to the site at Loakes Park puts the 1989 potential at Loakes Park at over £10million. This may well be an over estimation but it is fair to say that this could well be the difference between having a very good ground and having an even better ground AND some vital backup money in the bank, which we have seen is essential to meet the high expenditure of a top Conference side. Now, of course, it is a question of

making the best of what we have got - there is no going back. The Club in their search for additional funding for Adams Park has set a date for the vacation of Loakes Park despite one of the major 'selling points' of the new ground to the supporters being the fact that we would not move out until the new ground was complete in every detail. Now with cash at a premium a deadline of the 14th May 1990 has set proved to which been "financially beneficial" to the Club.



We understand the Club will benefit by a figure close to £100,000 and additional funding has also been authorised by the Football Trust who have given the Club a grant of £45,000 for the "community based" facilities at the new site.

This funding by the Football Trust comes shortly after the submission of plans to the local council for an artificial pitch training pitch at the new ground. The headline in the Bucks Free Press on 15 September of "WANDERERS APPLY TO HAVE SYNTHETIC PITCH" may have caused a few heart palpitations amongst Wycombe fans, but the proposal is for an artificial pitch in addition to the main grass pitch and situated on the area of land where spoil heap from the site the excavation currently stands in skislope proportions. This area of land has been leased by the Club for the duration of the building contract for Adams Park, by which time the outcome of the planning

application should be known although don't count out further objections from Sands' residents who in the vast majority were totally against the relocation of the Club at the Green Belt site at the end of Hillbottom Road.

The Club should be praised for this ambitious initiative and should it come to fruition, deserves the utmost credit in taking a lead of keeping the main pitch real grass and the adjacent training pitch plastic (take note Hyde, Oldham, Preston and especially Luton). It is not certain where the funding for this project would come from but with the right direction of funds at the new site there is no reason why can not be accessible this an addition to community facilities in the area that should also promote greater affinty to the Club.

> Paul Lewis November 1989

Do They <u>Mean Us?</u> Do They Mean Us? Mean Us? Do They Mean Us? Do They Do They Mean Us? Do They Mean Us?

WATERLOGGED

1-0 up against Merthyr and at least another half-a-dozen on the way then the skys open and Loakes Park is flooded. Still it did mean a mention in the Diary Column in the following Friday edition of THE INDEPENDENT.

> "WHAT an amazing summer," Rod Lavers, the Wycombe Wanderers groundsman, moaned in an article for Tuesday's programme describing "a constant battle as the sun has laid siege to our pride and joy. I'm the man who stands by the tunnel looking hopefully upwards for some large mass of cloud to discharge its contents on to our beloved turf — but not on a match day, please."

After 16 minutes of the game against Merthyr Tydfil, the match was abandoned as Rod's prayer was answered prematurely by a storm which left the sloping Loakes Park pitch watertogged. Syndication of Rod's column is to be made available to farming journals worldwide.

It's not often that the groundsman has a column in the programme but the next time he does, take cover because it could be World War Three.

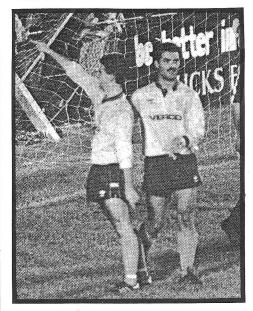
ONLY KIDDING We're not in the habit of picking up on minor spelling mistakes but Gravesend's programme caused a few smiles at the Chairboys Gas offices.

when we gave as good as we got against a Wycombe side that had gone goat mad in previous games.

We're obviously trying to compete with Merthyr.

GIPP DIVISION

David Gipp's short stay at Wycombe produced a few goals but his second against Fisher during the 6-1 victory at Loakes Park produced an unfortunate celebratory pose captured for posterity by the BUCKS FREE PRESS.



HAIR RAISING

I wonder what Tony Jennings, the ex-Manager at Wealdstone, NOW thinks of Sean Norman's recent move to Chesham United for a rumoured £20,000 plus.? Jennings wasn't happy at paying £9,000 for Norman at the beginning of the season and Wycombe on inflating blamed transfer fees. Now it appears that Chesham have taken that role having paid out close to £100,000 in transfer fees this season. But what difference has it made? The last I saw, Chesham were 7th in Division One of the Vauxhall League and Dave Sansom was in desperate need of a haircut.

CLOSE TIES

Thanks to all those who reported a rare sighting of what we thought was an extinct breed - no not a full complement of Directors at an away game - but the infamous Wycombe Wanderers kipper tie. The scarf like item was seen hanging around the neck of Michael Wale on SOUTH-EAST AT SIX as he previewed Gary Lester's testimonial against Spurs. And if that wasn't enough the very same accessory was seen draped around the throat of our new Parry as Director. Alan he interviewed Bobby Robson after the Italy/Brazil game shown late night on ITV. Apparently the tie thought the game wasn't bad and was last seen at Bisham Abbey training with the England team. Well if Trevor Stevens can get in the team....etc.

NO COMMENT

Yeovil's annual win at Loakes Park came courtesy of "one of the strangest decisions I have ever witnessed in football" according to Jim Kelman in the Wycombe programme and added "I cannot for the life of me see how a referee can give a goal when he was on a diagonal 25 yards away.". Although many Wycombe fans would go along with these comments, there are times when it is better to say nothing than issue comments that can only bring the game into disrepute (what ever that means?). Next time try something like "I refuse to comment on the of incompetence the referee". Meanwhile Alan Parry on CLUBCALL referred to the game where in "very controversial circumstances.. Yeovil got away with three points". Yeovil's HUISH HOTLINE also referred goal the to 85 "controversial" but that's where the similarity ends. Their line also carried commentry from the game, a full time report and later daily updated interviews with the Manager and players. It just shows you what can be done with sufficient organisation and enthusisiam, or are we just being cynical?.

DISHY COVERAGE When was the last time you saw two camera crews at Loakes Park? Answer if you were one of the 1.014 at the Womens' International at Loakes Park on 1st November. The England v Italy game gave SKY TV their first chance to visit Loakes Park, who were covering the game for Sky News. A short report was transmitted at 11.00pm later that evening, where "a decent size crowd turned out" to see the 1-1 draw. The second camera crew were from Granada TV who were compiling a documentry on professional Women's football - focusing their main attentions on the full-time Italians. The programme is due for transmission on Monday 27th November at 8.30pm. Local coverage of the game was particularly poor, with barely a mention in the local papers leading up to the game and token reports of the game delayed by up to 10 days. Why wasn't a prestigious game of this standing given more publicity

CRACK REPORT

than it received?

However, the greatest honour is left to last. Jeff Powell "Chief Sports Feature Writer" for the DAILY MAIL provided a three-quarter page fetaure on the game the following Friday which included a standard "Loakes Park, the sloping home of one of our more renowned non-League clubs." He also commented on "Wycombe's muddy pitch" Now the pitch may be on a slope but it certainly wasn't muddy. Maybe Chief Powell has got too used to seeing the sun scorched pitches of Italy and Spain where football to him is ideal or perhaps he was dissapointed there wasn't any crowd trouble so he could again advocate the ID Card scheme. Then again he may have turned up at the game by mistake, thinking that it was some Americanised event that is about as relevant to British Society as being caught in an earthquake.

Gas⊠Bag

IAN BRUCE,

64 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, HEATHFIELD, EAST SUSSEX, TN21 8JX.

Dear Gas,

Well, the Brighton branch of the W.W Supporters' Club is flourishing. I've now succeeded in talking 14 Brighton fans to accompany me to Wycombe games, and with current interest running high, there may be more to follow.

The biggest talking point at the moment is David 'Maradona' Gipp. Well loved throughout the Brighton reserves lans for scoring a goal every other game - he unlortunate to 4 wis only make appearances in a first team shirt. Į was one of the lucky few to be at Blackburn a couple of years ago or so ago when he came on as sub. 10 minutes from the end and rattled the woodwork with his very first touch. He was then exceedingly unlucky at the start of the following season to be partnered by 'Dickie' Tiltman at Chesterfield in a goalless draw in his penultimate Brighton game. Anyone other than Tiltman and it would have been 5-0. life were. therefore, most sad when he left us for the backwaters of Underhill.

No longer though – Mighty Mouse suddenly turns up at my beloved Wycombe; more to the point the Blues season suddenly brightened. 1-0 up versus Merthyr during Gipp's first quarter of an hour; 5-3 winners at Enfield, including a superb Gipp volley; pulling back 3 goals against Kidderminster when he comes on as sub. and then, last night, a memorable performance from Gipp (with a little help from Westy!!) brings a 6-1victory and a happy journey back to Sussex for the 3 Brighton fans present. So Wycombe fans, let's persuade Jim Kelman to sign him on to enable our hero to have played for the two greatest teams in the world. All the best Ian Bruce. N.B. If there are any fellow Wycombe fans from Sussex who would like to share lifts and enjoy a mad day out, please contact me.

> STEPHEN LEE, CARDIFF, SOUTH GLAMORGAN.

Dear Gas,

I'd like to take this opportunity to relay my experience of the the trip to Kettering on 3rd October. I took a day off college and travelled to Kettering with some college pals.

Although I had warned them what to expect, they were amaged at the size and enthusiasm of our support. So much so that they even joined in the continuous singing in the second-half! The only sad point was the band of hooligans who caused trouble outside the ground, and the result of course – theft on a grandscale!

Could you please ask Mr Parry if he could update his information line more often, or appoint someone to do so. How about more regular interviews with the Manager? It would increase interest in the line and therefore increase Club revenue. At present our info line falls pitifully short of other 'smaller' clubs in the Conference such as Barnet and Kidderminster.

Finally, is there any truth in the rumour I've heard that the full England side are to play at Loakes Park, as some kind of celebration of our move? Yours Sincerely Stephen Lee.

BYGONES

with apologies to Victor Lewis Smith, Paul Sparkes and 'Club X'/Channel 4 TV

BYGONE #5 THE DAMBUSTERS THEME!!! THE DAMBUSTERS THEME!!!

Used to be played over the tannoy at Loakes Park as Wycombe took the field. Hopelessly out dated and sounded really naff. Replaced this season by the wonderful Official Colourbox World Cup Theme which at least doesn't give the impression that the Club is still celebrating World War II

BYGONE #6

(TAKING) THE BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR CUP (SERIOUSLY)!!! (TAKING) THE BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR

CUP (SERIOUSLY)!!!

In the early part of this century, if Wycombe won the County Cup, they would ride through the streets of the Wycombe in an open-top charabanc, acknowledging the cheers of the massed thousands as they went. Nowadays we field reserve teams, lose five-nil and people leave at half-time.

BYGONE #7 THE SPORTSMANSHIP POOL!!! THE SPORTSMANSHIP POOL!!!

Another crazy invention from the days of Rothmans' sponsorship of the Isthmian League whereby each booking and sending off reduced your share of the Pool. Particularly good news for teams such as Wycombe and Sutton who gained no more than two or three bookings every ten years, whereas Enfield, who won all the prize money, had to forfeit it all due to a 100 bookings and ten sendings off a season.

BYGONE #8

THE BROADSHEET SIZED MIDWEEK!!! THE BROADSHEET SIZED MIDWEEK!!! Back in the 1970's, the Midweek Free Press, as it was then called, was the same size as the Friday Bucks Free Press. Remarkably ambitious for its time, containing a full report of the Saturday match along with Club news and even mentioned the up and coming midweek fixture. The Friday BFP would then contain a full preview of the next match and yet even more news (not just a corrected, reprinted version of the report that appeared three days earlier).



BYGONE #9 JOHNNY KERR!!! JOHNNY KERR!!! U 5 International signed by Wycombe in 1988 and signed again in 1989. Loved a good dive in the penalty area - especially against Kidderminster.



Saturday 11 November 1989 Barnet Barrow Cheitenham Altrincham Farnborough Runcorn Kettering Yeovil Macclesfield Darlington Northwich Merthyr Stafford Enfield Sutton Chorlev Telford Welling Wycombe Boston Monday 13 November 1989 Kidderminster Fisher Saturday 16 November 1989 Enfield Boston Runcorn Fisher Wycomba Barrow Saturday 25 November 1989 Barnet Stafford Barrow Kettering Chorley Boston Enfield Altrincham Farnborough Darlington Fisher Telford Kidderminster Sutton Merthyr Runcorn Northwich Cheltenham Welling Macclesfield Yeovil Wycombe Tuesday 28 November 1989 -Wycombe Merthyr 5aturday 2 December 1989 Altrincham Fisher Boston Runcorn Cheltenham Farnborough Welling Darlington Enfield Kidderminster Kettering Barnet Telford Macclesfield Merthyr Barrow Sutton Yeovil Wycombe Northwich Saturday 9 December 1989 Barnet Farnborough Barrow Kidderminster Boston Wycombe Fisher Cheltenham Kettering Enfield Northwich Altrincham Darlington Runcorn Stafford Macclesfield

Saturday 9 December 1989 Welling Sutton Telford Chorley Yeovil Merthyr Saturday 16 December 1989 Altrincham Stafford Cheitenham Enfield Sutton Farnborough Chorley Fisher Barrow Kidderminster Ketterina Macclesfield Merthyr Runcorn Northwich Telford Boston Welling

Darlington Yeovil Barnet

Fixtures marked # are provisional due to possible F A Cup involvement



Wycombe

F----CUP А First Round Proper-Saturday 18th November 1989

Second Round Proper Saturday 9th December 1989

A TROPHY 3rd Qualifying Round Saturday 2nd December 1989

First Round Proper Saturday 13th January 1990

When Saturday C ≠omes

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