

Chairboys Gas

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

INSIDE

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

"Will you come to
White Hart Lane?"



ALSO INSIDE

BRIAN LEE
THE INTERVIEW
(PART TWO)

"BEHIND THE GOAL"
"SEASON BY SEASON"
FIXTURES, RESULTS
& MORE

30p

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1987-88

Chairboys

Gas

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

EDITORIAL

It's difficult to start writing this Editorial without falling into some official sounding sermon regarding the present state of Wycombe Wanderers F C. But the situation is beginning to become desperate - with relegation looming ever closer. There is still time, however, and I was recently reminded that at this stage last season Windsor & Eton were in a similiar position to us in the Vauxhall Opel League, yet they survived and are now heading their League. Wealdstone have also recently proved that just a few results in your favour can lift you away from the danger-zone.

Talking of Wealdstone, we are due to visit them on January 9 in the first of several relegation battles heading our way in the next few weeks. I expect the Wycombe contingent will be as large as ever for this Conference derby but please keep your heads in what is likely to be a supercharged atmosphere. As The Queen said in her Christmas speech loyalties can sometimes get out of hand and tolerance is the key. I have a feeling that our loyalty and tolerance are to tested to the full this season.

Later in January we entertain Cheltenham in a Conference fixture before making our first ever visit to The Surrey Docks Stadium, home of Fisher Athletic. Also due in January is an away Berks & Bucks tie at Didcot Town - well at least that's one game we can't lose!

Enjoy the reading.

Paul Lewis

Contributions and assistance for this issue from Phil Ball, Ian Blacklidge, Simon Burrage, Brian Lee, Steve Maguire, Andy Reston and P K Graphics.

BEHIND THE GOAL with Simon Burrage.

Have any of you heard of 'TOUCLINER', 'TALK OF THE TOWN END' or 'THE ELMSLIE ENDER'? In case you haven't, these are the supporters' magazines of Sutton United, Enfield and Wealdstone respectively. Over the last 18 months or so the so-called 'Alternative Football Network' has spread to such an extent that so many Football League clubs now have independent supporters magazines that it has become difficult to keep track. Similarly supporters of many non-League clubs have joined in. Generally speaking, all are directly or indirectly inspired by the new super-hip and trendy football magazines, OFF THE BALL and WHEN SATURDAY COMES, and all have more or less the same aims - to provide an outlet for the views of the 'ordinary' supporter (hence columns from someone like yours truly, whose only previous expressions of opinion amounted to the standard 'Bollocks ref that was never a foul' or 'send the bastard off' from the terraces. Now I can dress-up such attitudes in the guise of reasoned argument, ha ha). With these publications being detached from the clubs themselves - though if a good relationship can be maintained between the two, most clubs allow their supporters to sell the mags inside the ground - more outspoken views can be expressed, and in many cases, a good degree of humour can be used. Club programmes, inevitably, have to be careful about what they say, as they are official statements of the Clubs themselves and Clubs can be fined under most leagues' regulations for 'bringing the game into disrepute' if their programme is offensive or disrespectful towards match officials or other clubs. Just 2 or 3 years ago Harrow Borough were in hot water with Isthmian officials when their programme strongly criticised a League decision to transfer a representative match from their ground to the Metropolitan Police ground at Imber Court, apparently because officials preferred its bar and social facilities. The Harrow programme editor vacated his position soon afterwards. Two seasons ago Paul Bence's notes for a Wycombe programme were unceremoniously withdrawn because they were considered particularly disrespectful to a rival club who we had played a few days earlier. More recently, a contributor to the Wycombe programme has been asked to not be specific in his comments with regard to other clubs. Now I would have to say at this point that these constraints are, in my opinion, not at all unreasonable. But it is because these restrictions exist, and have to exist, that the afore mentioned magazines have come into being. CHAIRBOYS GAS should not (and, I believe, does not) attempt to compete with the official WFFC programme. Ideally, the two should complement each other (maybe even compliment each other as well) (look the difference up in your dictionary if you're from Aylesbury - no disrespect intended). There have been rumours recently that Club Magazines are to be drawn into the same jurisdictions imposed on Club programmes despite the fact that they are mainly written and produced entirely independently of the club itself. If this is true it creates the startling possibility that a club could be forced to take responsibility for something completely beyond their control. It would be a shame if such publications suddenly found themselves the subject of some kind of official witch-hunt, because I believe that on the whole they actually do a lot to improve relations between 'rival' supporters. For instance, Wealdstone have never been one of my favourite clubs (or many peoples for that matter). Usually I would probably laugh all through the close season if Wealdstone were to be relegated from the Conference but having recently read a couple editions of the excellent ELMSLIE ENDER I might actually be more inclined to feel sympathy for their fans (especially if we were to go down with them!) As for TALK OF THE TOWN END, this is an admirable publication and one which has proudly existed for a few years now - I think it would be fair to say that TOTE was a major inspiration behind the setting up of CHAIRBOYS GAS. Personally I used to always regard Enfield as the 'old enemy' - but mainly due to reading TOTE, I find myself

continued over.....

continuation.....

looking on their supporters as just another bunch of blokes, like us in many respects - suffering the ups and downs of following their Football Club with passion, pride and a sense of humour.

OK, that's enough about supporters' magazines for now....I'd better write something about what's happening on the pitch, or you'll be thinking this is the NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS or something. (gig or record reviews anyone?). Since the last CG a pattern seemed to be developing (until Kettering) of gutsy away performances producing unlikely but very welcome results alternating with nervy, disappointing home defeats. The Weymouth and Runcorn trips were particularly interesting and enjoyable, both for very different reasons. The game at Weymouth gave the chance to see the new Wessex Stadium, of particular interest to our officials and supporters alike with the spectre of a ground move looking over our Club at the moment. I must admit I was not entirely unimpressed with the new set-up, though perhaps inevitably any brand new ground built from scratch lacks any feeling of character or tradition. The view from the terraces (more important to the large majority than the view from the directors box or executive bar areas) was good, though overall the ground was basic, functional and adequate for coping with a segregated 'Football League' type crowd. But couldn't they have roofed the whole of the terrace opposite the main stand? With regard to Hillbottom Road, I would certainly not be pleased if we give up Loakes Park for anything less than Weymouth have: and if our new ground is to be up to Football League standard, it certainly could not be any smaller. Interesting to note that Weymouth's home attendances have increased substantially - virtually doubled in fact - since their move 'out of town'. (One of the major arguments against our move to Sands has always been that some people will not bother to make the new journey). A couple of other points crossed my mind that day at Weymouth. One was that I thought it rather odd that the end of the ground designated for away fans, in the event of segregation being necessary, was the covered end, whereas the home supporters behind their goal were left in the open. This would surely come as something of a shock to away fans if Weymouth were to gain Football League status, as the current trend with 'bigger' clubs is to provide away fans (the most loyal and valuable supporters the game has) with the worst view, conditions and facilities possible (Lincoln City fans may feel that this is what they found at Wycombe, but that's another matter). The other thing that amused me was their 'keeper, Peter Guthrie, now signed by Spurs for £100,000. With less than 100 opposition fans behind the goal, he reacted to fairly innocuous, routine jibes from the terraces - most not even directed at him specifically - by making a series of 'impolite' gestures in our direction, to the point where several fans complained to the nearby police officers who then reprimanded him for his behaviour at the end of the match. Just one question - When or if the time comes, how on earth is he going to cope with keeping goal in front of the Kop at Anfield? (Come to think of it how is he going to cope keeping goal behind Spurs' present defence?).

Finally, a few words about Runcorn. I say a 'few' words because this was the sort of dream-like occasion which lives in supporters memories forever and not even an entire page could do justice to the euphoria we all felt as those two goals hit the net. Whereas I felt we were well worth the point at Weymouth, it was difficult not to feel a little embarrassed that we were not already losing by a half dozen by the time Messrs. Norman and Boyland struck. An excellent performance by Gary Lester and his defence, an unnecessary penalty conceded by a generous Runcorn defender and an outrageous 30 yarder by Mark Boyland (Welcome to Wycombe Mark!) were enough for an extraordinary 0-2 scoreline which was worth three points and the most enjoyable journey home from "up north" since that win at Scarborough 2 years ago. Just a few more results like that and it really could be a happy new year...couldn't it???

*DO THEY MEAN US?
investigated by Steve Maguire*

In attempting to compile this column it is often necessary to look at all manner of publications - but I was rather surprised to find an interesting article in GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE.

A review by Chalfont secretary Mal Keenan of this area's local papers and the sports coverage they give led me to start buying the BUCKS ADVERTISER again. The Sports Diary has featured the Wanderers twice in recent weeks. His comments on the Bressington saga were on the cover of last month's CHAIRBOYS GAS, while Matt Carmichael's involvement in an Army tournament drew the following comments....*"It seems appropriate that someone involved with the Army should be playing for the Blues. After all, every week there is a Battle of Loakes Park as they come under fire from their opponents artillery. Wanderers' displays make trench warfare seem like a Sunday afternoon stroll in the park..."*

The BUCKS HERALD & THAME GAZETTE broke the news that Aylesbury's Manager, Trevor Gould was the first manager to approach Cheltenham Town about Mark Boyland (and Enfield were also rumoured to have been interested in him), but he was forced to drop out when he heard the £10,000 fee being asked. Gould said *"I can't compete with that sort of money"*. While Mark's arrival has given us some hope, he must have been amused by the comments in the WYCOMBE OBSERVER by Alan Parry that described him as a *"very promising YOUNG player"*. I can only assume that Alan was misquoted.

The movement of Rowan Dodds back to Windsor was first highlighted in the SLOUGH OBSERVER. *"Heard the one about David Regis going to Wycombe Wanderers and Rowan Dodds returning to Windsor"* was the opening to an article a week before the transfer that included the following quote from Windsor Manager John Clements...*"I spoke to John Reardon the other week about Rowan. The point is that at some stage a club is going to come in with an offer for Regis. We are going to have to replace him sometime. Wycombe simply said not to rule them out of being interested when the time comes"*

After reading praise of the Wanderers' support by various Wycombe Officials it's always interesting to read what other clubs think of us. Enfield supporters have their own magazine, the excellent TALK OF THE TOWN END, and in the December edition Alan Medlock wrote the following..*"we had a happy band of Wycombe followers at the Stadium, and despite witnessing some horrendous results this season, they cheered their team from start to finish, and, though they lost to us for the second time in a month, they applauded their team off at the end. Well done lads, that type of support will always be welcome at Southbury Road."*

I wonder what Mr Medlock would have made of the small section of home supporters during our match at Runcorn? After our two goals went in, the racial abuse directed at Kirk Corbin started, along with a full range of insults directed towards anything they considered 'Southern', including strangely enough the Government. Quite how chants of *"Maggie out"* are likely to help their team I fail to see. On a happier note at Runcorn, it was encouraging to see that the BUCKS FREE PRESS were represented again. By my reckoning they have only missed five games so far this season - a record that even some Directors of Club are unable to match.

Our opponents in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup, Didcot Town, were featured in the OXFORD TIMES. Their 4-2 home victory over Buckingham Town in the First Round was watched by just 34 spectators in game where *"Didcot rallied to score twice late on and clinch a second round home clash against mighty Wycombe Wanderers."*

Finally those of you who travelled to Kettering on Boxing Day may have been puzzled by Alan Buckley's Manager's Notes where he said *"Today we welcome one of the Conference League's new teams in Wycombe Wanderers, who have recently appointed a new manager..."???*



BARNET will be hoping that history repeats itself with promotion for the New Year leaders of the Conference. At the same stage last season Scarborough were top with 49 points from 25 games, with Barnet second with 48 points from 24 games. LINCOLN CITY meanwhile will need no reminding that this time last year they were seventh in the Fourth Division - ironically the same place that SCARBOROUGH hold this season.

BARNET's almost ceaseless assault for the Championship had only one hiccup in December when they drew 0-0 at lowly DAGENHAM. Barnet claim they should have had a penalty when Dagenham 'keeper Darren Williams struck a Barnet player out of view of the Referee. The F A have received a lineman's report regarding crowd problems following the incident. Barnet's 1-0 home victory over BOSTON UNITED later in December marked the Barnet debut for Gary Abbott, a £15,000 capture from WELLING UNITED. The prolific scorer has been the target of Barry Fry since the summer and will provide an immediate replacement for Nicky Evans who in the same match broke his leg. Evans had scored 12 Conference goals this season while Abbott has struck on 6 occasions for Welling. Barnet ended the year with emphatic 3-0 and 6-2 home victories over ENFIELD and SUTTON UNITED. Noel Ashford scored twice against Sutton including one from an amazing wind assisted 40 yard free kick.

LINCOLN CITY also had a good end to the year winning 2-1 at BOSTON UNITED before a record Conference gate of 5,822 and then beat KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS 5-3 at Sincil Bank before a 4,121 gate. Graham Bressington made his Lincoln debut when he came on as sub at home to MACCLESFIELD TOWN at the end of November. A huge cheer greeted his arrival on the pitch with City eventually winning 3-0. Suspension meant 'Rambo' missed City's next two games but he made his full debut at home to NORTWICH VICTORIA where he was booked but in game that saw Lincoln snatch a last minute 3-2 victory. Lincoln's chance of a place at Wembley in the F A Trophy Final nearly came unstuck at South Liverpool when they were held to a 1-1 draw and could also only manage a draw in the replay at Sincil Bank. The replay interrupted City's preparation for the big derby at Boston - City entered a hotel on the Monday before the game with the Club imposing a 10.00pm curfew on all their players.

WEYMOUTH, also in the hunt for League honours, recently ended weeks of transfer speculation when 'keeper Peter Guthrie opted for a £100,000 move to Spurs and so become Terry Venables first signing as Tottenham Manager. Venables watched the 26 year-old Geordie in action at Weymouth's F A Trophy game at Harrow Borough a game that ended 1-1 with Weymouth suprisingly losing the replay at the Wessex Stadium. Both Spurs and Newcastle were after Guthrie's services, who was a free transfer from Blyth Spartans in the close season. Guthrie has been ever present in the Weymouth side this season and has kept 13 clean sheets in their 20 Conference fixtures before the new year and conceded only 9 goals. His final game for Weymouth will be the top of the table clash with Barnet at the Wessex Stadium on Janaury 2.

The appointment of Tony Jennings as WEALDSTONE Manager has given 'The Stones' new hope in their fight to recover from their worst ever start to a season. Jennings, who has moved from fellow strugglers DAGENHAM, will bring with him an incredible knowledge of the non-League game. He was a player with Enfield and Hendon, captained the England Semi-Pro side and is currently assistant manager of the Semi-Pro side. His arrival saw Wealdstone end their run of 14 Conference games without a win when they won 2-1 at Dagenham during the Christmas break. 32 year old Alan Cordice got the winner for 'The Stones' having come out of retirement to play - Cordice last played for Wealdstone in the League in March 1986.

Tony Jennings move from DAGENHAM seems to have doomed the Essex side to relegation. Apparently Jennings was unable to accept the Club's instruction to make 'substantial' cuts in the team budget. Joe Dunwell, who has been a player at Dagenham for 12 years, takes over the Manager's position at Victoria Road but has already seen Jennings capture two of his former players - forward Samson Olaleye and defender Everal La Ronde.

Former Wycombe boss Alan Gane was one of the names initially mentioned when Wealdstone were searching for their new Manager. Gane apparently agreed to take the job after speaking with 'Stones' Vice-Chairman Alan Clifton, but then changed his mind and decided to remain at Staines Town. Wealdstone Secretary Peter Braxton told the Harrow Observer "We felt that he was the right man for the job, but he let us down". Slough Manager Alan Davies and Aylesbury Manager Trevor Gould were also rumoured to have been approached for the job before Jennings arrived.

Wealdstone are currently in discussions with HARROW BOROUGH regarding the possibility of 'The Stones' sharing their Earlsmead ground next season while Wealdstone's new ground is being built. Should the move go ahead it will be a reciprocal move for both clubs. Harrow Borough played at Lower Mead for a time in 1973 when their Earlsmead ground was being built. Wycombe play Wealdstone at Lower Mead on January 9 with the return at Loakes Park on February 6.

GENERAL MOTORS VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Up to and including Monday 28th December 1987

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
1	Barnet	22	15	5	2	59	20	50
2	Lincoln City	22	14	3	5	44	27	45
3	Stafford Rangers	25	12	7	6	45	32	43
4	Weymouth	20	13	3	4	29	9	42
5	Kettering Town	24	13	3	8	37	27	42
6	Telford United	25	11	6	8	37	29	39
7	Macclesfield Town	21	10	5	6	35	27	35
8	Kidderminster Harriers	22	10	4	8	42	41	34
9	Sutton United	22	8	9	5	39	26	33
10	Cheltenham Town	23	8	9	6	32	31	33
11	Maidstone United	22	9	5	8	41	35	32
12	Runcorn	22	8	7	7	29	28	31
13	Enfield	23	8	6	9	36	40	30
14	Boston United	23	8	5	10	31	35	29
15	Altrincham	23	8	3	12	27	33	27
16	Fisher Athletic	22	6	7	9	24	28	25
17	Welling United	19	7	2	10	28	32	23
18	Wycombe Wanderers	24	5	6	13	25	54	21
19	Dagenham	25	4	6	15	26	54	18
20	Wealdstone	24	2	11	11	20	43	17
21	Bath City	21	4	4	13	22	41	16
22	Northwich Victoria	18	2	6	10	15	31	12

SEASON BY SEASON

1937-8

SUMMARY by Steve Maguire.

'The Chairboys' enjoyed a reasonably successful Isthmian League campaign in 1937/38, most of the time we were amongst the leading group of three or four clubs before a poor finish to the season saw us end up in fifth place.

There was some comment concerning the fact that we had to play four league games out of a season total of 26, during the first 12 days of the season. Despite this and an early F A Cup exit at the hands of Slough, we had the chance to go top, when League leaders (and eventual Champions) Leytonstone visited Loakes Park. A disputed penalty, however, won the points for the visitors after we had missed a penalty ourselves.

During the early part of the season goalkeeper Ron Smith was in sparkling form, saving a number of penalty kicks, while the goalscoring exploits of Norman Turner earned him a place in the Isthmian League representative side. On a sadder note, long serving full-back Dick Cox, a great favourite with the crowd, missed most of the season through injury and was eventually forced to retire from the game.

The Amateur Cup First Round draw sent us down to Portland in Dorset, which meant an overnight stop for the players and officials due to the distance involved, but this did not stop some 150 supporters travelling to to support the team. Playing with the very strong wind in the first-half we built up a commanding lead which was enough to see us through. In the next round we were considered favourites against the Kent works team Aylesford Paper Mills, and a special train plus some 30 coachloads made up about half of the 3,400 crowd. 2-0 up after 30 minutes all seemed well, but in the second-half we were run off our feet and slipped to a rather embarrassing defeat.

We had more problems with smaller clubs in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup. After beating Aylesbury we ran up against a Marlow side containing eight former Wycombe players in the semi-final at Maidenhead, but could only draw after twice being behind. The replay saw another big crowd assemble, and once again we drew, this time with Marlow equalising 30 seconds from the end. The third game, this time at Slough, saw the Wanderers overwhelm their opponents, but for the second year in a row we lost to Windsor in the final, although we could have forced a draw if Meeks had not missed a last minute penalty.

Following the end of the season Loakes Park was used for the first time for a game known as Baseball. This sport involving a long piece of wood, a small ball and peaked caps is apparently still played in some of the developing countries.



COMPETITION	PL	W	D	L	FOR	AGA
Isthmian League	26	12	5	9	69	55
F A Challenge Cup	1	0	0	1	0	4
F A Amateur Cup	2	1	0	1	6	5
Berks & Bucks Senior Cup	5	2	2	1	12	5
Wycombe Hospital Cup	1	1	0	0	4	0
Friendly	3	0	2	1	6	9
TOTAL	38	16	9	13	97	78

GAME	DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP.	V	RESULT H-T	ATT	SCORERS
1	08/08/37	Dulwich Hamlet	IL	H	W 3-1 (3-0)	3000	Turner 2, Thompson
2	01/09/37	Oxford City	IL	H	W 7-0 (4-0)	1500	Turner 2, Britnell, Young, Thompson, Green, og
3	04/09/37	Leytonstone	IL	A	L 2-6 (1-3)		Turner, Andrews
4	09/09/37	Oxford City	IL	A	L 2-3 (0-3)		Turner, Thompson
5	11/09/37	Clapton	IL	H	W 4-2 (1-2)	3000	Turner 2, Thompson, Andrews
6	18/09/37	Slough	FAC	A	L 0-4 (0-0)		
7	25/09/37	London Caledonians	IL	H	W 2-1 (1-1)	3000	Turner, Thompson
8	02/10/37	Casuals	IL	A	L 2-3 (0-0)		Milton, Andrews
9	09/10/37	Leytonstone	IL	H	L 1-2 (0-1)	4000	Atkinson
10	16/10/37	Nunhead	IL	A	D 1-1 (1-0)		Thompson
11	23/10/37	Ilford	IL	A	D 1-1 (0-0)		Andrews
12	30/10/37	Clapton	IL	A	W 2-1 (2-1)		Thompson, Turner
13	06/11/37	Tufnell Park	IL	H	W 5-1 (1-1)	3500	Joys, Turner 3, Thompson
14	13/11/37	Woking	IL	H	W 7-1 (2-1)	3500	Andrews 2, Turner 2, Meeks, Thompson 2
15	20/11/37	Dulwich Hamlet	IL	A	D 3-3 (0-2)	6000	Turner 2, Young
16	27/11/37	London Caledonians	IL	A	L 2-4 (1-2)		Andrews, Thompson
17	18/12/37	Dagenham Town	Fr	A	D 2-2		Andrews, Thompson
18	25/12/37	Saint Albans City	IL	A	D 2-2		Meeks, Turner
19	27/12/37	Saint Albans City	IL	H	W 3-2	4000	Andrews, Thompson 2
20	01/01/38	Kingstonian	IL	H	W 4-0 (2-0)	3000	Meeks, Andrews 2, Turner
21	08/01/38	Woking	IL	A	W 3-2 (3-2)		Turner 2, Thompson
22	15/01/38	Portland United	FAAC1	A	W 4-1 (4-1)		Turner 2, Thompson 2
23	22/01/38	Dagenham Town	Fr	H	D 3-3	2000	Turner, Joys, Meeks
24	29/01/38	Aylesbury United	B&B 2	H	W 3-1 (1-1)	4000	Britnell, Joys, Turner
25	05/02/38	Aylesford Paper Mills	FAAC2	A	L 2-4 (2-1)	3400	Turner, Carr
26	12/02/38	Oxford University	Fr	H	L 1-4 (1-2)		Green
27	19/02/38	Ilford	IL	H	W 4-1 (2-0)	3000	Turner, Thompson, Joys, Britnell
28	26/02/38	Casuals	IL	H	L 0-4 (0-3)		
29	05/03/38	Marlow	B&B S/F	N	D 2-2 (1-2)	3500	Turner 2
30	12/03/38	Tufnell Park	IL	A	L 0-3 (0-2)		
31	19/03/38	Marlow	B&B S/F	N	D 1-1 (1-0)	4000	Thompson
32	26/03/38	Marlow	B&B S/F	N	W 6-0 (2-0)		Turner, Meeks, Joys, Young, Britnell, Thompson
33	02/04/38	Wimbledon	IL	H	D 2-2 (1-1)		Turner 2
34	09/04/38	Wimbledon	IL	A	L 1-3 (0-2)		Turner
35	18/04/38	Windsor & Eton	B&B Fin	N	L 0-1 (0-0)	6500	
36	30/04/38	Kingstonian	IL	A	L 1-3 (1-2)		Joys
37	07/05/38	Nunhead	IL	H	W 5-3 (4-0)		Turner 2, Joys 2, Young
38	14/05/38	Erith & Belvedere	WyHC	H	W 4-0 (2-0)		Turner, Thompson 2, Britnell

GOALSCORERS SUMMARY FOR SEASON 1937-1938

	IL	FAC	FAAC	B&B	WyHC	Fr	TOTAL	1937-38							
								P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
								Leytonstone	26	17	6	3	72	34	40
								Ilford	26	17	3	6	70	39	37
								Tufnell Park	26	15	2	9	63	47	32
								Nunhead	26	14	3	9	52	44	31
								Wycombe Wanderers	26	12	5	9	69	55	29
								Dulwich Hamlet	26	13	3	10	57	46	29
								Kingstonian	26	12	4	10	51	48	28
								Clapton	26	9	6	11	49	53	24
								Wimbledon	26	10	3	13	62	49	23
								London Caledonians	26	9	4	13	44	55	22
								Oxford City	26	7	7	12	35	71	21
								The Casuals	26	8	3	15	51	74	19
								Woking	26	7	2	17	41	72	16
								St Albans City	26	4	5	17	31	60	13
									---	---	---	---	---	---	---
									69	0	6	12	4	6	97



YEOVIL TOWN will be grabbing all the headlines for the Vauxhall-Opel League this month due to their F A Cup exploits. Tickets for their match with Q P R went on sale at the League match with ST ALBANS CITY at Huish and 6,079 were their to see the 0-0 draw.

Yeovil are still usefully placed in the League and will looking for the kind of run that took them to second place last season. On top of the League at the end of the year were WINDSOR & ETON where Rowan Dodds scored on his debut in their 3-1 defeat at LEYTONSTONE/ILFORD. Windsor forced a 1-1 draw out of Barnet in an F A Trophy game at Stag Meadow where the Monday night crowd was a dissapointing 544 following postponement from the previous Saturday.

Managerial changes in the Vauxhall-Opel include the arrival of Ted Hardy at LEYTONSTONE/ILFORD to replace John Still and Eddie Presland has taken over at DULWICH HAMLET in place of Billy Edwards.



DARTFORD celebrated the New Year by moving to the top of the BHL Premier Division. Dartford Manager, Peter Taylor, is hoping to sign CHELMSFORD CITY's star forward John Bartley, who is currently the leading scorer in the Premier Division. Bartley has scored 20 League & Cup goals this season out of a Club total of 35. Chelmsford have won only four matches this season and recently parted company with Manager Joe Sullivan.

Chasing Dartford for the promotion place are a group of four clubs, headed by LEICESTER UNITED. United, formerly known as Enderby Town, dropped valuable League points over the Christmas break - drawing 3-3 at home to SHEPSHED CHARTERHOUSE and losing 2-0 at home to WILLENHALL TOWN. Earlier in December Leicester also dropped home points when they drew with bottom club WITNEY TOWN. That game marked the debut for ex-Blue Jason Seacole. Seacole scored one and set-up another as Witney took a 3-1 interval lead. Witney also forced a draw at AYLESBURY UNITED on Boxing Day but still remain bottom with only one win all season.



MORECAMBE are the New Year leaders of the Northern Premier League having extended their unbeaten run in the League to 17 matches. Morecambe, managed by Joe Wojciechowicz, last lost a League match on September 14 at HYDE UNITED when they were in tenth place in the League.

Morecambe had a slight falter in their promotion campaign over the Christmas break when they drew at BARROW and at home to strugglers GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY - Trinity also suprised, FRICKLEY ATHLETIC on Boxing Day, inflicting a 1-0 defeat on the ex-Conference side.

Further down the table, ex-Liverpool defender Tommy Smith has resigned as Manager of CAERNARFON TOWN. He is replaced by Phil Wilson, who was with Town during their F A Cup run last season. Other Managerial changes in the Northern Premier include Colin Meldrum who returns to his old Club following a short spell at Wealdstone while at RHYL ex-Altrincham and Runcorn boss John Williams has taken over from Robert Hunt. Williams brings with him Terry Murphy as his assistant, thus maintaining the link they had at both previous clubs.

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Monday 28th December 1987

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Windsor & Eton	22	11	6	5	37	21	39
2	Slough Town	21	11	4	6	40	21	37
3	Bromley	18	11	2	5	33	17	35
4	Farnborough Town	18	11	1	6	36	24	34
5	Yeovil Town	17	10	3	4	29	14	32
6	Wokingham Town	17	10	3	4	26	19	32
7	St Albans City	21	10	2	9	35	31	32
8	Bishop's Stortford	21	10	2	9	30	28	32
9	Leytonstone/Ilford	18	9	4	5	26	16	31
10	Carshalton Athletic	17	9	3	5	31	22	30
11	Hayes	18	9	3	6	27	24	30
12	Hendon	20	8	3	9	31	33	27
13	Harrow Borough	20	7	6	7	25	28	27
14	Kingstonian	23	7	5	11	25	36	26
15	Bognor Regis Town	16	7	4	5	24	24	25
16	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	16	6	4	6	17	21	22
17	Leyton-Wingate	16	5	4	7	19	27	19
18	Croydon	17	3	7	7	17	22	16
19	Dulwich Hamlet	22	3	6	13	22	45	15
20	Barking	20	2	7	11	17	30	13
21	Basingstoke Town	17	3	4	10	15	35	13
22	Hitchin Town	19	2	4	13	17	41	10

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Monday 28th December 1987

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Dartford	18	10	5	3	29	21	35
2	Leicester United	19	9	7	3	42	26	34
3	Aylesbury United	16	10	4	2	28	12	34
4	Crawley Town	20	9	7	4	36	28	34
5	Bromsgrove Rovers	18	10	2	6	27	17	32
6	Fareham Town	17	8	5	4	24	19	29
7	Cambridge City	17	9	1	7	37	22	28
8	Alvechurch	18	7	7	4	21	23	28
9	Dorchester Town	17	7	4	6	20	18	25
10	Worcester City	15	7	3	5	20	19	24
11	Burton Albion	19	6	5	8	31	31	23
12	Gosport Borough	20	5	8	7	17	23	23
13	Willenhall Town	17	6	4	7	17	21	22
14	Ashford Town	17	6	4	7	23	28	22
15	Corby Town	18	6	4	6	22	28	22
16	Bedworth United	16	5	6	5	23	29	21
17	Shepshed Charterhouse	18	5	4	9	24	28	19
18	Chelmsford City	17	4	6	7	19	24	18
19	V S Rugby	15	4	5	6	19	17	17
20	Redditch United	18	3	5	10	22	33	14
21	Nuneaton Borough	19	2	7	10	24	38	13
22	Witney Town	17	1	5	11	14	34	8

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Monday 28th December 1987

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Morecambe	24	13	9	2	39	19	48
2	Chorley	22	14	4	4	44	20	46
3	Frickley Athletic	25	13	5	7	36	31	44
4	Hyde United	25	12	7	6	51	32	43
5	Worksop Town	23	12	7	4	51	33	43
6	Barrow	21	12	4	5	39	16	40
7	Goole Town	24	12	4	8	42	31	40
8	Southport	24	11	6	7	31	27	39
9	Rhyl	23	9	10	4	31	21	37
10	Marine	22	9	8	5	37	20	35
11	Bangor City	24	9	7	6	39	34	34
12	Horwich	23	9	5	9	29	23	32
13	Buxton	23	7	10	6	45	36	31
14	Witton Albion	22	8	7	7	27	23	31
15	Gateshead	27	8	4	15	39	43	28
16	Caernarfon Town	21	7	7	7	20	25	28
17	South Liverpool	20	6	9	5	31	30	27
18	Mossley	24	4	8	12	28	27	20
19	Matlock Town	20	4	5	11	22	40	17
20	Gainsborough Trinity	25	4	6	15	19	56	18
21	Oswestry Town	26	2	6	18	22	68	12
22	Workington	26	3	2	21	18	76	11

BRIAN LEE — THE INTERVIEW (PART 2)
conducted by Ian Blacklidge and Andy Reston.

This month we conclude the interview with Chairman Brian Lee. Last month's piece included his thoughts on the proposed move of grounds for Wycombe Wanderers, his thoughts on ground segregation and policing and his view of the present situation at the Club. This month we include a wide variety of subjects including University Football, Managers, journalism and LeagueLine - Wycombe's Private Members Club. We open with Brian Lee's experiences as coach with Oxford University.

Brain Lee: *When I was offered the Wycombe job I was still coach at Oxford University and as 'my word is my bond' I was committed to the end of the Univeristy season. University football is very interesting - the season starts the moment the Varsity match finishes. I coached Oxford for a couple of years, the first year we lost the Varsity match at Wembley and we should have been crying in the dressing room but instead the players came in, the Captain says 'Listen lads, I propose so-and-so as Captain for this year', 'I second that' etc and that was it - that was their A G M - they hadn't even got their shirts off! I had to go to the gents - I couldn't cope with it! I stopped all that business and its never happened since but it was all part of the tradition and myth of Oxford and Cambridge. The fixture list hadn't changed since the days of conscription and in the past Oxford had had some very good players, some professional mature students. We were playing the likes of Arsenal and Spurs - so we could go through the whole season without winning a match. It's also a unique job as it guarantees a match at Wembley every year.*

We discussed Brain Lee's early years as Wycombe Manager.

B L: *When I was Manager, I thought quite naively and innocently that the thing to do was to be successful. To try to do a job where we won things. I was only ever interested in winning one thing and that was the Isthmian League title, because it was the 'professional' thing to do in an amateur sense. During the season that we reached the semi-final of the Amateur Cup (1970/71) at Brentford we were the best amateur team in the country bar none. However, Larry Pritchard was injured and one or two other players we hoped would take a leading role that day didn't 'do it'. As for the League, at the time the Isthmian League had twenty teams, no promotion or relegation and it was the best amateur league in the country - I would say I had the best job at the time in Amateur Football.*

His thoughts on strengthening the team.

B L: *The time to strengthen the team is when you're winning. Liverpool, for instance, bought Houghton just after they beat the top team in the League (Q P R) 4-0 - that's the time you buy. We should have bought last year and that's the fundamental thing that went wrong. The year before last, when we were relegated from the Gola League, we had lots of players lined up to join us if we'd have stayed up but when we didn't, they didn't want to join. That's why the Manager did so well last year (1986) in assembling the team...but don't rest on your laurels, you've got to keep going and the time to start strengthening the team is when you are winning.*

On the subject of the old fair play awards.

B L: I never agreed with Rothmans (sponsors of the Isthmian League in the mid 70's) when they gave awards for fair play and goalscoring. I thought it was fundamentally wrong to reward scoring goals because that is basically the reason why you play. I thought it was absolutely wrong to reward sportsmanship, which I took to be a common courtesy. I was against the awards despite the fact that we used to win a lot of the awards - only one booking during the whole of one season. They don't do the awards any longer because the attitude of referees has changed and there's more bookings.

His views on managers and journalism.

B L: Ron Greenwood epitomises the type of club manager I believe in - fair play and creative play. There's always been stability at West Ham, they've always had good supporters and always entertained in my opinion. I've also got a great deal of respect for Graham Taylor because he's got a wider vision than most managers. A lot of managers have something to say, if you can bring it out of them. However, the standard of interviewing has gone down as has the standard of journalism.

Andy Reston: What are your views on the Bucks Free Press?

BL: The Bucks Free Press is unfortunately the local paper and I think it's sad (and I'm not saying this because of the anti-Brian Lee campaign) that the paper can't support the Club that helps to sell its product. I used to write a column in the Midweek which I was told helped to keep that paper going and I'm sure the football helps keep the paper going now. I'm not asking them to be flowery, I'm just asking them to support the side and print two sides to the argument, as Chairboys Gas should have done in their first issue of this season.

AR: In fairness to Rolf Niven, having spoken to him, he is a supporter of the team and the way that they try to play football. Also the coverage this season has been an improvement on last.

BL: I do understand that Rolf's time is limited but I don't think sensationalism sells local newspapers. I'm not blaming Rolf himself, it's the 'paper's policy that I disagree with. The Maidenhead Advertiser's coverage of Maidenhead United is immaculate compared with ours. They have just been relegated, they've had a fire and no end of squabbles but the 'paper gets right behind them. But the standard of journalism has gone down - the emphasis is on sensationalism instead of bringing out the genuine involvement that a manager has with the Club and the Club has with the community.

Ian Blackledge: Every time Football Focus or ITV has a feature on a smaller club, they bring out the novelty value and tend to patronise the club concerned.

BL: Exactly, and it's not the Alan Parry's, Barry Davies' or Tony Gubba's of this world who decide this, it's the producers who say 'It doesn't sell'. Unfortunately, in the 'Saint & Greavsie' show everything is ridiculed and has to be humoured.

continued over.....

.....continuation

Loakes Park and Brian Lee's hopes for the future.

B L: *We hope to try and build a relationship with the kids and have a family enclosure at Loakes Park.*

I B: *If we were a Club with five or six thousand people a week with its usual band of undesirables coming along, there would be a need for a family enclosure, but at present, the whole ground is a family enclosure, kids are going along with their dads and there's a good atmosphere.*

B L: *I'm doing a study of football and community schemes (on a national level) and there's a lot we can do in preparation for the next step in gearing ourselves professionally off the field. It's better to be ahead with the things like family enclosures, education, etc, than 'catching up' with other clubs.*

I B: *There has been a lot of controversy over Luton's away fan ban - could this happen at Wycombe?*

B L: *I don't feel sorry about not welcoming away fans to Wycombe but I do feel sorry for Wycombe fans not being welcome at other grounds. I would never introduce a 100% away fans ban at Wycombe but you've got to understand that we are not in control of our own destiny.*

I went to the States and I was one of the 75,000 at the Orangebowl final and the mind boggles. I'm afraid I'm not a fan of American football - terrible game. But, 75,000 people, not a sign of any violence, any hooliganism, all drinking Cokes and eating popcorn with this stupid game going on in front of them. You can play that game and never see the ball.

Finally regarding LeagueLine - Wycombe Wanderers Private Members Club.

I B: *At the A G M you admitted that LeagueLine hadn't been the success that you'd envisaged. I look upon the fact that at it's peak we had 500 to 600 members, which is half the average crowd. Look at Bolton Wanderers, the pioneers of the scheme, with 2,000 members which is only half their average crowd, so I don't believe we have done badly in terms of membership. But what I do find unforgiveable is that they offer things like discounts, free season tickets to pass onto a junior or O A P, etc and they couldn't even get this information out before the beginning of the season. That is terrible Public Relations.*

B L: *I don't disagree. We've just appointed a new Commercial Manger and we hope things will improve. Some people said that when we launched LeagueLine that we would spend whatever we made on new players. LeagueLine made £4,500 last season and we spent £5,000 on two players.*

I B: *LeagueLine will hopefully improve as our average gates get higher but I think that it's 'Pie in the Sky' to get people not interested in the Club to fork out £2 per week.*

B L: *But people spend money every week on the pools and a large majority have no interest in football. We were aiming for a different kind of supporter, someone who could afford £100 a year, £2 a week on a direct debit system, which is selling something at a different level than scribbling out a few numbers on the lottery cards. What we're trying to do with all these things, 30 Club included, is to raise money by looking at all the markets available to us.*

I do concede that we could have done better with LeagueLine but I think we're getting better but we are still not that good at getting the message across to the people.



Results

Saturday 5 December 1987

Cheltenham	2-3	Stafford	1077
Dagenham	0-0	Barnet	696
Fisher	0-1	Telford	417
Wealdstone	0-2	Weymouth	564
Wycombe	1-2	Boston	1287

Saturday 12 December 1987

Barnet	1-0	Boston	2045
Cheltenham	1-0	Macclesfield	1038
Enfield	1-0	Welling	617
Lincoln	3-2	Northwich	2301
Maidstone	2-3	Kettering	825
Runcorn	1-2	Wycombe	582
Stafford	0-2	Kiddermster	1145
Sutton	1-1	Wealdstone	747
Telford	1-0	Altrincham	1319
Weymouth	1-0	Dagenham	1356

Monday 14 December 1987

Fisher	1-1	Sutton	453
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Saturday 26 December 1987

Macclesfield	1-3	Altrincham	2630
Barnet	3-0	Enfield	4105
Boston	1-2	Lincoln	5822
Dagenham	1-2	Wealdstone	509
Fisher	1-0	Welling	612
Kettering	3-0	Wycombe	1462
Kiddermster	3-2	Cheltenham	1851
Runcorn	2-1	Northwich	1056
Sutton	5-1	Maidstone	843
Telford	1-2	Stafford	2478
Weymouth	3-1	Bath	2100

Monday 28 December 1987

Barnet	6-2	Sutton	3813
Bath	4-2	Dagenham	662
Cheltenham	2-1	Weymouth	2196
Lincoln	5-3	Kiddermster	4121
Macclesfield	4-0	Runcorn	1789
Maidstone	2-2	Fisher	1331
Northwich	1-2	Telford	882
Stafford	3-0	Altrincham	1654
Wealdstone	1-1	Boston	1036
Welling	3-1	Kettering	1059

Chairboys Gas Cover Star
Peter Guthrie
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IN BRIEF

If you thought Wycombe were going through a bad patch, spare a thought for Dagenham and their few supporters, 'Daggers' fan, Ron Price, read the last issue of Chairboys Gas and promptly sent in the following:

IF

(with apologies to R.Kipling, Esq)

If you can cheer and shout when your team
are losing one-nil or more,

If you can travel to far away grounds
without a supporters coach,

If you can wait again for the glory days
or the day we will win again,

If you can pass the ninety minutes
with thoughts of Wembley 1980,

If you can talk with home fans and live again
or never walk alone

You are a Daggers Supporter, my son!

MURPHY'S MOB

We also received a letter last month from Cheltenham Town fan Stephen Gardier who will be starting a Cheltenham Town fanzine in the New Year to be called MURPHY'S MOB (John Murphy being the Town Manager). As a taster for things to come they have produced a four page sampler of which a limited supply are available free of charge from the Blues Club Shop.

WHEN SATURDAY COMES & OFF THE BALL

Both the above magazines are available from the Club Shop - both feature as cover star this month that wonderful human being Mr Robert 'Buy every Club in the land' Maxwell,



Fixtures

Saturday 2 January 1988

Boston	Altrincham
Cheltenham	Dagenham
Enfield	Telford
Fisher	Wealdstone
Kettering	Macclesfield
Kiddermster	Runcorn
Northwich	Lincoln
Stafford	Bath
Welling	Sutton
Weymouth	Barnet
Wycombe	Maidstone

Saturday 9 January 1988

Altrincham	Kettering
Barnet	Cheltenham
Dagenham	Kiddermster
Lincoln	Fisher
Northwich	Boston
Runcorn	Enfield
Telford	Welling
Wealdstone	Wycombe

Tuesday 12 January 1988

Enfield	Bath	*
Kettering	Kiddermster	

Wednesday 13 January 1988

Weymouth	Maidstone	*
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Saturday 16 January 1988

Barnet	Dagenham
Bath	Northwich
Boston	Enfield
Macclesfield	Altrincham
Maidstone	Telford
Runcorn	Sutton
Stafford	Fisher
Welling	Lincoln
Weymouth	Wealdstone
Wycombe	Cheltenham

Tuesday 19 January 1988

Fisher	Kettering
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Saturday 23 January 1988

Games to be arranged

Saturday 30 January 1988

Altrincham	Welling	
Cheltenham	Boston	
Dagenham	Runcorn	
Enfield	Macclesfield	*
Fisher	Wycombe	
Kiddermster	Weymouth	
Lincoln	Maidstone	*
Northwich	Bath	*
Sutton	Kettering	*
Telford	Barnet	
Wealdstone	Stafford	

Saturday 6 February 1988

Bath	Lincoln
Boston	Macclesfield
Cheltenham	Northwich
Kiddermster	Altrincham
Runcorn	Maidstone
Stafford	Barnet
Welling	Telford
Weymouth	Enfield
Wycombe	Wealdstone

F A CUP THIRD ROUND PROPER

Saturday 9 January 1988

Mansfield T	v	BATH CITY
Port Vale	v	MACCLESFIELD T
Sheffield U	v	MAIDSTONE U
SUTTON U	v	Middlesbrough
YEOVIL TOWN	v	Q P R

BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR CUP

SECOND ROUND

by Saturday 30 January 1988

Abingdon T	v	Burnham
Aylesbury U	v	Reading
Beaconsfield	v	Abingdon U
Didcot Town	v	Wycombe W
Flackwell H	v	Hungerford T
Slough Town	v	Chalfont St P
Windsor & E	v	Thatcham Town
Wokingham T	v	Bracknell Town

F A TROPHY SECOND ROUND

Saturday 23 January 1988

KIDDERMSTER	v	RUNCORN
LINCOLN CITY	v	Cambridge City
or South Liverpool		
Rhyl	v	MACCLESFIELD
CHELTENHAM	v	Crawley
Hendon	v	Barrow
FISHER ATH	v	Slough Town
Spennymoor	v	Harrow
Gateshead	v	Wokingham
ENFIELD	v	B Stortford
Ley-Wingate	v	BOSTON UNITED
or Bangor City		
Witton A	v	Yeovil Town
BATH CITY	v	STAFFORD RANG
Marine	v	MAIDSTONE UTD
WEALDSTONE	v	TELFORD UTD
BARNET	v	Bromsgrove R
or Windsor or Blyth Spartans		
ALTRINCHAM	v	KETTERING TOWN

Fixtures marked * are provisional
due to cup involvement