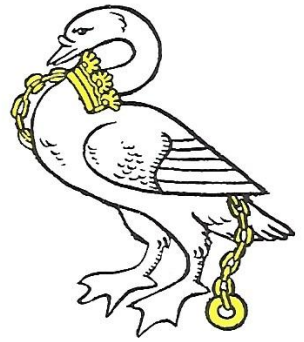


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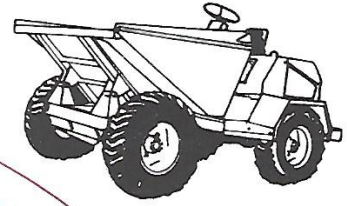
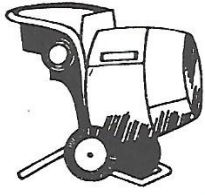
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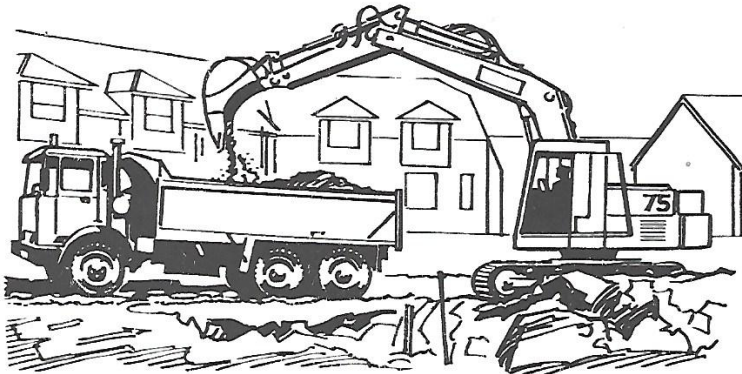
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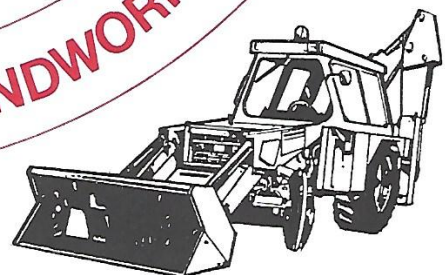
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FOREWARD

by Ivor Beeks

Welcome to our last season at Loakes Park, one which I trust will bring entertainment and good support.

Twelve months have seen many changes on and off the field, but there are still more to explain.

We have now appointed Jim Kelman to the position of full time manager as a step to prepare for the future, and in particular "Wycombe Into The Community".

During the course of this year you will be able to see Jim coaching young boys and girls in schools throughout the Wycombe Area with the F.A. courses. In conjunction with Jim will be a number of players including John Granville, who will be working closely with Jim on this project.

Our youth policy has been extended to Wycombe Wanderers Lions who will be presenting an under-11 side and under-13 side this season.

Talking of youth, my thanks to Bernard and Kathy Hatt of Hatts Locksmiths for sponsoring our family enclosure this year, and in our first year at the new ground. We have been

looking for a local connection for some time for our Family Stand and there it was only 400 yards from the ground!

With the accent on youth, we will be trying to bring you some pre-match entertainment this year, and in particular the send off to our coaching scheme.

The involvement at our new ground has taken a lot of time and Brian Lee has been fully employed in this direction, ensuring that the new stadium meets all of the stringent requirements. The Taylor report may make further alterations, but it is pleasing to know that we have someone who is working on the project fully in our interests.

When you read this foreward, you will know that John Goldsworthy has decided to step down as a Director and Football Secretary. It is very difficult to précis the Club's thanks in this forward for someone who has spent 15 years of involvement to the Club on a very full-time/part time basis, we shall miss his expertise and knowledge and on behalf of the Board and all the supporters, our grateful thanks John for all your support and time.

Behind every good man comes another! And Alan Hutchinson has agreed to become Club Secretary after John has eased him into the seat. Incidentally, John has agreed to help out at the Club still, so his smiling face will not be lost.

It is my sincere wish that we try and bring to you entertaining football and the enjoyment of the game. If we achieve that this year, it will be another memorable year. Kind regards to you all.

Ivor L. Beeks
Chairman

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Editor's Introduction

by Philip Ball

Welcome to the 1989/90 Wycombe Wanderers Handbook - a review of the 1988/89 season.

The aim of this publication is to provide an illustrated record of what was probably the most memorable season ever experienced by many of the present contingent of Wanderers fans. It was the season where our club finally achieved what it had failed to do since the formation of the Alliance League - to compete at the very top level of non-league football. Since the heady days of the early seventies the club had been a sleeping giant (to quote one of the endless clichés spouted about the club during the season), and it took an injection of professionalism and ambition - and not a small amount of cash - to wake us up from that long sleep.

There were obviously numerous factors which contributed to the success of 88/89; the manager, the board, the players, the supporters, the money, the numerous unpaid volunteers, the sponsors, and many many more. Which of these factors were the most significant has inevitably been the subject of numerous discussions and arguments, but undoubtedly they all played their part. One cannot help wondering what might have been had all those factors worked together as well as they did towards the end of the season, from the very start - a start which saw us win just one of our first seven G.M.V.C. matches.

The tremendous success achieved on the pitch soon reflected on the terraces, and we enjoyed staggering, record breaking attendances both home and away. Our attendances at home reached levels that most people thought would never be seen again at Loakes Park, culminating in the highest G.M.V.C. attendance of the season, when 4,890 turned out to see the Kettering match, whilst 4,239 watched the Kidderminster match.

Away from home the travelling Chairboys increased in numbers as the season progressed, and reached a level where they were more noticeable at many away grounds than the home fans. Their behaviour was impeccable, and gave the club's travelling fans a reputation that is a credit to the Club.

Those fans who travelled to see the team away from home experienced a totally different type of enjoyment to the home matches. Travelling to such places as Macclesfield, Telford, Runcorn, Maidstone, Enfield, Northwich, Boston and Weymouth and coming away with a win, was an experience difficult to describe.

A factor which is usually overlooked whilst enjoying the freedom of such awaydays, whether they be by the organised supporters coaches or those arranged by the supporters themselves, such as trains, cars, or buses (any others?), is that the freedom itself should be enjoyed. Those fans who travelled to York City by train for our F.A. Cup match a few years ago may know what I mean. Travelling to away games for supporters of most professional clubs can be a worrying, uncomfortable and even degrading experience. It often means being escorted to and from the ground, shepherded by police, and then caged behind fences with a restricted view of the match, often with the worse facilities in the ground and sometimes paying more than the home fans.

Following Wycombe Wanderers away from home is, however, a totally different experience. Not once was there any need for police involvement, and only three times were we segregated from the home fans - at Aylesbury, Yeovil (with non-existent facilities) and at Newport (in a cage with awful visibility). This enabled us to travel all around the country, and enjoy not only the tremendous football, but also visiting new towns and meeting new people, including fans from the opposing teams.

With so many simplistic and ill-conceived plans looming over our game - I.D. cards, reduced terracing, banning of away fans etc - all of which may indeed contribute to reducing trouble at football matches - but at what cost? We could all think of a way of reducing trouble at football matches, but the means do not always justify the end. This debate is of course a very complex one, which I could not hope to cover in this article, but one cannot help but to conclude that the majority are suffering for the misdemeanors of the minority, and the solutions put forward look to be further accentuating that trend.

These plans appear that they will have by far the most effect on the Football League Clubs, and this may be to the benefit of non-league football, if that is where the true football fans turn to for freedom to enjoy the game.

On the positive side, recent events have highlighted that the major priority must be the safety of the fans themselves, and at last their needs are being considered, and their views are being listened to, mainly via the ever-more influential supporters organisations such as the F.S.A. - the Football Supporters Association.

Thankfully the greater communications that have come into being since the Hillsborough tragedy have made more people aware that the treatment of fans is a major influence on the way that they behave. More thought is being put into the way that fans are guided into grounds, the space provided, the state of the ground, the safety precautions, the facilities, the view of the match, and how to deal with the hooligans.

Let us hope that this greater communication leads us to a solution that we all want - to get rid of the hooliganism and let us all enjoy our football in the way we want to. Just a look at a typical crowd at Wycombe Wanderers shows a trouble free and enjoyable game, where over 80% of the fans choose to stand on their feet. Even half of those who pay the extra money to go in the seated area, then choose to stand up. At our matches at Boston and Kettering last season, who probably have the best stands in the league, the stands remained about a third full, whilst the majority chose to stand. Proposals for all-seater stadiums are certainly a simple way of controlling fans and making more money, but clearly not giving the fans what they want. When the first all seater stadiums do appear, they will probably stop trouble at that particular ground, but it will simply move elsewhere. Seats at a football ground are not going to suppress the desire that many people have to beat the living daylight out of each other, especially when the punishment for getting caught doing so, is so small.

These doubts about the future of our game, and particularly the Football League, have put many people in two minds about the ambitions to achieve such a status. However, we can only hope that the "powers that be" consider our wishes when deciding the future of the sport, and in the meantime we must devote our efforts to our aim of achieving the highest level of football we can for the club, the town and the fans.

Whilst the future of the sport in general is left in the hands of bodies such as the Football League, the Football Association, the Government and those who run the clubs, we are all concerned in the more short term with the affairs of our own club Wycombe Wanderers.

We are currently in the hands of our board of Directors, the Management Committee and our Manager. We must give them the backing that they deserve - usually that will be simply by paying our entrance fees and cheering the team on, and for others there may be a more active role. Obviously we may not always agree with the way they do things, and in these circumstances we should make our opinions felt in a constructive manner. Our board of Directors encourage people to ask questions, and let us hope that they will continue to listen.

The contents of this handbook have been relatively easy to produce - it is a pleasure to write about something that has been such a pleasure, but obviously such publications rely on the support and help of others. Again we have been blessed with tremendous support from local businesses who have supplied the advertising to fund the project, many of whom are continuing their support from previous handbooks. Special thanks also go to the contributors, namely Simon Burrage for his review of the season, Paul Lewis and the Bucks Free Press for the photos, and Alan Parry and Jim Kelman for their articles.

Special thanks also go to P. K. Graphics for their tremendous efforts not only in producing this handbook, but also putting in such hard work to produce our matchday programmes throughout the season under such difficult conditions - particularly dealing with me as programme editor!

Thanks, as usual, for another season of tremendous effort and great help from John Goldsworthy, who has recently resigned as Club Secretary. I could not possibly attempt to do justice to the amount of work he has done for our club, in fact John is the only one who will ever know that - apart from perhaps his wife. For what it's worth - thank you John.

As we look back over the highs and lows of the previous season, let us look forward to the current season. Having set ourselves a standard, we have the daunting task of trying to improve on it. To do so would be a tremendous achievement, but to fail should not be seen as a failure, as a top three place is also the aim of every other club in the G.M.V.C. some of whom are better equipped and funded at present than we. Personally I would like to see a season of entertaining football, enjoyable matches, and trouble-free terraces, and if we have achieved that it will be a success. If that also achieves a high league placing then that is an excellent bonus, but if the title is all we are playing for, then half of the teams may as well give up at Christmas.

Here's to an enjoyable season's football.....

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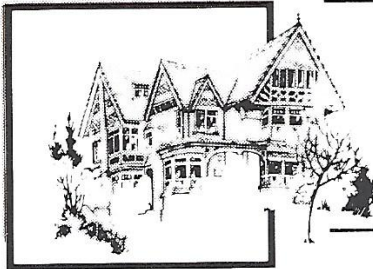
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The Manager's Report

by Jim Kelman



Looking back over the past 12 months, for me, probably the most significant fact is that as a Club we finally "arrived" in the Conference.

It certainly did not look that way after our first seven fixtures. Those early games where we played so well and yet conceded so many goals, were a very firm indication that unless we brought in new defenders, then it would be another season of doubt and despair.

Also, during the early part of the season, we had more than our fair share of long term injuries. This meant that the squad grew and reached, at one stage, 23 players.

Inevitably players had to move on and by September/October, we were putting together the first of two "runs". This was due to us settling into the style of play which proved so successful throughout the season.

Glyn Creaser and Andy Kerr formed the basis of our five at the back with John Granville providing the last line of defence in goal. The sweeper position alternated between Keith Barrett and Andy Robinson with Steve Abbey and Sean Norman playing right and left full-back, but pushing on and taking the game to the opposition whenever possible.

In mid-field, Martin Blackler, Dave Carroll and Andy Robinson were the any two from three, with Dave Carroll missing for a while with a broken collar bone.

Up front, Kevin Durham wide left, John Kerr wide right and Mark West, started scoring goals that took Mark and Kevin into the Conference goal-scoring charts and sent Wycombe Wanderers surging up the league.

Over Christmas we were the only Club in the Conference to take maximum points, and these wins triggered off the second "run" which took us into the Trophy Quarter Finals and into the top four of the Conference.

No longer were we a Club hoping to go away from home and get a point. The belief and confidence meant that wherever we travelled, it was three points that we expected, and in many cases gained.

During this exciting period, our support grew to such an extent that they were the ones at times getting the headlines, with our local radio station comparing our supporters to those of the League Division 3, Reading, on the day of our home match with Kidderminster.

The only problem with scaling heights is that when you lose, the defeats are harder to take and disappointments

much larger.

I certainly felt several disappointments last season with the following being the hardest to take.

1. Being two goals up against Maidstone and Chorley and then being beaten by both of them 3-2.

2. The injuries to:

Matt Crossley - we sorely missed his defensive ability early on.

Andy Kerr - his injury against Merthyr meant the defence had to change again.

Steve Abbey - had Steve not been carried off at Hyde, it might have been a different story.

3. Going out of the Trophy without playing to our true potential.

4. At the third time of asking, completely dominating Kettering and then losing to a "soft" own goal.

5. Newport County - their demise cost us dearly at the time when we needed any breaks to go for us to mount a serious challenge.

To counteract these disappointments, there were also times of great satisfaction and elation.

1. The marvellous support both at home, and especially away, when our fans often out-numbered the home support. Also, the way our fans behaved was a credit to themselves and to Wycombe Wanderers.

2. The way in which the team played with tremendous spirit and courage after having Keith Barrett sent off just before half time at Kidderminster, and a penalty awarded against them. Although we lost in the end, 2-0, we didn't allow Kidderminster the satisfaction of dominating us and running up a cricket score.

3. The six match winning sequence during which we did the double over Aylesbury and were the last team to beat Maidstone at their home ground.

4. The victory over Kidderminster at home in front of a huge crowd of over 4,000 and the way in which Andy Kerr celebrated his goal.

5. And finally, our tremendous record away from home against our Northern and Midland Conference colleagues - the wins at Runcorn, Macclesfield, Northwich Victoria, Telford and Boston.

Looking forward to the next season and what it will bring, is what we all do. All I know is that last season has given us the belief and confidence to fear no-one. The squad is stronger and the Club is poised on the threshold of a new era with the move next season to Adams Park, Sands.

There will always be transfers in and out and new faces are good for both supporters and players alike.

I would like to think that if we go just that little bit better right from the start next season, it could be a cause for double celebrations this time next year.

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COMMENTARY

BY ALAN PARRY



Statistics are the working tools of any commentator's life but rarely do they bring the personal satisfaction of this opportunity to chronicle the achievements of my favourite football team, Wycombe Wanderers.

Looking back over a truly memorable season, I unearthed these facts and figures.

Gates at Loakes Park rose by a staggering 54 % to give an average home attendance of 2,248.

The Crowd of 4,890 for the visit of Kettering was the highest for any match in the Conference throughout the season.

Other big attendances - 4,239 for Kidderminster and 3,873 against Macclesfield - meant that Wycombe recorded three of the top six Conference crowds of the season.

Our run of 14 league games without defeat was bettered only by the Champions, Maidstone (17 undefeated).

Our record of only nine defeats in 40 league games - 42 if you include the games against Newport County - was also beaten only by Maidstone (just six defeats).

We scored more goals - 78 if you include the Newport results - than any team, other than the Champions.

Once again, it was only Maidstone (with 7 goals against Altrincham) who could boast a bigger victory than our 6-1 thrashing of Stafford.

Mark West's 26 goals made him one of the most prolific marksmen in the Conference.

Two individual awards came Wycombe's way - John Kerr was goalscorer of the month in January, and Jim Kelman was manager of the month in February.

Our final position - 4th - was the best we've ever achieved, and, incidentally, won me a private bet with the manager for which I still await settlement!

They say that you can make statistics prove anything you want, but no-one could deny that those figures prove that Wycombe Wanderers are on the march. I firmly believe that the appointment of Jim Kelman as manager and the election of Ivor Beeks as Chairman will be seen as the decisions which eventually launch our Club into the Football League - the above statistics simply prove that the foundation for a successful football club has been well

and truly laid, if the chairman will forgive my building metaphor!

It all seems a million miles from the dark days when we were facing relegation and the local press was full of accusations and recriminations. I said at the time that all that was needed was a healthy dose of patience - and I'm delighted that I've been proved right.

The future looks very exciting. Jim Kelman has built a sound, talented squad and is slowly piecing together a very professional back-up system to produce good quality reserve and youth teams.

Off the field, the club's commercial activities are being widened in many new directions under the guidance of Allan Robson, and the board of Directors is shaping the long-term strategy of Wycombe Wanderers in an expert, ambitious fashion.

The new stadium is beginning to take shape and all around the area there's a real buzz that Wanderers are progressing along the right lines. As I've said before, in our match-day programme, I feel very fortunate to be in at the start of a success story which I'm convinced will lead all the way to a place in the Football League.

I think the key word behind this dramatic change of fortunes is ENTHUSIASM. You can't achieve anything in life unless you want it badly enough and now, at last, the club has stopped dwelling on the past and started building for the future.

Messrs Beeks and Kelman both have masses of infectious enthusiasm in their own particular roles for the club and it inevitably rubs off on other people. They both believe that problems are there to be defeated, not accepted.

Personally, I detest pessimism and negative thinking and I believe that you must take a positive approach to everything you do in life. I wouldn't be involved with Wycombe Wanderers if I didn't believe that the club is progressive.

My vision for the future is an exciting one - can you imagine this scenario; one victory needed for promotion to the Football League; the win is achieved in our last game of the season - and our last ever game at Loakes Park; the official opening of Adams Park is conducted with Liverpool as the visitors for a pre-season friendly before a capacity crowd; the following week we kick-off with a home game in our first-ever season in the Fourth Division.

And why not? Ten years ago, who would have believed that Wimbledon would beat Liverpool in the final of the F.A. Cup? The answer is that the people of Wimbledon believed it - and if the people of Wycombe have similar belief, anything is possible.

Let ENTHUSIASM be the key word for the future. If we can sweep away cynicism and negative thinking and if everyone concerned can pull in the same direction, the future for Wycombe Wanderers is limitless.

There will, of course, be setbacks and disappointments along the way and the methods chosen to achieve success won't necessarily please everyone, but we've all got to support the common cause - a place in the League, and not just as a one-season wonder.

Here's wishing everyone connected with Wycombe Wanderers a happy and successful season.

YOUTH TEAM REPORT

by Alan Hutchinson

Our newly-created Youth Team have completed their first season and assessment time is here.

After arriving at a squad of 22 players via trials and watching various players in pre-season, coaching and training sessions were arranged before playing a number of friendly matches. Competing in the East Berks League, the first youth team to do so, a run of six unbeaten games reflected the strength of the squad at the start. Unfortunately injuries plus departures to colleges and universities saw some of the stronger players leave.

Additional players were brought in, all 16 year olds, and although good players, they lacked the physical strength of the older departees. The team entered four competitions, the East Berks League, the League Cup, the Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup and the Wycombe Junior Cup. In the league a creditable third place was achieved, more so as the last six games had five 16 year olds in the team. After a series of excellent results the team reached the semi-finals of the League Cup before losing to the eventual winners, SYCOB. It took only one round to exit from the Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup, beaten 2-1 by Slough Town Reserves, who went on to win it.

With lads taking part in the Capital League it meant the loss of our stronger players for the Wycombe Junior Cup, and a team of 16 year olds were beaten 2-1 by Prestwood in the Quarter Finals.

Those players who were drafted into the Capital League performed well. Two remarkable matches at Cambridge Utd and Southend were of great credit to them. Four players emerged as regular members of the side: they were Tim Hinton, Adam Markwell, David Meli and Matthew

Elworthy. In particular, Matt Elworthy performed consistently well throughout the season both for the Youth and Capital League sides.

The use of Youth team players and others recommended by the Scouts did ease the first teamers who were able to conserve their efforts for the Conference matches and Cup games.

Another area of success was the interest shown by local minor/youth teams who wanted to send players along for trials, an immediate reaction to the club being involved with the local community. This spilled over into the Intermediate and Senior clubs in the vicinity, who were regular visitors to Capital League fixtures eyeing various players for the coming season.

For the younger players it has been an experience, mingled with opportunity, to witness what goes on behind the scenes at a top non-league club. Those who have found it hard realise early on in their careers the dedication, determination and loyalty required to succeed at the highest level.

Already two younger sides have been added to the fold this season. Sometime in the future even a ladies team could be considered. All this is a good step toward building the club for the future, part of the preparation for Football League status when it arrives.

For the coming season the team will continue in the East Berks League, and hopefully enter the Berks and Bucks Junior Cup and the Wycombe Senior Cup. Many players have been invited to come along for trials in the search for a squad of players for 1989-90.



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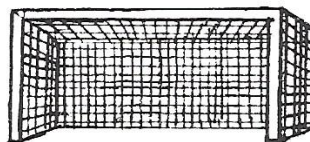
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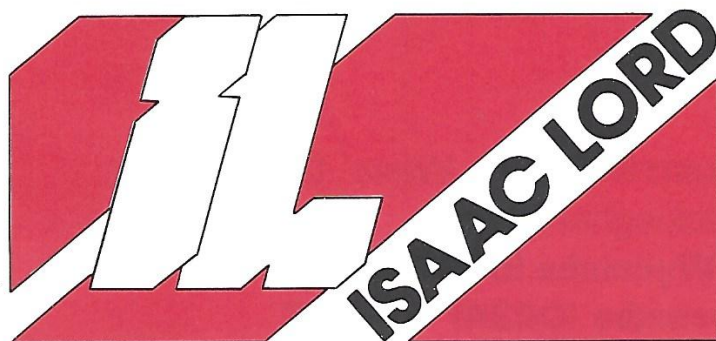
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The Ups & Downs of 1988/89

by Simon Burrage

No single statistic could ever tell the story of a football season, its triumphs and its disappointments, but a glance at the club's final 1988-89 league position in the GM Vauxhall Conference table goes a long way in doing so. Our two previous positions in the top flight of non-league football, 18th and 19th, had left many of us longing for a season in which Wycombe Wanderers would become securely established as one of the leading Conference Clubs, and in 1988-89 this was well and truly achieved. Under the leadership of Jim Kelman, in his first full season in charge at Loakes Park, many memorable matches were seen by crowds which steadily grew as the season progressed to the sort of numbers which all but the most optimistic must have imagined were just a memory of the past.

Attendances of 2,3 and even 4,000 were regularly filling the famous old ground, attracted by some excellent football and long sequences of results which led to promotion to the Football League becoming a distinct possibility as the season headed towards its climax. The season also had its low points, of course, notably the club's departure from the FA Cup Competition in the final qualifying round and from the FA Trophy at the quarter-final stage when a long awaited trip to Wembley was a very strong hope, but on the whole this was a campaign to be proud of, for players, officials and supporters alike.

With a number of players taking time to settle into the side, and one or two weak points in the squad not strengthened until the new season was well underway, it now seems strange to recall how badly the Wanderers struggled for the first month of the new term. After an indifferent batch of pre-season friendlies, which included a 4-1 home win over Harrow Borough, but then a home defeat by Kingstonian (1-2) and a heavy away reversal at Bromsgrove (0-4), the Chairboys made the trip to Yeovil for the first match of the league campaign. Yeovil had just regained their place in the GM Vauxhall Conference following promotion from the Vauxhall-Opel League, and consequently there was much local interest; a crowd of 3,107 included a large contingent from Wycombe, most of whom were happy to return with a point after Mark West's perfectly lobbed goal gave us a second half



Mark West drives the ball home to put us 1-0 up after just 8 minutes against Maidstone.

equaliser. It was to prove a precious point as the next three Conference fixtures all resulted in defeats, leaving the Wanderers in 20th place with premature visions of another season of relegation struggle already beginning to form in some quarters.

The first of these three defeats was at the hands of Maidstone United, visiting Loakes Park with a team strongly tipped to be in the Championship running in eight months time, and including former Wycombe favourite Noel Ashford in their ranks. The 1,674 crowd were delighted to see Mark West, and the new signing Dave Carroll from Ruislip Manor, put the Blues 2-0 up after 18 minutes play. Carroll's goal was particularly well taken and should have inspired the team to three points, but it was Maidstone who took the initiative from then on and they eventually ran out 3-2 winners. The following Saturday was one of the season's longest away trips for the Chairboys - to Chorley, Lancashire, to play another newly promoted side. Once again a new Wycombe signing, this time Steve Abbley from Cheltenham Town, got his name on the score-sheet with a neatly headed goal after just four minutes. A powerful strike by Kevin Durham shortly after half time put us 2-0 up, but again this only served to inspire our opponents to another 3-2 recovery. It was a long journey home from Chorley but worse was to come when Northwich Victoria came to Loakes Park and won with embarrassing ease, 4-1.



Cheltenham's Steve Brooks fires a free kick towards Steve Crompton's goal, as messrs Norman, Robinson, Abbley, Durham and Blackler form a wall.

The pressure was on the following Saturday when Cheltenham Town were the visitors, and thankfully a Mark West goal was enough to earn those much needed points. It was only another three days before another home defeat was inflicted by Barnet, in a match which will always be remembered for an unusual story concerning the tall Barnet central defender Glyn Creaser. A second-half fracas with Mark West left the Wycombe player on the floor and Creaser heading for the players' tunnel for an early bath - as Wanderers fans in the 1815 crowd bayed their approval of the referee's decision, manager Jim Kelman was possibly the only Wycombe man cursing the incident as he knew Creaser was to sign for Wycombe Wanderers the next day - now with an automatic suspension on the way. The transfer fee of £17,500 was a club record and clear evidence of the club's determination to strengthen the team when necessary.

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Glyn was to prove an invaluable asset in shoring up a leaky Blues defence, but he could not prevent his new team falling to defeat on his Wycombe debut, by 2-1 at Kettering, despite the welcome return of John Granville in the Wanderers' goal and a magnificently struck equaliser from Martin Blackler shortly before half-time. Kettering were another side expected to push for the top positions - they were eventually pipped for the championship by Maidstone, and were narrow winners over the Wanderers on three occasions over the course of the season - but for most of the second half of this game struggled unimaginatively to break through the Blues defence, until a reckless challenge gave them a penalty for the decisive goal. There was a greater degree of resilience from Jim Kelman's men that afternoon and some room for cautious optimism as the team and its supporters headed back down the M1.

That optimism, nevertheless, appeared to be well justified three days later when another battling performance and a solitary goal from Dave Carroll earned the Chairboys their first away win of the season, at Welling United. Few of us, however, could have expected that this would mark the start of an unbeaten league run which would last until 19th November, spanning 10 Conference matches and taking



Kevin Durham stretches to outjump a Runcorn defender in our 3-3 draw, as Scott Young looks on.

Wycombe up to 9th place in the table in the process. For the time being our thoughts turned towards the FA Cup, as Haverhill Rovers were soundly beaten 4-1 at Loakes Park the following Saturday. Then followed another midweek trip to the South East of London for a Conference fixture with Fisher Athletic. The customary sparse crowd at the Surrey Docks Stadium inevitably boosted by the ever growing band of Wycombe away followers, saw an

entertaining game in which the Blues again showed great commitment and spirit, and were well worth at least a point but it was not until Kevin Durham netted with virtually the last kick of the match that the scores were tied up at 3-3. Ten minutes earlier Mark West had unfortunately missed a penalty and it looked as though the team's efforts would go unrewarded, but justice was eventually done, much to the delight of the Wycombe contingent.

Runcorn were the visitors to Loakes Park on the last Saturday in September, and again a 3-3 draw resulted, on this occasion Runcorn equalising late in the game



John Kerr leaps to a header against Welling

thanks to an uncharacteristic blunder by keeper John Granville. 1,672 fans turned out at for the visit of ex-Football Leaguers Newport County the following Tuesday, and the revitalised Wanderers punished the Welshman with three late goals for a handsome 5-0 win. (No one can have known at the time, of course, but these turned out to be wasted efforts as the Newport club's financial difficulties eventually led to the closure of the club and their playing record from the league being expunged). Into October, comfortable 3-0 wins at Finchley in the 2nd Qualifying Round of the FA Cup was followed by the return Conference fixture with Welling United; a crowd of 1,552 saw Wycombe fortunate to escape defeat by virtue of an 89th minute own goal, in a match which marked the Wycombe debut of American striker John Kerr, who after an uneven start was to become a major factor in the team's steady improvement. By now the Wanderers were in 17th place in the Conference table, and the following Tuesday had a long trip to Weymouth for a league fixture which will be remembered by those

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present, as much for the day's weather as for the match itself. After a bright morning the seaside town was lashed and battered for most of the afternoon by torrential rain and gales, which had Wycombe supporters, who had arrived in town early, resigned to the prospect of postponement. Strangely, the storm stopped as suddenly as it started, and the teams ran out onto the saturated but playable playing surface. Weymouth were unbeaten at home up to this point, but a powerful all round performance from the Blues was rewarded with an excellent 3-0 away win. Rain began to sweep across the ground again during the closing stages, and it was clear that had the game kicked off 15 minutes later it would almost certainly have been abandoned. What was also clear was that 100 Wycombe fans now had to find their way home through another freakish storm, but after the performance they had seen, they were more than happy in doing so.

At this stage of the season (mid-October) our Saturdays were, every 2 or 3 weeks, being taken up with the FA Cup Qualifying Competition. This was a routine relatively new to many of us, as the Club had for many years enjoyed exemption through these stages. Consequently there was

a number of former Loakes Park favourites. 1,100 interested viewers filled the compact Staines ground and saw Mark West's second half goal earn the Blues a place



Mark West turns away in celebration of his equalising goal against Kettering in the F.A. Cup, as keeper Kevin Shoemake looks hopefully towards an official

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some novelty value for supporters in seeing the likes of Haverhill and Finchley instead of our regular diet of Conference fixtures, and in the 3rd Qualifying Round a particularly intriguing tie was in store, with the Wanderers travelling to Staines Town, now managed by the popular ex-Wycombe boss Alan Gane, with a team comprising of



Mark West just manages to get in his cross despite the challenge of Staines' defender Dave Holl

in the 4th and final qualifying round, this of course being the all important final hurdle before the Competition Proper, and the stage at which many other top non-league sides join the fray. The draw paired the Chairboys with the current Conference leaders Kettering Town; though we were to have home advantage the draw could not have been much tougher. In the meantime there was a home league match with Telford United, and a 1-0 win continued our steady rise up the Conference table to 13th. A crowd of nearly 2,500 was present for the Kettering FA Cup game, where a late goal gave the visitors a narrow but deserved 2-1 success, ending the Wycombe cup hopes for another season and ensuring that we will again play from the 1st Qualifying Round next season. Kettering, for their part, went on to defeat two Football League sides in the following rounds, Bristol Rovers and Halifax Town, finally losing 2-1 at Charlton Athletic.

Now early into November, it was back to league business the following Saturday with a long trip to Boston United's impressive York Street ground. A 23rd minute penalty converted by Sean Norman and the kind of determined and disciplined performance which was becoming the team's trademark, earned another very satisfying away win, and another three points which took the name of Wycombe Wanderers to the heady heights of 8th place in the Conference table. It was all a far cry from our previous

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visit to Boston when a sorry-looking Wycombe side had been beaten 4-0 and looked doomed for relegation; how quickly things can change, and how different it feels on the other side of that narrow line between success and failure.

Enfield were the visitors to Loakes Park the following Tuesday, and an entertaining game was won by the Wanderers 3-2, with goals from West, Osborne (his one and only goal of the season dogged by injury) and John Kerr. Four days later Sutton United surprised 1,884 fans at Loakes Park by taking a 2-0 lead, before West, and finally Kevin Durham, with a few minutes remaining, saved the unbeaten run from extinction. The sequence was only to last for one more week, however. A fixture away to Kidderminster Harriers, an attractive, talented side now top of the Conference table and in good form themselves, was obviously going to stretch the resources of the revitalised Wycombe team to the limit, but it was a challenge many were looking forward to. In the event it was a disappointing afternoon for us, partly in that the unbeaten run was ended by a 2-0 defeat, but mainly by the manner of the defeat. Having weathered a early onslaught from the home side, during which Kidderminster produced some scintillating football but no goals, the Wanderers hit back, and were themselves unlucky not to open the scoring on a couple of occasions. On the stroke of half time an incident in the Wycombe penalty area led to the referee not only awarding a penalty against skipper Keith Barrett, but also to the sending off of the respected former non-league international. Despite starting the second period a goal down and a man short, the Wanderers continued to press forward, until a mistake by keeper Granville doubled the deficit and effectively ended the spirited resistance of the Wycombe players, who never the less left the field to defiant appreciation from their sizable away following.

The following Saturday a two goal lead at Altrincham, courtesy of John Kerr and Kevin Durham, looked set to put the Wanderers back to winning ways, but two late Altrincham goals and a Wycombe sending-off, this time the excellent Andy Kerr (signed from Telford in October, an absolute bargain at £3,000), deprived us of the satisfaction of another away win. There were comfortable home wins over Chesham United (Berks and Bucks Senior Cup 1st Round) and Cambridge City (FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round) before our next Conference matches, a 1-0 defeat at Barnet and a 1-1 home draw with



Kevin Durham chips over the Chorley goalkeeper Colin Ridler to give us a lead. Chorley went on to secure a 1-1 draw.

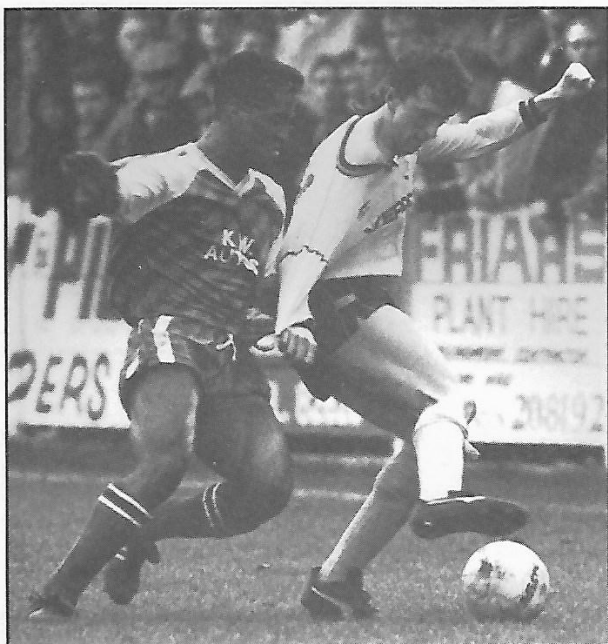
Chorley, causing us to slip to 10th place in the table. After an unbeaten run of 10 league matches the Wanderers had now gone five without a victory - hardly a crisis, but worrying for the management and supporters as Christmas and the New Year approached, and the long-awaited local derbies with Aylesbury United.

Football is full of passionate rivalries between clubs and their nearest local opponents. Until recently our great adverseries were Slough Town, but that position has now been taken over by Aylesbury United, a progressive and ambitious Club, promoted to the GM Vauxhall Conference after winning the Beazer Homes League Championship. With Aylesbury in the Conference we found ourselves in direct league competition with a fellow Bucks club for the first time in many years, and as a result the two matches between the "Chairboys" and the "Ducks" meant far more than just the 6 league points at stake. Aylesbury's Buckingham Road ground was the venue for the first encounter, on a mild Boxing Day afternoon in front of a crowd of 2,406, with a 1,000 Wycombe fans squeezed into the concreted enclosure behind the goal at one end of the ground. It was this area of the ground which spent most of the afternoon in frenzied celebration as a fiercely competitive match was won by goals from Kevin Durham, in the first half, and substitute Mark West, with 6 minutes remaining. The only black spots from the Wycombe point of view were the sight of Sean Norman stretchered off

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Aylesbury's Albert Alenor gives Kevin Durham a bit of rough treatment on Boxing Day. He was later sent off for a foul on Sean Norman.

following a reckless tackle (later to make a surprisingly quick recovery in time for the next match) and the sending off of Martin Blackler in the closing minutes. This was Martin's second dismissal of the season, and the fifth such incident involving a Wycombe player. It was a situation both unusual and unwelcome to Wycombe Wanderers, and manager Jim Kelman quite rightly decided a stand had to be made. Blackler was transfer listed, but after many weeks of uncertainty and strong interest from Bath City, offering the asking price of £10,000, it came as good news to most of the club's supporters that the popular midfield player was to stay at Loakes Park after all.

Before the return match with Aylesbury there was a New Years Eve trip to Dartford, temporary home of Maidstone United. Maidstone were stunned by early strikes from John Kerr and Mark West and the 2-0 lead was preserved until 15 minutes from time when the home side pulled a goal back in a sustained spell of pressure on the Wanderers' goal. The big question now was whether or not the Blues could hold out for the remaining period, but just to make sure Kevin Durham made a typically spectacular run from the half-way line to the edge of the penalty area, only to be tripped as he rounded the helpless Maidstone keeper. After a long period of treatment, Durham got to his feet to see West safely bury the

resulting penalty and seal a marvellous 3-1 win against one of Conference's most formidable outfits. (Maidstone in fact did not lose another league fixture, either home or away, until the first week of May, when they had virtually made certain of the Championship.) This was Wycombe's 5th away win of the season - our previous best of 3 away wins in the Gola/Conference had been exceeded before the start of the new year and our league position was now 7th. Once again a long unbeaten sequence of league results was underway, which was to span 16 matches over nearly 4 months.

The return match with Aylesbury attracted a crowd of 3,211 to Loakes Park, a marvellous figure for a league fixture, but one which would be surpassed on a number of occasions in the coming months. Mark West was on the score-sheet yet again - he featured in the lists of top Conference goalscorers throughout the season though none of his efforts were more spectacular than this blistering piledriver hit completely out of the blue and from well outside the penalty area. It was enough to defeat the "Ducks" once again, although for much of the game it was they who pressed forward more strongly. (Aylesbury struggled in the bottom three for almost the entire duration of the season and were eventually relegated). The Wanderers' excellent form continued at Runcorn the following Saturday when a classic performance and goals from West, Durham and John Kerr gave us an enjoyable journey home from North Cheshire with a 3-2 win. A makeshift Wycombe team narrowly defeated Winslow United at Loakes Park, by 2-1 after extra time, in the second round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup and this was followed by a trip to Bath City in the FA Trophy 1st round. This match was a rare Sunday fixture for the

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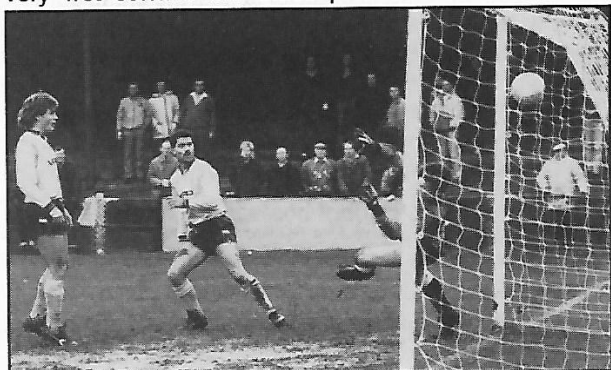
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Andy Kerr gets a strong challenge in our F.A. Trophy match at Bath.

Chairboys by virtue of Bath's tenants, Bristol Rovers, also having a home game that weekend, and it resulted in a goalless draw. The replay at Loakes Park the following Wednesday evening was a very different affair with chances falling to both sets of forwards, but it was Wycombe who eventually made sure of a place in round two with John Kerr hitting a hat trick in a 4-0 win. Fisher Athletic were our next visitors for a league fixture; on a very wet surface the Blues produced some excellent



Mark West fires home past David Fry to give us the lead in our 3-0 victory over Fisher.

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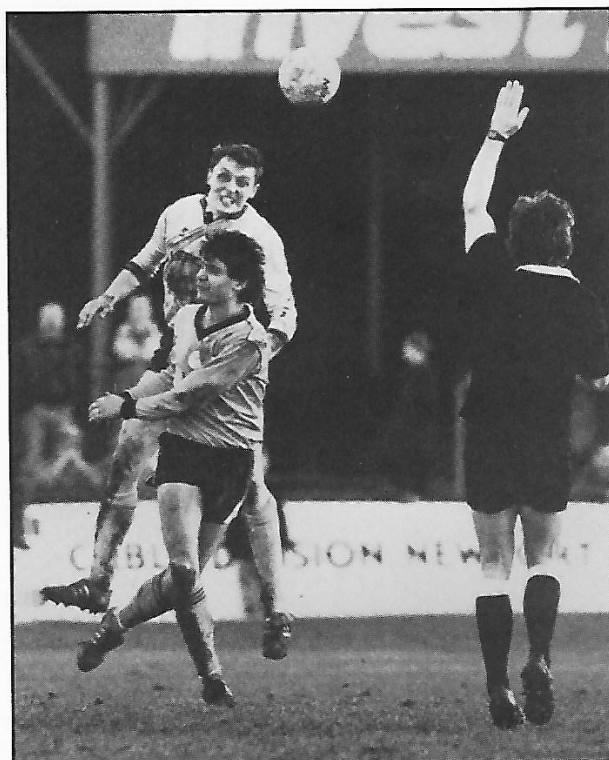
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Glyn Creaser's face shows his determination to win this header at Newport.

football and won every bit as easily as the 3-0 result suggested with goals from West, Carroll and Durham.

The team and its ever-growing legion of supporters were in a buoyant mood the following Saturday when travelling to South Wales to face Newport County, the former Football League club now struggling at the wrong end of the GM Vauxhall Conference table. As mentioned earlier, the Welsh club failed to complete their fixtures due to financial problems and their results were expunged from

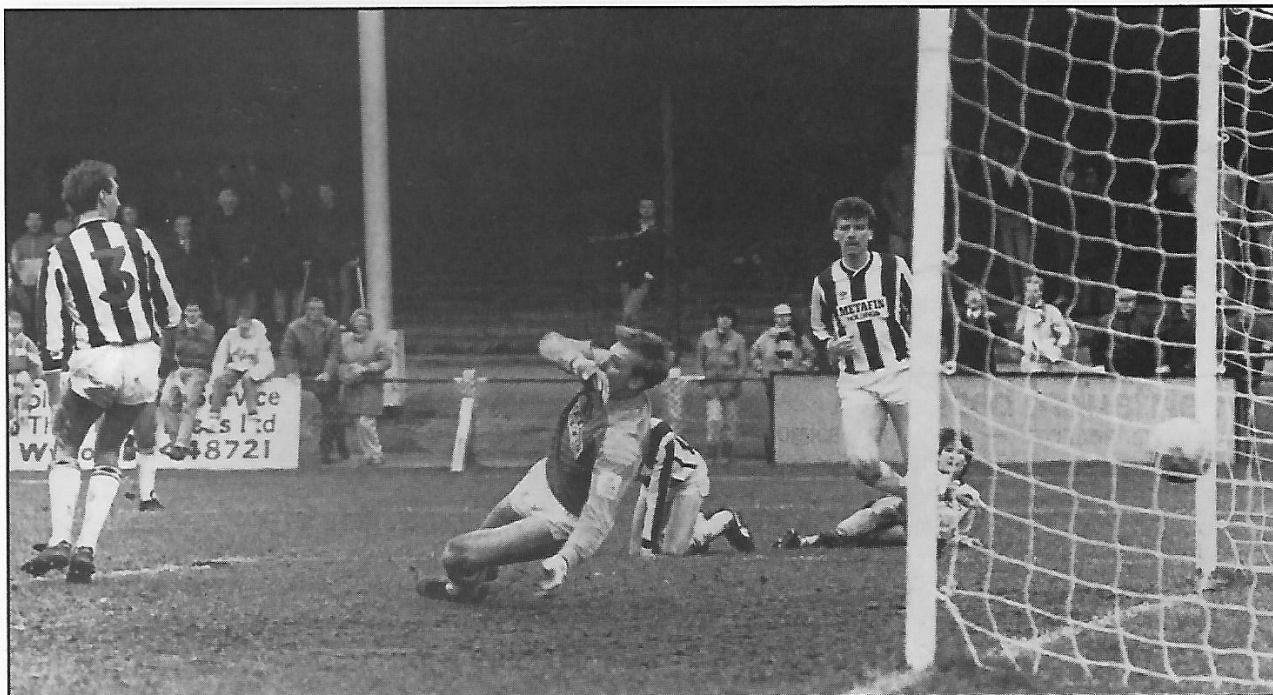
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John Kerr is still on the ground having just laid on Mark West's (out of picture) third goal in our 6-1 win over Stafford.

all club records, but despite their problems there was no lack of spirit and commitment from the Newport players on this occasion. In probably one of the season's most enthralling and entertaining matches, an early goal from West and two superb efforts by Durham put the Chairboys 3-1 ahead before being pegged back to 3-3. Further goals from John Kerr and Mark West (penalty) eventually sealed a 5-3 win and 5th place in the league table. A Tuesday night fixture at Stafford proved to be a less eventful affair, ending all square at 1-1. Now into early February, a 1-0 win at Wealdstone propelled the Wanderers into the last 16 of the FA Trophy; drawn at home to yet another Beazer Homes League club, Merthyr Tydfil, in round three, Wycombe supporters were beginning to see a Wembley appearance as a very real possibility. On the team's current form, there was no one to fear.

Stafford Rangers visited Loakes Park for their return league fixture and were soon a goal up with the 2,040 crowd wondering if the bubble was finally about to burst. but by full time the bubble had only got bigger, courtesy of a remarkable double-act by the flourishing striking partnership of Mark West and John Kerr. A hat trick from West was promptly followed by the same from Kerr for a 6-1 win and Club Chairman Ivor Beeks had the pleasure of presenting a match ball to each player in the Blues

Clubhouse after the game. By now the Wanderers had risen to 4th place in the table, and though any such suggestion five months earlier would have probably led to a consignment of strait jackets being delivered to Loakes Park, it was beginning to dawn on everyone at the Club that the top spot was not that far away. Championship? Promotion?! The next Conference fixture - at home to Kidderminster Harriers, the Conference leaders at the

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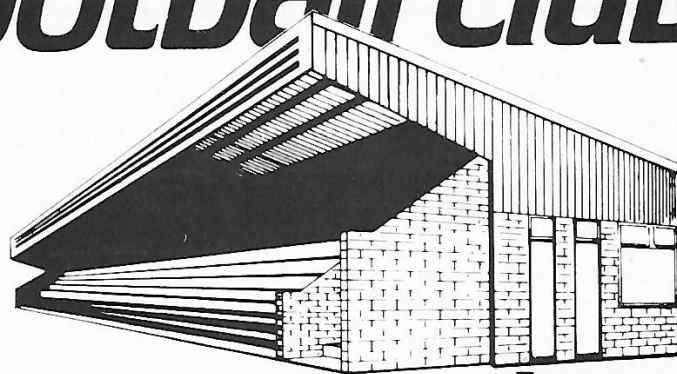
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KEY:

DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	V	RESULT	H-T	ATT	SCORERS	1	2	3
30/07/88	Brackley Town	Fr	A	D 0-0	(0-0)	200		Crompton	Wilson	Norman
06/08/88	Harrow Borough	Fr	H	W 4-1	(2-1)	334	Abbley 18, Young 32, Durham 47, West 56	Crompton	Taylor	Norman
09/08/88	Kingstonian	Fr	H	L 1-2	(0-0)	348	Greenaway 70	Crompton *	Taylor	Norman
13/08/88	Bromsgrove Rovers	Fr	A	L 0-4	(0-1)			Crompton	Abbley	Norman
20/08/88	Yeovil Town	GMVC	A	D 1-1	(0-1)	3107	West 64	Crompton	Taylor	Norman
23/08/88	Maidstone United	GMVC	H	L 2-3	(2-1)	1674	West 8, Carroll 18	Crompton	Taylor	Norman
25/08/88	Cambridge United	CL	H	D 2-2	(1-1)	117	Head 12, Roderick 72	Vasey	Abbley	Watson
27/08/88	Chorley	GMVC	A	L 2-3	(1-0)	870	Abbley 4, Durham 48	Crompton	Taylor	Norman
29/08/88	Northwich Victoria	GMVC	H	L 1-4	(1-2)	1549	og 30	Crompton	Taylor	Norman
31/08/88	Barnet	CL	H	L 2-3	(1-3)	127	Peek 5, Elworthy 88	Vasey	Steiger	Roderick
03/09/88	Cheltenham Town	GMVC	H	W 1-0	(1-0)	1304	West 20	Crompton	A.Kerr	Norman
06/09/88	Barnet	GMVC	H	L 2-3	(1-2)	1815	Durham 5, A.Kerr 86	Crompton	A.Kerr	Norman *
10/09/88	Kettering Town	GMVC	A	L 1-2	(1-1)	1520	Blackler 44	Granville	Taylor	Norman
14/09/88	Welling United	GMVC	A	W 1-0	(0-0)	848	Carroll 68	Granville	Abbley	Norman
15/09/88	Aylesbury United	CL	H	W 2-1	(2-0)	212	Markwell 5, Young 18	Crompton	Wilson *	Roderick
17/09/88	Haverhill Rovers	FAC1Q	H	W 4-1	(1-0)	1012	Durham 20,52, Regan 50, Young 65	Granville	Abbley	Norman
19/09/88	Fisher Athletic	GMVC	A	D 3-3	(1-2)	805	Durham 14,89, Day 64	Granville	Abbley	Norman
24/09/88	Runcorn	GMVC	H	D 3-3	(2-2)	1304	Norman 11, Robinson 36, Carroll 47	Granville	Abbley	Norman
27/09/88	Newport County	GMVC	H	W 5-0	(1-0)	1672	Day 28, Regan 62, Durham 86, West 87, Blackler 89	Granville	Abbley	Norman
01/10/88	Finchley	FAC2Q	A	W 3-0	(1-0)	400	Durham 22, West 54,72	Granville	Abbley	Norman
04/10/88	Wokingham Town	CC1	A	W 2-1	(0-1)	695	Regan 52, Young 102	Granville	Abbley	Day
08/10/88	Welling United	GMVC	H	D 1-1	(0-1)	1552	og 89	Granville	Day	Norman
11/10/88	Weymouth	GMVC	A	W 3-0	(1-0)	801	Durham 26, J.Kerr 49, Blackler 89	Granville	A.Kerr	Norman
15/10/88	Staines Town	FAC3Q	A	W 1-0	(0-0)	1100	West 60	Granville	A.Kerr	Norman
19/10/88	Cambridge United	CL	A	W 1-0	(1-0)		Elworthy 61	Lester	Wilson	Hinton *
22/10/88	Telford United	GMVC	H	W 1-0	(0-0)	1477	West 70	Granville	A.Kerr	Norman
24/10/88	Kidderminster Harriers	CC2	A	L 1-4	(0-2)	929	Young 85	Granville	A.Kerr	Norman
27/10/88	Wealdstone	CL	H	W 6-3	(3-0)		Osborne 13, Young 19, Regan 40,58, Durham 46, Greenaway 67	Crompton	Wilson	Markwell
29/10/88	Kettering Town	FAC4Q	H	L 1-2	(1-1)	2454	West 45	Granville	A.Kerr	Day
01/11/88	Barnet	CL	A	L 1-2	(0-0)		Elworthy 64	Lester	Britnell	Norman
05/11/88	Boston United	GMVC	A	W 1-0	(1-0)	1741	Norman 23	Granville	A.Kerr	Norman
08/11/88	Enfield	GMVC	H	W 3-2	(2-1)	1549	West 27, Osborne 39, J.Kerr 83	Granville	A.Kerr	Norman
12/11/88	Sutton United	GMVC	H	D 2-2	(0-1)	1884	West 66, Durham 86	Granville	A.Kerr	Abbley
15/11/88	Southend United	CL	A	D 1-1	(1-0)		Regan 43	Lester	Wilson	Norman
19/11/88	Kidderminster Harriers	GMVC	A	L 0-2	(0-1)	1505		Granville	A.Kerr	Abbley
26/11/88	Altrincham	GMVC	A	D 2-2	(1-0)	1229	J.Kerr 37, Durham 58	Granville	A.Kerr	Norman
29/11/88	Chesham United	B&B1	H	W 4-1	(3-0)	678	Blackler 2, A.Kerr 13, J.Kerr 41,89	Lester	A.Kerr	Abbley
01/12/88	Wokingham Town	CL	A	L 0-1	(0-1)			Crompton	Wilson	Norman
03/12/88	Cambridge City	FAT3Q	H	W 2-0	(0-0)	1272	West 51, Carroll 70	Granville	A.Kerr	Abbley
10/12/88	Barnet	GMVC	A	L 0-1	(0-0)	2434		Granville	Crossley	Abbley
14/12/88	Gillingham	CL	A	L 1-3	(1-1)		Robinson 37	Lester	Sidley	Norman
17/12/88	Chorley	GMVC	H	D 1-1	(1-0)	1573	Durham 18	Granville	Abbley	Norman
26/12/88	Aylesbury United	GMVC	A	W 2-0	(1-0)	2406	Durham 36, West 84	Granville	Abbley	Norman *
31/12/88	Maidstone United	GMVC	A	W 3-1	(2-0)	1127	West 15,80, J.Kerr 22	Granville	Abbley	Norman
02/01/89	Aylesbury United	GMVC	H	W 1-0	(1-0)	3211	West 37	Granville	Abbley	Norman
12/01/89	Wokingham Town	CL	H	W 4-1	(2-1)		J.Kerr 15, Elworthy 28, Hinton 62, Spurr 83	Lester	Hinton	Dean
07/01/89	Runcorn	GMVC	A	W 3-2	(1-1)	774	West 14, Durham 75, J.Kerr 78	Granville	Abbley	Norman
11/01/89	Winslow United	B&B2	H	W 2-1	(0-0)	554	J.Kerr 69, West 119	Crompton	Dean	Norman
15/01/89	Bath City	FAT1	A	D 0-0	(0-0)	1174		Granville	Abbley	Norman
18/01/89	Bath City	FAT1r	H	W 4-0	(2-0)	1100	J.Kerr 32,35,84, Robinson 70	Granville	Abbley	Norman
21/01/89	Fisher Athletic	GMVC	H	W 3-0	(1-0)	1694	West 5, Carroll 65, Durham 76	Granville	Abbley	Norman
25/01/89	Aylesbury United	CL	A	L 0-2	(0-0)			Crompton	Sherlock	Freshwater
28/01/89	Newport County	GMVC	A	W 5-3	(2-1)	1382	West 3,86, Durham 43,50, J.Kerr 71	Granville	Abbley	Norman
31/01/89	Stafford Rangers	GMVC	A	D 1-1	(1-0)	999	J.Kerr 40	Granville	Abbley	Norman *
04/02/89	Wealdstone	FAT2	A	W 1-0	(0-0)	1469	Blackler 46	Lester	Abbley	A.Kerr
07/02/89	Leyton Orient	CL	A	L 0-2	(0-2)			Crompton	Sherlock	Freshwater
11/02/89	Stafford Rangers	GMVC	H	W 6-1	(4-1)	2040	West 28,38,40, J.Kerr 42,70,74	Granville	Abbley	Norman
15/02/89	Southend United	CL	H	L 1-4	(1-1)		og 36	Lester	Spurr	Freshwater
18/02/89	Kidderminster Harriers	GMVC	H	W 1-0	(0-0)	4239	A.Kerr 55	Granville	Abbley	Norman
22/02/89	Marlow	B&B	A	L 0-5	(0-2)	1504		Crompton	Sidley	Elworthy
25/02/89	Merthyr Tydfil	FAT3	H	W 2-0	(2-0)	3434	West 11, Creaser 39	Granville	Abbley	Norman
04/03/89	Yeovil Town	GMVC	H	D 1-1	(1-1)	3103	West 17	Granville	Abbley	Norman
07/03/89	Enfield	CL	H	L 0-2	(0-1)			Crompton	Sidley	Guppy
11/03/89	Hyde United	FATQ/F	A	L 0-1	(0-0)	2341		Granville	Abbley *	Norman
15/03/89	Welling United	CL	H	W 4-0	(0-0)		Butler 58, Russell 69, Crossley 77,79	Crompton	Day	Freshwater
18/03/89	Boston United	GMVC	H	W 2-1	(2-0)	2073	Evans 25,26	Granville	Abbley	Norman
20/03/89	Wealdstone	CL	A	W 4-1	(1-0)		Waters 4, Butler 50,71,86	Crompton	Freshwater	Elworthy
22/03/89	Gillingham	CL	H	L 0-2	(0-2)			Lester	Hinton	Freshwater
25/03/89	Telford United	GMVC	A	W 2-1	(1-0)	1515	J.Kerr 27, Evans 60	Granville	Abbley	Norman
27/03/89	Macclesfield Town	GMVC	H	D 1-1	(0-0)	3873	J.Kerr 75	Granville	Abbley	Norman
29/03/89	Brentford	CL	A	L 0-2	(0-1)			Crompton	Hinton	Elworthy
01/04/89	Cheltenham Town	GMVC	A	W 1-0	(0-0)	1772	Durham 77	Granville	Abbley	Norman
08/04/89	Kettering Town	GMVC	H	L 0-1	(0-0)	4890		Granville	Abbley	Norman *
11/04/89	Enfield	GMVC	A	W 4-3	(2-1)	843	West 1,83,84, Carroll 40	Granville	Abbley	Norman
15/04/89	Colchester United	CL	H	W 6-1	(4-0)		Waters (4), Elworthy, Meli	Crompton	Wrack	Freshwater
15/04/89	Altrincham	GMVC	H	W 2-1	(0-0)	2115	Carroll 48, J.Kerr 70	Granville	Abbley	Norman
20/04/89	Leyton Orient	CL	H	L 1-2	(0-0)		Waters 60	Crompton	A.Kerr	Freshwater
22/04/89	Sutton United	GMVC	A	L 0-3	(0-0)	1224		Granville	Abbley	A.Kerr *
29/04/89	Macclesfield Town	GMVC	A	W 1-0	(0-0)	1006	og 57	Granville	Abbley	Norman
01/05/89	Weymouth	GMVC	H	D 0-0	(0-0)	2052		Granville	Abbley	Carroll
02/05/89	Brentford	CL	H	D 2-2			Markwell, Butler	Crompton	Sherlock	Freshwater
03/05/89	Colchester United	CL	A	W 6-4			A.Kerr, West, J.Kerr (2), Durham, Butler	Crompton	Norman	A.Kerr
06/05/89	Northwich Victoria	GMVC	A	W 3-2	(1-2)	609	Creaser 4, West 68, Russell 70	Granville	Abbley	Carroll *
08/05/89	Welling United	CL	A	W 3-2			Elworthy, Markwell, Butler	Alberg	Meli	Freshwater
11/05/89	Enfield	CL	A	L 0-1	(0-0)			Moussaddik	Meli	Freshwater

GMVC = General Motors Vauxhall Conference
 CL = Capital League
 # = Substitute not used

FAC = F.A. Cup
 Fr = Friendly
 FAT = F.A. Trophy
 * = Substitute
 CC = Challenge Cup
 B&BC = Berks & Bucks Senior Cup

4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17
Sidley	Day	Blackler	Abbley	Meli *	Roderick	Boyland	Lissaman	Vasey#	Dean			
Ray	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley *	Robinson	West	Young	Durham	Rippon	Styles#			
Day	Barrett	Blackler *	Abbley *	Robinson	West	Boyland *	Lissaman *	Osborne	Vasey	Greenaway	Young	Durham
Taylor	Day	Osborne	Greenaway	Robinson	Price *	West	Durham	Lissaman	Elworthy#			
Day	Barrett	Osborne	Carroll *	Robinson	West	Young *	Durham	Greenaway	Abbley			
Day	Barrett	Osborne	Carroll	Robinson	West	Young *	Durham	Abbley	Greenaway#			
Steiger	Ray	Price *	Greenaway	Head	Peek	Lissaman	Roderick	Elworthy#	Meli			
Day	Barrett	Durham	Abbley	Robinson	West	Young *	Greenaway	Lissaman#	Roderick			
Day	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	West	Young	Durham	Roderick#	Greenaway#			
A.Kerr	Ray	Blackler *	Wignall	Elworthy	Peek	Regan *	Head	Price	Sidley			
Day	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley *	Robinson	West	Taylor	Durham	Young#	Greenaway			
Day	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	West	Taylor	Durham	Young	Greenaway#			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley *	Robinson	West	Boyland *	Durham	Regan	Greenaway			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Carroll	Robinson	West	Regan *	Durham	Young	Taylor#			
Sidley	Price	Markwell	Young	Lissaman	Ricketts	Boyland	Elworthy	Dean	Regan#			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler *	Carroll	Robinson	West	Regan *	Durham	Young	Greenaway			
Day	Barrett	Blackler	Carroll	Robinson	West	Regan *	Durham	Young	Greenaway#			
Day	Barrett	Blackler	Carroll	Robinson	West	Young	Durham	Regan#	Greenaway#			
Day	Barrett	Blackler	Carroll	Robinson	West	Young *	Durham	Regan	Greenaway#			
Day	Barrett	Blackler *	Carroll	Robinson	West	Regan *	Durham	Young	Greenaway			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Carroll *	Robinson	West	Regan *	Durham	Young	Norman			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler *	Abbley	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Young	Greenaway#			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham *	Young	Day#			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson *	West	J.Kerr *	Greenaway	Young	Day			
A.Kerr *	Day	Markwell	Osborne	Sidley	Young	Spurr	Elworthy	Crossley	May			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	West	Dublin	Young *	Day#	Greenaway			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	Young	Dublin	Greenaway*	Day#	Osborne			
Crossley	Day	Osborne	Greenaway	Sidley *	Young	Regan	Durham *	J.Kerr	Dale			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Norman#	Osborne#			
Crossley	Ray *	Osborne	Dale	Markwell *	Brady	Young	Regan	Sidley	Elworthy			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	West	J.Kerr *	Durham	Osborne	Brady#			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Abbley	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Osborne *	Durham	Young#			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Osborne	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Norman#	Young#			
Jean *	Crossley	Markwell *	Dale	Sidley	Regan	Elworthy	Young	Meli	Ray			
Creaser	Barrett	Blackler	Osborne	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Norman#	Crossley#			
Creaser	Barrett	Osborne	Abbley	Robinson	West *	J.Kerr	Durham	Crossley	Blackler#			
Creaser *	Crossley	Blackler	Carroll	Robinson	Osborne	J.Kerr	Durham	West#	Sidley			
Day	Ray	Markwell *	Dale	Sidley	Young	Elworthy	Regan	Dean	Barrett			
Creaser	Robinson	Blackler	Osborne	Carroll *	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Norman	Crossley#			
Creaser	Robinson	Blackler	Osborne	Carroll	West *	J.Kerr	Durham	Norman	Sidley#			
Hinton	Twitchen	Stanbrook	Dale	Robinson	J.Kerr *	Meli	Lockyer	Elworthy#	Crompton			
Day	Crossley	Blackler	Carroll	Robinson	J.Kerr *	Osborne	Durham	West	Sidley#			
Creaser	Barrett	Crossley	Carroll *	Robinson	J.Kerr	Osborne	Durham	West	Blackler			
Creaser	Barrett	Crossley	Osborne *	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham *	Carroll	Blackler			
Creaser	Barrett	Crossley	Carroll	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham *	Blackler	A.Kerr#			
Price	A.Kerr	Blackler	Markwell	Goodenough *	Dale *	Spurr	Elworthy	Manley	Jeffries			
Creaser	Barrett	A.Kerr	Carroll	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Robinson#	Roderick#			
Creaser	Robinson	A.Kerr	Markwell	Brady *	West	J.Kerr	Carroll *	Meli	Wilson			
Creaser	Barrett	A.Kerr	Carroll	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne#	Roderick#			
Creaser	Barrett	A.Kerr	Carroll	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne#	Markwell#			
Creaser	Barrett	A.Kerr	Carroll *	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne	Markwell#			
Hinton	Sullivan	Sidley *	Osborne	Blackler	Spurr	Elworthy	Stanbrook *	Kipping	Meli			
Creaser	Blackler	A.Kerr	Carroll	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne#	Brady#			
Creaser	Robinson	A.Kerr	Carroll	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne	Brady#			
Creaser	Robinson	Blackler	Osborne	Carroll	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Norman#	Brady#			
Dean	Hinton	Sidley	Odey	Brady	Gregory	Markwell	Elworthy	Kipping	Meli			
Creaser	Robinson	A.Kerr	Carroll *	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne	Brady#			
Sidley	Hinton	Sullivan	Markwell	Osborne	Elworthy	Brady	Taverner *	Sawyer	Kipping			
Creaser	Robinson	A.Kerr	Carroll	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne#	Brady#			
Dean	Hinton	Sullivan	Spurr	Osborne	Brady	Dale	Kipping	Meli	Wilson	Lester#		
Creaser	Robinson	A.Kerr *	Carroll	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Osborne	Barrett#			
Creaser	Robinson	Osborne *	Carroll	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Barrett	Butler#			
Russell	Crossley *	Hinton	Gregory	Benning	Alleyne	Waters	Elworthy	Sawyer#	Day			
Creaser	Barrett *	Robinson	Carroll	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Butler	Day			
Russell	Crossley	Benning	Gregory *	Kiddie	Guppy *	Butler	Kale	Alleyne	Waters			
Creaser	Robinson	Crossley	Carroll	Evans	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Blackler#	Butler#			
Markwell *	Benning	Hinton	Waters	Gregory	Butler	Guppy	Kiddie	Meli	Sidley#			
Elworthy	Russell	Gregory	Blackler	Barrett	Butler	Waters *	Kiddie	Meli	Markwell#			
Creaser	Robinson	Crossley	Carroll *	Evans *	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Butler	Russell			
Creaser	Robinson	Crossley	Carroll	Evans	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Butler#	Russell#			
Benning	Russell	Barrett	Markwell	Waters	Gregory	Butler	Meli	Sidley#				
Creaser	Robinson	Crossley	Carroll	Evans	Butler *	J.Kerr	Durham	West	Barrett#			
Creaser	Robinson	Crossley	Carroll	Evans	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Barrett#	Butler			
Creaser	Robinson	Crossley	Carroll	Evans *	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Butler#	Russell			
A.Kerr *	Benning	Markwell *	Blackler	Elworthy	Waters	Gregory	Wiltshire	Meli	Hinton			
Creaser	Barrett	Crossley	Carroll	Robinson	West	J.Kerr *	Durham	Butler	Blackler#			
Benning	Wiltshire	Russell	Waters	Blackler	Butler	Wrack *	Elworthy	Crossley#	Meli			
Creaser	Barrett *	Crossley	Carroll	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Norman	Blackler			
Creaser	A.Kerr	Crossley	Carroll	Robinson	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Blackler#	Butler#			
Creaser	A.Kerr	Crossley	Blackler	Robinson	West *	J.Kerr	Durham *	Butler	Norman			
Hinton *	Russell	Norman	Carroll	Markwell	Butler	Wrack	Elworthy *	Meli	O'Shea			
Creaser	Robinson	Crossley	Blackler	West	J.Kerr	Durham	Butler *	Meli	Markwell#			
Creaser	Norman	Russell	Blackler	Robinson	West	A.Kerr	Durham	Crossley	Butler#			
Benning	A.Kerr	Wiltshire	Markwell	Wrack	Crompton	Butler	Elworthy	Sherlock#				
Russell	Benning	Norman	Robinson	Wrack	Okonkwo	Butler	Waters	Markwell#	Elworthy#			



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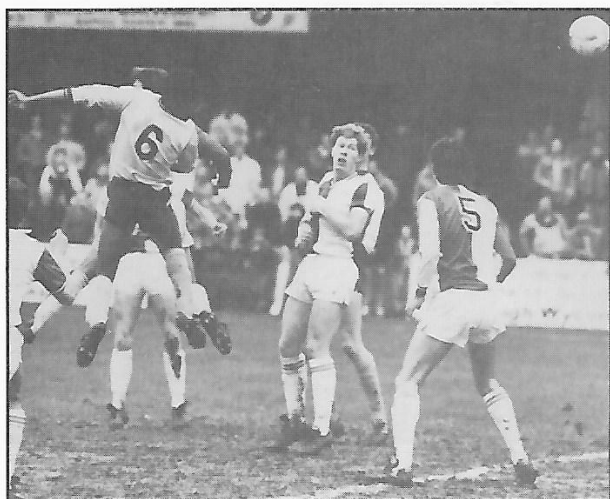


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Andy Kerr powers in a header despite the close attention of numerous Kidderminster players in our 1-0 victory.

time - was expected to demonstrate just how real or otherwise such ambitions actually were. It was patently obvious to all, that public interest in the club and its steady rise up the Conference table was higher than it had been for many years, and it was hoped that the visit of Kidderminster would attract a 3,000-plus crowd; the astonishing figure of 4,239 took even the most optimistic by surprise. But as if this was not enough to gladden the hearts of all Wycombe's people, the team chose this occasion in which to turn in a magnificent performance, completely outplaying the Harriers in all departments, who must have been relieved that their defeat was only by a solitary goal. That goal did not arrive until 10 minutes after half time by Andy Kerr, who celebrated in style at the gasworks end. It was said that the roar which acclaimed the goal was clearly heard in the centre of the Octagon Shopping Centre and on the far reaches of the Rye playing fields. The Midweek and the Bucks Free Press wrote glowing praise of the team, and reported that Director Brian Lee (manager of the legendary Wycombe teams of the seventies) had generously told Jim Kelman that it had been the finest footballing performance he had ever seen from a Wycombe team. Few would have argued, in the generally euphoric mood which surrounded the Club for days afterwards (until the Wednesday at least). At this stage of the season big matches were coming thick and fast, and with the FA Trophy tie with Merthyr Tydfil only three days away, the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup was sacrificed at Marlow, Jim Kelman fielding a reserve side which was overwhelmed to the tune of 5-0. It did not make pretty viewing, particularly as a large crowd had assembled, obviously in expectation of seeing a more genuine contest. There were no complaints the following Saturday when Merthyr were beaten 2-0 at Loakes Park (both sides missing penalties in the process). The tie was played on a quagmire of a pitch and in front of a crowd of 3,434, including a large contingent from Mid-Wales who must have been glad to be segregated in a covered section of the ground - unlike their Wycombe counterparts who got very wet, but went home happy with the result and excited at the prospect of the Wanderers appearing in Monday's Quarter-Final draw. It was difficult to see who in the last 8 would be capable of stopping the in-form Wycombe team. The FA Trophy, so it seemed, was there for the taking. The Quarter-Final draw gave us an away tie at either Hyde United or Windsor and Eton, and once

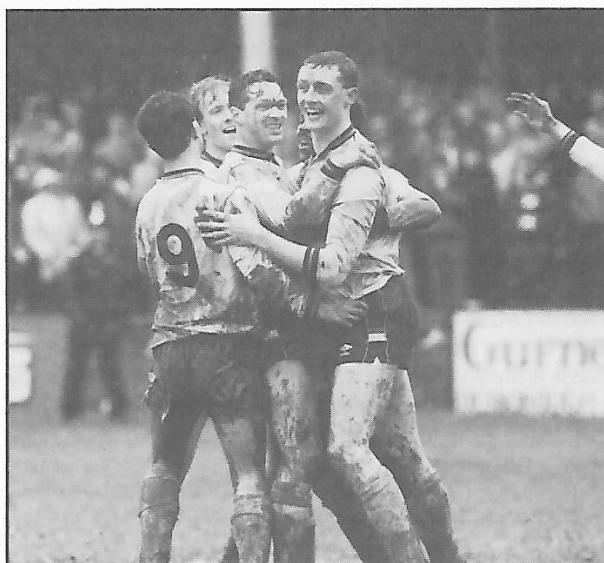
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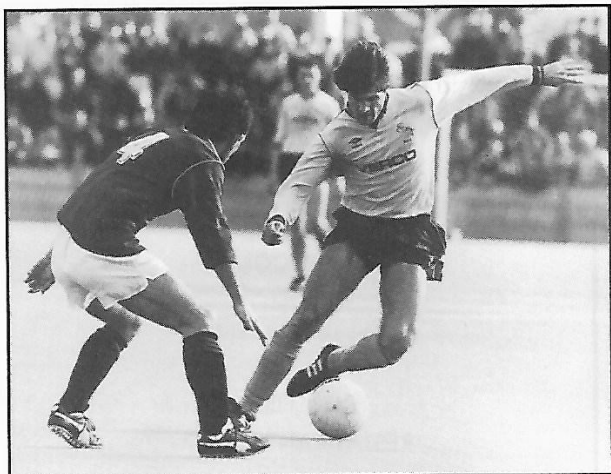
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Mud splattered Wycombe players celebrate Glyn Creaser's first ever goal for Wycombe in our 2-0 F.A. Trophy victory over Merthyr Tydfil.

Hyde had won their home replay with Windsor, all that stood between Wycombe Wanderers and a place in the Semi Final was a team on the fringes of the HFS Loans (Northern Premier) League title race and their plastic pitch. After a home Conference fixture with Yeovil Town resulting in a 1-1 draw (in front of another 3,000 plus crowd at Loakes Park), approximately 1,000 Wycombe followers travelled up to the outskirts of Manchester for a match with Hyde. The mood was one of great optimism, the Wycombe team having been on such formidable form for so long, but it was optimism laced with a dash of uncertainty and anxiety with the artificial pitch in mind. Our dreams were shattered. This is not the time and place to debate the pros and cons of artificial pitches in football, but it must be recorded that the manner of our team's

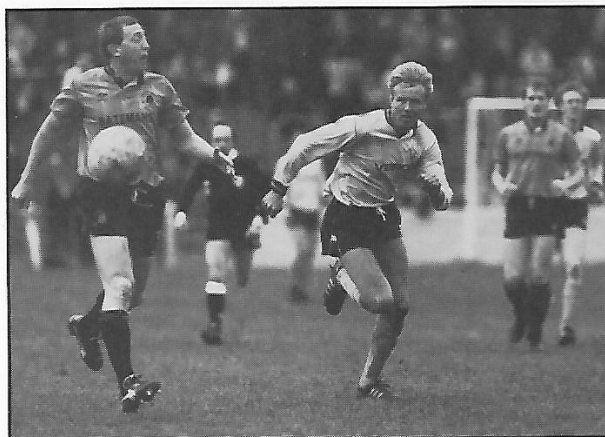


John Kerr dances past a Hyde defender in our plastic nightmare in the F.A. Trophy

defeat confirmed the worst fears about the surface. The players, for their part, battled hard, but their strengths as a team lay in their ability to play open, attractive football and it soon became apparent that there was no room here for such niceties. A Hyde free kick was punted deep into the Wycombe penalty area shortly after half time and was met with a firm header for the only goal of a sad and frustrating afternoon. Not until the very last minute were the Blues able to create a clear-cut goalscoring chance, Kevin Durham being the unfortunate player to see his shot screw across the face of the goal, and with it the Twin Towers disappeared over the horizon for another year. Hyde celebrated their victory enthusiastically, and were then comfortably beaten by Telford United over the two legged Semi-Final. How we would have loved a second leg.

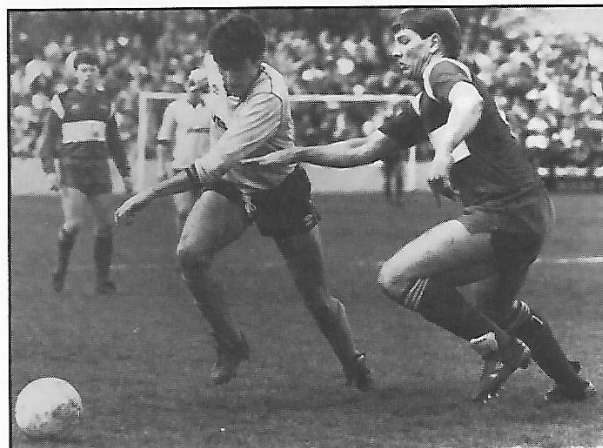
The cloud of gloom hanging over the club was suddenly dispersed four days later when the Club announced to an astonished non-league football world that the Barnet striker Nicky Evans was signing for the Wanderers, for a record non league transfer fee of £25,000 (£35,000 if BBC Radio Two and some newspapers were to be believed). One or two seasons ago paying such a fee would have been unthinkable, and it reflected both the considerable changes which had taken place in the semi-professional game since the formation of the Conference, and the new level of ambition within Wycombe Wanderers Football Club. With building work on the club's new Adams Park Stadium about to commence at Sands, it had already been decided that, should the Wanderers pull off the remarkable feat of winning this season's Conference title, then the Club would spend whatever was required to bring Loakes Park up to the necessary safety standards to ensure that promotion to the Football League would not be missed.

Evans made his Wycombe debut the following Saturday at home to Boston United, and within the first half hour had scored two superb goals which proved enough for a 2-1 win, thus ending Boston's long unbeaten league record and extending our own. A week later, on the last Saturday in March, Evans was on the score-sheet again along with John Kerr in an excellent 2-1 win away at Telford United, a result which lifted the Wanderers into 3rd place in the Conference table. At times like this, simply gazing at the Conference league table in the Sunday morning papers was an endless pleasure for the Wycombe fans. Two days after the win at Telford there



Nicky Evans in action in his two goal debut against Boston.

was an Easter Monday visit from Macclesfield Town, attracting a crowd of approaching 4,000 to Loakes Park. On a Monday afternoon with such a large enthusiastic crowd inside the ground, it was a sight to behold for everyone connected with the Club, especially those of us who, just 5 years ago, thought the days of gates over 1,000 for non league football at Loakes Park were a thing of the past. On this occasion it was Macclesfield who seized the initiative when they opened the scoring mid-way through the second half, but a John Kerr equaliser preserved our unbeaten run and sent the fans home reasonably happy. April began with a trip up the A40 to Cheltenham, where a subdued performance from the Blues on another hard, dry pitch nevertheless earned another 3 points and another away victory, by virtue of a late goal from Kevin Durham, which nicely set up yet another Loakes Park match seven days later with 3rd

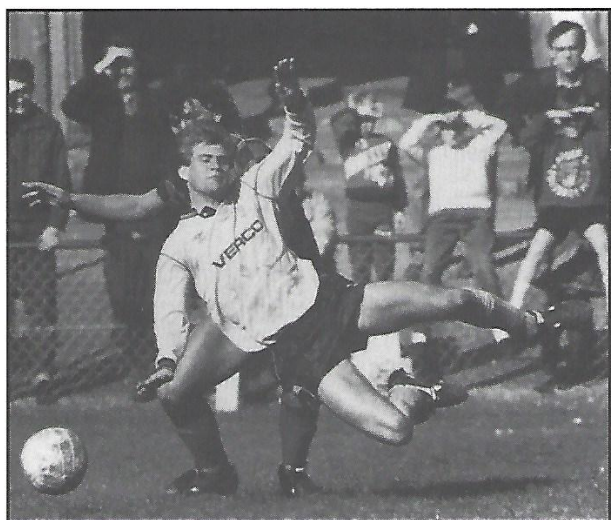


Steve Abley tries to round defender Gerard Creane in our 1-0 defeat by Kettering in the GMVC.

place Wycombe taking on Kettering, top of the table and joint favourites with Maidstone for the Championship. This match set the record for the season's highest attendance in the GM Vauxhall Conference, the figure of 4,890 including about 1,000 supporting the Northants Club. Once again the Wanderers relished the big match atmosphere and for the first hour of the match were by far the better side, causing several awkward moments for the robust Kettering defence. On at least two occasions the Wycombe forward line were denied a deserved opening goal by quite breathtaking saves from their excellent goalkeeper Andy Beasley, before a harmless looking header by Kettering's substitute Cohen Griffiths took a wicked deflection off Glyn Creaser and into John Granville's net for the only goal of the game. Kettering's

fans and players were overjoyed at obtaining three points from their visit to Loakes Park, but from our point of view the result more or less signalled the end of any hope we had in making a late run for the Conference Championship, particularly as the demise of Newport County and the expunging of all their results had taken six points (and a goal difference of 10-3) from our playing record.

Now mid-April and with six league fixtures remaining, the main aim was to simply finish the season in as high a league position as possible, and there was no lack of commitment to this cause when we visited a sparsely populated Southbury Road the following Tuesday evening to face Enfield. After the first minute goal from Mark West had been equalised, Dave Carroll found the net to give us a 2-1 lead. Another Enfield equaliser appeared to have tied up the game at 2-2 but with seven minutes remaining an electrifying burst of speed into the penalty area by John Kerr was halted at the cost of a penalty, duly converted by Mark West. Within seconds of the restart a brilliant move down the left flank ended with West gleefully running onto a low cross and thumping the ball home for a 4-2 lead, enthusiastically celebrated as always by the travelling fans behind the goal. A last minute Enfield goal shortened the margin to 4-3, but did not diminish the



John Kerr is sent flying by this Altrincham defender in our 2-1 victory at Loakes Park.

satisfaction of achieving another away win, and holding our 4th place in the Conference table. The following Saturday's 2-1 win at Loakes Park over Altrincham was a much less eventful affair, but in any case will be remembered for the news which filtered through during the course of the afternoon of the shocking and distressing occurrences at the FA Cup Semi Final in Sheffield. The cloud of depression and sadness which fell over the professional game as a result of the Hillsborough tragedy was also felt throughout the non-league game, and for some time our football disappointments, hopes and ambitions faded into a more shallow perspective. Our first fixture following the disaster was away to Sutton United seven days later, and a stranglely out of sorts Wycombe side surprisingly crashed 0-3, the goals coming in the last quarter of the game.

The Chairboy's penultimate away fixture of the season was at Macclesfield the following Saturday. The atmosphere was rather different, with just over 1,000

people present, including many from Wycombe, to that which had prevailed when the two sides had met at Loakes Park a month earlier, despite the fact that the Silkmen had recently booked a trip to Wembley for the FA Trophy final. Nevertheless, it took an intelligent, resolute performance to take all three points from one of the Conferences more daunting Northern outposts; and, the assistance of a Steve Abbley cross being deflected off an opponents knee and looping over the helpless keeper's head for the only goal of the game. Own goal or not, the Wanderers were back on the winning trail, and now faced relegated Weymouth at Loakes Park on a sunny May Day Bank Holiday afternoon in our final home league match of the season. Things rarely go according to script in football and the comfortable win which many of the 2,000 crowd expected did not materialise. Despite the anti-climax of a goalless draw, the Wycombe Wanderers players lapped the pitch after the final whistle, shaking the hands of the fans who appreciated their efforts and achievements over the course of a magnificent season. All that then remained was the final away match at Northwich, which as it turned out was a more fitting finale, as Team captain Glyn Creaser finally scored his first league goal for Wycombe with a perfectly placed header after only four minutes, but Northwich recovered to lead 2-1 at half time. Midway through the second half, two goals in three minutes by Mark West and Andy Russell reversed the scores again and the 3-2 win was our 11th away win of a season (eight more than our previous best in a season, and a figure bettered only by champions Maidstone). The victory, which was acclaimed enthusiastically, of course, by loyal fans who had seen so many fine away performances by the team over the previous nine months, meant that we finished in 4th place in the GM Conference table, behind Maidstone, Kettering and Boston.

No silverware had been won by the team, but in finishing 4th in the Conference it had achieved more than many of us had dared to hope for; there had been so many memorable victories, so many courageous performances given, so much attractive, attacking football played, so many large crowds at Loakes Park, so much renewed pride and increased interest in the town's football club, that Jim Kelman biggest worry now would surely be how to follow it all. Away from the playing side, the club's new stadium began to take shape through the summer months and should be ready for the start of the 1990-91 season, giving this coming season the added significance of being the club's final season at its much loved Loakes Park headquarters, after nearly 100 years on the site. It will be an emotional departure, but also an adventurous one which demonstrates the Club's ambitious plans for the future. The Clubs future should be bright from the formation of under 12 and under 13 teams under the names of Wycombe Wanderers Lions - these sides to be additions to the existing reserves and youth teams - another example of the Clubs growing commitment to involving itself in the local community. Success, they say, breeds success, and we can but hope that the tremendous success of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club during 1989-90 will do likewise over the coming seasons.

Simon Burrage



All photographs throughout "The Ups and Downs of 1988/89" courtesy of the Bucks Free Press.

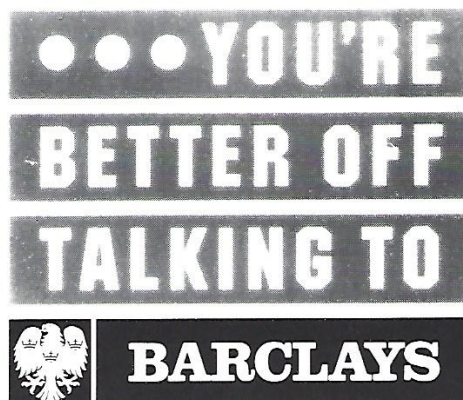
G.M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE SURVEY 1988/89

TEAM	HOME			versus	LOWEST	VERSUS	AWAY			TOTAL			% INC OR DEC.	
	NO	TOTAL	AVRG				NO	TOTAL	AVRG	NO	TOTAL	AVRG		
Kettering Town	20	50089	2504	4450	Welling United	1083	Northwich Vic	20	35237	1761	40	85326	2133	+81
Barnet	20	48626	2431	4247	Enfield	1488	Fisher Athletic	20	26862	1343	40	75488	1887	- 8
Yeovil Town	20	47903	2395	3691	Weymouth	1957	Fisher Athletic	20	25820	1291	40	73723	1843	+ 7
Wycombe W	20	44967	2248	4890	Kettering Town	1304	Cheltenham T	20	27134	1356	40	72101	1802	+54
Boston United	20	36607	1830	3343	Kettering Town	1050	Northwich Vic	20	24098	1204	40	60705	1517	+18
Kidderminster	20	30047	1502	2841	Macclesfield Town	915	Altrincham	20	30135	1506	40	60182	1504	+12
Macclesfield T	20	28655	1432	2196	Kettering Town	733	Fisher Athletic	20	31978	1598	40	60633	1515	+19
Cheltenham Town	20	24909	1245	2241	Kettering Town	856	Boston Utd	20	23626	1181	40	48535	1213	- 6
Telford United	20	24705	1235	2122	Kidderminster H	935	Sutton United	20	25913	1295	40	50618	1265	-16
Aylesbury United	20	23531	1176	2406	Wycombe Wanderers	742	Welling Utd	20	23806	1190	40	47337	1183	+24
Stafford Rangers	20	22364	1118	1887	Telford United	774	Yeovil Town	20	25216	1260	40	47580	1189	- 9
Maidstone United	20	20737	1036	2861	Kettering Town	506	Chorley	20	28938	1446	40	49675	1241	+ 6
Welling United	20	20330	1016	2541	Maidstone Utd	603	Weymouth	20	26047	1302	40	46377	1159	+16
Altrincham	20	18597	929	2139	Macclesfield Town	332	Sutton Utd	20	25803	1290	40	44400	1110	-31
Weymouth	20	18254	912	2480	Yeovil Town	342	Macclesfield Town	20	25764	1288	40	44018	1100	-39
Chorley	20	17822	891	1834	Barnet	480	Yeovil Town	20	26129	1306	40	43951	1098	+78
Sutton United	20	17163	858	1438	Kettering Town	501	Stafford Rangers	20	23532	1176	40	40695	1017	+26
Runcorn	20	15693	784	1155	Macclesfield Town	558	Aylesbury United	20	25284	1264	40	40977	1024	+ 1
Enfield	20	15594	779	2240	Barnet	437	Cheltenham Town	20	27302	1365	40	42896	1072	+ 1
Northwich Victoria	20	15060	753	1568	Macclesfield Town	501	Sutton United	20	22477	1123	40	37537	938	- 4
Fisher Athletic	20	10559	527	805	Wycombe Wanderers	304	Northwich Victoria	20	21111	1055	40	31670	791	-10
Aggregate	Average		% Increase		Gates over 1,000		Gates over 2,000		Clubs with % Inc.					
1988/89	Gate													
552,190	1315		+5		275		79		13					

HIGHEST ATTENDANCES 1988-89

4,890	Wycombe Wanderers	v	Kettering Town	8th April 1989
4,450	Kettering Town	v	Welling United	1st April 1989
4,377	Kettering Town	v	Kidderminster Harriers	25th March 1989
4,247	Barnet	v	Enfield	2nd January 1989
4,239	Wycombe Wanderers	v	Kidderminster Harriers	18th February 1989
3,873	Wycombe Wanderers	v	Macclesfield Town	27th March 1989
3,691	Yeovil Town	v	Weymouth	26th December 1988
3,343	Boston United	v	Kettering Town	2nd January 1989
3,253	Kettering Town	v	Macclesfield Town	22nd April 1989

IT'S NO GOOD
SHOUTING AT THE REF!



G. M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE FINAL TABLE 1988-89

Pos	Team	PL	Home					Away					DIFF	PTS
			W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1	Maidstone United	40	12	5	3	48	22	13	4	3	44	24	46	84
2	Kettering Town	40	16	1	3	35	15	7	6	7	21	24	17	76
3	Boston United	40	12	3	5	36	28	10	5	5	25	23	10	74
4	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	40	9	7	4	34	25	11	4	5	34	27	16	71
5	Kidderminster Harriers	40	10	4	6	32	32	11	2	7	36	25	11	69
6	Runcorn	40	11	3	6	39	22	8	5	7	38	31	24	65
7	Macclesfield Town	40	9	5	6	31	26	8	5	7	32	31	6	61
8	Barnet	40	11	2	7	36	30	7	5	8	28	39	- 5	61
9	Yeovil Town	40	8	5	7	34	30	7	6	7	34	37	1	56
10	Northwich Victoria	40	8	5	7	31	30	6	6	8	33	35	1	53
11	Welling United	40	8	6	6	27	16	6	5	9	18	30	1	53
12	Sutton United	40	10	5	5	43	26	2	10	8	21	28	10	51
13	Enfield	40	7	4	9	33	32	7	4	9	29	35	- 5	50
14	Altrincham	40	6	8	6	24	23	7	2	11	27	38	-10	49
15	Cheltenham Town	40	7	7	6	32	29	5	5	10	23	29	- 3	48
16	Telford United	40	5	5	10	17	24	8	4	8	20	19	- 6	48
17	Chorley	40	6	4	10	26	32	7	2	11	31	39	-14	45
18	Fisher Athletic	40	6	4	10	31	32	4	7	9	24	33	-10	41
19	Stafford Rangers	40	7	4	9	27	32	4	3	13	22	42	-25	40
20	Aylesbury United	40	7	4	9	27	30	2	5	13	16	41	-28	36
21	Weymouth	40	6	7	7	27	30	1	3	16	10	40	-33	31

G. M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE RESULTS 1988/89

	ALTRINCHAM	AYLESBURY UTD	BARNET	BOSTON UTD	CHELTEHAM T	CHORLEY	ENFIELD	FISHER ATH	KETTERING TOWN	KIDDERMINSTER	MACCLESFIELD T	MAIDSTONE UTD	NEWPORT COUNTY	NORTHWICH	RUNCORN	STAFFORD RANG	SUTTON UNITED	TELFORD UNITED	WELLING UNITED	WEYMOUTH	WYCOMBE WANDS	YEovil TOWN
ALTRINCHAM	•	1-0	1-1	0-0	0-1	1-2	0-0	1-1	1-2	3-1	1-3	0-1	1-0	2-2	1-2	2-1	1-0	0-0	3-1	2-1	2-2	2-2
AYLESBURY UTD	1-2	•	1-3	1-2	0-0	4-3	2-1	1-1	0-1	1-5	1-2	1-2	-	2-0	1-2	1-1	1-0	2-0	0-0	4-1	0-2	3-2
BARNET	3-0	1-0	•	0-0	3-1	2-4	2-1	2-3	3-2	0-2	1-4	2-1	4-1	2-0	3-2	1-2	1-1	1-3	2-3	4-1	1-0	2-0
BOSTON UTD	3-1	2-0	5-0	•	1-1	2-0	3-2	2-4	1-1	0-2	3-2	1-4	1-1	2-1	0-6	2-1	3-1	1-0	2-0	2-0	0-1	1-1
CHELTEHAM TOWN	2-1	0-0	1-2	3-1	•	2-2	3-2	2-2	2-1	4-1	3-0	0-4	3-2	2-2	2-1	1-2	2-3	0-1	1-1	1-1	0-1	1-1
CHORLEY	1-0	1-1	2-3	0-1	1-4	•	1-2	1-1	0-1	1-3	0-1	1-3	0-2	3-1	1-3	3-1	2-1	2-0	1-1	0-0	3-2	2-3
ENFIELD	2-1	2-1	4-0	1-2	3-4	1-2	•	2-1	1-1	1-3	2-1	1-1	3-0	1-2	0-3	4-2	1-1	0-1	0-1	3-0	3-4	1-1
FISHER ATHLETIC	1-1	0-2	1-2	1-3	2-0	4-0	1-2	•	3-0	2-0	2-2	0-2	3-2	2-4	0-1	0-1	1-1	0-1	1-3	3-2	3-3	4-2
KETTERING TOWN	0-1	5-2	3-1	1-2	2-0	3-0	0-1	2-1	•	2-1	1-0	3-3	-	2-1	2-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	2-1	1-0	2-1	1-0
KIDDERMINSTER H	2-3	4-3	1-0	0-2	3-2	0-2	1-3	2-1	1-1	•	0-1	3-6	1-1	1-1	2-1	3-2	1-0	1-1	2-1	1-0	2-0	2-2
MACCLESFIELD T	1-0	3-1	1-1	0-1	0-0	3-2	1-1	2-2	0-1	1-1	•	4-3	3-0	0-2	3-2	2-1	1-3	2-1	3-0	2-0	0-1	2-3
MAIDSTONE UTD	7-2	1-1	3-2	3-0	2-0	2-0	3-1	1-0	0-0	0-3	3-3	•	2-1	4-1	2-2	3-0	1-1	1-3	3-0	3-0	1-3	5-0
NEWPORT COUNTY	-	2-2	1-7	1-1	0-1	2-0	-	-	1-2	1-2	-	2-1	•	-	-	-	-	0-3	0-1	4-0	3-5	1-1
NORTHWICH VIC	4-3	1-1	1-1	0-1	1-0	0-4	2-2	3-0	1-1	2-4	3-2	2-0	3-1	•	0-1	1-1	4-2	1-0	0-2	2-0	2-3	1-2
RUNCORN	3-0	5-0	3-0	1-2	2-1	3-0	1-2	1-1	2-1	1-3	2-2	0-1	0-0	3-1	•	4-1	2-1	0-0	1-2	1-0	2-3	2-1
STAFFORD RANG	0-2	3-1	1-2	4-1	1-1	3-2	3-1	0-1	2-1	0-1	1-1	0-2	3-0	0-1	0-4	•	1-1	1-3	3-0	1-0	1-1	2-6
SUTTON UNITED	3-2	5-2	5-1	0-0	1-1	1-2	3-1	2-1	0-2	1-1	1-2	1-1	1-1	3-3	3-1	2-0	•	1-2	0-1	3-1	3-0	5-2
TELFORD UNITED	0-1	0-1	0-3	0-1	2-0	2-1	3-0	1-1	0-1	1-0	1-3	1-2	3-1	1-4	1-1	2-2	0-0	•	0-0	1-0	1-2	0-1
WELLING UNITED	0-0	5-0	1-1	3-2	0-2	1-0	0-0	3-1	2-1	0-1	2-0	0-0	-	0-0	4-0	1-3	1-1	0-1	•	4-0	0-1	0-2
WEYMOUTH	1-3	0-0	1-1	2-2	3-2	2-3	2-3	1-0	3-0	3-1	1-2	1-3	-	2-2	1-1	1-0	2-2	0-0	1-0	•	0-3	0-2
WYCOMBE WANDS	2-1	1-0	2-3	2-1	1-0	1-1	3-2	3-0	0-1	1-0	1-1	2-3	5-0	1-4	3-3	6-1	2-2	1-0	1-1	0-0	•	1-1
YEovil TOWN	2-3	1-0	2-1	1-1	1-3	2-1	1-2	1-2	2-2	1-3	2-0	1-2	-	2-1	2-2	2-0	0-0	4-3	4-0	2-3	1-1	•



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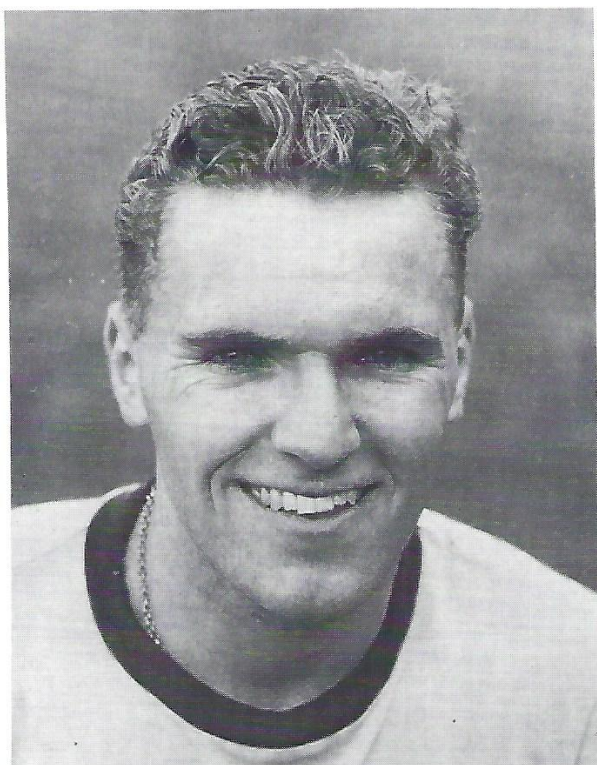
Salute to the Gasworks

Front Cover photo's top left: On the defence against Macclesfield on Easter Monday.

centre: 4,890 at Loakes Park, the largest Conference gate of the season, watch Nicky Evans cross against Kettering Town.

bottom left: Kevin Durham, Andy Robinson, Dave Carroll and others celebrate the winning goal at Aylesbury on Boxing Day.

SEAN NORMAN - A Sad Farewell by Philip Ball



Whilst preparing the end of season statistics I was pleasantly surprised to find that Sean Norman had appeared exactly 100 times for the Wanderers. Having reached such a great milestone for the club, it came as an even sadder surprise to read the news that Sean had been transferred to Wealdstone for £10,000.

Despite reading reports of internal wrangling between club and player, I assumed that these would be ironed out in a similar way to those involving Kevin Durham, working on the assumption that Sean was not likely to really want to leave, and the club would not really want to lose him.

Sean Norman's arrival from Colchester in November 1987 was quite a scoop for our troubled manager Peter Suddaby, and at the incredibly low price of £2,500, will go down as the most



significant signing during his brief reign. Sean's influence was undoubtedly a major factor in us retaining our GMVC place that season.

Throughout that season Sean was an automatic selection for the left-back position - a position that is one of the trickiest positions on the field to fill.

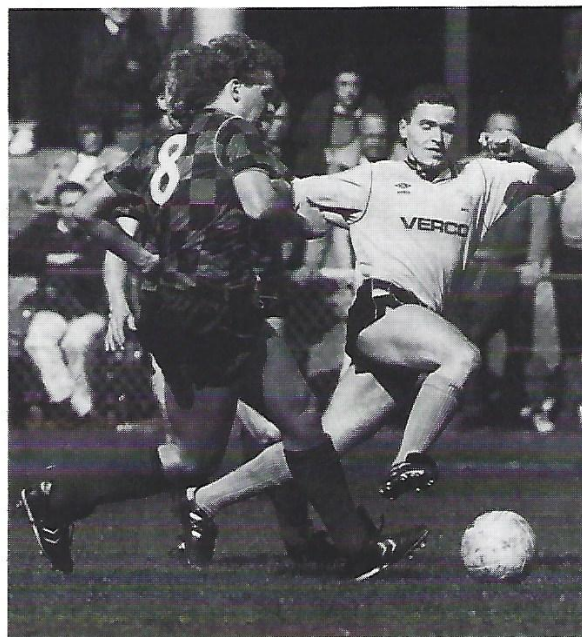
When the 88/89 season started the defence was something of a problem, with Jim Kelman quite rightly only being happy with Keith Barrett and Sean Norman, and it wasn't until the injection of Steve Abbley, Andy Kerr and Glyn Creaser did we have the basis of the defence that would serve us so well through to the end of the season. Due to injuries and suspension it was necessary to bring in Andy Robinson for periods to help out, but essentially it was these five which became the backbone of the team, with Andy Robinson being sorely missed from the midfield when he had to stand in at the back.

Several times during the season Sean Norman was dropped from the team, but this usually only lasted for one match, as his absence left a large gap at the back, which was frequently taken advantage of by the opposition. No blame could be attached to those players who came into the unfamiliar left-back position, namely Matt Crossley, Andy Kerr and Dave Carroll, who did their best in the tricky role, but it was seen as a strange tactical change by those who witnessed it.

It was these strange moves which actually gave the first signs that there may be more behind Sean Norman being dropped than simply believing someone else could do a better job in that position.

Sometimes, we have to accept it, there may be personal differences, or different attitudes, that mean that it is in the best interest of the parties involved to go their separate ways, and Jim Kelman believes that to be the case with Sean Norman.

Nevertheless, it is always sad to see a great, popular player leave the club, and let us hope that Jim can find a suitable replacement.



Let us all thank Sean Norman for all he has done for Wycombe Wanderers, and wish him the very best of luck in the future wherever he may play.

Sean Norman's full playing record with Wycombe Wanderers:- Appearances

	GMVC	FAC	FAT	B&B	Others	Total
1987/88	26	0	1	2	9	38
1988/89	40	3	5	1	13	62
Total	66	3	6	3	22	100

Goals

	GMVC	B&B	Others	Total
1987/88	3	1	1	5
1988/89	2	0	0	2
Total	5	1	1	7

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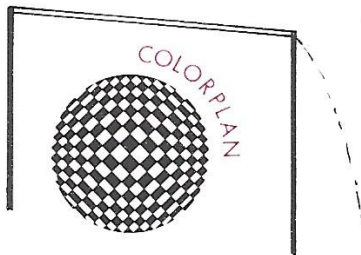
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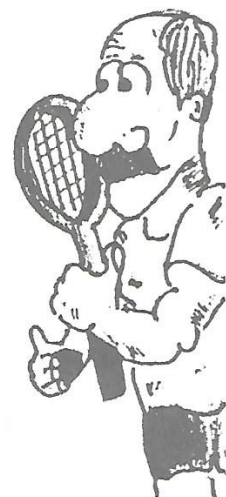
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Final Table 1988/89

Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	LEYTONSTONE/ILFORD	42	26	11	5	76	36	89
2	Farnborough Town	42	24	9	9	85	61	81
3	Slough Town	42	24	6	12	72	42	78
4	Carshalton Athletic	42	19	15	8	59	36	72
5	Grays Athletic	42	19	13	10	62	47	70
6	Kingstonian	42	19	11	12	54	37	68
7	Bishop's Stortford	42	20	6	16	70	56	66
8	Hayes	42	18	12	12	61	47	66
9	Bognor Regis Town	42	17	11	14	38	49	62
10	Barking	42	16	13	13	49	45	61
11	Wokingham Town	42	15	11	16	60	54	56
12	Hendon	42	13	17	12	51	68	56
13	Windsor & Eton	42	14	13	15	52	50	55
14	Bromley	42	13	15	14	61	48	54
15	Leyton-Wingate	42	13	15	14	55	56	54
16	Dulwich Hamlet	42	12	12	18	58	57	48
17	St Albans City	42	12	9	21	51	59	45
18	Dagenham	42	11	12	19	53	68	45
19	Harrow Borough	42	9	13	20	53	75	40
20	Marlow	42	9	11	22	48	83	38
21	Tooting & Mitcham	42	10	6	26	41	81	36
22	Croydon	42	4	9	29	27	81	21

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

Final Table 1988/89

Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	MERTHYR TYDFIL	42	26	7	9	104	58	85
2	Dartford	42	25	7	10	79	33	82
3	V S Rugby	42	24	7	11	64	43	79
4	Worcester City	42	20	13	9	72	49	73
5	Cambridge City	42	20	10	12	72	51	70
6	Dover	42	19	12	11	64	47	69
7	Gosport Borough	42	18	12	12	73	57	66
8	Burton Albion	42	18	10	14	79	68	64
9	Bath City	42	15	13	14	66	51	58
10	Bromsgrove Rovers	42	14	16	12	68	56	58
11	Wealdstone	42	16	10	16	60	52	58
12	Crawley Town	42	14	16	12	61	56	58
13	Dorchester	42	14	16	12	56	61	58
14	Alvechurch	42	16	8	18	56	59	56
15	Moor Green	42	14	13	15	58	70	55
16	Corby Town	42	14	11	17	55	59	53
17	Waterlooville	42	13	13	16	61	63	52
18	Ashford Town	42	13	13	16	59	76	52
19	Fareham	42	15	6	21	43	68	51
20	Leicester United	42	6	11	25	46	84	29
21	Redditch United	42	5	7	30	36	105	22
22	Bedworth United	42	4	7	31	36	102	19

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H F S LOANS LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

Final Table 1988/89

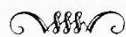
Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	BARROW	42	26	9	7	69	35	87
2	Hyde United	42	24	8	10	77	44	80
3	Witton Albion	42	22	13	7	67	39	79
4	Bangor City	42	22	10	10	77	48	76
5	Marine	42	23	7	12	69	48	76
6	Goole Town	42	22	7	13	75	60	73
7	Fleetwood Town	42	19	16	7	53	44	73
8	Rhyl	42	18	10	14	75	65	64
9	Frickley Athletic	42	17	10	15	64	53	61
10	Mossley	42	17	9	16	56	58	60
11	South Liverpool	42	15	13	14	65	57	58
12	Caernarfon Town	42	15	10	17	49	63	55
13	Matlock Town	42	16	5	21	65	73	53
14	Southport	42	13	12	17	66	52	51
15	Buxton	42	12	14	16	61	63	50
16	Morecambe	42	13	9	20	65	60	47*
17	Gainsborough	42	12	11	19	56	73	47
18	Shepshe'd Charterhouse	42	14	8	20	49	60	44#
19	Stalybridge Celtic	42	9	13	20	46	81	40
20	Horwich	42	7	14	21	42	70	35
21	Gateshead	42	7	13	22	36	70	34
22	Worksop Town	42	6	5	31	42	103	23

* 1 point deducted for fielding an unregistered player.

6 points deducted for fielding unregistered players.

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GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP AWARDS 1988-89

	GM V'HALL SP'SHIP	GM V'HALL J'KPOT	TITLE AWARD	PPA	CLUBCALL CUP	TOTAL
MAIDSTONE UNITED	3,000	1,000	5,000	2,000	500	11,500
BARNET	3,000	500	-	2,000	2,500	8,000
KETTERING TOWN	3,000	-3,000	2,000	-	8,000	
BOSTON UNITED	3,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	7,000
RUNCORN	3,000	917	-	2,000	1,000	6,917
YEOVIL TOWN	3,000	750	-	2,000	-	5,750
STAFFORD RANGERS	3,000	167	-	2,000	500	5,667
FISHER ATHLETIC	3,000	500	-	2,000	-	5,500
KIDDERMINSTER H	3,000	-	-	2,000	500	5,500
SUTTON UNITED	3,000	-	-	2,000	500	5,500
CHORLEY	3,000	167	-	2,000	-	5,167

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE LEADING GOALSCORERS

GMVC			FA CUP	FA T'PHY	CLUBCALL CUP
26	STEVE BUTLER MARK GALL	(MAIDSTONE UTD) (MAIDSTONE UTD)	+ 2	- -	1 1
23	CHRIS CAMDEN MARK CARTER	(STAFFORD R.) (RUNCORN)	+ +	9 -	2 1
22	KEN CHARLERY	(MAIDSTONE UTD)	+ 4	-	-
21	STEVE BURR DON PAGE	(MACCLESFIELD T) (EX-RUNCORN)	+ +	- 1	- 3
20	PAUL DAVIES LENNY DENNIS MARK WEST	(KIDDERMINSTER H) (SUTTON UTD) (WYCOMBE W)	+ + +	1 3 4	4 1 5
18	RONNIE ELLIS DERRICK PARKER	(ALTRINCHAM) (NORTHWICH V)	+ +	2 2	- -
16	PHIL POWER GUY WHITTINGHAM	(CHORLEY) (YEOVIL T)	+ +	1 -	- -
15	CHRIS COOK DEAN NEAL PAUL WILSON	(BOSTON UTD) (FISHER ATH) (BOSTON UTD)	+ + +	6 6 5	1 - 1
14	MALCOLM O'CONNOR	(NORTHWICH V)	+ 6	1	1
13	GARY ABBOTT PHIL DERBYSHIRE ERNIE MOSS FRANK MURPHY	(ENFIELD) (MACCLESFIELD T) (KETTERING T) (BARNET)	+ + + +	4 - 1 2	- - 3 2

	GM VX'HALL SP'SHIP	GM VX'HALL JK'POT	TITLE AWARD	PPA	CLUBCALL CUP	TOTAL
ALTRINCHAM	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
AYLESBURY UNITED	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
CHELTENHAM TOWN	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
ENFIELD	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
NEWPORT COUNTY	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
NORTHWICH VICTORIA	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
TELFORD UNITED	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
WELLING UNITED	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
WEYMOUTH	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
WYCOMBEWANDERERS	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	5,000

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FIRST TEAM PLAYERS APPEARANCES & GOALS 1988/89

	APPEARANCES								GOALS							
	GMVC	FAC	FAT	CC	B&B	CL	FR	TOT	GMVC	FAC	FAT	CC	B&B	CL	FR	TOT
Steve Abbley	42	4	6	2	1	1	4	60	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Keith Barrett	27	4	3	2	-	3	2	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Martin Blackler	29	4	4	2	1	7	3	50	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	5
Mark Boyland	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Mark Butler	5	-	1	-	-	9	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
Dave Carroll	29	2	6	1	2	1	-	41	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	7
Glyn Creaser	32	3	6	2	2	1	-	46	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Steve Crompton	6	-	-	-	2	15	4	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Matthew Crossley	17	-	-	-	1	7	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Kevin Day	11	3	1	1	-	5	3	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dion Dublin	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Kevin Durham	41	3	6	1	1	2	3	57	15	3	-	-	-	2	1	21
Nicky Evans	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
John Granville	36	4	5	2	-	-	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Brian Greenaway	5	3	-	1	-	2	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Andy Kerr	19	2	5	1	2	7	-	36	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	4
John Kerr	29	2	6	-	2	3	-	42	13	-	3	-	3	3	-	22
Gary Lester	-	-	1	-	1	7	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Sean Norman	40	3	5	2	1	7	4	62	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lawrence Osborne	15	-	3	1	2	5	-	28	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
John Regan	4	2	-	1	-	5	-	12	1	1	-	1	-	3	-	6
Andy Robinson	41	4	6	2	2	3	3	61	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Martin Roderick	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Andy Russell	3	-	-	-	-	7	-	10	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Nigel Taylor	7	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Mark West	42	4	6	1	1	1	3	58	23	4	2	-	1	1	1	32
Scott Young	12	3	-	2	-	6	2	25	-	1	-	2	-	2	1	6
Appearances include those as substitute								O.G	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
TOTALS									78	9	9	3	6	27	5	137

GMVC = G.M. Vauxhall Conference

FAC = F.A. Cup FAT = F.A. Trophy CC = Clubcall Cup

B&B = Berks & Bucks Cup CL = Capital League FR = Friendly

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CAPITAL LEAGUE

NON-FIRST TEAM PLAYERS APPEARANCE & GOALS 1988/89

	APPEARANCES				GOALS			APPEARANCES				GOALS	
	B&B	CL	FR	TOT	CL			B&B	CL	FR	TOT	CL	
Ejo Alberg	-	1	-	1	-		Stewart Peek	-	2	-	2	1	
Cliff Alleyne	-	2	-	2	-		Richard Price	-	4	-	4	-	
Paul Benning	-	8	-	8	-		Glen Price	-	-	1	1	-	
Mike Brady	2	3	-	5	-		John Ray	-	5	1	6	-	
Darren Britnell	-	1	-	1	-		Alan Ricketts	-	1	-	1	-	
Steve Dale	1	6	-	7	-		Danny Rippon	-	-	1	1	-	
Nick Dean	2	5	1	8	-		Alan Sawyer	-	1	-	1	-	
Matthew Elworthy	1	18	-	19	6		Mark Sherlock	-	3	-	3	-	
Graham Freshwater	-	11	-	11	-		Scott Sidley	2	12	1	15	-	
Russell Goodenough	-	1	-	1	-		Andy Spurr	1	4	-	5	1	
Jason Gregory	-	7	-	7	-		Gary Stanbrook	-	2	-	2	-	
Steve Guppy	-	3	-	3	-		Paul Steiger	-	2	-	2	-	
Steve Head	-	2	-	2	1		Andy Styles	-	-	-	0	-	
Tim Hinton	1	12	-	13	1		Keiron Sullivan	1	2	-	3	-	
Alan Jeffries	-	1	-	1	-		Stuart Taverner	-	1	-	1	-	
Andy Kale	-	1	-	1	-		Alex Twitchen	-	1	-	1	-	
John Kiddie	-	3	-	3	-		Brian Vasey	-	2	1	3	-	
Darren Kipping	1	3	-	4	-		Steve Waters	-	8	-	8	6	
Jeff Lissaman	-	2	3	5	-		Dave Watson	-	1	-	1	-	
Paul Lockyer	-1	1	-	1	-		Robert Wignall	-	1	-	1	-	
Charles Manley	-	1	-	1	-		Mat Wilson	2	5	1	8	-	
Adam Markwell	1	14	-	15	3		Simon Wiltshire	-	3	-	3	-	
Richard May	-	1	-	1	1		Peter Wrack	-	5	-	5	-	
David Meli	2	14	1	17	1		Total					20	
Chokri Mossaddik	-	1	-	1	-		Appearances includes those as substitutes						
Kevin O'Shea	-	1	-	1	-		Key:						
Paul Odey	-	1	-	1	-		B&B = Berks & Bucks Cup						
Charlie Okonkwo	-	1	-	1	-		FR = Friendly CL = Wendy Fair Capital League						

Wendy Fair Capital League Table

Final Table 1988/89

Pos	Team	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts		AYLESBURY UNITED	BARNET	BRENTFORD	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	COLCHESTER UNITED	ENFIELD	GILLINGHAM	LEYTON ORIENT	SOUTHEND UNITED	WEALDSTONE	WELLING UNITED	WOKINGHAM TOWN	WYCOMBE WANDERERS
1	Barnet	24	17	3	4	51	30	21	54	AYLESBURY	•	1-1	0-1	0-6	0-3	0-4	3-2	1-2	1-2	3-2	0-2	1-1	2-0
2	Orient	24	15	2	7	55	33	22	47	BARNET	4-0	•	3-0	3-2	3-2	2-1	4-3	4-2	2-3	0-2	1-1	2-1	2-1
3	Brentford	24	14	4	6	50	30	20	46	BRENTFORD	5-1	0-2	•	0-1	1-1	9-0	1-1	2-1	3-0	1-3	0-1	2-0	2-0
4	Cambridge	24	12	5	7	58	33	25	41	CAMBRIDGE	2-2	2-2	3-1	•	0-2	10-1	3-1	0-3	2-0	3-2	3-2	2-0	0-1
5	Southend	24	12	4	8	48	30	18	40	COLCHESTER	3-0	1-2	1-2	1-1	•	3-2	3-2	2-2	1-0	2-2	5-1	1-1	4-6
6	Colchester	24	10	6	8	52	47	5	36	ENFIELD	3-1	1-4	2-3	0-5	2-4	•	1-3	0-0	1-1	2-1	3-1	2-2	1-0
7	Wealdstone	24	11	3	10	46	53	-7	36	GILLINGHAM	6-0	0-1	0-0	1-0	2-4	2-0	•	1-2	0-2	2-2	6-0	2-2	3-1
8	Gillingham	24	9	5	10	50	40	10	32	ORIENT	4-0	2-1	2-5	0-1	3-1	5-2	6-1	•	2-4	2-3	2-0	3-2	2-0
9	Wycombe	24	9	3	12	47	45	2	30	SOUTHEND	9-1	1-2	1-2	3-1	1-1	5-1	1-0	0-1	•	1-0	5-2	1-1	1-1
10	Enfield	24	7	3	14	39	71	-32	24	WEALDSTONE	2-0	2-0	1-2	0-6	2-5	3-2	1-5	1-0	1-0	•	2-1	1-1	1-4
11	Welling	24	6	4	14	42	61	-19	22	WELLING	3-0	0-1	3-4	3-3	3-0	4-2	2-3	1-4	2-0	4-6	•	2-2	2-3
12	Wokingham	24	4	9	11	32	45	-13	21	WOKINGHAM	2-1	0-2	1-2	3-0	3-1	3-4	1-1	0-3	1-3	1-3	2-2	•	1-0
13	Aylesbury	24	3	3	18	19	71	-52	12	WYCOMBE	2-1	2-3	2-2	2-2	6-1	0-2	0-3	1-2	1-4	6-3	4-0	4-1	•

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THANK YOU KEITH BARRETT

by Philip Ball

Following our relegation from the Gola League in 1985/86 there was great determination at the club to regain our place in the Alliance at the first attempt. As that Vauxhall-Opel League season kicked-off the mood at the club was far from optimistic, - John Maskell had been sacked as assistant manager, star striker Simon Read had gone to Farnborough, Bob Dell had gone to Harrow Borough, Kevin Collins was due to leave for the U.S.A. soon, and the biggest blow of all was that central defender Anton Vircavs had decided to go to Cheltenham. This left Alan Gane with big problems, and the signings of unknown's Kevin Durham, Paul Hackett and Byron Walton did not boost the confidence.

Alan Gane, though, knew he had a trump card up his sleeve, and those fans who turned up to the pre-season friendly against Enfield gradually started to pick up the rumours around the Loakes Park terracing. When the teams ran out onto the pitch, half of the rumour was confirmed, as Keith Barrett led out the Wanderers, and the more knowledgeable non-league fans spotted Noel Ashford watching from the stand.

Alan Gane had played a master stroke in gaining the signatures of the two Non-League England Internationals, despite the competition of numerous other top clubs eager for the pair who had played together for the previous 10 seasons under the managerial maestro Eddie McClusky, including four seasons at Barking and then six seasons at Enfield.

Keith Barrett's influence took over straight away, and along with Kevin Day, Neil Price and Kirk Corbin formed a defensive line that was to provide the backbone of a team that was to dominate the Vauxhall-Opel League and bring the Championship to Loakes Park at the first attempt. Keith Barrett's experience, which included 16 England Non-League caps, made his very presence at the back a calming influence on those around him, particularly for players such as Kevin Day who was in his first season at the top level. Keith was almost ever present during that season, and was a dominant force throughout, and was rewarded suitably as he held the Championship Trophy aloft after clinching the title at Hitchin, and a week later was holding high the Berks & Bucks Cup at Wolverton.

Keith then had the honour of leading the team back into the Alliance, and again the season started under a cloud. Internal wranglings at the club due to lack of funding for Alan Gane's rebuilding plans, led to the departure of the popular manager, and also went Keith's footballing companion Noel Ashford. Although clearly unhappy about the events, Keith signed a two year contract to stay at Loakes Park.

The 1987/88 season was not a happy one, but under new manager Jim Kelman the season was rescued and our GMVC place was secured. Keith Barrett was his usual commanding figure at the back, again almost ever present throughout the season. Partnered at the back either by Nigel Gray, Kevin Day or Matt Crossley, Keith was always the manager's first choice in defence.

1988/89 saw a number of challenger's for the number 5 shirt, with Glyn Creaser taking over at number 4, namely Kevin Day, Matt Crossley and Andy Kerr, but Keith held on to his place and was a major influence in our fantastic form throughout the season. Again Keith was almost ever present up until January when he sustained an achilles tendon injury which kept him out of regular playing for the rest of the season.

As the current season started, it was clear that Keith Barrett did not appear in Jim Kelman's plan's for the future, and he decided to team up with his old friend Noel Ashford at Redbridge Forest, a new team formed from the ashes of Walthamstow Avenue and Leytonstone/Ilford.

We all wish him the very best of luck in his final years on the field, and thank him for all he has done at Loakes Park, both on and off the pitch. He has been the major influence on the pitch for the last three seasons, and despite having his critics, his name was always the first to go down on the teamsheet throughout those years.

Thank you Keith.

Keith Barrett's full playing record for Wycombe Wanderers:-

	APPEARANCES							TOTAL
	GMVC	VOL	FAC	FAT	B&B	OTHER CUPS	OTHERS	
1986/87		39	1	2	4	7	5	58
1987/88	38	-	1	1	2	3	8	53
1988/89	27	-	4	3	-	2	5	41
Totals	65	39	6	6	6	12	18	152

	GOALS			OTHERS	TOTAL
	GMVC	VOL			
1986/87		3			3
1987/88	2		1		3
Totals	2	3	1		6

Wycombe Wanderers End of Season Tour to Portugal

Report by John Goldsworthy

23rd May 1989 vs Imortal, Albufeira of the Portuguese Third Division.

Played on the ground of Silves F.C. Silves at 6.00 p.m.

Result: IMORTAL 3 WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2

Half-time Imortal 3 Wycombe 0

Team:-

1. Steve Crompton	8. Adam Markwell
2. Steve Abbley	9. Mark West
3. Sean Norman	10. Mark Butler
4. Glyn Creaser	11. Kevin Durham
5. Kevin Day	14. Tim Hinton (80 mins for Butler)
6. Andy Kerr	15. Mat Elworthy (46 mins for Markwell)
7. Andy Robinson	12. Gary Lester Not Used.

Scorers:

Kevin Durham 48 minutes

Mat Elworthy 57 minutes

Referee: Victor Cardoso Attendance: Approximately 250

Linesmen: Juvenal Eusebio and Joaquim Gomes

Match Details

Player of the Match - Kevin Durham.

Imortal took the lead after two minutes followed by a second on 16 minutes and a third on 25 minutes. All goals were due to defensive errors which were capitalised on by the Imortal players with considerable technical skill. At the other end opportunities were made but in comparison to the Portuguese players our finishing was very poor, only once really forcing the 'keeper into a good save. At half time both sides made substitutes. The match was already won and lost and Wycombe only had their pride to play for. In the event they managed to restore some of their pride and indeed had opportunities of levelling the score. Some frustration was caused by the off-side trap of the Portuguese, assisted by some poor decisions by a linesman. Conclusion: Could have done better.

25th May 1989 vs Portimonense of the Portuguese First Division

Played at Portimao at 6.00 p.m.

Result: PORTIMONESE 8 WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3

Half-time Portimonense 4 Wycombe 1

Team:-

1. Gary Lester	8. Kevin Durham
2. Steve Abbley	9. Mark West
3. Sean Norman	10. Mark Butler
4. Glyn Creaser	11. Mat Elworthy
5. Kevin Day	12. Tim Hinton (80 mins for West)
6. Andy Kerr	14. Adam Markwell (80 mins for Day)
7. Andy Robinson	

Scorers:

Kevin Day 42 minutes

Kevin Durham 66 minutes

Mark Butler 85 minutes

Referee: Francisco Silva. FIFA Attendance: approximately 2,500

Match Details

The Portimonense team included three internationals - keeper and left winger from Portugal and centre-forward from Bulgaria. They also had a Dutch centre-half. They were a team of high technical skill and caused us all sorts of problems with their short passing game and mobility. We employed a man to man marking system that was pulled out of position by their mobility. Many times Creaser and Norman found themselves in the opponents penalty area due to this circular pattern of play, which exposed us at the back and we paid for it with an avalanche of goals. Even though we were outplayed we stuck to our task and were at least rewarded with three goals. Our outstanding player was Kevin Durham who would have comfortably fitted into their team.

Conclusion: A good result bearing in mind the vast difference in standards.

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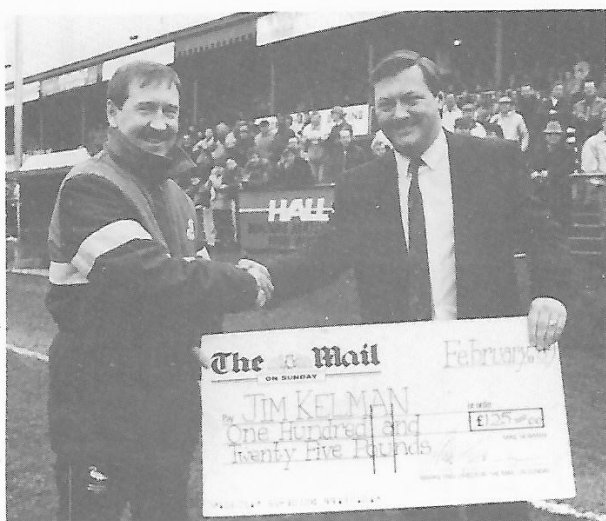
Steve Abbley, who was voted Player of the Month for both November and December.



Andy Kerr received his award for Player of the Month for February.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS PLAYER OF THE MONTH

September	Kevin Durham
October	Glyn Creaser
November	Steve Abbley
December	Steve Abbley
January	John Kerr
February	Andy Kerr
March	John Granville



Jim Kelman proudly accepts his award as Manager of the Month for February.

THE MAIL ON SUNDAY MANAGER OF THE MONTH

September	Peter Wragg	Macclesfield Town
October	Barrie Williams	Sutton United
November	Nicky Allner	Kidderminster Harriers
December	Nicky Brigden	Welling United
January	Cliff Roberts	Northwich Victoria
February	Jim Kelman	Wycombe Wanderers
	Peter Wragg	Macclesfield Town
March	Barry Whitbread	Runcorn
April	John Still	Maidstone United

THE MAIL ON SUNDAY GOALSCORER OF THE MONTH

September	Steve Burr	Macclesfield Town
October	Dean Neal	Fisher Athletic
November	Lenny Dennis	Sutton United
December	Don Page	Runcorn
January	John Kerr	Wycombe Wanderers
February	Gary Abbott	Enfield
March	Mark Boyland	Cheltenham Town
April	Steve Butler	Maidstone United

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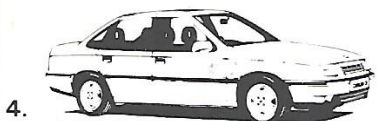
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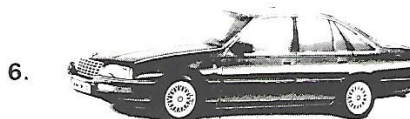
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