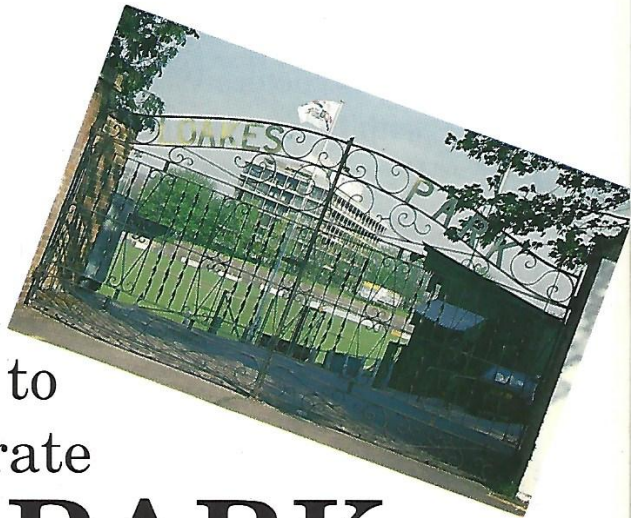


FOUNDED 1884

Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



Official
brochure to
commemorate

LOAKES PARK

the home of Wycombe Wanderers from 1895 - 1990

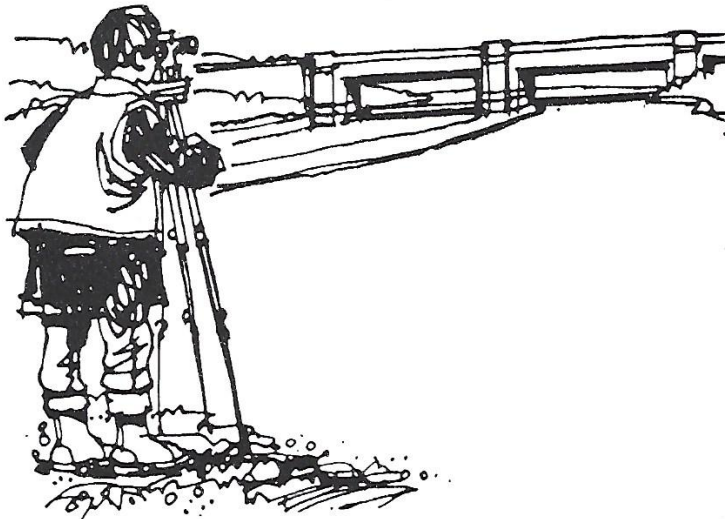


McKENNA & LEHANE

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS

- Infrastructure Works Associated with Industrial and Commercial Developments
- Design and Build of Industrial Buildings
- Fast Track Refurbishment/Alterations
- Underpinning and Temporary Support Works

"Wycombe Wanderers would like to thank Pat McKenna and John Lehane for their generous sponsorship of this brochure as well as their expertise in connection with the Adams Park development".



22 High Street
Drayton
Abingdon, Oxon
OX14 4JL
Tel: (0235) 535252
Fax: (0235) 553107



WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Adams Park, Hillbottom Road,
Sands, High Wycombe,
Bucks. HP12 4HJ

Telephone: 0494 472100
Fax: 0494 27633

OFFICIALS 1990-91

Patron:	J. Adams
President:	M. E. Seymour
Chairman:	I. L. Beeks
Directors:	G. Cox B. R. Lee A. Parry G. F. Peart G. Richards J. H. P. Roberts J. Goldsworthy J. H. P. Roberts
Football Secretary:	W. Cleere
Company Secretary:	R. Hart
Management Committee:	R. Holt D. Hutton A. King R. Saunders R. Schofield Mrs. T. Schofield G. Sutton A. Robson B. R. Lee M. O'Neill J. Reardon D. Jones Dr. W. S. R. Fenton J. Goldsworthy R. H. Williams
Commercial Manager:	J. Melvin
General Manager:	Verco Office Furniture Ltd
Football Manager:	
Assistant Manager:	
Physiotherapist:	
Medical Officer:	
Life Vice Presidents:	
Reserve and Youth Team Manager:	
Club Sponsor:	

PRINCIPAL HONOURS

F. A. Cup:	3rd Round 1975, 1986
F. A. Amateur Cup:	Winners 1931 Runners-Up 1957
F. A. Trophy:	Semi-Finalists 1981
Isthmian League Champions:	1955-56, 1956-57, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1982-83, 1986-87
Isthmian League Cup:	Winners 1984-85
Berks & Bucks Senior Cup:	Winners 23 times

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wycombe Wanderers would like to thank the following individuals for contributing articles and photographs for this brochure:-

Bucks Free Press	David Langdon
Dave Finch	Brian Lee
W. S. Gardner	Paul Newman
R. Goodearle	Steve Peart
Dick Harris	Allan Robson
Alan Hutchinson	B. White

Printed by P K Graphics - High Wycombe (0494) 452266

FOREWORD

Wycombe Wanderers F.C. have played at Loakes Park since 1895 and in May of last year the Club relocated to its new purpose built stadium, Adams Park, just 2 1/2 miles away at Sands on the outskirts of High Wycombe. The new ground and community facility has a capacity of 6,000.

Thousands upon thousands of football followers will have fond memories of the famous sloping pitch at Loakes Park and of the important matches played on it. The Club won the Isthmian League Championship on several occasions, reached the F.A. Amateur Cup Final, entertained First Division opposition at home in the F.A. Cup Competition and hosted Amateur International fixtures on behalf of The Football Association.

Wycombe Wanderers F.C. have toured many parts of the world and produced many players who have gained Amateur International Caps for the "home" countries. The Club continues to be a credit to the present non-League football structure, having completed yet another season in the prestigious G.M. Vauxhall Conference.

Former full International stars George Best, Martin O'Neill and Mark Lawrenson joined in the celebration as Wycombe Wanderers F.C. bade farewell to Loakes Park, a crowd approaching 5,000 watching the Club mark the end of their 95 years at the ground with a special commemorative match that produced thirteen goals.

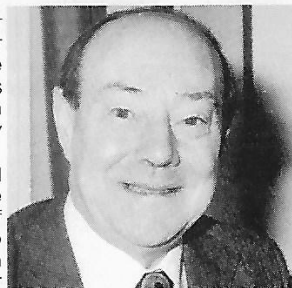
May the Club continue to be administered wisely and efficiently and enjoy more successes on the field at their new home.

You have my very best wishes.

Bert Millichip

Bert Millichip

Chairman - The Football Association



THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Monday, 7th May 1990 now seems in the long distant past, but cannot be forgotten. After 95 years on that non-League ground with the famous sloping pitch the curtain was called that day with the Martin O'Neill International XI.

There are probably many, many memories in all our minds from Wycombe's days at Loakes Park whether they be of a specific League or Cup match, a particular team or individual player, a moment of great success and joy or a moment of failure and despair. All of these memories will, I am sure, leave all of us with warm and fond feelings for Loakes Park. Monday, 7th May was an ordeal and none of us really wanted to lock the gates and say goodbye that evening.

Many of you will have heard me say, however, that we must look to the future which now lies ten minutes away at our new stadium, Adams Park. Once through the gates, a look at the stadium in its splendid setting makes all of us feel proud of this great achievement. The Town too, should be proud of having a ground and club which is the best in non-League football and indeed, the envy of many Third and Fourth Division clubs.

The future looks bright, but myself and our Manager are also fully aware that the details need to be right on as well as off the field and in that respect Martin will be trying to provide you with a team to fit the stadium.

Some of you may be coming to Adams Park for the first time after reading this brochure and to you I extend a warm welcome and suggest that you enjoy all the facilities the Club is able to offer. To our regular supporters, thank you for your loyalty - It's good to see you again.

I have a strong inbuilt desire that we are known as a "family club" where whole families are made welcome and can watch in comfort and, in this respect, I am particularly grateful to our matchday mascot and family stand sponsor, MFI Furniture Centres Ltd. I am sure you too, like to see lots of young faces enjoying football at Adams Park.

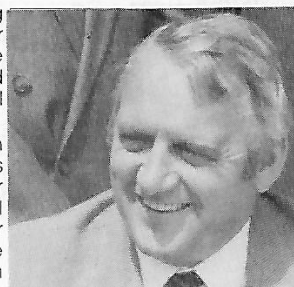
Finally, my thanks to Allan Robson our Commercial Manager and the many other contributors for preparing this brochure to commemorate our beloved Loakes Park from the first season, 1895, to the last, 1991.

Kind regards

Ivor L. Beeks

Ivor L. Beeks

Chairman - Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



"Wycombe Wanderers are indebted to the following companies, all of whom were major contractors and advisers in the Adams Park development and who have generously sponsored this brochure to ensure that the history of Lockes Park is recorded for the enjoyment of the Club's supporters".

Neary & Picot

BUILDERS & JOINERS

24 RABANS CLOSE · RABANS LANE · AYLESBURY · BUCKS HP19 3RS
Telephone: 0296 84300.

Neary & Picot, are pleased to have been The Building Contractors at the Adams Park Stadium. We wish Wycombe Wanderers every success in their new home.
John & Tony

CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATES

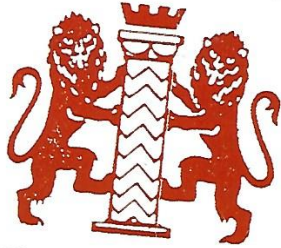
CHAIRMAN G W DAVISON MA

157 HIGH STREET COTTENHAM CAMBRIDGE CB4 4RX ENGLAND TELEPHONE 0954 50709 FAX 0954 52037

ALL GOOD WISHES TO
WYCOMBE WANDERERS FROM
THE DESIGNERS AND CONSTRUCTORS OF THEIR
NEW **CAMBRIDGE** SPORTSTURF SURFACE
AT ADAMS PARK.

SPORTSTURF

DESIGN AND INSTALLATION CONSTRUCTION AND DRAINAGE IRRIGATION
SPECIALISED EQUIPMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



PROJECT DESIGN

ARCHITECTS TOWN PLANNERS
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE
DESIGN OF THE NEW FOOTBALL STADIUM FOR
WYCOMBE WANDERERS

We are experienced in the design of residential, commercial and industrial developments and have recently carried out projects for the following local businesses:-

WYCOMBE MARSH GARGE
H.P.S. COMMUNICATIONS
THAME JOINERY

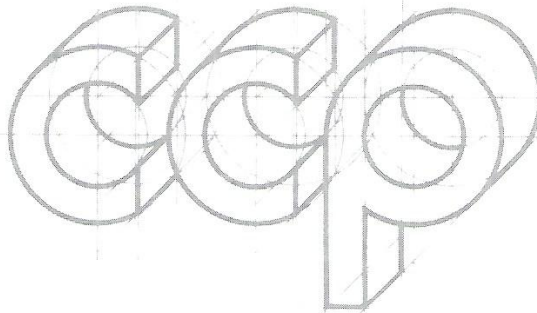
RYE MILL GARAGE
KEEN & TOMS PARTNERSHIP
TRIDENT GROUP

Contact Bob Pearson

25 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LQ

Telephone: (0494) 464484.

Fax: (0494) 462826.



We are pleased to have been involved in the civil and structural engineering design of this project and wish Wycombe Wanderers every success with their new stadium and future ambitions.

CCP CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CHARTERED CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
96 HIGH STREET MARLOW BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SL7 1AQ
(0628) 472914/5

1895/96 - THE FIRST SEASON AT LOAKES PARK

by Steve Peart

It was not until eleven years after their formation in 1884 that Wycombe Wanderers moved to Loakes Park, their home for the next 95 years.

The Club began life playing on the public ground on the Rye but because of the difficult playing conditions (the land was used for grazing and there was fierce competition for pitches) they moved to Spring Meadow on the London Road in 1893. After two seasons the Club attempted to buy four adjoining acres but the asking price of £600 plus £200 for levelling was clearly beyond the Club's means. It was then suggested that they play on the meadow known as Loakes Park, part of the Carrington Estate. An agreement was reached with Mr Gardener (tenant of Loakes Park), Mr Wertheimer (tenant of Wycombe Abbey), and Lord Carrington allowing the Club to use the land rent free for the first year. In those days the playing surface was rough and stony, with a considerable slope which was not "levelled" until 1900. There was no Queen Alexandra Road at that time and where the College of Higher Education now stands were gardens and greenhouses for the use of the Abbey tenants. Changing rooms did not exist and the players had to use the Red Lion Hotel in the High Street, although the Nags Head Public House on the London Road remained as the Club's headquarters.

With the aid of excerpts from the match reports in the South Bucks Free Press, we take a look at that historic first season.....

On Saturday, 7th September 1895 Wycombe Wanderers played their first ever match on Loakes Park, with Park Grove as their opponents. The

weather was "sultry and uncomfortable for both players and spectators" although this did not stop the latter from turning out in their hundreds. Before the game they were issued with notices warning against making "uncalled remarks against the referee both on and off the ground". Offenders would be reported to the Football Association. It was about 4.50 pm when Lloyd for Wycombe kicked off and the first goal on the new ground was scored for the home side by Buchanan "with a hot'un". Although the visitors got the ball into the net in the second-half it was ruled offside and the Wanderers ran out 1-0 winners.

The Wycombe team that day was:- J. Ball, (goal); H. Turner and A Hutchinson, (backs); F. C. Keen, R. Collier and G. Stevens, (half-backs); F. W. Abbott and W. Buchanan, (left-wing); W. Lloyd, (centre); F. G. Jennings and G. Wooster, (right-wing).

The referee was:-

Mr J. Hazell, (R. A. High Wycombe)

The linesmen were:-

Mr J. Clark (Wycombe Wanderers) and Mr W. Chalkley (Park Grove).

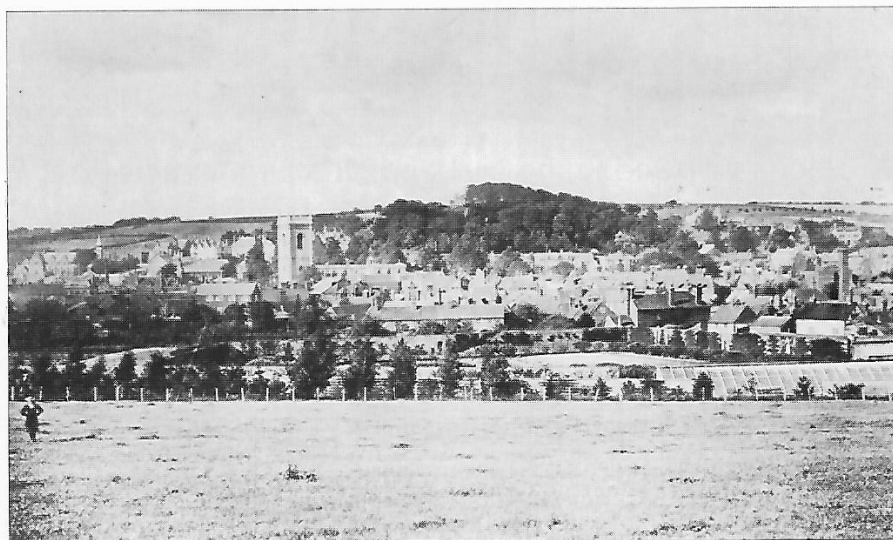
Further home victories followed against Romford (6-4) and Southern Leaguers, Old St Stephens (3-1) prompting The Evening News and Post to declare that "the chair metropolis is one of the rising football centres in Berks and Bucks." The Football Sun stated that "the Wanderers have just entered paradise by taking to the ground granted by Earl Carrington and Mr Gardener."

Having disposed of Slough 4-1 the previous week at the Dolphin Stadium, the Civil Service were then narrowly defeated 2-1. West Ham Garfield became the first visitors to

gain a result at Loakes Park, drawing 1-1, before Wycombe faced their first big game of the season with an F.A. Cup First Qualifying Round tie against Wolverton L & N.W.R from the Southern League. "Great enthusiasm and a record gate! A grand game! Hard lines for the Wanderers! Lucky Wolverton!" declared the headlines in the local paper. It was the Wanderers' first ever match in the F.A. Cup and Loakes Park was "in the pink of condition for which the ground committee deserved a word of praise; Wolverton expressed themselves highly pleased with it. The attendance of spectators that assembled was far and away beyond anything that had been seen at a football match in Wycombe before, and for impartial behaviour they, too, are entitled to a little praise." The first-half was goalless with the "Wolves" having the better of it and shortly after the restart the visitors went two goals up. Wycombe responded well but, "amidst the cry of 'off-side'", Wolverton further increased their lead. "It was undoubtedly a bad decision", asserted the Free Press, "and looked an oversight more than anything else." The Wanderers now re-organised the attack and it had the desired effect as two goals in two minutes put the visitors on the rack. The post and crossbar were struck as shots rained in but all to no avail as the North Bucks side held on for a 3-2 win.

The following week saw the first away trip of the season for a match against Tottenham Hotspur Reserves at their original home of Northumberland Park. This match was arranged on the spur of the moment to give the players a break from playing at home every

Saturday. "A good muster of spectators" included some former Wycombe residents and the Wanderers were "repeatedly cheered by this contingent whenever they did creditable work." The visitors found themselves two goals up at half-time in spite of some unsportsmanlike behaviour by Spurs which brought forth the cry from the pavilion of "have him turned off." The lead was stretched to 4-0 before the home team rallied, scoring three goals in the last 20 minutes - "the semi-darkness was the only reason for the Wycombe custodian being beaten so easily". The Free Press "Gossip" column noted that the welcome voice of Captain Harper urging his forwards to shoot induced one spectator to remark, "Are the



Loakes Park before it became a Football Ground

Wanderers a professional team because I observe they have a trainer!" Comment is needless.

The following Saturday the Wanderers cantered to a 5-1 victory over Upton Park and then on Monday, 25th October, in the afternoon, Loakes Park saw the visit of the Amateur Cup holders, Middlesbrough, whilst on a Southern tour. It took a £15 guarantee to attract the North Easterners which was only just covered by the £16 gate receipts. In the first-half the home forwards showed signs of nerves as 'Boro took a 2-0 lead but the second-half saw a rally by Wycombe before going down 3-1. November signalled the start of the Amateur Cup trail with a Second Qualifying Round match at home to Newbury resulting in a 1-0 victory for Wycombe. The gate receipts of £15 11s 3d left £5 each for the two teams after expenses.

Chesham of the Southern League Division Two were the next opponents, in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup First Round. Wycombe had offered £8 for the match to be played at Loakes Park but £12 was asked for and refused. So the match was played at Chesham's "very peculiarly shaped ground" which was what is now the cricket ground below The Meadow. Wycombe were well on top in the first-half scoring through Buchanan but Chesham managed an equaliser before half-time. The home side quickly took the lead after the break in spite of the fact that the home linesman "was endeavouring to attract the Referee's attention to the fact that the ball had previously gone over the line". The same linesman later in the game tried to get Wycombe's Abbott "turned off the pitch because of his illegal boots", much to the annoyance of the away fans. To show how little spectator behaviour has changed, Harry Turner the Wycombe full-back, committed a heavy foul on a Chesham player and "the crowd hooted for some time, and a section of them subjected him to unpleasant remarks for the remainder of the game". The score remained at 2-1 and the Wanderers exited their second cup competition of the season.

The following Monday Loakes Park saw its first sight of women footballers as Captain Harper's enterprise in staging a North v South ladies match proved a great success. Over £18 was taken on the gate and "the crowd that assembled on Loakes Park was a large one, while a still larger number had a "free view" from Tom Burts Hill and the Barracks Road". The problem of the "free gallery" was not resolved until 1904 when the first section of the grandstand (the middle third of the completed one) was opened. "The play was of a very original order, only one or two of the

performers having advanced beyond the alphabet of the game; but they put any amount of spirit into it, and seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the spectators, who were very hilarious". The North ran out easy winners, four goals to nil.

After an easy 5-0 win against University College Hospital it was back to the Amateur Cup as the Wanderers took on the Royal Scots Fusiliers at home in the Third Qualifying Round. A close match was expected but Wycombe displayed their best form of the season to crush the soldiers 9-0.

Filled with confidence Wycombe travelled to Marlow for their last game of November on the famous Crown Ground down by the river. Oddly, it was the first time for some years that the teams had met. The large crowd of about 1,500 included 700-800 from Wycombe (similar figures would be expected nowadays for the same fixture!). It was a fast and exciting game and, goalless at the break, Marlow took the lead five minutes into the second-half. Wycombe quickly levelled the match through Abbott,

"hats, umbrellas and sticks being waved enthusiastically in the air", only for Marlow to score late in the game. One of the Wycombe backs was heard to remark: "Now chaps; nine minutes to time; pull up" but Randell, the visitor's dashing winger, scored a dramatic last minute equaliser "amidst the greatest possible excitement". Another easy victory followed, 5-0 against 49th Regimental District, when keeper Jim "Chummy" Ball "during some of the latter moiety assisted the backs, so little were his services required in goal". The Wanderers then faced the second East Lancashire Regiment in the Final Qualifying Round of the Amateur Cup. Unable to get the game played at Loakes Park, "the Wycombe boys arrived at their journey's end at about 1.15 where they were met by a "friendly guide" who very politely took them over a route extending to about three miles, and a very rough country too. We would not suggest that this was done to "fag out" the Blues, but it looked as though "Tommy" was not particular how far he took the Wanderers". On arrival they found that the referee, appointed by the F.A., had adjudged the ground unfit for a cup tie. It was little wonder as "the goal-posts were quite a foot below the prescribed height and in the centre the bar was considerably lower. The turf was in a pitiable plight, and to use the words of the crowd, it needed to be let out for grazing for three months, and a steam roller on it for a like period, then perhaps a team might agree to play on it without protesting". Captain Harper lodged an official protest and it was agreed to play a friendly match which Wycombe won

3-2. The drama did not end there for afterwards the soldiers claimed the tie on the grounds that the Wanderers had not notified the protest properly but the F.A. decided that as the match had been played it must count as a cup tie - the fitness of the ground did not come into it. The Wanderers could now proudly call themselves "Champions" of their Amateur Cup Division.

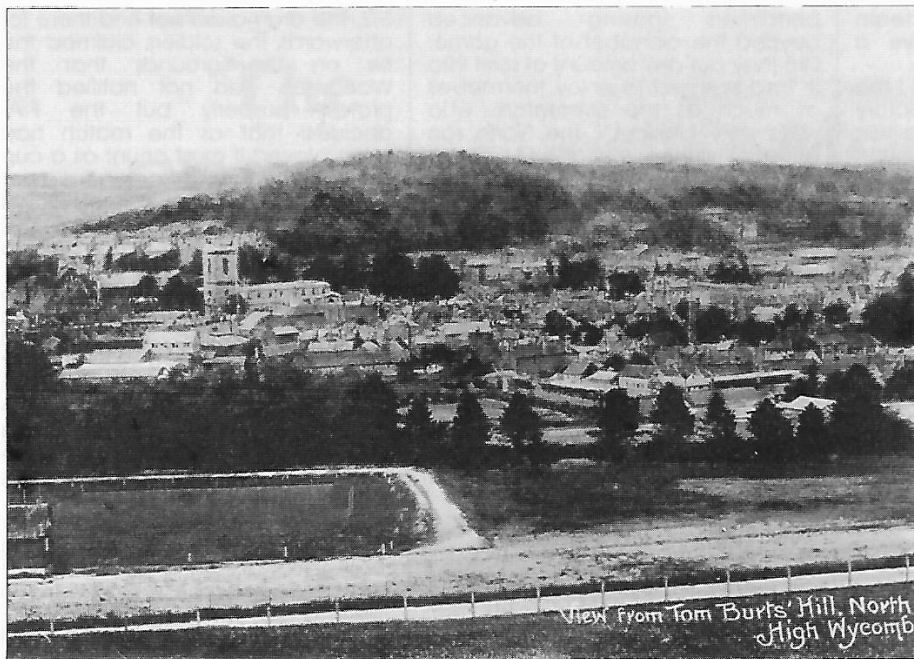
The next game was the return friendly at home to Marlow where a record crowd of nearly 2,000 witnessed a 4-2 win to Wycombe. It was noted that "the visiting players were evidently handicapped by the peculiar slope of the ground, and they did not keep their feet on the slippery turf anything like so well as the Wanderers".

Three matches in three days over the Christmas period began with a Boxing Day fixture against the First Scots Guards when a 1,200 crowd enjoyed an entertaining 3-3 draw. The following day the powerful Royal Ordnance, from the Southern League Division One, were the visitors. Wanderers had to include three players left hobbling from the previous day and it was no surprise that the professional team won albeit by three "milky" goals to one. The holiday programme at Loakes Park was completed by a 3-0 defeat of the Idlers, and so Wycombe completed the year with only three defeats in 20 games although two of these were in cup games.

The opening game of 1896 saw Wycombe record their biggest score as a senior club when Olympians were mercilessly despatched 11-1. The score was explained by "the fact that the visitors resorted to the almost defunct style of individual play". This is an interesting comment because football 20 to 30 years earlier was largely a game of players running as far as possible with the ball, until they lost possession. It was not until the 1880's that the passing or "combination" game became widespread and of course amateur clubs would be a little behind professional clubs in playing style. The Olympians, however, appear to have been a real relic from the past. Another large score followed, 9-0 against Peckham, with Buchanan netting six of the goals. The visitors were handicapped by arriving with only eight men, the others had missed the train, but three substitutes were found.

Wycombe then made their longest journey of the season, induced by a £10 guarantee, to Bristol to play Eastville Rovers (renamed Bristol Rovers two years later), then of the Western League. The 1,000 crowd witnessed a 2-2 draw.

The first game in February proved to be the biggest of the season, an Amateur Cup First Round Proper tie at Marlow. It attracted great interest in the two towns, especially as the



Lookes Park circa 1896

visitors were hailed as "Champions of Division Five of the Amateur Cup". The crowd of 2,700 was a record for the district, with takings of £74 16s 9d just eclipsing Marlow's previous record of £73 9s 3d against Middlesbrough Ironopolis in the F.A. Cup. About 1,500 were reckoned to have travelled from the "chairmaking metropolis". Marlow came close to taking the lead when their county player Handsomebody struck the bar with a 20 yard free kick. Shortly afterwards two of the rival players were "hugging one another on the ground" and to underline the passion of the occasion a number of flare ups between rival players took place including "a slight spill between Steven and Nicholls" and "some exchanges between Keen and Morton were not of a dangerous character". After 28 minutes Jennings put Wycombe into the lead but Shaw equalised for Marlow soon after. Five minutes before the break Buchanan restored the lead with a header - "the scene was almost indescribable, hats and sticks being thrown into the air, while the shouts were stentorian". Marlow quickly levelled matters after the break and the Riversiders' continued pressure paid off when Ellerton "notched up a clinking goal four minutes to time". The teams that day were:-

Wycombe: J. Ball, A. G. P. Baines, H. Turner, F. C. Keen, R. Collier, G. Stevens, W. Lloyd, T. H. Randell, F. G. Jennings, F. W. Abbot, W. Buchanan.

Marlow: E. Wheeler, F. T. Handsomebody, G. Morton, E. Shaw, J. H. Lovell, J. G. Meakes, W. Davies, J. Janes, J. Ellerton, C. A. Shaw, F. O. Nicholls.

The following Saturday, at the home match with Barking Woodville, the Wycombe players were each presented with a silk cap in recognition of their Amateur Cup exploits that season. On them was the motto "W.W.F.C. 1895-96" and they were made in the combined colours of the Universities. The match itself was a dour 1-1 draw.

Further victories at home followed against Erith (4-0), Reading Temperance (6-1 in the Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup), Old Saint Marks (7-1) and Hanwell (1-0). Then Lookes Park played host for the first time ever to a Football League Division One side, the renowned cup fighters West Bromwich Albion. A large guarantee of £30 was required to entice them down on a Saturday but this was amply covered by a record crowd of about 2,000, paying nearly £50. A guarantee fund collected by supporters in case of financial disaster was not needed. The fixture saw the first terracing erected at Lookes Park, albeit temporarily, as "Councillor Flint kindly lent a large quantity of boards for the spectators to stand on". Wycombe strengthened their side by including L. W. Reynolds of Oxford University and F. T. Handsomebody of Marlow. The home team unexpectedly took the lead with a header from Buchanan but the Throstles equalised before the break and, as expected, ran out easy winners, four goals to one, with "fatigue" overcoming the amateurs. West Bromwich went on to finish bottom of the League this season but avoided relegation due to success in the Test Matches. In the evening after the game the Club held one of their popular "smoking concerts" for the two teams in the

Nags Head, the Wanderers' headquarters. These functions were male only and were perhaps the forerunners to the current "Sportman's Dinners".

After a win against Leyton (5-2), a three match Easter programme saw a 6-0 drubbing of Kildare and on Easter Saturday a surprising 9-0 defeat of Maidenhead. It was 15 years since teams from the two towns had met but the scoreline was mainly due to the weakened Maidenhead team - on Easter Monday they were due to contest the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Final against Wolverton. On the Tuesday a narrow 3-2 win was gained over Mr Lockyer's XI. The Wanderers fell to a surprise 3-2 defeat against The Vampires, blame being attributed to the forwards who "couldn't shoot for nuts". They made amends the following week beating London Caledonians 4-1,

(another team who arrived with eight men, substitutes having to be found). Wycombe's final match took place at Kidwells Park on Wednesday, 22nd April, in the Final of the Maidenhead Norfolkian Charity Cup against Maidenhead Norfolkian themselves. Their Secretary, prior to kick-off, had little hope of success saying, "Well, I suppose it is only a question as to how many goals we are to have run up against us". They surprised everyone, however, by beating Wycombe 2-1, to give their more illustrious opponents a disappointing end to what had been a very successful season. There was one more game played at Lookes Park that season, the Second replay of the Berks & Bucks Cup Final between Maidenhead and Wolverton on Monday, 27th April. The first two games had ended 2-2 (at Marlow in front of 3,278) and 1-1 (at Aylesbury). This time 1,237 saw another close game with Maidenhead finally winning 1-0 after extra time. It was indeed an honour for the Club in its first season at Lookes Park to stage the replayed tie.

The success of the first season at Lookes Park was reflected in the gate receipts of £320 17s 9¹/₂d, which were more than double the previous season's take of £146 19s 3d. A small loss of £14 11s was made on the year due to the large amount of guarantees paid to visiting clubs (more than £182). But the club faced the future with great optimism. The application to join the Southern League, Division Two next season had already been accepted and, after only two seasons as a senior club, they would be competing in the Premier League in the South.

1895/96 - THE STATISTICS

DATE	OPPONENTS	COMPETITION	V	RESULT	APPROX. ATTEND.	RECEIPTS	GOALSCORERS
Sep	7 Parkgrove	Friendly	H	W 1-0			W. Buchanan
	14 Romford	Friendly	H	W 6-4			F. Keen, Abbott, W. Buchanan, Jennings, Wooster, Lloyd
	21 Old St Stephens	Friendly	H	W 3-1			Jennings, W. Buchanan, Wooster
	28 Civil Service	Friendly	H	W 2-1			Hutchinson, Wooster
Oct	5 West Ham Garfield	Friendly	H	D 1-1			W. Buchanan
	12 Wolverton L & N.W.R.	FAC 1Q	H	L 2-3		£30 14s 3d	Jennings, Abbott
	19 Tottenham Hotspur (Res)	Friendly	A	W 4-3			W. Buchanan (2), Jennings Lloyd
	26 Upton Park	Friendly	H	W 5-1			W. Buchanan (3), A. Lane, Abbott
	28 Middlesbrough	Friendly	H	L 1-3		£16	Jennings
Nov	2 Newbury	FAAC 2Q	H	W 1-0		£15 11s 3d	Jennings
	9 Chesham	B&BSC 1RP	A	L 1-2			W. Buchanan
	16 University College Hosp.	Friendly	H	W 5-0			Putnam (3), Jennings, o.g.
	23 Royal Scots Fusiliers	FAAC 3Q	H	W 9-0			W Buchanan (2), Abbott (3), Collier, Baines (2), Jennings
	30 Marlow	Friendly	A	D 2-2	1500		Abbott, Randell
Dec	7 49th Regimental District	Friendly	H	W 5-0			W. Buchanan, White, J. Lane
	14 2nd East Lancashire Reg.	FAAC 4Q	A	W 3-2			Jennings, W. Buchanan, Abbott
	21 Marlow	Friendly	H	W 4-2	2000		Abbott (4)
	26 1st Scots Guards	Friendly	H	D 3-3	1200		W. Buchanan, Jennings, Randell
	27 Royal Ordnance	Friendly	H	L 1-3			H. Hearn
	28 The Idlers	Friendly	H	W 3-0			Abbott (2), H. Hearn
Jan	4 Olympians	Friendly	H	W 11-1			Abbott (3), Lloyd, W. Buchanan (3), Jennings (4)
	11 Peckham	Friendly	H	W 9-1			o.g., W. Buchanan (6), Jennings, H. Webb
	18 Eastville Rovers	Friendly	A	D 2-2	1000		W. Buchanan, Abbott
	25 Reading Redlands	MNCC 1RP	A	W 3-2			Randell, Janes
Feb	1 Marlow	FAAC 1RP	A	L 2-3	2700	£74 16s 9d	W. Buchanan, Jennings
	8 Barking Woodville	Friendly	H	D 1-1			Randell
	22 Erith United	Friendly	H	W 5-0			W. Buchanan (2), Abbott (2), Lloyd
	29 Reading Temperance	MNCCSF	H	W 6-1			W. Buchanan (2), Keen, Jennings, Lloyd, Abbott
Mar	7 Old Saint Marks	Friendly	H	W 7-1			Jennings (2), Lloyd (3), Abbott, o.g.
	14 Hanwell	Friendly	H	W 1-0			Jennings
	21 West Bromwich Albion	Friendly	H	L 1-4	2000	£50	W. Buchanan
	28 Leyton	Friendly	H	W 5-2			R. Turner, Lloyd (3), Abbott
Apr	3 Kildare	Friendly	H	W 6-0			Lloyd, Abbott, Randell (3), R. Turner
	4 Maidenhead	Friendly	H	W 9-0	800		R. Turner (3), W. Buchanan (3), Lloyd, Jennings, Collier
	7 Mr. Lockyers' XI	Friendly	H	W 3-2			Lloyd (2), Abbott
	11 Vampires	Friendly	H	L 2-3		£4 15s	W. Buchanan, C. King
	18 London Caledonians "A"		H	W 4-1			Lloyd, Jennings (3)
	22 Maidenhead Norfolkians	MNCCF	H	L 1-2			o.g.

Congratulations
on over
95 years at
Loakes Park.



THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

THE ADAMS FAMILY CONNECTION

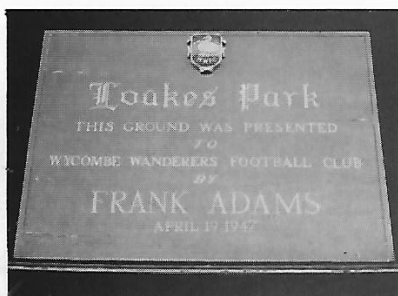
by Jack Adams



Frank Adams presents the Deeds of Loakes Park to the Club

Frank Adams was born in the village of Downley, near High Wycombe on 5th September 1891. He left Priory Road School at the age of 12 and after completing his photographic apprenticeship he was soon playing with Wycombe Wanderers in the Great Western Suburban League.

In 1912 Frank joined the Isthmian League club, Shepherds Bush, who then played at Loftus Road, now QPR's ground. This proved a good move and a successful season ended with a tour overseas with matches against Cologne, Essen, Duisburg and Bilbao Athletic where Frank scored the only goal of the match before the King and Queen of Spain.



Despite these successes Frank Adams returned to his beloved Wycombe Wanderers and was elected Captain for the 1914-15 season. War broke out however, and being a territorial soldier Frank was sent to France with 1st Bucks Battalion. During the war he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and at the end of hostilities he played a number of matches for the RAF team.

On demobilization Frank returned home to lead a club revival which brought the Spartan League Championship home twice and saw Wycombe (and Wimbledon) gain acceptance for membership of the Isthmian League.

Before his retirement in 1928 Frank Adams won representative honours with F.A. XI, Isthmian League, Berks & Bucks F.A. and Middlesex Wanderers. Following his playing retirement, Frank was appointed a member of the Club Committee and had the satisfaction of seeing the Wanderers enjoy probably their finest season, 1931, when they won the Amateur Cup.

Away from the football field Frank was also proving himself a success in the world of business with his sports goods and photographic business operating from a shop on Oxford Road, High Wycombe. This success was to be to the benefit of Wycombe Wanderers too.

Since 1897 Wycombe Wanderers tenure of Loakes Park had been by virtue of a leasehold interest from Lord Carrington. The underlying insecurity of this situation had troubled the Club and, in particular, Frank Adams and as the Second World War was coming to a close in 1945, he began negotiating with Lord Carrington for the purchase on his own account of the freehold of Loakes Park. Two years later, having acquired the freehold, Frank Adams generously gifted Loakes Park to Wycombe Wanderers. The deeds were formally presented to the Club on 19th April 1947, before the Isthmian League match versus

Corinthian Casuals, and Frank declared in his speech: "If future generations obtain the same enjoyment out of Loakes Park as it has given me in the past, then this gift will have been worthwhile". Frank Adams had the honour of Patron bestowed upon him in gratitude for this act. The only condition to the gift of Loakes Park was that it be held "in trust" for the purpose of playing amateur football so long as Wycombe Wanderers were in existence and that if the club dissolved, then the land would be vested in the Local Authority for sporting activities.

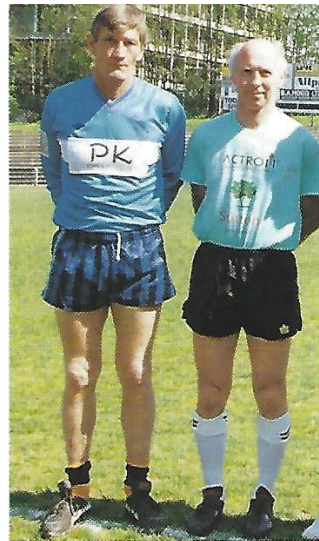
The Trustees' role was a passive one until 1968 when the Health Authority sought discussions with the club for the expansion of Wycombe Hospital. Two years later, a consultative document showing plans of the extension over the whole of Loakes Park was produced and was strongly opposed by the Trustees who realised the difficulty of finding another site for the football club. The Trustees felt it prudent, however, to seek out possible sites and over the course of the next decade discussions were held with several developers with planning application being submitted (and refused) for a site at Four Ashes, Terriers. Eventually, at the suggestion of the Planning Officer, Hillbottom Road was considered and despite a number of setbacks along the way, the Trustees negotiated a deal with developers which has led Wycombe Wanderers to Adams Park - named after our benefactor, Frank Adams.

Sadly, Frank Adams died shortly after his 90th birthday in 1981 but he knew his fellow Trustees would secure the future of the club at Loakes Park or elsewhere. Frank was survived by two sons - Don who was a rugby enthusiast and who played for the Harlequins, and Jack, a lifelong Wycombe supporter who as a baby, was regularly pushed to Loakes Park in his pram by his mother. Jack succeeded Bill Hayter as Trustee in 1970 and, as a Chartered Surveyor, became heavily involved with the ground relocation negotiations until the dissolution of the Trustees when Wycombe Wanderers was formed as a limited company. Subsequently, Jack Adams had the honour of Patron bestowed upon him in which position he still remains with the Club today.

The Adams family name will remain in the Club for the foreseeable future by virtue of its new home - Adams Park.



Len Worley.



John Delaney and Ted Powell.

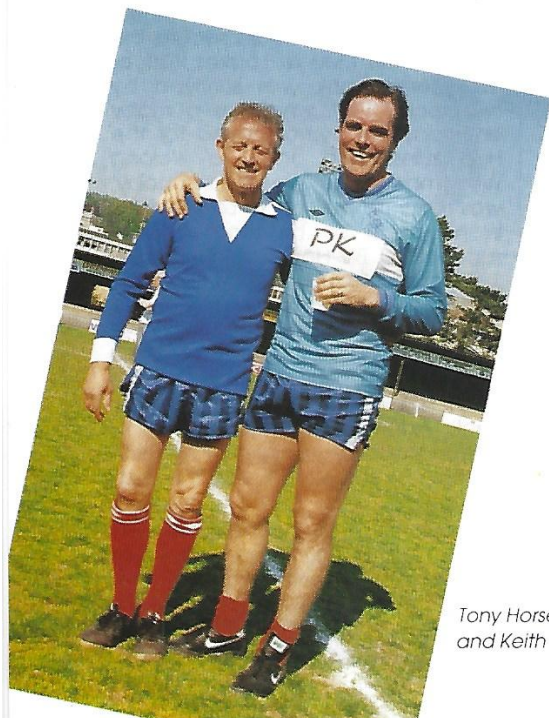


John Maskell.



Dick Cox (left back) and Arthur Greenwell (left half and Captain) from the 1931 Amateur Cup Winning team.

REMEMBER ME?



Tony Horseman and Keith Searle.



(Left to right): Noel Ashford, Keith Samuels, Larry Pritchard, Barry Baker, (Keith Barrett in background).

PLAYERS OF THE SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES

by Brian Lee

Whilst it is important to look forward, particularly with a new ground, it is fun to look back at some of the influential players of the last two decades.

The word "character" is bandied about as someone who stands out, has distinctive features or special qualities and is noted for their individuality. On arriving at a new club the inherited characters soon emerge, maybe for different reasons, but two such people were here when I joined the club in the sixties and stayed throughout the seventies - **John Maskell** and **Tony Horseman**. Both had prodigious playing records, one for saving goals and one for scoring goals. It was disappointing that neither of them wished to use their talents in representing their countries. They did not want to get involved in the international scene although "Bodger" did make an appearance for Great Britain. The national loss was no doubt our gain. The third outstanding character on my arrival was **Jock Sheppard**, the trainer cum groundsman with a french polishing background! He was, and indeed is, so passionately involved with the team that no-one who played at the club will forget his cheerfulness, willing help and the fun he engendered in the dressing room.

When people reflect on the past they do so with the experience of the present and the most influential signing I made was **John Delaney**, not necessarily for his ability but for what he helped to start. In his own right, of course, he proved to be an excellent defender who was a dominant header of the ball in both penalty areas. He graced his country's shirt with both skill and honour, one notable feat being his headed hat-trick against Italy. He was somewhat of a late developer when he arrived at Loakes Park and he excelled as a captain by example.

If John Delaney was an influential player on the field then **John Reardon** was a fierce ally off the field as assistant and friend - and what is more he is still

around. John's role throughout the years at this club has been one of high standards, direct honesty, a caring attitude towards people and a Welsh passion for the game but a distinct dislike for people who wear black clothes.

The most complete player in this era, must for me be **Larry Pritchard**. Not only was he an all round creative and combative player, who represented his country many times but he was probably one of the most respected players of his time. He was ambitious, competitive, reliable and was a model player and person both on and off the field.

The greatest feat though would be by **Len Worley** who, as an amateur, played in the First Division for Tottenham Hotspur in their great side in the early sixties.

No reflections would be complete without naming a "best" team and wondering how they would do now; therefore, in order to provoke discussion but without wishing to offend many, many good players I hereby stick my neck out!

The 1970's Select XI with 43 substitutes! Maskell: Powell, Delaney, Suddaby, Lailey: Pritchard, Reardon Holifield: Swain, Searle, Horseman.

They have good defensive qualities, creativity and skill, lack some pace but have good finishing prospects!

During that time a number of players left us and went into The Football League, in fact the Wycombe League side is also quite strong! John Pratt (Reading); Paul Fuschillo (Blackpool), John Delaney (Bournemouth), Peter Suddaby (Blackpool), Tony Price (Leicester City); Alan Gane (Hereford), Viv Busby (Luton Town), Mick Mellows (Portsmouth); Steve Perrin (Crystal Palace), Ian Pearson (Millwall), Ken Swain (Chelsea).

As the seventies faded into history so did the "amateur" status of teams like Wycombe and the stigma of professionalism that almost swamped the old

corinthian spirit around the Isthmian League. Having been the last to accept substitutes in the late sixties, the Isthmians were not in favour of calling everybody "players", either "contracted" or "non - contracted" but eventually had to succumb or be left behind. The F.A. Amateur Cup went forever and those who earlier had introduced the FA Trophy for semi-professional clubs outside The Football League must have been reading their teacups as the Trophy took over. It has never matched the excitement or crowds that watched FA Amateur Cup matches and to a great extent is still trying to establish itself. It does not command the same respect from the media for instance that the fight for promotion within the present Pyramid League system provides to progress up the ladder and into the Football League.

The eighties, however produced some fine players and teams at Loakes Park and it will provide an opportunity for debate by naming another "best" team. Once more I stick my neck out!

The 1980's Select XI with a further 43 substitutes! Granville: Birdseye, Barrett, Kerr, Hill: Kennedy, Bressington, Ashford: Link, Evans, West.

They have good defensive base upon which to attack with plenty of opportunities to create chances for a lot of goals "upfront".

The one regret I have in looking back is to ask where they are now and what they are doing for football, the game that gave them all the opportunity to show their skills and develop their talents? I am sure that they could have stayed involved but such are the distractions that nearly all are lost to the game. The game needs people like these old players to stay involved for all the youngsters who, we hope, will follow them in the future. Wherever they are I am sure they will remember their days at Wycombe Wanderers with pride and satisfaction - we do.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL COMES OF AGE....

by Paul Newman of "The Independent"

The history of non-league football is littered with the names of famous clubs who today live only in the memory. In 1965, who would have thought that come 1990 the only place for the likes of Guildford City, Hastings United, Romford, Walthamstow Avenue, Bedford Town and Oxford City would be in the game's history books?

Professional football has changed much in the last 25 years, yet in comparison with the non-league game it has virtually stood still. The Football League still has its four divisions, the FA Cup remains the game's most glamorous prize and the likes of Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United are still its biggest names.

Non-league football, in contrast, has lost its most famous competition, the FA Amateur Cup and has had to adapt to the scrapping of the amateur-professional divide and has completely reorganised itself into the present pyramid structure.

In such a changed and changing world it should perhaps be no surprise that some clubs have fallen by the wayside; the conditions demand enterprise and initiative, but sport in this country tends, by nature, to be conservative.

The non-league clubs that have prospered in recent years have tended to be those that have been prepared to adapt to their changing circumstances. It can be no coincidence that Jim Thompson, the non-league game's most dynamic and progressive character of the 1980s, has been responsible for arguably the greatest achievement, that of taking Maidstone United into the Football League. Thompson, who more than anyone else brought about the creation of the Alliance Premier League (now the GM Vauxhall Conference) and automatic promotion to the Fourth Division, saw the need, not only at club level but also nationally, for change and flexibility.

The Southern and Northern Premier Leagues made enormous sacrifices to form the Alliance, but their reward is the strongest and healthiest competition - the

Conference - in the history of non-league football, and although what were their best clubs may now be playing elsewhere, their own competitions are thriving, thanks in large part to the influx of progressive clubs from their own feeder leagues.

The changing nature of the game in recent years has posed an even greater challenge to what were two of the greatest bastions of amateur football, the Isthmian and Northern Leagues. Their response and subsequent contrasting fortunes demonstrate vividly the need for progressive attitudes.

The Skol Northern League has paid a high price for its continued refusal to join the pyramid. Its clubs play in decaying grounds, playing standards have declined and attendances slumped to embarrassingly low levels. Some of the more progressive clubs have resigned in frustration in order to join leagues that belong to the pyramid.

Although a little belated, the decision of the Isthmian League (now the Vauxhall League) to join the pyramid has earned the same reward as that of its parallel feeder competitions. The Vauxhall League is a healthy, expanding competition in which standards - particularly off the field - have risen greatly.

The best illustration of the comparison between the Vauxhall and Skol Northern Leagues is to look at their top clubs of 20 years ago. In 1970, Enfield, Wycombe Wanderers and Sutton United topped the Isthmian League; since then each club has prospered and all three (even despite Enfield's relegation last season) can be regarded as among the country's leading non-league clubs.

The top teams in the Northern League in 1970 were Evenwood Town, Whitley Bay and

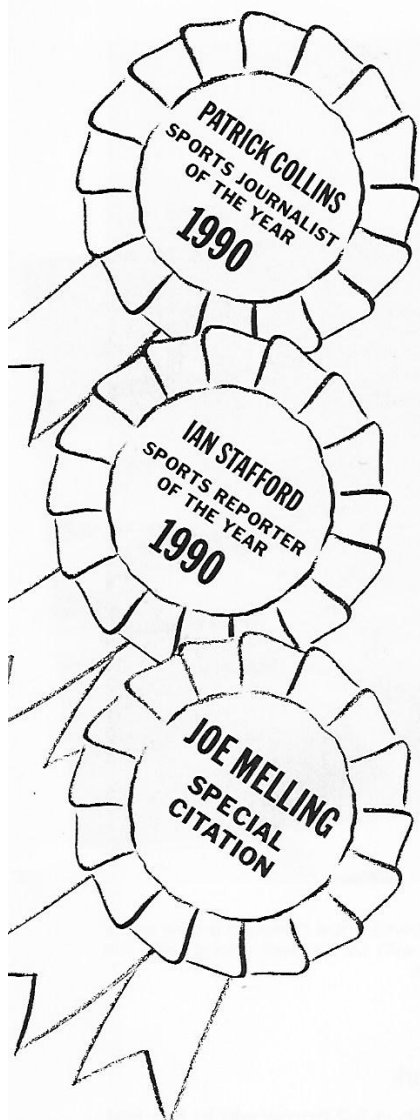
Blyth Spartans. Blyth enjoyed national fame in the F.A. Cup in the 1970s and Whitley Bay's fortunes have taken a turn for the better since their switch to the HFS Loans (Northern Premier) League, but in other respects there can be no comparison with the subsequent achievements of their 1970 Isthmian League counterparts.

Enfield, who jumped ship before the Isthmian link with the Alliance was formed, and Sutton and Wycombe, who both chose promotion to the Alliance when many advised against it, all needed vision and ambition to make their historic moves. All three have recognised the need to improve their grounds - non more so than Wycombe in their move to a new home - to involve themselves more closely with the local community and to strive for commercial success off the field.

Wycombe can take pride in their long history and in particular in their role as one of the great clubs in the halcyon days of amateur football. Yet in future years their willingness to adapt to the enormous changes that the game has undergone in the last 25 years may be seen as an even greater achievement.



"Come on, Grandad, or we'll be late for Adams Park."



JOIN THE AWARD-WINNING SPORTS TEAM.

The Mail on Sunday sports reporting team swept the board this year at the British Sports Journalism Awards.

Patrick Collins was named Sports Journalist of the Year, Ian Stafford won Sports Reporter of the Year, and Joe Melling was given a special award for his sympathetic coverage of the Hillsborough Disaster.

The Mail on Sunday also picked up the award for the best designed sports pages.

So whatever your favourite sport, you'll find it covered to perfection in The Mail on Sunday.

The Mail
ON SUNDAY

A newspaper, not a snoozepaper.

TONY KEEN AUTOS

Servicing & Mechanical Repairs

FIAT SPECIALIST

Other Makes Also Catered For

Unit 1, Westgate Business Centre,
West End Street, High Wycombe.

(0494) 441916.

CROCKS & CRYSTAL

For all your Giftware requirements,
including Cards and Wrapping.

Discount to all members of
Leagueline and Superloot schemes.

23 The Parade, Bourne End.
(0628) 528712.

BROOKS
SPORTS

BROOKS
SPORTS

BROOKS
SPORTS

BROOKS
SPORTS

BROOKS
SPORTS



March 1991

Now the pitch is overgrown, the stands are crumbling and the bulldozers have been in. Where crowds once cheered is now a car park belonging to the hospital. Whatever memories we choose to recall, Loakes Park will live with us for ever, along with the moments of joy and despair witnessed during the time spent there supporting Wycombe Wanderers.

CUP MEMORIES

Alan Hutchinson reviews 70 years at Loakes Park

For 96 years Loakes Park was the home of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and their famous sloping pitch at the foot of a steep hill became the graveyard of many an opponent and their Cup dreams. We will now look at some of the most memorable matches seen at this famous old ground, through the amateur days of the twenties to the seventies, to the non-league football of the seventies and eighties, until 1990 when the shutters finally went up at Loakes Park.

Twenties Champions

Immediately after the first world war, Wycombe won the Spartan League championship in consecutive years and at the end of the 1920 - 21 season they made an application to join the Isthmian League.

They were accepted, along with Wimbledon, the following season, 1921/22. A step up in class from the Spartan League to the Premier League of the amateur game saw both support and "gates" rise dramatically. New and exciting clubs such as The Casuals, Dulwich Hamlet, London Caledonians, Ilford,

Leytonstone and Nunhead were seen at Loakes Park, replacing the familiar local sides Slough United, Chesham United, Aylesbury United and Great Western Railway.

1921 saw Wycombe enjoy a successful run in the F.A. Amateur

Cup with a 3-2 home win in the First Round against Signal Service before meeting Barnet at Loakes Park in Round Two. In a thrilling game Wycombe found themselves two down in the first-half before climbing back from the dead to lead 3-2.



Barnet equalised before Tommy Jackman, in heavy mist that enveloped the ground, got the winner at the hospital end to take Wycombe through 4-3.

In the Third Round they beat Tufnell Park, the previous season's finalists, 2-1 at Edmonton and drew Loftus Albion (Yorkshire) away in the Quarter-Final. The journey was such in those days that the team left on Thursday morning for an overnight stay in Saltburn before going onto Loftus on Friday. Total expenses for the team and officials were £80 for two nights away. Wycombe were tipped as likely finalists but the long journey and home advantage saw Loftus go through 2-0 in front of 8,000 supporters. Strangely enough, Bishop Auckland reached the Semi-Final that season and were to crop up again and again during Wycombe's various attempts to win the Amateur Cup.

Thirties Legends

By season 1929 - 30 new names had arrived at the Club and these men were to become legends when winning the Amateur Cup at Highbury the following April, 1931. Our story begins with the biggest game the Club had staged at Loakes Park at that point in their history - the Quarter-Final of the F.A. Amateur Cup on Saturday, 28th February 1931. The game was a replay from the previous Saturday when Wycombe had achieved a very creditable 1-1 draw against Metropolitan Police at Imber Court. A crowd approaching 12,000, the largest ever at Wycombe in those days, crammed into the ground for the visit of the Spartan League Champions.

Urged on by the vast crowd, Wycombe took the game to the Police but it was the "Peelers" who were ahead before equality was restored when Fred Braisher put Wycombe level ten minutes before half-time. In the second-half it was the strength of the Wycombe forwards who dominated the Police defence. Centre-forward, Doug Vernon, put Wycombe through to their first Amateur Cup Semi-Final with a brilliant goal. He collected the ball just inside the visitors half and dribbled past five opponents before calmly placing the ball into the net, sending Wycombe to meet Woking at Ilford for a place in the Final and into the history books forever.



The 1931 Amateur Cup Final winning goal.

Another replay, this time against Gillingham in the F.A. Cup of 1932, saw a mid-week Wednesday afternoon crowd of 8,000 turn up. The entire male population of Wycombe had left their factories and offices with shops posting notices, "Gone to the football" in their windows. The match was played in awful weather conditions on 30th November after the 1-1 draw at Gillingham the previous Saturday when Wycombe had covered themselves in glory. Excitement for the crowd was instant when the Wycombe full-back, Dick Cox, banged the ball into his own net in the opening seconds. Mid-way through the half Bill Brown equalised with a left foot volley, and five minutes later total silence descended as Fred Braisher was awarded a penalty. His crashing shot put Wycombe 2-1 ahead at half-time. It was apparent that the professionals' extra skill and fitness would take over in the second-half and goals on 60 and 70 minutes and the dying seconds took Gillingham through 4-2. But then, what else could have attracted such a crowd to a hillside on such a miserable afternoon in November 1932?

Forties - Gift of a Lifetime

Season 1945/46 brought great relief to all those supporters starved of football during the war years. Large crowds and a craving for entertainment kept Loakes Park to the forefront of local interest. Although the Club did not make any notable progress in either the F.A. Cup or F.A. Amateur Cup during those resumption years they did reach four consecutive Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Finals, winning three in 1947, 1949 and 1950, and losing to Chesham United in 1948.

The real highlight of the post-war '40s, however, was the presentation of Loakes Park to Wycombe Wanderers by former Captain Frank Adams.

Fifties Glory

As with all amateur clubs the war years had taken their toll and rebuilding a good side had taken time, but by the '49 - 50 season Wycombe were on the road to Cup glory again. In the Amateur Cup they now faced the strong northern men from Crook Town in the Second Round at Loakes Park. Some 13,000 squeezed into the ground for a real pot-boiler that saw Wycombe go through with a 65 minute Jock McCullum goal after a number of first-half chances had been squandered. From a great ball by Ken Butler, Jock lofted the ball over the goalkeeper's head and watched the crowd behind the goal almost drag the ball into the net with a huge intake of breath. The Third Round brought Dulwich Hamlet to Loakes Park and another 13,000 saw

Johnny Blizzard, Jock McCullum and Peter Birdseye score the goals to take Wycombe through 3-1. The Fourth Round created a ground record of 15,850 when St. Albans came to Loakes Park on 25th February 1950. After a dour 20 minutes it was Jock McCullum again, who brought the game to life with a goal followed by a second from Ken Butler five minutes later. Although St. Albans reduced the arrears before half-time, further goals from Jock and Henri Mikrut in the second-half sent Wycombe to meet Bishop Auckland at Brentford in the Semi-Final.

Two seasons later, in early February 1952, 12,500 were at Loakes Park for the visit of Marine, Liverpool for the Third Round F.A. Amateur Cup. A penalty from Dennis Atkins after 29 minutes took Wycombe into the Quarter-Final where Barnet from the Athenian League, won 2-0 at Underhill.

In 1955 the great Pegasus side, coached by Joe Mercer, who had twice won the F.A. Amateur Cup in the early 50's, came to Loakes Park in the Quarter-Final. A desperate effort by 40 schoolboys, myself included, cleared the pitch of snow to enable the game to go ahead in front of 10,000 spectators. Wycombe pounded the Pegasus goal throughout only to be thwarted by a goalkeeper the press called a young boy - Mike Pinner. It remained 0-0. The following week Wycombe won 2-1 in the dying moments of the replay with a Jack Tomlin header, to go to Doncaster to meet Bishop Auckland once again in the Semi-Final. A total of 6,500 fans travelled on six special trains and many coaches for the match which Wycombe lost 1-0. For the next three seasons crowds of 10,000 plus were not unusual - Burton Albion attracted 13,000 for an F.A. Cup tie in 1955, Margate 11,400 in 1956 and for the visit of barefooted Uganda in August 1956, 8,000 turned up to see Wycombe win 10-1. Later in that season Wycombe started along the road to their only Wembley appearance so far. A 3-3 draw at Ilford on a quagmire of a pitch in the Fourth Round of the F.A. Amateur Cup meant a replay at Loakes Park the following Saturday. A crowd of 15,500 saw Frank Smith and Cliff Trott score the two goals that qualified Wycombe to meet Corinthian Casuals at Highbury in the Semi-Final. A 4-2 victory at Highbury, despite playing with only 10 fit men for the last 25 minutes, took the Wanderers to Wembley where they met old adversaries Bishop Auckland once again, losing this time, 3-1.

Two seasons later it started all over again when Wycombe were drawn away at Barnet in Round Three of the F.A. Amateur Cup. A 2-2 draw after Wycombe had led 2-0 at half-time meant a Loakes Park



The 1957 Amateur Cup Final Squad

Back row:- S. Cann (Coach), G. Truett, F. Lawson, M. Wieks, D. Syrett, J. Truett, J. Moring, F. Westley (Captain), W. Hayter (Secretary).

Front Row:- L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, F. Smith, D. Atkins.

replay. The draw had paired the winners at home to Bishop Auckland (yet again!) and the population of High Wycombe just couldn't wait for the replay. Wycombe had not lost for 16 months at Loakes Park, surely now, the defeat of both Barnet and Bishops at home, would make Wembley a certainty. However, a goal from Reg Finch after 20 minutes sent Wycombe crashing from the competition. A very sad end to an era that had contained many memorable Loakes Park moments.

Sixties Sagas

The sixties saw the arrival of a new era which saw the departure of coach Sid Cann who had achieved so much during the glorious 50's. New men came and went without

too much success - Colin McDonald lasted three days, then Graham Adams and Don Welch followed before former player Barry Darvill took over the reigns.

The F.A. Cup of 1960 saw a great result against Wisbech, which took Wycombe to Watford for the Second Round, where they lost 5-1. Then a battling defeat in 1961, by Kettering of the Southern League. The next major event for Wycombe was the opening of the floodlights on 25th September 1963 against Enfield. By this time crowds had dwindled as television had invaded every home, and the same familiar clubs season after season added to the lack of enthusiasm. However, over 3,000 people saw a fast and exciting game under the new lights,

turned on by Club Patron, Mr. Frank Adams. Wycombe went on to win 3-1.

The mid '60s will be remembered for the marathon F.A. Cup encounter with Bedford Town, now no longer in existence. Wycombe were drawn at home and in front of 7,600 fans scored a dramatic goal through Keith Samuels in the last five minutes to earn a 1-1 draw. The replay at Bedford was even more dramatic with the Blues leading 3-2 in extra time with goals by Paul Bates, Tony Horseman and Les Merrick, when the referee awarded a harsh penalty to Bedford in the last minute. A very lucky Bedford ended 3-3 with a second trip to Wycombe the following Saturday. More drama yet as 9,000 saw another 1-1 draw.

D & E MOULDS LTD

TOOLMAKERS

&

HIGH PRECISION

PLASTIC MOULDERS

OGILVIE ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS. HP12 3DS

Tel: (0494) 463111

Fax: (0494) 461194

Referee Arthur Diamond abandoned the game and refused extra time owing to a waterlogged pitch caused by torrential rain throughout the 90 minutes. It was back to Bedford on Wednesday and after a valiant display Wycombe went out 3-2 after 6 1/2 hours of football watched by a total of 32,000.

In December 1968 Barry Darvill resigned as Team Manager and Brian Lee was appointed, meeting the players for the first time on Boxing Day. His appointment was to herald the most successful period in Wanderers' history winning three Isthmian Championships, three Runners-up spots, with the lowest position 4th. Many exciting cup runs came along. In the Amateur Cup Wycombe were within sight of the car park at Wembley on three consecutive occasions under Brian Lee until the barrier came down at the very last hurdle.

Seventies Splendour

The first of the Quarter-Final opportunities came in 1970 when drawn at home to old adversaries who we met at the same stage in 1950 - St. Albans City. Just under 10,000 saw Wycombe denied by goalkeeper Tony McKie while St. Albans helped themselves to goals in the 26th and 63rd minutes to end the

Wembley dream. One year later we were in the same position at home in the Quarter-Final, this time to Skelmersdale United. Wycombe were very firm favourites to take the Cup, and for 55 minutes it was impossible to believe how Skelmersdale had survived. A goal against the run of play turned the entire match and Wycombe fell like a boxer with a glass jaw, by 3-0 to the misery of 10,200 stunned supporters. A protest over goalkeeper Peter Frankish, who was drafted into the Skelmersdale side at the very last moment, was turned down by the F.A. and the Lancashire side went on to win the Cup.

For the third consecutive season Wycombe reached the F.A. Amateur Cup Quarter-Final and their luck held when they were drawn at home yet again. Their opponents were Hayes, the club Wycombe beat 1-0 at Highbury in 1931 when winning the Cup for the only time. Hayes had put together a strong side and came to attack from the start. The only goal of the game was scored on 72 minutes, a well-timed header by Keith Searle who had previously been rejected by Hayes. The crowd was 5,500 and Jim Kelman, who was to manage the Wanderers in the late 80's, played for Hayes that day. So Wycombe had progressed to the Semi-Finals for

the first time in fifteen years where they would meet Hendon at Brentford. But again it was a case of "so near yet so far" as Hendon won 2-1.

The following season it was the F.A. Cup that attracted the attention when Newport County came to Loakes Park in the First Round. In front of 6,000 spectators Wycombe had the greater share of the play in the first-half before two goals from Steve Perrin and another by Dylan Evans, all in the second half, put Wycombe into the Second Round with another home tie against Peterborough United. All the propaganda relating to the sloping pitch was used in an attempt to unnerve the Fourth Division leaders, but their Manager, Noel Cantwell, the ex-Manchester United half-back, did his homework well. Although Wycombe were on level terms, 1-1, at half-time, two second-half goals for Peterborough ended the campaign in front of 10,400 spectators.

Sunday football came to Loakes Park for the first and only time when, during a 3-day working week, a League fixture was arranged to suit both sides. One of the largest crowds for a League fixture for some years, 2,400, turned up to see Wanderers thump Corinthian Casuals 7-0.

FRESHEN UP YOUR WINNING TEAM WITH A NEW SHOWER FROM BRITISH GAS NORTH THAMES



Telephone:
0753 31261
for further
details or visit
our showrooms
at High Wycombe,
Slough or
Uxbridge

British Gas
North Thames
ENERGY IS OUR BUSINESS

1974 - 75 will always go down as the "Glory Season" when Wycombe battled through to the Third Round of the F.A. Cup to take on Jack Charlton's Division One leaders, Middlesbrough - the first time in the Club's history that they had entertained a First Division side at Loakes Park. The Cup run had started with a fixture at Marlow in the Qualifying Round way back in September before making it through to be drawn at home in Round Two against Third Division Bournemouth. The Wycombe home record looked awesome. They had not lost at Loakes Park for two years and were champions of the Isthmian League three times out of the last four. Bournemouth did not play well and although they took Wycombe back to Dean Court after a 1-1 draw it all went wrong for them when Wycombe turned on a great display to win 2-1 and earn the right to meet Middlesbrough. Cup fever possessed the town for two weeks prior to the game. The police had set a crowd limit of 12,000 for the match, ITV Sport had arranged to cover the tie, and BBC Radio, Tyne Tees media and every national newspaper wanted a seat in the stand. This was to be the game of a lifetime for Wycombe. Those not lucky enough to get a ticket clung to gasometers, perched precariously on roofs and gathered on the hill above the ground to watch. Middlesbrough found the atmosphere daunting, the Wycombe midfield got hold of everything and half-time arrived with no score. Chances were few and far between and the only clear cut chance fell to the Wycombe Captain, Alan Phillips who got his head to a Terry Reardon corner and sent the ball careering into the side netting. At the final whistle with the score still 0-0 the Middlesbrough players left the field sporting huge grins of relief. Wycombe lost the replay in the dying minute at Ayrson Park the following Wednesday and trudged off the pitch to a standing ovation from over 30,000 admiring supporters.

Another memorable moment at Loakes Park during this period included the title winning goal by Keith Searle in the last game of season 1974 - 75 against Dagenham, to pip Enfield by 0.1 of a goal. The following season Monza of Italy came and gave us a very entertaining evening with Wycombe winning the Anglo Italian Trophy 2-1 on aggregate.

At the end of 1975 Brian Lee announced his retirement. He had been the most successful manager in the Club's history. Former player Ted Powell took charge.

In 1976 the F.A. Cup once again threw up a fascinating clash when Reading came to Loakes Park in the Second Round of the competition. The game was played on a hard,

frost-covered pitch and when Robin Friday scored twice in the first-half for the visitors the game looked over. A relentless bombardment of the Reading goal in the second-half was rewarded on 68 minutes when Ian Pearson pulled one back for Wycombe. Other chances were missed however, as Wycombe unluckily went out deserving at least a replay. By March 1977 Ted Powell had gone and John Reardon was appointed Manager until May 1978 when Andy Williams replaced him, only to go out with the 70's, which heralded the arrival of former Queens Park Rangers star, Mike Keen.

Eighties Emergence

Having seen the F.A. Trophy introduced in 1975 with the disappearance of Amateur football, the early 80's saw more changes taking place in non-League football. The formation of the Alliance Premier League was to become the basis for future promotion and relegation between non-League and the Fourth Division of the Football League. Wycombe did not take part in the original Alliance formation but when the pyramid system was introduced providing promotion and relegation from the Isthmian League, the Southern League and the Northern League, greater opportunities for many more clubs opened up. The 80's started with good F.A. Cup prospects when

Wycombe drew Fourth Division Bournemouth at home in the First Round. This contest produced an interesting confrontation between the two managers. Alec Stock of Bournemouth who, over 30 years previously had masterminded non-League Yeovil's sensational win over Sunderland, and Wycombe's Mike Keen, who for thirteen years played for Queens Park Rangers and Luton under Stock. Much play was made of the previous F.A. Cup clash between Wycombe and Bournemouth but there was no such luck for the Isthmian side as the Cherries scored twice in the first-half and added another in the second to win 3-0 and make sure there was no repeat of the 1974 meeting.

After a number of seasons without any success in the F.A.

Trophy, 1981 - 82 brought a change of fortune. At Easter Wycombe had the prospect of winning the F.A. Trophy, Isthmian League, Hitachi Cup and the County Cup, but within the space of 12 days everything had gone. The one prestige game was the second leg of the Trophy Semi-Final against Altrincham, after the ghost of Bishop Auckland had finally been laid to rest 4-1 at Loakes Park in the Third Round. Having achieved a 1-1 draw in the first leg against Altrincham (away), the second match attracted 5,000 to see Wycombe lose 0-3 on a hard, dusty pitch. Unfortunately injuries to four key players in the first leg cost Wycombe another chance at Wembley.

1984 was the Club's centenary season and Mike Keen departed to be replaced by Paul Bence. A special match was arranged to celebrate the Centenary and attractive opponents were sought to visit Loakes Park as part of the celebrations. Leicester City were selected for this fixture as they too were celebrating their centenary. A First Division side in those days, they had a young Gary Lineker partnering Steve Lynex up front. The game was poorly attended, only 1,300 turning up for such a prestigious occasion. The entire match was played in a low-key atmosphere after an early injury to John Richardson of Wycombe who was stretchered off with torn ligaments - the result, 0-0.

Legal Problems? Just pass them to us.



We are pleased to have been associated with Wycombe Wanderers at Loakes Park and look forward to sharing in their successes at Adams Park.

WINTER - TAYLORS SOLICITORS

PARK HOUSE · LONDON ROAD · HIGH WYCOMBE · BUCKS HP11 1BZ

TEL: (0494) 450171

OFFICES AT: AYLESBURY, HADDENHAM, HAZLEMERE, LANE END,
MARLOW AND PRINCES RISBOROUGH

1985 - 86 was a very eventful season as the Club had qualified for the Gola League (Alliance Premier) and started quite well. A very good F.A. Cup run saw Colchester United from Division Four visit Loakes Park in the First Round. Two goals in the first-half by Mark West and Simon Read paired Wycombe with Chelmsford in Round Two. Another win at Loakes Park sent us to York City in Round Three where unluckily we lost 2-0.

A prolonged tussle with Leek Town in the F.A. Trophy then put the skids under the team. We faced Altrincham on the last day of April in a desperate League position and only 600 turned up to see Wycombe fight for survival. Altrincham had reached Wembley in the Trophy and put out a weakened side. It was one of those games - had Altrincham played without a goalkeeper Wycombe wouldn't have scored, and when Graham Pearce beat Gary Lester with a 25 yard back pass on 88 minutes Wycombe were doomed. Relegation was confirmed when four teams on 36 points left Wycombe's goal difference the worst of the four. That season the experimental system of two points for a home win and three for an away win did not help. The following season three points for a straight win was introduced.

During 1986 agreement was reached between the Wanderers Board and the Hospital Governing body to re-locate the Club. Subject to discussion with the local council, Wycombe Wanderers would leave Loakes Park to enable a re-development programme, and move to a purpose-built stadium at Sands.

The following season Wycombe took the Isthmian League Championship and were back in the renamed

Alliance Premier (G.M. Vauxhall Conference) for the 1987/88 competition. Scarborough had been the very first team to win election to the Football League as Champions of the Gola League and Lincoln City became the first side to make the drop. Alan Gane, who had replaced Paul Bence as manager following the York City F.A. Cup defeat, had himself been replaced by another former player, Peter Suddaby, and when Lincoln City came to Loakes Park they were determined to get back into the Football League under any circumstances. A 2-1 defeat by Lincoln kept Wycombe in the basement area of the League until Suddaby was dismissed and Jim Kelman was appointed in February 1988. Rebuilding the team was the main priority for survival in the Conference. This was achieved and a new look Wanderers prepared for the coming season. Newport County changed places with Lincoln City and began to struggle due to lack of finance and huge debts.

Wycombe had risen to third position in the table when leaders Kettering came to Loakes Park for a vital League clash. The game attracted the largest Conference gate recorded at Loakes Park, (4,900), but Wycombe lost 1-0 with a second half header from Cohen Griffiths. Newport were expelled from the Conference in early April and that ended Wycombe's chances of the Championship when six points and ten goals were deducted from the home win (5-0) and the away win (5-3) in Wales. Kettering faltered at the last hurdle to allow Maidstone United into the Football League.

Darlington then entered the Conference ranks as the 92nd side in the Football League, replacing Maidstone. Making an early visit to

Loakes Park, in the ground's final season, they left as 1-0 winners with a second-half goal from David Cork. In November 1989 Loakes Park became the first non-League ground ever to stage a Women's International when England met Italy on a wet and windy evening when 1,200 turned out to see a highly skilled game ending in a 1-1 draw.

A disastrous F.A. Trophy defeat 3-1 at Loakes Park by Metropolitan Police from two Leagues below signalled the end of Jim Kelman's managerial spell that had transformed Wycombe into a Conference side and former Nottingham Forest and Northern Ireland International Martin O'Neill took over. Consolidating the League position to finish in tenth place after a very shaky start meant the Club would leave Loakes Park having established themselves at the very top of the non-league ladder.

Farewell Loakes Park

Bank Holiday, Monday, 7th May 1990 was the date chosen for the very last competitive match to be played at Loakes Park. Through manager Martin O'Neill's connections, plus those of Director and T.V. sports commentator Alan Parry and the Club Secretary, Alan Hutchinson, a team of past internationals were gathered together led by the ex-Manchester United superstar, George Best. A party mood prevailed as a crowd of some 4,000 saw a feast of George Best magic and goals galore as the International XI beat a Wycombe side 8-4, the proceedings being halted temporarily by the intervention of a male streaker during the second-half. When referee John Martin blew the whistle for the very last time at Loakes Park 95 years of history came to an end. The great games, great players and great clubs had passed, along with the famous sloping pitch, into history, to live in the memory for ever.

The two teams who took part in the Farewell game:

Wycombe Wanderers: John Granville, Matt Crossley, Simon Stapleton, Paul Franklin, Andy Kerr, Kevin Durham, Dave Carroll, Martin Lambert, Mark West, Martin Blackler, Steve Guppy.

Subs: Nicky Evans, Ricky Pearson.

International XI: Jim McDonough, Joe Kinnear, Mark Lawrenson, Alan MacDonald, Glyn Creaser, John McClelland, Danny Wilson, Gerry Armstrong, John Robertson, Robert Thorpe, George Best.

Subs: Andy Robinson, Spencer Tuckerman, Alan Parry, Martin O'Neill, Nazim Bashir, Warren Clark.



13th April 1987 - Promotion is clinched back to the G.M. Vauxhall Conference.

WYCOMBE'S GREATEST?

by Allan Robson

Len Worley played at outside-right for Wycombe Wanderers for 15 years from 1954-1969. During this time Len received Isthmian League and Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Winners medals, he represented the Isthmian League and Middlesex Wanderers, played for the Great Britain Olympic team and won seven full caps for the England Amateur team, the first at the age of 19. He also played in Division One of the Football League with Charlton Athletic and Tottenham Hotspur.

Len recalls the two highlights of his football career:-

"One has got to be my debut for Spurs when I played in the same front line as the great John White. But the best must be when Wycombe played Corinthian Casuals in the Amateur Cup Semi-Final at Highbury in 1956-57. We were at the last hurdle and a crowd of about 26,000 saw us come back from 0-1 down to win 4-2. We finished that game with only eight fit men and I managed to score two goals.

Other things that stick in my mind though is the sharpness of Tony

Horseman in the six-yard box and the unsung heroes such as Jackie Tomlin, Dave Thomas and Mick Hodges."

Every man has disappointments though....

"I've got two major regrets. The biggest is not accepting Tottenham's offer to go professional. Until I die I will never know whether I could have reached the very top of my craft and indeed, whether I ever reached my maximum potential in terms of skill. I will always wish I had the guts to have taken that opportunity.

But a very clear second is my regret at leaving Wycombe Wanderers. Brian Lee wanted to play four men up front, I was 32 years old and he thought my time was up. Wycombe was the biggest club in the South of England with the best supporters and biggest crowd. I can tell you that I literally cried as I walked out of the ground for the last time - I loved Wycombe Wanderers."

Len Worley didn't give football up on leaving Loakes Park. He went on to play for Slough Town,

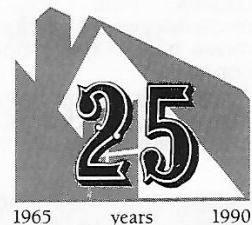
Wealdstone, Hayes, Chesham and continued in Sunday League soccer until he was 40.

As a Wycombe Wanderer Len was married with three sons, trained as a Quantity Surveyor and was a director of a property development company. Today, he lives in a superb house in the Chalfonts having had his own property development business for 18 years. He is also a partner in a sports retailing business. Len plays a great deal of tennis (which he feels helped him considerably to get over the shock of leaving Wycombe) and represents Buckinghamshire in the veteran section. He still weighs the same as he did when he played football at his peak.

Having stayed away from Loakes Park after he finished playing, Len is now finding himself a quite frequent visitor to Adams Park.

We hope we can give him some of the enjoyment he gave to thousands of Wanderers supporters throughout his playing days at Loakes Park.

11 L BEEKS
High Wycombe
Limited



BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND DEVELOPERS

**Congratulations W.W.F.C.
Loakes Park 1895 - 1990
Adams Park 1990 -**

A POTTED HISTORY OF LOAKES PARK

- 1895 Loakes Park "loaned" to Wycombe Wanderers by Lord Carrington. First match played 7th September.
- 1896 The Club joins the Southern League.
- 1897 Loakes Park is leased for 14 years. A new headquarters (The Swan Hotel) and the first groundsman (Bill Trinder) was appointed.
- 1900 The Club plays at Wycombe Abbey Park whilst Loakes Park is levelled off.
- 1902 Wycombe wins the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup 3-0 against Slough.
- 1903 A four tier stand for 400 people with dressing rooms is erected on the top side.
- 1908 The Club enters the Great Western Suburban League.
- 1909 Wycombe win the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup without conceding a goal. Wycombe's highest recorded win 18-1 against Staines.
- 1920 Wycombe Wanderers become Spartan League Champions.
- 1921 Wycombe Wanderers (and Wimbledon) join the Isthmian League and finish in 8th place. Reg Boreham becomes the first Wycombe player to win an Amateur International cap when he played for England against Ireland.
- 1922 The Wycombe Memorial Hospital Cup is established and the Wanderers beat Tufnell Park 4-1.
- 1923 The main stand was extended at both ends and new dressing rooms were opened. A. Fryer became the first Wycombe player to tour with the Middlesex Wanderers.
- 1924 Wycombe are top scorers in the Isthmian League.
- 1925 "Bunny" Hooper resigned his position as Club Secretary after 27 years.
- 1931 Wycombe Wanderers win the Amateur Cup beating Hayes 1-0 before 32,489 spectators at Highbury.
- 1932 A stand was erected at the bottom side of Loakes Park and Wycombe became the first amateur club with stands on both sides of the ground. Wycombe reach the first round proper of the FA Cup for the first time losing 4-2 against Gillingham.
- 1935 The Club is forced to seek re-election to the Isthmian League.
- 1943 Mr G.T. Miles, President, Chairman and Treasurer for 46 years, died.
- 1946 Wycombe finish the season with an average of 6½ goals per game.
- 1947 Frank Adams, former player, captain and committee member, hands over Loakes Park as a gift to the Club.
- 1948 Loakes Park hosts the England v Wales British Youth Championship (4-2)
- 1951 A full-time coach was appointed in James McCormack.
- 1952 Sid Cann joins the Club as coach.
- 1956 Wycombe are champions of the Isthmian League with a record 12 points margin and as top scorers. The Ugandan touring team are beaten 10-1 by the Wanderers - they later beat the England Amateur team.
- 1957 Wycombe lose 3-1 to Bishop Auckland in the Amateur Cup Final at Wembley in front of a 90,000 crowd and retained the Isthmian League title.
- 1958 The Loakes Park gates were officially opened before the first Amateur International at Loakes Park was played (England v South Africa).
- 1960 Wycombe reach the Second Round Proper in the FA Cup for the first time, losing 5-1 to Fourth Division Watford.
- 1962 Tony Horseman joins Wycombe.
- 1963 Floodlights were erected and used for the first time in beating Enfield 3-1.
- 1967 Wycombe finally lose 3-2 against Bedford Town in the First Round Proper of the FA Cup after 6½ hours play. Tony Horseman scores a record 76 goals in one season.
- 1968 Brian Lee is appointed as coach.
- 1969 The selection committee was disbanded and Brian Lee is given full managerial powers. John Reardon joins the Club as assistant manager.
- 1970 Viv Busby joins Luton Town and Peter Suddaby joins Blackpool.
- 1972 The Isthmian League title is won for the third time.
- 1974 First Division leaders Middlesbrough were held to a goalless draw in the FA Cup Third Round in front of a 12,000 crowd and ITV's Big Match cameras. The replay was lost 1-0 in the final seconds before a 30,000 crowd.
- 1975 Wycombe win the League for the Fourth time in five seasons with only one caution all season. The Club is expelled from the Berks & Bucks Cup for snubbing the committee officers. Wycombe Wanderers represent English non-League football in the Anglo-Italian Trophy and the Anglo-Italian Semi-Professional Tournament, winning the former against A.C. Monza. Wycombe lose a 52 match unbeaten home run to Slough Town.
- 1976 Brian Lee resigns as Team Manager and Ted Powell is appointed.
- 1978 John Reardon leaves Wycombe Wanderers.
- 1980 Mike Keen is appointed Team Manager and acquires Gary Lester, Bob Dell and George Borg.
- 1981 Mark West scores the only goal to give High Wycombe and District Schools team the English Schools Trophy against Sunderland at Loakes Park. Brian Lee is elected Chairman.
- 1982 The Club is defeated in the FA Trophy Semi-Final Second Leg 0-3 after holding Altrincham to a 1-1 draw in the away leg.
- 1983 Isthmian League Champions for the seventh time and Wycombe turn down the opportunity of joining the Alliance Premier League due to increased expenses. A non-league club record of 11 consecutive seasons appearing in the First Round Proper of the FA Cup was achieved by facing Chelmsford City.
- 1984 Wycombe finished in third position in the Isthmian League but as Sutton (Champions) refused and Worthing (runners-up) did not have an adequate ground Wycombe were offered, and accepted, a place in the Gola League. Wycombe played a Centenary match against first Division Leicester City 0-0 at Loakes Park. A Centenary Room was opened for the new "30 Club" and a new kitchen constructed. Sir Stanley Rous presided at the Club's Centenary Dinner and unveiled a new Honours Board.
- 1986 The Club reached the Third Round Proper of the FA Cup against York but were relegated from the Gola League on goal difference in the first season. Agreement was reached, subject to planning approval, to relocate to Sands.
- 1987 Promotion back to the G.M. Vauxhall Conference League. Wycombe Wanderers Football Club limited was formed under a new Board of Directors.
- 1988 The Club's planning application at Sands was won on appeal. Ivor Beeks took over as Chairman and Jim Kelman became Team Manager on a full-time basis.
- 1989 The Club's best ever League position - fourth in the GM Vauxhall Conference. A ladies team was formed and Wycombe Wanderers Lions were adopted.
- 1990 Martin O'Neill, ex-Northern Ireland Captain was appointed Team Manager. Loakes Park was vacated on 14th May.

ADAMS PARK

A DEVELOPMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY

by Allan Robson

Having explored numerous potential sites for a new stadium as early as the mid sixties, Wycombe Wanderers and its Trustees were delighted when a developer identified a suitable site, then owned by Sir Francis Dashwood, on the outskirts of the town. On Christmas Eve 1985 the then Chairman, Brian Lee, signed an agreement whereby, subject to planning consent being granted, developers would fund a new stadium which had to be completed in all respects before the Club was required to leave Lookes Park.

The new site was on Green Belt land and classified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the required planning consent was refused. The Club appealed against the decision and on 11th March 1988 received notice from the Department of the Environment that its appeal had been upheld - the move was on!

In September 1988 full consent was granted by Wycombe District Council and Brian Lee resigned as Chairman of the Board to be appointed full-time Development Director on a two year contract. Having drawn up specifications for the proposed stadium it was soon to become apparent that soaring costs would not allow the individual design to be progressed and a new design was created based on a pre-cast concrete frame system.

In April 1989 contractors commenced earthworks to form a level site and it was found necessary to lease adjacent land upon which 65,000 cubic metres of chalk could be deposited. The next task was to divert the water main and main foul sewer, which ran through the site, at a cost of £86,000. By the end of July the formation of the chalk pitch was complete with five miles of drainage pipes and a 40 "pop-up" head watering system, to be serviced by a 1000 gallon tank, installed.

Work began on foundations for the stands and terraces in August. Concrete frames were erected and the roof cladding set on, which then gave the internal

building works, started in October, protection from the weather. As this method of construction does not require load-bearing walls no separate foundations are required to support them and construction is more speedy. The terraces and stand were completed in January 1990. February saw the commencement of external work and car park and although the Club vacated Lookes Park on 14th May the internal and external works and landscaping were completed only in July. 9th August 1990 saw the first game at Adams Park - a 1-1 draw between Wycombe Wanderers and the Littlewoods Cup holders, Nottingham Forest. The last contractors left the site in October, 18 months after work had commenced.

The main stand extends 102 metres along one side of the pitch and has seven terraced rows seating 1,267 and providing press box, police control and hospital broadcast facilities. To the rear a 15 metre deep structure provides offices, "The Centre Spot" public house, Board Room, Banquet Suite capable of seating 240 people for dinner dances or 300 for conferences, a smaller room for 100, two smaller rooms catering for 20-30, changing rooms, remedial gymnasium and two physiotherapy rooms. The stand on the opposite side of the pitch is 108 metres long with 16 standing terraces which can be converted to accommodate seven rows of seating. The end stands are 66 metres long and provide 16 levels of standing accommodation. All of these stands are unsupported at the front giving an uninterrupted view of the pitch and are all front loading.

Separate buildings at all corners of the ground provide turnstile entrances/exits, tea bars and toilets. A shop, ticket office and flat are also catered for in the double storey corner building.

The only grant available for the new development was £50,000 from the Football Trust as a contribution towards changing rooms, the gymnasium and pitch. Sponsorship of the various function

rooms from local companies however, helped significantly and our grateful thanks goes to Ercol Furniture Ltd, Keen and Toms Partnership Ltd., Joynson Holland & Co Ltd, Verco Office Furniture Ltd, Monty Seymour and The Howland Group.

Adams Park is not only the home of Wycombe Wanderers but it is also a community facility. The Banquet and Conference suites are utilised by local businesses for dinner dances, seminars, exhibitions etc, by individuals for wedding receptions, birthday and anniversary parties and by clubs and societies for their meetings. Ballroom dancing, aerobics and keep fit classes are also planned for local residents.

The gymnasium is utilised by a local company at lunch-time and in the evenings for the benefit of their employees and the medical rooms allow a sports injuries clinic to be operated by a chartered physiotherapist for public use.

The leasehold land adjacent to the car park was acquired with the ultimate aim of producing a floodlit synthetic training pitch. Planning applications were made and rejected in 1990 and a further application, amended to incorporate 200 car park spaces was submitted in February 1991. When this facility becomes available Wycombe Wanderers will be able to develop a Community sports programme. The local hockey club are anxious to join in this venture and the club's own netball and soccer teams will, of course, be able to take advantage of the facilities.

The development of football for local youngsters will also be an important feature of the facility. Adams Park was dreamt about for 20 or so years and took almost five years to bring to fruition from signing the agreement. Hopefully, the careful planning which went into the specification and design of Adams Park will allow the facilities to take Wycombe Wanderers into the Football League, the 21st century and perhaps more importantly, the local community.



The longest
surviving
Blues supporter



Bucks Free Press

(Founded 1856)

*Out Friday —
don't miss it!*

THE CLUB AS A BUSINESS

by Allan Robson, Commercial Manager

When we start talking about commercialism in football it is important to remember that what we now know as "non-league" was as recently as 1975 referred to as "amateur" football. Although this, of course, relates to the status of the players the commercial or business side of the club has generally followed along.

The earliest commercial feature introduced at Wycombe was, of course, the match programme which was introduced in season 1919-20 as a single sheet and sold at 1d. Soon after the programme became twice the size and gave the opportunity to attract advertising revenue from local business which would more than compensate for the cost of printing. Today our match programme stands alone in the GM Conference at a selling price of £1.00 but even so the sale of programmes only just about breaks even on the cost of production.

With gates falling from 10-12,000 in the 1950's when players were not paid to 1-2,000 in the 1980's when wages were all important it was essential to raise funds away from the pitch. In 1975 the government produced legislation which would change the face of lotteries nationwide and from such time onwards Wycombe's lottery became the mainstay of the Club. Most people who read this article will inevitably know someone who has helped the Club sell its lottery tickets at some time. The number of agents over the years have run into the thousands but for much of this time under guidance of successive lottery and commercial managers the club are indebted to two people who are to many "Mr and Miss Lottery" - John Simmonds and Rena Frontalski - and I for one eternally grateful for their support in my time here.

Another principal area of commercial activity is that of ground board advertising and if you glance around the stadium you see a "Who's Who" of business local to High Wycombe. Our progress to the 80 advertising boards we have today, colourful and neatly presented lends much to the attractive and interesting atmosphere of the ground.

Today, in 1991, there is not much that the Division One clubs do in commercial terms that we do not do ourselves. Matchday and ball sponsorships, Leagueline members clubs, junior supporters clubs, telephone information lines, fixture cards and calendars which carry advertising, matchday mascots, matchday raffles, club souvenirs and merchandise - all of these methods of attracting revenue from different categories of people have now been introduced, but there will always be activities which are fashionable for a particular time and the Sportsman's Dinners are currently running high on the list of "earners". Wycombe have been fortunate in having Alan Parry, the TV sports commentator, connected with the club and with his contribution we have gained a reputation second to none in this area with speakers such as Jack Charlton, Tommy Docherty, Jim Watt, Bobby Robson, Denis Law, George Best, Sir Stanley Matthews and Gary Lineker.

General sponsorship, however, is the area which has shown the largest growth in recent years as the more local businesses realise that they too can enjoy the same sort of benefits which the likes of Canon, Barclays Bank, Rumbelows, Leyland Daf etc all enjoy with their "Mega-bucks" sponsorship of national competitions. Wycombe's first club sponsor was the now non-existent motor dealer Norman Reeves who were succeeded by Trend Communications and currently **Verco Office Furniture Ltd** with whom we enjoy a tremendous association. Indeed Roger Vere and Alan Davies, directors of the company, are as supportive individually as the company is to the club as a whole, seldom missing a home match. Verco have been pleased with the company's higher profile, not only in Wycombe, but throughout the country where the team travel or the club has contacts and have been especially pleased with the positive effect our involvement has had with their work force, which, like many others, has many Wycombe supporters.

Over the past couple of seasons,

however, we have managed to attract the support and sponsorship of many other businesses in a very successful way. Although I am unable to mention them all, the following companies make a valuable contribution to Wycombe Wanderers today:-

Davenport Vernon - provide me with the free use of a car

Midland Bank - sponsor our Junior Blues Club

P K Graphics - sponsors of our Youth Team

Walters Microsystems - sponsor our Players Kits

Clarke Whitehill - sponsor our Sportsmens' Dinners

Harrison & Sons - sponsor our Hospital Radio Broadcast link

MFI Furniture Centres - sponsors of our Matchday Mascots and Family Stand

Browns Ford Centre - provide Martin O'Neill with his car

One area of commercialism where we fall far behind the Football League is on TV fees and the reason is obvious. Having said that this season we collected £7,500 for the BBC broadcast of our FA Cup Third Round match against Peterborough United - hopefully this will be the beginning of a great deal of money which will start winging its way from the TV companies. Today a football club cannot function without a successful commercial operation because matchday revenue just cannot cover the huge costs involved in maintaining the stadium and attracting and paying good players. Every now and then I think to myself that it is I, not Martin O'Neill or Mark West, that is the most important person at Wycombe Wanderers. Then I remember that without the team my department would have no purpose and, indeed, without the unyielding support and help I get from hundreds of ardent Wycombe fans I would not be able to function. Then, after all, it is the people that make Wycombe Wanderers a great club.

THE HISTORY OF OUR MATCH PROGRAMME

by Alan Hutchinson

Collecting football programmes is very big business nowadays with dealers, fairs and shops at every League ground, right down to a trestle table with cardboard boxes stuffed with them at the smallest non-league set-ups.

The history of the programme is very simple. A single sheet detailing the players and officials, plus date, venue and kick-off time was the norm upon its inception. Today we see the magazine-style productions from the Football League in full colour, with pages of text, selling for the average £1.00. Outside the First and Second Divisions the style and cost vary according to the support and financial position of the club. The larger proportion of smaller Football League clubs and the entire non-league clubs use the programme as a source of revenue through selling advertising space to local organisations. If we take our club and look at the development over 106 years of existence we will see how our own progression follows the patterns described above.

The earliest example I have come across was issued for a Spartan League game at Loakes Park for 1920-21, the last season before being elected to the Isthmian League. These programmes are fascinating items, a single sheet of paper printed both sides and folded in half to give the appearance of four pages. The team line-up would appear in the centre with small adverts around the outside. As for the information, there is no indication of the year or season, no time of kick-off and only the referee is listed - linesmen are not named.

On the back of one particular programme there are details of the Wanderers Cricket team who were due to start playing the following week, complete with fixture list. Another lists the teams that had won the Berks & Bucks Cup on five previous occasions. At the time only Charlie Tilbury (who became groundsman) and "Bunny" Hooper (who became Secretary) had played in the first four winning finals of 1902, 1909, 1910 and 1913. The local printers, Freer & Hayter, had provided the programmes from those early days and upon the Clubs' election to the Isthmian League, a visual change took place in accordance with the rules of the competition. The Isthmian League was the Premier Division of the Amateur game and like the Conference today had hard and fast rules about playing standards,

ground facilities and presentation of programmes. We now see a completely changed format, a much larger, long slender issue with bigger adverts and more information, and whereas the previous Spartan programmes cost 1d, the new publication was 2d, and although unnumbered had a larger print run as the crowds increased to see a higher standard of football. By the late 1920's the front cover contained a view of Loakes Park and was folded twice into the centre. This style continued right up until 1937 when the format was cut down to 7" x 5" and stapled in the centre to provide eight pages of mainly adverts and some forthcoming information provided by the Club Secretary. This format continued until the outbreak of the Second World War when football terminated. Although the club took part in the Great Western Combination during the war, programmes do not appear to have been issued for any matches at Loakes Park, but I do possess a copy of a league game played at Henley in 1940.

When football resumed in 1946 paper was in extremely short supply and programmes did not re-appear until 1947 when Freer & Hayter were able to allocate a proportion of their allowance for this use. The format returned to that of 1920, a small single sheet, priced 2d with the barest details, no advertising and numbered for the first time. However, a special Souvenir Programme was produced for the game when Frank Adams handed over Loakes Park to the club - again a single folded sheet, but 10" x 8" in size and on glossy paper.

The famous Amateur Cup quarter final against St. Albans in February 1950 brought about the biggest change in style, presentation and colour which was to last up until 1963 when the floodlights were installed. We now see a smart looking cover with the club emblem and list of officials, lots of boxed advertising inside with a well laid-out team sheet in the centre, all done on a tasteful light blue paper with dark blue type. This particular game still holds the record for the largest crowd at Loakes Park - 15,850, for which 10,000 programmes were printed, all being sold on the day at 2d each. Apart from various cover changes either showing league tables or a chart of home and away fixtures for the season, the programme changed very little. The cover price

did go to 3d in 1952 and remained at that price until 1964 when it went up by 1d to 4d.

Over the years a number of special issues have been produced. In 1957 a special was done to commemorate the club reaching Wembley and in 1963 a souvenir issue for the inauguration of the floodlights was most striking in light blue and dark blue stripes with a number of black and white pictures inside depicting the history of the club, priced at 1/- (one shilling). For the following seasons various forms of front cover were introduced to attempt to give the programme an interesting look as crowds shrank to their former levels when television and other forms of entertainment cut away the gate figures. There were occasions during the 1970's when gates did increase. This was due to particular runs in the F.A. Cup and F.A. Amateur Cup. The F.A. Cup saw Newport County, Peterborough and Bournemouth visit Loakes Park, culminating in the great occasion of January 1975 when Middlesbrough, who were then leaders of Division One, escaped with a nil-all draw in the 3rd round. A special programme was issued and is a collectors item today.

We are no longer part of the old amateur game - we are semi-professionals playing in a brand new stadium catering for a different kind of public. No doubt in 20 years time our current match day programme will become a collectors item just like our 1931 Amateur Cup Final programme which now sells for around £150. The 'programme' for the Trophy semi-final 1st leg at Altrincham in 1981 goes for around £10 as the printers were on strike and only 250 single sheet programmes photocopied by Altrincham were available. The Wanderers appearance at Newport, season 1987/88 was the last match played on that ground and copies of the programme are changing hands at £8.00 each. All a far cry from the single team sheet with no season, year or time of kick-off.

To bring ourselves right up to date we must mention the programme produced for the final game at Loakes Park. A colour picture of the ground on the cover, packed with the history of the club during its life at the ground, plus the opposing team line up, full of great international names of the past, including George Best, which cost only £1.



INSIDE LOAKES PARK



ADVANCED INDUSTRIES

ADVANCED INDUSTRIES LIMITED, RICHARDSON STREET, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS HP11 2SB
TELEPHONE: (0494) 450722 TELEX: 826717 FAX: (0494) 448998

THE OFFICE PARTITION SPECIALIST

*Top of our Division and wishing Wycombe Wanderers
Good Luck in getting to the top of theirs.*



PK

GRAPHICS

- Desktop Publishing
- Typesetting
- Design & Artwork

- Printing
- Thermography
- Laminating

Unit 8, Wycombe Industrial Mall, West End Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP11 2QY

Tel: High Wycombe (0494) 452266

Fax: High Wycombe (0494) 452216

1989 / 1990 - THE STATISTICS

DATE	OPPONENTS	COMPETITION	VENUE	ATTEND.	RESULT	H/T	LEAGUE POS	GOALSCORERS
Aug 26	Northwich Victoria	GMVC	A	740	L 0-3	0-2	-	
Aug 28	Alfrincham	GMVC	H	2078	D 1-1	1-0	19	Robinson 32
Sep 2	Darlington	GMVC	H	2620	L 0-1	0-0	20	
Sep 6	Welling United	GMVC	A	910	D 0-0	0-0	21	
Sep 9	Stafford Rangers	GMVC	A	1137	L 0-1	0-1	21	
Sep 16	Baldock Town	FAC 1Q	A	671	W 2-0	0-0	-	West 70, A Kerr 89
Sep 19	Enfield	GMVC	A	1001	W 5-3	2-3	20	Carroll 15, Stapleton 20, 74, West 67 (pen), Gipp 84
Sep 23	Kidderminster Harriers	GMVC	A	1913	D 3-3	0-2	20	West 72, 84, J Kerr 89
Sep 26	Fisher Athletic	GMVC	H	1850	W 6-1	3-0	18	Stapleton 17, West 40, 47, 71, Gipp 29, 53
Sep 30	Boreham Wood	FAC 2Q	H	1460	W 3-1	1-0	-	A Kerr 42, J Kerr 66, 89
Oct 3	Keitling Town	GMVC	A	2405	L 0-1	0-0	19	
Oct 7	Runcorn	GMVC	H	1885	W 5-0	1-0	17	Robinson 3, Crossley 46, Durham 55, West 63 (pen), Gipp 73
Oct 14	Gravesend & Northfleet	FAC 3Q	H	1561	D 1-1	1-1	-	Durham 9
Oct 17	Gravesend & Northfleet	FAC 3QR	H	840	D 1-1#	0-0	-	Guppy 95
Oct 21	Telford United	GMVC	A	1838	D 1-1	1-0	17	Durham 37
Oct 23	Gravesend & Northfleet	FAC 3Q2R	A	1205	W 3-0	1-0	-	J Kerr 44, Carroll 80, Evans 87 (pen)
Oct 28	Stafford Rangers	FAC 4Q	A	953	L 1-4	0-2	-	Evans 63
Nov 4	Chorley	GMVC	A	687	L 0-1	0-0	19	
Nov 7	Yeovil Town	GMVC	H	1659	L 1-2	0-1	19	West 62
Nov 11	Boston United	GMVC	H	1649	W 1-0	0-0	19	Guppy 80
Nov 18	Barrow	GMVC	H	1673	W 4-0	2-0	14	Guppy 2, Durham 32, Evans 49, Carroll 65
Nov 25	Yeovil Town	GMVC	A	2212	L 2-4	2-4	17	Carroll 24, Evans 33
Nov 28	Merthyr Tydfil	GMVC	H	1655	L 1-2	0-2	17	Franklin 66
Dec 2	Northwich Victoria	GMVC	H	1548	D 3-3	0-1	17	Evans 47, 67, Durham 55
Dec 9	Boston United	GMVC	A	1397	L 0-2	0-1	19	
Dec 16	Barnet	GMVC	H	2128	W 1-0	0-0	17	Lambert 55
Dec 26	Sutton United	GMVC	A	1153	W 2-1	1-1	14	Durham 41, Guppy 57
Dec 30	Cheltenham Town	GMVC	H	2166	L 0-4	0-2	14	
Jan 1	Sutton United	GMVC	H	1745	W 3-2	2-1	12	Robinson 17, Carroll 40, Durham 80
Jan 6	Telford United	GMVC	A	1345	L 1-4	0-1	13	West 79
Jan 9	Flackwell Heath	B&BSC1	A	843	W 3-0	2-0	-	Robinson 17, Guppy 21, West 82 (pen)
Jan 13	Metropolitan Police	FAT1	H	1128	L 1-3	1-2	-	West 31 (pen)
Jan 20	Barrow	BLT2	H	1178	W 3-0	2-0	-	Cresser 16, Carroll 28, West 46
Jan 23	Merthyr Tydfil	BLT2	H	703	W 2-0	1-0	-	Crossley 43, West 60
Jan 27	Macclesfield Town	GMVC	H	2002	D 1-1	1-0	12	Stapleton 31
Feb 10	Merthyr Tydfil	GMVC	A	1251	D 1-1	1-0	13	West 36
Feb 15	Windsor & Eton	B&BSC2	H	514	W 3-2	1-0	14	Guppy 6, West 64 (pen), 66
Feb 17	Welling United	GMVC	H	1745	W 1-0	1-0	12	Carroll 32
Feb 20	Keitling Town	GMVC	H	1996	D 2-2	1-1	12	Lambert 15, Carroll 84
Mar 3	Macclesfield Town	GMVC	A	1210	L 0-1	0-0	13	
Mar 7	Chesham United	B&BSCS/F	A	1200	W 2-0	1-0	-	West 16, Lambert 70
Mar 10	Enfield	GMVC	H	1740	*W 1-0	0-0	11	West 80
Mar 14	Boston United	BLT3	A	1425	W 2-0#	0-0	-	Lambert 112, West 119
Mar 17	Cheltenham Town	GMVC	A	1411	D 1-1	1-1	10	West 7
Mar 24	Chorley	GMVC	H	1706	W 4-0	1-0	10	Carroll 12, West 56 (pen), Lambert 57, 66
Mar 27	Barnet	GMVC	A	3707	L 0-2	0-1	11	
Mar 31	Kidderminster Harriers	GMVC	A	1225	W 2-0	1-0	9	A Kerr 37, Durham 80
Apr 4	Yeovil Town	BLTS/F LEG1	A	1403	L 1-2	1-0	-	Dawkins 16 (o.g.)
Apr 10	Yeovil Town	BLTS/F LEG2	A	1556	W 3-2#	0-0	-	Carroll 62, 70, Lambert 109
Apr 14	Darlington	GMVC	H	4297	W 1-0	1-0	-	Lambert 2
Apr 16	Slough Town	B&BSCF	N*	1567	W 2-1#	0-0	-	Carroll 92, Lambert 107
Apr 21	Farnborough Town	GMVC	H	2268	W 1-0	0-0	10	Thorpe 75
Apr 23	Fisher Athletic	GMVC	A	838	L 1-3	0-0	10	Stapleton 70
Apr 25	Farnborough Town	GMVC	A	1925	D 1-1	1-0	11	Carroll 2
Apr 30	Runcorn	GMVC	A	650	L 0-2	0-1	12	
May 3	Stafford Rangers	GMVC	A	1820	W 2-1	2-1	10	West 10, Carroll 20
May 5	Alfrincham	GMVC	H	541	W 2-1	1-1	10	Smith 30, Thorpe 80

After extra time * At Hungerford Town

1989/90 - THE LAST SEASON

by Dave Finch

After the achievements of the previous season, the last ever campaign at Loakes Park was looked forward to with an air of optimism. However, Sean Norman and Keith Barrett had departed to pastures new, while injuries to Nicky Evans and Martin Blackler, both of whom were to miss most of the season, meant that they were also missing from the opening game. On top of this, USA international John Kerr had decided to finish out the season in his home country. The team travelled to Northwich for the opening game with new signings Simon Stapleton (from Bristol Rovers), Paul Sanderson (Newport County), Paul Franklin (Reading) and ex-Chelsea and QPR stalwart Steve Wicks. To the disappointment of all concerned they came back with a conclusive 3-0 defeat.

Two days later, Bank Holiday Monday, the first home game saw Altrincham sneak a point with a last-minute equaliser after Wycombe had had enough of the game to have won comfortably. The lack of a striking partner for Mark West was already becoming a cause for concern as 2,620 spectators (Wycombe's largest home league gate of the season) witnessed the 0-1 home defeat by newcomers Darlington and after only three games the club was languishing in 21st place. An encouraging draw, 0-0, at Welling was followed by another single goal defeat at Stafford, where Kevin Durham hobbled off with a hamstring injury.

Young striker David Gipp was signed on loan from Barnet in time for the home match with Merthyr Tydfil. Unfortunately, after an early goal by Andy Kerr, playing upfront, the game was abandoned due to what can only be described as a torrential rainstorm. Also appearing at this stage for the first time was Steve Guppy, a young winger who had appeared in the Capital League side the previous season.

The first win of the season came in the next game at Baldock (F.A. Cup, First Qualifying Round) where Andy Kerr and Mark West scored in a 2-0 win. This was to be the prelude to an amazing spell of goalscoring. The following Tuesday night saw a thoroughly entertaining first league win at Enfield with fullback Simon Stapleton scoring twice in the 5-3 triumph. Then came an incredible match at home to Kidderminster, which saw the return of John Kerr, albeit for just a month while he sorted out a deal to play in France. With 18 minutes left, Wycombe trailed 3-0. Mark West pulled two back and then, in the last minute,

Kerr, himself, dived to head home the equaliser. Unfortunately, the match also saw the sending off of Glyn Creaser and Harriers' Sugrue. To coincide with Kerr's return, Paul Sanderson departed, joining Cheltenham Town.

The goals continued to flow as September came to an end. Mark West grabbed a hat-trick in a 6-1 home win over Fisher Athletic while John Kerr netted twice to rescue Wycombe in a scrappy 3-1 win over Boreham Wood in the F.A. Cup.

October saw an extremely unlucky 0-1 defeat in a tremendous performance at Kettering and this was followed by possibly the best game of the season, a superb 5-0 win over Runcorn at Loakes Park which saw David Gipp score in his last appearance before returning to Barnet. Also departing was Steve Wicks due to business commitments. A new signing at this point was Robert Thorpe from Bracknell.

A break from competitive football saw a strong Tottenham XI come to Loakes Park in aid of Gary Lester's testimonial. A bumper crowd of 2,829 saw Paul Walsh inspire Spurs to a 3-1 win. Three 1-1 draws followed in uninspiring matches. Two F.A. Cup games against Gravesend were followed by a home league match with Telford, which saw John Granville sustain an injury and Matt Crossley take over in goal. Nicky Evans made a welcome return in this match and was on the scoresheet in the next, a second visit to Gravesend where a comfortable 3-0 win was rewarded by a trip to Stafford in the Fourth Qualifying Round. Unfortunately, a poor performance at a windswept Marston Road saw Wycombe tumble to a 1-4 defeat.

November began with two league defeats, by another single goal at Chorley in atrocious conditions and then at home to Yeovil when a makeshift side lost 1-2, to a controversial goal four minutes from the end. John Kerr had by now gone to France, while Matt Crossley and Andy Robinson were both missing with injuries. Wycombe were now 19th in the table and, on the 11th of the month, played bottom club Boston at Loakes Park. A Steve Guppy goal in the 81st minute was greeted by a huge sigh of relief in a scrappy game. The following week a Dave Carroll inspired performance saw a good 4-0 win over Barrow and a move five places up the table. This was followed by the announcement of a new signing, Martin Lambert, from Brighton. However, a disastrous spell saw Wycombe concede eleven goals in the next four games,

with defeats at Yeovil and Boston and at home to Merthyr. The only point came in a 3-3 draw at Loakes Park against Northwich, the Vic's scoring twice in the last 15 minutes to level. To make matters worse, Glyn Creaser sustained a broken toe at Yeovil and Martin Lambert broke his nose against Merthyr, although he continued to play with the injury. Although not widely publicised Gary Lester, a long-serving and very popular player left for neighbours Slough Town during this time. Amazingly, after all of these disasters Wycombe recovered to gain a well-deserved 1-0 win over championship contenders Barnet at Loakes Park with a well-taken goal by newcomer Lambert. Ricky Pearson, a fullback on loan from Gillingham, made his debut in this game. 1989 ended and 1990 started with two wins over Sutton with a crushing 0-4 defeat at home to Cheltenham sandwiched in between, plus the disappointing news that Nicky Evans was having trouble with his knee and further surgery was likely. This was in fact the last we were to see of him for the season.

It was becoming increasingly obvious that things were not all well amongst the squad and the first Saturday of the New Year saw a thumping 1-4 defeat at Telford, with Martin Lambert being sent off. Although there was a County Cup win at Flackwell Heath, the last straw came at home to Metropolitan Police in the F.A. Trophy. Wycombe's last hope of any notable success for the season. The Vauxhall League Division one side totally outplayed Wycombe to win 3-1. Following the match, Jim Kelman resigned as manager while Glyn Creaser put in a transfer request. With the Board in no hurry to announce a replacement, John Reardon took charge for the visit to Barrow the following week. With Barrow unbeaten at home and Wycombe having to sign two players, (Gary Smith from Enfield and Paul O'Driscoll from Swindon), to make up the thirteen, hopes were not high. Incredibly, goals from Glyn Creaser, Dave Carroll and an own goal saw the Blues return with a three-goal victory. This signalled a run of thirteen wins and only one defeat and the news that Creaser and West had withdrawn their transfer requests.

The next game saw them gain revenge at home over Merthyr Tydfil in the Bob Lord Trophy with goals from Matt Crossley and Mark West in a 2-0 win. After drawing 1-1 with Macclesfield at Loakes Park it was announced that Martin O'Neill,



Back Row: Geoff Sutton, John Goldsworthy, Roger Schofield, Jim Melvin, Matt Crossley, Paul Franklin, Nicky Evans, Dave Carroll, Glyn Creaser, Martin Blackler, Dave Jones, Rod Lavers, Allan Robson, Dave Hutton.

Middle Row: John Simmonds, Martin O'Neill, Steve Guppy, Andy Robinson, John Granville, Gary Smith, Andy Kerr, Ricky Pearson, Martin Lambert, Kevin Durham, Mark West, Robert Thorpe, Simon Stapleton, John Reardon.

Front Row: Bob Hart, Bill Cleere, Graham Peart, Gerald Cox, Alan Hutchinson, Jack Adams, Ivor Beeks, Monty Seymour, John Roberts, Brian Lee, Gordon Richards, Alan Parry, Reg Holt.

ex-Northern Ireland International was to be the new Team Manager. He took charge at Merthyr in another encouraging 1-1 draw, Mark West, in great goalscoring form, once more on the scoresheet. Three home matches then saw February out. In the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup, Windsor were beaten more comfortably than the 3-2 scoreline suggests, two late goals rather flattering the visitors. A Dave Carroll goal was enough to defeat Welling, while the same player scored a late equaliser to earn a 2-2 draw with Kettering in a highly entertaining game. Wycombe were safely placed in mid-table now and, although March began with their first defeat under Martin O'Neill, yet another by a single goal at Macclesfield, home wins over Enfield (1-0) and Chorley (4-0) and a useful 1-1 draw at Cheltenham consolidated this position. Mark West was on the scoresheet in all three of these games and was striking up a good partnership with Martin Lambert, who was beginning to answer his critics on the terraces in the best possible way. The two of them also shared the goals as further progress was made in both the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup and the Bob Lord Trophy. First of all, there was a 2-0 win on a hard, bumpy pitch at Chesham and then the same score, after extra time, at Boston a week later. A busy month ended with a midweek defeat at Barnet (0-2) in front of a crowd of 3,707 and then a good win at Kidderminster, also 2-0, with goals from Andy Kerr and Kevin Durham. Unfortunately, Andy Robinson was stretchered off at Barnet with torn ligaments, an injury

which kept him out for the rest of the season. As a reward for his efforts, Martin O'Neill was named as Mail on Sunday's Manager of the Month.

April opened with the two-legged semi-final of the Bob Lord Trophy against Yeovil. The first leg, at Huish, saw Wycombe take an early lead through a Dawkins own goal and, with this score still standing and five minutes left, things looked good for the return leg. However, Yeovil, who have been a thorn in Wycombe's side over the years, scored twice in those remaining minutes. The second leg a week later was just as dramatic. Two goals by Dave Carroll midway through the second-half looked to have secured Wycombe a place in the Final. Unfortunately, an 89th minute goal by Spencer sent the game into extra time. A superb shot by Lambert put Wycombe 3-1 up and ahead on aggregate, only for Dent to immediately reply at the other end. Although level on aggregate, Yeovil went through on the away goals rule.

The following Saturday Wycombe travelled north to table toppers Darlington and immediately shook off their disappointments with a 1-0 win in front of a 4,297 crowd. Martin Lambert scored in the second minute, with Wycombe valiantly holding out for the rest of the game. Two days later, on Easter Monday, Dave Carroll and Martin Lambert scored extra time goals at Hungerford to record a 2-1 win over Slough in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Final. Although it was a rather uninspiring game on a blustery afternoon it gave Martin O'Neill his first taste of success.

The rest of the month saw Wycombe have a say in the relegation battle with three games in five days, two against Farnborough. A first league goal by Robert Thorpe, after coming on as substitute, saw Wycombe win 1-0 at Loakes Park, with the return at Farnborough finishing 1-1. In between these two games, there was a surprise 1-3 defeat at Fisher which was to help keep the London side up. With so many games being cramped into such a short spell it was no surprise that a long trip to Runcorn on a Monday evening, the last day of April, resulted in a 2-0 defeat. Three days later, Thursday, May 3rd, was the end of an era. It was the last competitive game ever to be played at Loakes Park. A crowd of 1,818 saw Stafford's Cavell score in the first minute but goals by Mark West and Dave Carroll secured Wycombe a 2-1 win. They repeated this scoreline two days later at Altrincham in the last league game of the season with goals from Gary Smith, his first for the club, and Robert Thorpe.

The last ever match on the ground was on the afternoon of Monday, May 7th when Martin O'Neill's International XI, including George Best, Mark Lawrenson, John Robertson and Martin himself, won 8-4 in front of almost 5,000 spectators. It was an emotional occasion with the crowd staying on the pitch long after the game had finished.

Overall, it was a disappointing season but there were sufficient signs that Wycombe's first season at Adams Park could be a good one under Martin O'Neill.

HAVE YOU VISITED

The CENTRE SPOT

YET

Fully Licensed Freehouse

Real Ales • Lunches • Evening Meals
Bar Snacks

OPEN EVERY DAY

11 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. 5.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Table Reservations Welcome

Your Hosts: John & Margaret Woods

The Centre Spot, Adams Park,
Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.

Telephone: (0494) 473689

Motts Travel

Suppliers of Executive Coaches to Wycombe Wanderers since 1985. For all your coach and travel requirements telephone:-

(0296) 613831.

The leaders in luxury travel.

**HIGH WYCOMBE
881693**

Roger Schofield

SIGNWRITER

All types of Signs Written

LITTLE ACRES, 4 PARK CLOSE, LANE END, BUCKS.

24 HOUR SERVICE

F. KIRTLAND

Plumbing & Heating Engineer

Wish Wycombe Wanderers F. C. every success at their new ground.

14, New Road, Aston Clinton, Bucks. HP22 5JD
Tel: Aylesbury 631506.

CLUB OFFICIALS 1884 - 1991

President		Secretary	
J. Norton	1888 - 1891	J. Ray	1887 - 1891
R. S. Wood	1891 - 1908	F. Jennings	1891 - 1893
C. W. Deacon	1908 - 1913	C. Harper	1893 - 1908
Marquis of Lincolnshire	1913 - 1928	J. N. F. Vale	1908 - 1910
Marchioness of Lincolnshire	1928 - 1929	B. C. Hooper	1910 - 1925
G.T. Miles	1929 - 1943	W. Howland	1925 - 1928
C.P. Vine	1943 - 1954	R. H. Gardner	1928 - 1935
J. Timberlake	1954 - 1964	W. Howland	1935 - 1936
G. Hodsdon	1964 - 1966	R. G. Boreham	1936 - 1949
M. E. Seymour	1966 -	W. J. Hayter	1949 - 1969
		A. J. Crump	1969 - 1975
		A. J. Mahoney	1975 - 1975
		J. Goldsworthy	1975 - 1989
		A. Hutchinson	1989 - 1990
		J. Goldsworthy	1990 -
Chairman		Treasurer	
W. Dimmock		G. Cook	1887 - 1890
C. W. Deacon	1898 - 1900	W. Pearce	1890 - 1895
R. Howland	1900 - 1902	C. Harper	1895 - 1896
C. W. Deacon	1902 - 1913	R. Howland, Jr.	1896 - 1898
G. T. Miles	1913 - 1932	G. T. Miles	1898 - 1926
R. Spatchett	1932 - 1951	G. R. Bunce	1926 - 1963
J. Timberlake	1951 - 1954	A. Rackstraw	1963 - 1968
G. Partridge	1954 - 1956	R. G. Maskell	1968 - 1969
E. L. Webb	1956 - 1965	R. N. Lee	1969 - 1975
J. Smethurst	1965 - 1975	A. F. Ward	1975 - 1977
R. H. Williams	1975 - 1981	G. B. Cox	1977 - 1988
B. R. Lee	1981 - 1988	G. F. Peart	1988 -
I. L. Beeks	1988 -		

AMATEUR INTERNATIONAL CAPS

The following players were awarded Amateur International Caps whilst playing for Wycombe Wanderers:-

England

P. A. Bates
R. W. Boreham
J. J. Delaney
R. Eaton
D. Edwards
P. M. Fuschillo
D. Gamblin
A. Horseman

J. Lailey
E. W. Powell
L. Pritchard
T. Reardon
K. Searle
P. J. Suddaby
L. F. Worley

Wales

G. Anthony
D. Evans

J. Fisher
A. V. Grace

CLUB RECORDS

Most Appearances:

Most Goals:

Highest Attendance:

Highest Win:

Highest Defeat:

Tony Horseman - 900

Tony Horseman - 525

15,850 v St. Albans City
(F.A. Amateur Cup 1950)

18-1 v Staines Town 1909

15-0 v Watford 1898



Bestie upstaged!

FAREWELL LOAKES PARK

Monday, 7th May 1990
Wycombe Wanderers 4 Martin O'Neill's International XI 8

George Best honours Wycombe Wanderers.





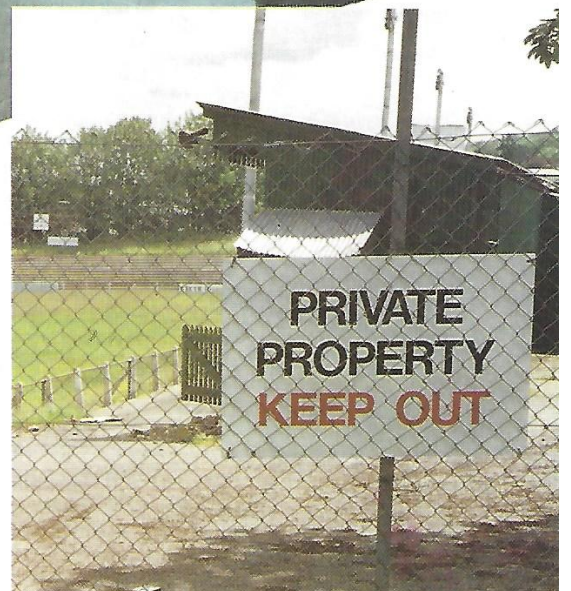
Dave Carrol (out of picture) scores the last goal at Loakes Park as Kevin Durham watches.



Supporters shopping for mementoes.



The final whistle



The picture tells a story

THEIR OWN GROUND NOW!
 RECEIVE THE CROWN YARNED MARLOW COMPLETE DOUBLE
 —AND LEFT! Polytechnic Beams Appl.
 Adams Cable At Chiswick

[illegible]

ATHLETICS
WYNDHAM 100 IN
46 MILES RACE
Wyndham's Second Leg To
London Brighton Road

LOOKS PARK TO BE "
AMATEUR GROUND
Generations Of Wanderers
Commemoration Dinner

BOSTON HERALD
FRI. MAR. 1

The page contains several columns of text, likely news reports or advertisements. The text is too small to read accurately, but the layout is typical of a late 19th-century newspaper. A large, dark rectangular area is visible in the bottom right corner, possibly a redaction or a piece of tape.

PENALTY MARS, WYCOMBE HOPES
BISHOP AUCKLAND LUCKY
TO WIN CUP SEMI-FINAL
Wanderers' Path

[illegible]

The Wichita
 Standard
 and
 Commercial
 Advertiser
 Published
 Daily
 except
 Sundays
 and
 Holidays
 at
 the
 rate
 of
 \$1.00
 per
 copy
 in
 advance
 for
 six
 months
 \$5.00
 for
 one
 year
 \$10.00
 for
 two
 years
 \$15.00
 for
 three
 years
 \$20.00
 for
 four
 years
 \$25.00
 for
 five
 years
 \$30.00
 for
 six
 years
 \$35.00
 for
 seven
 years
 \$40.00
 for
 eight
 years
 \$45.00
 for
 nine
 years
 \$50.00
 for
 ten
 years
 \$55.00
 for
 eleven
 years
 \$60.00
 for
 twelve
 years
 \$65.00
 for
 thirteen
 years
 \$70.00
 for
 fourteen
 years
 \$75.00
 for
 fifteen
 years
 \$80.00
 for
 sixteen
 years
 \$85.00
 for
 seventeen
 years
 \$90.00
 for
 eighteen
 years
 \$95.00
 for
 nineteen
 years
 \$100.00
 for
 twenty
 years
 \$105.00
 for
 twenty-one
 years
 \$110.00
 for
 twenty-two
 years
 \$115.00
 for
 twenty-three
 years
 \$120.00
 for
 twenty-four
 years
 \$125.00
 for
 twenty-five
 years
 \$130.00
 for
 twenty-six
 years
 \$135.00
 for
 twenty-seven
 years
 \$140.00
 for
 twenty-eight
 years
 \$145.00
 for
 twenty-nine
 years
 \$150.00
 for
 thirty
 years
 \$155.00
 for
 thirty-one
 years
 \$160.00
 for
 thirty-two
 years
 \$165.00
 for
 thirty-three
 years
 \$170.00
 for
 thirty-four
 years
 \$175.00
 for
 thirty-five
 years
 \$180.00
 for
 thirty-six
 years
 \$185.00
 for
 thirty-seven
 years
 \$190.00
 for
 thirty-eight
 years
 \$195.00
 for
 thirty-nine
 years
 \$200.00
 for
 forty
 years
 \$205.00
 for
 forty-one
 years
 \$210.00
 for
 forty-two
 years
 \$215.00
 for
 forty-three
 years
 \$220.00
 for
 forty-four
 years
 \$225.00
 for
 forty-five
 years
 \$230.00
 for
 forty-six
 years
 \$235.00
 for
 forty-seven
 years
 \$240.00
 for
 forty-eight
 years
 \$245.00
 for
 forty-nine
 years
 \$250.00
 for
 fifty
 years
 \$255.00
 for
 fifty-one
 years
 \$260.00
 for
 fifty-two
 years
 \$265.00
 for
 fifty-three
 years
 \$270.00
 for
 fifty-four
 years
 \$275.00
 for
 fifty-five
 years
 \$280.00
 for
 fifty-six
 years
 \$285.00
 for
 fifty-seven
 years
 \$290.00
 for
 fifty-eight
 years
 \$295.00
 for
 fifty-nine
 years
 \$300.00
 for
 sixty
 years
 \$305.00
 for
 sixty-one
 years
 \$310.00
 for
 sixty-two
 years
 \$315.00
 for
 sixty-three
 years
 \$320.00
 for
 sixty-four
 years
 \$325.00
 for
 sixty-five
 years
 \$330.00
 for
 sixty-six
 years
 \$335.00
 for
 sixty-seven
 years
 \$340.00
 for
 sixty-eight
 years
 \$345.00
 for
 sixty-nine
 years
 \$350.00
 for
 seventy
 years
 \$355.00
 for
 seventy-one
 years
 \$360.00
 for
 seventy-two
 years
 \$365.00
 for
 seventy-three
 years
 \$370.00
 for
 seventy-four
 years
 \$375.00
 for
 seventy-five
 years
 \$380.00
 for
 seventy-six
 years
 \$385.00
 for
 seventy-seven
 years
 \$390.00
 for
 seventy-eight
 years
 \$395.00
 for
 seventy-nine
 years
 \$400.00
 for
 eighty
 years
 \$405.00
 for
 eighty-one
 years
 \$410.00
 for
 eighty-two
 years
 \$415.00
 for
 eighty-three
 years
 \$420.00
 for
 eighty-four
 years
 \$425.00
 for
 eighty-five
 years
 \$430.00
 for
 eighty-six
 years
 \$435.00
 for
 eighty-seven
 years
 \$440.00
 for
 eighty-eight
 years
 \$445.00
 for
 eighty-nine
 years
 \$450.00
 for
 ninety
 years
 \$455.00
 for
 ninety-one
 years
 \$460.00
 for
 ninety-two
 years
 \$465.00
 for
 ninety-three
 years
 \$470.00
 for
 ninety-four
 years
 \$475.00
 for
 ninety-five
 years
 \$480.00
 for
 ninety-six
 years
 \$485.00
 for
 ninety-seven
 years
 \$490.00
 for
 ninety-eight
 years
 \$495.00
 for
 ninety-nine
 years
 \$500.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 years
 \$505.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 one
 year
 \$510.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 two
 years
 \$515.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 three
 years
 \$520.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 four
 years
 \$525.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 five
 years
 \$530.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 six
 years
 \$535.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 seven
 years
 \$540.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 eight
 years
 \$545.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 nine
 years
 \$550.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 ten
 years
 \$555.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 eleven
 years
 \$560.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twelve
 years
 \$565.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 thirteen
 years
 \$570.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 fourteen
 years
 \$575.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 fifteen
 years
 \$580.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 sixteen
 years
 \$585.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 seventeen
 years
 \$590.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 eighteen
 years
 \$595.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 nineteen
 years
 \$600.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty
 years
 \$605.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-one
 years
 \$610.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-two
 years
 \$615.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-three
 years
 \$620.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-four
 years
 \$625.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-five
 years
 \$630.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-six
 years
 \$635.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-seven
 years
 \$640.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-eight
 years
 \$645.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 twenty-nine
 years
 \$650.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 thirty
 years
 \$655.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 thirty-one
 years
 \$660.00
 for
 one
 hundred
 and
 thirty-two


WEMBLEY


CUP

FINAL CHANCE

After 26 Years

The Football Association has announced that the FA Cup Final will be held at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, May 27, 1990. The match will be between Arsenal and Manchester United. The match will be broadcast live on television. The match will be a significant event for football fans in England and around the world.





WEMBLEY STADIUM

The stadium is located in Wembley, London. It has a capacity of 90,000. The stadium is the home of the England national football team. The stadium is also the home of the Wembley Football Club. The stadium is a significant landmark in London.

THE FA CUP

The FA Cup is the oldest football trophy in the world. It was first awarded in 1871. The trophy is made of silver. The trophy is a significant symbol of football in England. The trophy is a significant symbol of the FA Cup competition.

WEMBLEY STADIUM

The stadium is located in Wembley, London. It has a capacity of 90,000. The stadium is the home of the England national football team. The stadium is also the home of the Wembley Football Club. The stadium is a significant landmark in London.

THE FA CUP

The FA Cup is the oldest football trophy in the world. It was first awarded in 1871. The trophy is made of silver. The trophy is a significant symbol of football in England. The trophy is a significant symbol of the FA Cup competition.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1931. THE BUCKS FREE PRESS. WYCOMBE, MAIDENHEAD AND MARI

AMATEUR CUP FINAL PROSPECTS

High Wycombe Expects Every Man

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Bates Is Wycombe Leader

PAUL BATES moves to the town he placed as indicated in the column. **WILLIAM WOODWARD** is a temporary transfer to the same position. **WILLIAM WOODWARD** is a temporary transfer to the same position. **WILLIAM WOODWARD** is a temporary transfer to the same position.

SALUTE THE WANDERERS—ISTHMIAN DO SECOND YEAR!

[illegible]

**TURNER'S SIDE CLAIM
'SIZES' TROPHY**

TRUETT'S PLANS
 Plans for a new building, designed by Truett's architectural firm, are shown in the top left corner. The plans include a large hall, a library, and a classroom.

CHILDREN WORKS
 Children are shown working on a project in the middle section. They are using various materials and tools to create their work.

It's 'Double Top'
 A large headline in the bottom left corner, with the word "Double" in a large, stylized font. Below it, the word "Top" is also in a large, stylized font.

Unchen
 A large, stylized word in the bottom right corner, possibly a brand name or a title.

Wals Asquith Day first holds as well, it will be a proud task
 shed tonight at a civic banquet to be staged at High Wycombe Town Hall
 on the Wednesday before.

**CASUALS CONTEST EVERY
 TOWN TUSSLE**

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
May 19, 1936
By "Nosed"

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
May 19, 1936
The "Nosed"

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
May 19, 1936
The "Nosed"

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
May 19, 1936
AT LAST

**SUCCESS
AT LAST!**
and relief as

Joy and Blues are champs

Arsenal go

After 100 years...

Enthusiasm

Celebration

Michael Knox

Betty

AT LAST—WANDERERS
First Isthmian Title
For 35 Years

captain triumphant

B's glorious defeat

the championship of the Isthmian League

[illegible]

ARE CHAMPIONS!
The Goal The

...that Started It All



This picture shows the dancing troupe which has been doing a tour of the country. The troupe is made up of a group of people who are dressed in dark clothing and are standing in a line. They are all looking towards the camera. The background is dark and indistinct.

Thumpions In First Season

Marlow Hold T League Leads

Marlow Hold T League Leads

THE WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

WANDERERS END SEASON IN STYLE

...the home of League XI 3

...under sign



Albino Wendell Wilson and Polley were in the Rutland Veterans League today and tomorrow, the first time since the president Frank Wilson. Before he was shot down in the Pacific.

Wanderers all set for the match of the decade

F.A. Cup Third Round preview by **STUART EARP**

30,000 crowd salutes Wanderers as 'epic Cup run comes to an end

Middlesbrough 1, Wycombe Wanderers 0
STUART EARP AT AYRESOME PARK



Bat!

HATS OFF TO THE HEROES!

After 80 years

Saving



Cash boost

'In style'

GOING FOR GOLD

By **JIM MCCANN**



"We belong there,"

CHAMPIONS!

Wn goal under gives Blues title

Bognor Regis 1, Wycombe 2



Barring a miracle

Blues late goal

WE'RE KNOCKING ON DIVISION 4

Jim's looking to fix it for Wycombe

By **MIKE GUTLIFE**

Selling Loakes Park will help Blues reach Football League, says confident chairman Lee

THE BIG BREAK IN FIVE YEARS?

FOR SALE

Bucks Free Press

YOUR BUDGET VIEWS Page 7

The move to a 6,000-capacity venue at Sands is definitely on!

WANDERERS' 25-YEAR-OLD WAIT IS OVER!

Mod gauntlet thrown down

By **Neil Fullick**



'Sham' businessman jailed for 30 months

Banish Budget blues here



ATCOST SPORTS BUILDINGS



**COMPUTER DESIGNED IN CONCRETE
FOR OPTIMUM SAFETY, DURABILITY & ECONOMY.**

Atcost Buildings Ltd, Spa House, 18 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2EP Tel: (0892) 26288. Telex: 95389. Fax: (0892) 515348.