

Chairboys

Gas

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

INSIDE

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



JIM WHO?

ALSO INSIDE

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

30p

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1987-88

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

EDITORIAL

I don't think that many Wycombe supporters were suprised to see the departure of Peter Suddaby - probably more suprising was the fact that he hadn't gone sooner. The choice of Jim Kelman from Maidenhead United as Suddaby's successor was also a suprise - similar in a way to the appointment of Paul Bence from Wokingham in 1984. We can only hope that he can emulate Bence's success and can also instill some fresh confidence into the players and supporters alike. He certainly has had a good start.

When your side are doing badly there is always the temptatation to start crticising all quarters of the Club. Some people say no more than a few words on the terraces, some even produce magazines and then there are the breed who write to local newspapers. You know the sort of thing I mean, a rush of blood to the head and here's my view of what's wrong at Loakes Park. Of course, they very rarely offer any solutions and when they do, you wonder at the sanity of the writer. A few weeks ago there was classic when a Mr Walters claimed that the players should be "paid to attend training at least every morning". You can't be serious Mr Walters - would your employer give you time off every morning, or perhaps you haven't left school yet. If these people really want to write about the Club, why don't they write to the programme or Chairboys Gas, where they will be reaching the true supporters of Wycombe Wanderers and not the arm-chair fans whose visits to Loakes Park are about as common as three points for Dagenham.

Well that's got that out of the way. On the field over the next few weeks we have games at home to Wealdstone, away to Dagenham (oops), away to Sutton, home to Macclesfield and away to Fisher - and probably a Berks & Bucks tie at Windsor. Our game at Lincoln on March 5 will be postponed if they beat Maidstone in the Trophy on Feb 13, but we have home games against Kidderminster and Northwich when the relegation picture will be much clearer. Keep up the good work on the terraces.

Enjoy the reading and tell your friends we're on sale.

Paul Lewis

Contributions and assistance for this issue from Keith Adams, Phil Ball, Ian Blacklidge, Simon Burrage, Steve Maguire, Pete Oxbrow, David Saunders and P K Graphics.

BEHIND THE GOAL with Simon Burrage.

Writing these notes before scheduled game at Fisher, it's a nice feeling to be putting pen to paper after a run of no less than 3 consecutive victories - one in the Conference, one in the Capital League and one in the Berks & Bucks. It seems a long time ago that the last edition of CG came out; so much has happened since then. I was obviously not alone in thinking, as I left Loakes Park after the 5-1 defeat by Maidstone, that I had just witnessed our worst performance of the season so far. It was far worse, in my opinion, than when we lost 7-0 at home to Barnet back in September. What was more distressing was the realisation that the result was an indication of just how much progress Peter Suddaby had made with the team during those four months - absolutely none. Suddaby had genuinely given his all, it seemed, but no club in our position could afford to sit around and simply wait and hope for a revival which was showing no sign of coming. By changing the manager there is no guarantee that things will improve, but it clearly became a choice between gambling on a change, or waiting for the big drop. At least the Board of Directors' decision, in this case, demonstrates a degree of resolve and realism which I, for one, found re-assuring. One can only sympathise with Peter Suddaby, but - and no, this isn't being wise after the event - the writing was on the wall from the moment he told the Midweek on accepting the position that *"I know little about the game at this level"*. Reading that early quote hardly filled the terraces with confidence, did it? Compare that with the way Jim Kelman spoke when he took the job - far be it for me to suggest that Mr Kelman will be any more successful than his predecessor, but at least he SOUNDS like he knows what he's doing, and sounds POSITIVE. Anyone who can immediately persuade the team to train 3 nights a week instead of 2 must mean business, though I wouldn't expect the players to be happy about it! Incidentally, it always worried me a little that Peter Suddaby used to constantly refer to his team as *"they"* and *"them"* rather than the usual *"we"* and *"us"* - quite apart from the *"I keep telling them they're good enough for the Conference"* alternating week by week with the *"I'm on the look out for eleven new players"* routine.

The Cheltenham game was a DREAM. On a day when I thought the only hope of not seeing Wycombe thrashed off the park yet again was that the mist might cause a postponement, the team and supporters were carried forward on waves of ever-increasing enthusiasm and self-belief - ultimately providing one of the most enjoyable and rewarding afternoons at Loakes Park in a Conference or Gola match. It would be unfair to single out individuals for praise so I will just say how pleasing it was that Cheltenham, for their part, continued to play (or attempted to play) honest, constructive football to the very end, even though at the time they were suffering what was, for them, a very embarrassing result (conceding five goals at Wycombe....?!) It was also a nice change to see a decent number of visiting supporters again, following visits from Maidstone and Dagenham.

The short trip into the Oxfordshire countryside for the Didcot match was a rare pleasure, giving the opportunity to watch the Chairboys in a competitive fixture but without the strain and pressure of the desperate need for League points. Not only that, but it was a lively, entertaining match played in a good spirit, but, most important of all, it was a good "professional" performance by the team. For most of us, the B&B has a very flexible degree of importance. It's nice to have a trip, now and then, to a ground not previously visited - but it's not nice when the B&B games occasionally clog our fixture list when league matches and other cup games are of more urgent priority (for example, had the match at Didcot been postponed one would assume that, without floodlights,
continued over.....

.....continuation

Didcot would have forced us to return the following Saturday, hence postponing the Fisher match).

Of course, it's always pleasing to see Wycombe actually win the Berks & Bucks, as the Final can provide a very pleasant spring afternoon; especially if, as it did last season, it results in us depriving our friends from Aylesbury of the trophy, as they, laughably, still seem to regard it as "their Wembley". (It would be a help, of course, if the Midweek/BFP could at least print the draws for each round of the local County Cup. That said, I'll gladly admit that their coverage of Wycombe Wanderers has, this season, been quite superb, and a vast improvement on some of last season's). On the subject of the B&B Final, the County F A has again announced the venue of this season's final long in advance, and we could well find ourselves having to visit Windsor twice if we are to retain the Cup this season. Why are they doing this? Windsor could, quite possibly, win the Cup without playing a game away from Stag Meadow. What a stupid idea! I may be being a little dense here, but I was under the impression that the basic principle of Cup Finals being played on neutral grounds was established out of fairness to both competing teams as long ago as competitive football was first organised. Why is it suddenly necessary for the B&B to arrange the venue for the Final four months in advance? And if they really have to do this, wouldn't it make sense to select a second venue so that should, for instance, Windsor reach this year's final, the match could be switched elsewhere? Of course, it might be easier to understand this new policy of early selection if they were inclined to select a more prestigious ground (no disrespect intended to Windsor) like Reading, or dare I say, Wycombe? (Much more likely to be Didcot or Burnham next season).

This edition of CG is due to go on sale when Wealdstone are the visitors to Loakes and comes following the recent publicity for David Morrith's half-baked, pea-brained scheme to move Wealdstone to Watford. (Daily Mail readers were no doubt startled to read a report that "*North London non-League club Wealdstone United*" were planning to move to Vicarage Road. Obviously the Mail's reporter knows about as much about football outside the First Division as Tony Francis, the ITV Midweek Sports Special presenter who recently mentioned Sutton Town's F A Cup heroics against Middlesbrough. Sure, Tony, and didn't Liverpool City do well against Charlton United the other week?) More seriously, it was good to see that, immediately following Mr Morrith's revelation to the nations press, the Harrow Observer was quick to reflect Wealdstone's supporters outrage at the idea. One can only sympathise with these supporters - with a Chairman like Mr Morrith in control, apparantly itching to sell the club down the river and risk the club going out of existence altogether for the sake of a big fat cheque from some property developers. 'Stones' supporters will have a lot more than just the mere threat of relegation on their minds for the next four months.

Finally, I can't resist mentioning something I've just heard on the Radio 2 commentary of the Everton/Sheffield Wednesday F A Cup 3rd Round 2nd Replay. Wednesday have just equalised with about 7 minutes remaining; commentator Mike Ingham is unsure as to who will claim the final touch for the goal. Looking at the electronic scoreboard he keeps announcing to listeners that the scoreboard operators are not sure either; first they have put up player No. 5, then No. 4, then No. 3. Then, while co-commentator Jimmy Armfield guffaws loudly in the background, Mr Ingham realises his mistake and sheepishly explains that the figure on the scoreboard keeps changing because, in fact, it indicates the number of remaining minutes! (Errr...incredible....and now they've credited the goal to the Wednesday 'keeper, quite extraordinary....)

DO THEY MEAN US?
investigated by Steve Maguire

"Don't bother to write anything this month" said the editor, "I'm going to use your space to print any comments we get from supporters after the interview with Brian Lee".

A good idea I thought, but then at the last minute I am called up as a late substitute after the response from our 200 odd readers makes Peter Suddaby's contributions in the matchday programme look like "War and Peace", so in the absence of anybody else's comments I will offer a few thoughts of my own on what the Chairman had to say.

I was particularly interested in Mr Lee's comments about the local press, and I think that most people would prefer to see more space devoted to a story and less of the banner headlines that have become a regular feature in many papers. While on the subject of headlines, the 'Tea Party' references when we play Boston and the 'Pull the plug/Sunk' theme for games against Bath have both become rather repetitive. Could sub-editors please try to be more original in future.

The Chairman also mentioned the MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER and compared it unfavourably with the BUCKS FREE PRESS. I would not argue with this, but feel it should be pointed out that throughout most of last season, when they supported the club so well, the Advertiser's Sports Editor also held the post of Press Officer at Maidenhead United.

One final thought on the interview concerns a remark Mr Lee made about players "It's a myth that people want to play for Wycombe Wanderers, they agree to play for you, the manager". This point was illustrated over Christmas when Declan Link, back home on holiday, turned out a few times for Staines Town (managed by Alan Gane, of course).

Another player who recently turned down the chance to play for us was Slough centre-back Jeff Bateman. Slough manager Alan Davies said in the SLOUGH OBSERVER "I would not stand in anyone's way if they get the chance to step up to a higher league. I put the position to Jeff and I am delighted to say he had no thoughts of leaving Slough Town ". Wycombe apparently offered a "four figure fee" for Bateman but Davies said he would have been looking for a "five figure fee", basing his estimation of the player's worth on the fact that Lincoln paid us "£20,000 for Graham Bressington". We heard afterwards, of course, that the actual fee Wycombe received was only £10,000 the rest of the money (plus a British Rail season ticket?) going to the player. By then, however, it was too late as the £20,000 figure had become widely quoted (it even made the sports pages of the Daily Mail - I thought they had given up covering non-league football altogether?). This has created the problem of other clubs bumping up the asking price if they hear we are interested in one of their players (did Hayes really want £30,000 for their goalkeeper?).

The departure of Peter Suddaby saw the press speculate on his predecessor. The BUCKS FREE PRESS mentioned Keith Blunt, Ted Shepherd, Eddie McCluskey and even Jim Kelman, while in the nationals THE DAILY STAR went for Brian King (former 'keeper at Millwall and Coventry) and Eddie May (ex-Charlton assistant), who both apparently applied for the vacant post at Loakes Park.

Finally the game at Didcot saw a wide variety of reports. The BUCKS ADVERTISER said "The Blues survived the ultimate in testing cup ties" while in the BUCKS OBSERVER "The watertight Wycombe defence proved an unequal match for Didcot's front men." Another free paper, the WYCOMBE STAR, had the headline "BLUES INTO SEMI-FINALS", this of course meaning that we've reached the last eight. In THE OXFORD TIMES an extensive report opened with "Watched by their biggest crowd in years" and also mentioned Mark Boyland who "...was previously allowed to move from Banbury to Cheltenham for just £75". The Times report also mentioned a first half shot from Keith Barrett but unfortunately failed to mention the resulting dive in the mud by a Wycombe supporter behind the goal.



BARNET finished January with a three point advantage over nearest rivals LINCOLN CITY. Lincoln boasted a 100% record in the Conference through December and January and to the end of January had won twelve of their last fifteen Conference fixtures. Their crowds have also been steadily increasing, with the current average at Sincil Bank standing at 2,995 (48% higher than last season) whilst their average away attendance has been 2,106.

BARNET can also boast a run of twelve Conference games unbeaten, stretching back to their 2-1 defeat at Sincil Bank in October. They ended January with an impressive 4-2 victory at Telford United where Gary Abbott scored a hat-trick and so registered his first goals for Barnet since his move from WELLING UNITED. Barnet, who have lost only twice away from home in the Conference since December 1986, suffered an F A Trophy exit at Bromsgrove Rovers following a 0-0 draw at Underhill. Also on the negative side, Nicky Ironton has been added to the growing injury list at Barnet that now includes 'keeper Steve Humphries, defender John Margerrison and striker Nicky Evans. Ironton was injured during Barnet's 3-2 home victory over DAGENHAM. Ironton came on as substitute for defender Peter Brown after only two minutes and then proceeded to damage his ankle ligaments with his first tackle and had to be replaced.

An underground stream at WEYMOUTH's newly built Wessex Stadium may be to blame for the series of postponements which are threatening the Dorset club's promotion hopes. Weymouth have yet to play a home game this year and have switched their scheduled home game with Enfield on February 6 to Southbury Road to give time for the problem to be resolved.

The mass player exodus at DAGENHAM continues - defender John Docker and highly rated midfielder Paul Goyette have both joined MAIDSTONE UNITED for four figure fees. The deal also involved the loan of Maidstone reserve striker Mel Woodruff. Woodruff made an immediate impression, hitting both goals in their 3-2 defeat at Barnet. Other players to leave Dagenham in January include Frank Coles, Paul Taylor and Jon Bolle who have all joined Ted Hardy at Leytonstone/Ilford. Dagenham ended January without a win in their last 15 Conference games.

NORTHWICH VICTORIA ended a run of 15 Conference games without victory when they overcame Bath City at The Drill Field. That game marked the return to Northwich of Gordon Hill who began the season at STAFFORD RANGERS. Hill scored the opening goal for 'The Vics' who went on to win 2-1. Their last League victory was against Wycombe in September.

BATH CITY also broke a long sequence when they achieved their first away Conference victory of the season - winning 3-1 at ENFIELD. However, a major blow to their survival hopes came when leading scorer Paul Bodin departed to NEWPORT COUNTY for a £16,000 fee. The former Welsh Youth International was City's leader scorer with 13 goals in all competitions despite playing half the season at left back as a result of City's injury problems. Bodin, who lives in Newport, is reported to have been the subject of a similar offer from GMVC neighbours WEYMOUTH but Bodin opted to make the move to a club who seem destined to join the GMVC next season and are 11 points adrift at the bottom of the Fourth Division.

Bodin's transfer to Newport has been just one of many substantial deals and reported offers for Conference players this season. Noel Ashford's £17,500 move from Wycombe to Barnet at the start of the season now seems

'small fry' when compared to recent valuations of £100,000 on BOSTON UNITED's 'keeper John McKenna and £50,000 on their 26 year old striker Chris Cook. CHELTENHAM TOWN's Brett Angell has also been the subject of £35,000 bids from LINCOLN CITY and WEYMOUTH - Angell joined Cheltenham at the start of this season on a free transfer from Portsmouth. Cheltenham value Angell at £50,000.

Transfer talk always make good publicity for the clubs involved but nothing beats WEALDSTONE's Chairman David Morrith's claim to fame with his scheme for Wealdstone to share Vicarage Road. It was a scheme that was immediately blasted by Supporters Club Chairman Ray Kemp, who said in the Harrow Observer "We have always been straight with Morrith in the past and thought we had built up some sort of trust with him. But this sounds like a stitch-up to me." Before and during 'The Stones' Trophy game with Telford at Lower Mead leaflets were circulated around the ground, informing supporters of a protest meeting to discuss the Watford plan.

The intial squad for the ENGLAND SEMI-PRO side to play Wales at Rhyl on Tuesday 15, March has been named and of the 43 players selected, no fewer than 33 are from the GMVC. Of the players from outside the GMVC, Aylesbury United have Dave Botterill and Cliff Hercules in the squad for the first time. Hercules was recently the subject of a £25,000 offer from Weymouth. Phil Gridlet of Hendon is another new face in the squad - Wycombe fans may remember him for being sent-off along with Graham Bressington at Hendon last season. The squad for the match at Rhyl will be reduced to sixteen nearer the date.

ENGLAND SQUAD: P Cuddy, M Farrelly (Altrincham), D Botterill, C Hercules (Aylesbury), G Creaser, R Codner, N Ashford, G Abbott, D Sansom (Barnet), K Todd (Blue Star), P Walker (Blyth Spartans), J McKenna (Boston Utd), A Kurila (Bromsgrove), S Brooks, B Angell (Cheltenham), A Pape, D Howell (Enfield), P Shirtliff (Frickley), P Gridelet (Hendon).

M Smith (Kettering), C Brazier, P Davies, K Casey (Kidderminster), M Lake (Macclesfield), M Beeney, S Butler (Maidstone), P Densmore, M Carter (Runcorn), J Cockerill, G Simpson, P Derbyshire (Stafford), M Golley, S Hemsley (Sutton), K Charlton, H Wiggins, A Joseph, S Norris, S Biggins (Telford), S Teale, P Conning (Weymouth), J Davison (Witton), J Sherwood, A Wallace (Yeovil).

GENERAL MOTORS VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Up to and including Saturday 30th January 1988

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Barnet	25	17	6	2	67	25	57
2	Lincoln City	25	17	3	5	54	30	54
3	Stafford Rangers	27	14	7	6	49	34	49
4	Telford United	29	14	6	9	49	36	48
5	Kettering Town	27	14	5	8	43	32	47
6	Weymouth	21	13	3	5	29	10	42
7	Macclesfield Town	24	12	5	7	40	31	41
8	Kidderminster Harriers	25	12	5	8	46	43	41
9	Cheltenham Town	27	9	10	8	42	43	37
10	Sutton United	24	9	10	6	43	28	36
11	Runcorn	25	9	9	7	33	31	36
12	Maidstone United	24	10	5	9	48	40	35
13	Enfield	28	9	7	12	44	53	34
14	Boston United	26	9	6	11	40	41	33
15	Altrincham	27	9	5	13	32	38	32
16	Fisher Athletic	26	7	8	11	30	36	29
17	Wycombe Wanderers	27	6	7	14	31	62	25
18	Welling United	23	7	2	14	30	43	23
19	Bath City	25	5	5	15	26	48	20
20	Wealdstone	26	2	12	12	21	46	18
21	Dagenham	28	4	6	18	30	64	18
22	Northwich Victoria	21	3	7	11	19	35	16

SUMMARY by Steve Maguire.

1927/28 was another poor season for "The Chairboys", their final league placing being even lower than the previous season's tenth.

After losing heavily at Oxford in the opening fixture a reasonable start was made and following a home win over Woking, The Wanderers moved to fourth place in the table, but then things started to go wrong.

A bad tempered draw in the return game at Woking (themselves third) was followed by a trip to second placed Dulwich where despite being without three key players and being well on top throughout the second half an equaliser just escaped. A late winner by Leytonstone saw a drop to seventh place before heavy defeats at Wimbledon and at home to London Caledonians saw a slump to twelfth. Although also heavily beaten by Bristol Rovers Reserves, goalkeeper Jim Kipping was honoured by selection for the Isthmian League v Spartan League, and he was the only Wycombe player to keep his place in the Berks & Bucks side.

The team had a wasted journey to St Albans on November 26th when dense fog caused the game to be called off, at one stage visibility was down to 2-3 yards. The reserves also suffered that day, their cup game with Cookham was abandoned at half time when they were 10-0 up! But they won the re-arranged game 12-0.

The visit of Clapton to Loakes Park in December saw the return to the side of two old Wycombe favourites, Joey Grace and Fred Gates, in a game where according to the Bucks Free Press "not one foul was recorded". The turn of the year saw the arrival of the bad weather. A proposed Boxing Day friendly was postponed due to three feet of snow on the pitch, while the swamp-like conditions after the thaw were partly responsible for the Amateur Cup defeat at the hands of Cambridge Town.

Returning to league action, the highlight of the second half of the season was the visit of Champions St Albans City. A two goal lead gave hope of an unexpected couple of points, but the visitors recovered and went on to take the title for another year. There was no joy either for Wycombe in the County Cup, going down to Maidenhead at Slough, but the reserves did capture the Wycombe Senior Cup beating Chesham United Reserves in the final at Loakes Park.

On a general note, there were complaints when the club did not receive the full amount of FA Cup Final tickets they had asked for. They were sent 134 instead of the 458 requested (top price was £1/1/- now £1.05). The programme for the match at Dulwich v Wycombe on 22nd October 1927 was four pages for one old penny - my copy cost slightly more than that!



COMPETITION	PL	W	D	L	FOR	AGA
Isthmian League	26	9	5	12	60	69
F A Challenge Cup	3	1	1	1	9	8
F A Amateur Cup	3	1	1	1	8	11
Berks & Bucks Senior Cup	3	2	0	1	5	3
Oxford Hospital Cup	1	1	0	0	3	0
Wycombe Hospital Cup	1	0	0	1	3	5
Friendly	2	0	0	2	4	15
TOTAL	39	14	7	18	92	111

GAME	DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	V	RESULT	H-T	ATT	SCORERS
1	01/09/27	Oxford City	IL	A	D	1-1		Slade
2	03/09/27	Ilford	IL	A	L	0-5 (0-1)		
3	07/09/27	Oxford City	IL	H	D	3-3 (1-1)		Slade 2, Brown
4	10/09/27	Tufnell Park	IL	H	W	8-1 (6-0)		Brown 3, Coward 2, Slade, Meakes, Bates
5	17/09/27	Uxbridge	FAC Pr	H	D	4-4 (3-3)	5000	Adams 2, Brown, Slade
6	21/09/27	Uxbridge	FAC PrR	A	W	4-0 (3-0)		Vickers 2, Stratford, Slade
7	24/09/27	Tufnell Park	IL	A	W	2-1 (0-1)	1809	Slade, Brown
8	01/10/27	Hounslow	FAC 1q	A	L	1-4 (0-1)	1500	Brown
9	08/10/27	Woking	IL	H	W	3-1 (2-0)	4000	Brown 2, Slade
10	15/10/27	Woking	IL	A	D	1-1 (0-1)		Adams
11	22/10/27	Dulwich Hamlet	IL	A	L	1-2 (1-2)		Burnard
12	29/10/27	Leytonstone	IL	A	L	1-2 (1-0)		Brasier
13	05/11/27	Wimbledon	IL	A	L	1-6 (0-3)		Vickers
14	12/11/27	Bristol Rovers	Fr	H	L	3-9 (1-7)	1500	Brown 2, Stratford
15	19/11/27	London Caledonians	IL	H	L	2-7 (2-3)		Brown, Stratford
16	03/12/27	Clapton	IL	H	D	4-4 (1-1)		Slade 3, Grace
17	10/12/27	Clapton	IL	A	L	0-2 (0-1)		
18	17/12/27	Casuals	IL	H	W	4-2 (3-0)		Slade 2, Brasier, Grace
19	24/12/27	St Albans City	IL	A	L	1-6 (0-2)		Slade
20	07/01/28	Southwick	AC 1	H	W	4-2 (3-2)	3485	Brown 2, Grace, og
21	21/01/28	Cambridge Town	AC 2	A	D	1-1 (1-0)	3469	Grace
22	28/01/28	Cambridge Town	AC 2R	H	L	3-8 (2-3)	3000	Brown 2, Slade
23	04/02/28	Farnham United	B&B 2	A	W	3-1 (2-1)		Lacey 3 (at Loakes Park)
24	18/02/28	St Albans City	IL	H	L	3-5 (2-2)		Grace, Brasier, Brown
25	25/02/28	Civil Service	IL	H	W	3-2 (2-0)		Brown 2, Lacey
26	03/03/28	Nunhead	IL	H	L	3-4 (0-2)		Brown 2, Bates
27	10/03/28	Slough	B&B S/F	N	W	2-1 (1-1)		Brown, Grace (at Maidenhead)
28	17/03/28	Civil Service	IL	A	L	1-3 (0-2)		Brown
29	24/03/28	Met Police	Fr	H	L	1-6 (1-3)		Vickers
30	31/03/28	Ilford	IL	H	W	3-1 (1-0)		Vickers 2, Brown
31	09/04/28	Maidenhead United	B&B Fin	N	L	0-1 (0-1)	8500	(at Slough)
32	12/04/28	London Caledonians	IL	A	D	2-2		Timberlake 2
33	21/04/28	Dulwich Hamlet	IL	H	W	4-2 (1-1)		Finch 2, Brasier, Crump
34	26/04/28	Nunhead	IL	H	L	1-3		Brown
35	28/04/28	Leytonstone	IL	H	L	1-2 (0-2)		Crump
36	02/05/28	Wimbledon	IL	H	W	4-0 (3-0)		Brown 3, Bates
37	04/05/28	Windsor & Eton	OHC Fin	A	W	3-0		Brown 2, Grace
38	05/05/28	Casuals	IL	A	W	3-1 (0-1)		Crump, Timberlake, Grace (at Loakes Park)
39	12/05/28	Chesham United	WHC	H	L	3-5	2500	Timberlake 2, Brown

GOALSCORERS SUMMARY FOR SEASON 1927-28

1927-28

	IL	CUP	FR	TOT		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
W Brown	19	10	2	31	St Albans City	26	15	5	6	86	50	35
M Slade	12	3	-	15	London Caledonians	26	12	9	5	63	38	33
A Grace	4	4	-	8	Ilford	26	14	4	8	72	54	32
G Vickers	3	2	1	6	Woking	26	13	5	8	72	56	31
J Timberlake	3	2	-	5	Nunhead	26	13	2	11	57	54	28
R Brasier	4	-	-	4	Wimbledon	26	12	3	11	57	48	27
R Lacey	1	3	-	4	Leytonstone	26	13	1	12	53	56	27
S Crump	3	-	-	3	Clapton	26	8	10	8	52	47	26
F Adams	1	2	-	3	Dulwich Hamlet	26	8	9	9	56	49	25
H Bates	3	-	-	3	The Casuals	26	8	8	10	54	58	24
S Stratford	1	1	1	3	Wycombe Wanderers	26	9	5	12	60	69	23
W Coward	2	-	-	2	Oxford City	26	7	7	12	36	57	21
G Finch	2	-	-	2	Civil Service	26	8	4	14	38	76	20
A Meakes	1	-	-	1	Tufnell Park	26	4	4	18	38	82	12
W Burnard	1	-	-	1								
own goal	-	1	-	1								
Totals	60	28	4	92								



BROMLEY had regained the leadership of the Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division by the end of January. During the month their 1-0 victory at KINGSTONIAN marked the last ever game at Richmond Road. 'The K's' are to share with Hampton for the remainder of this season before a move to a new ground next season.

The clubs chasing Bromley include WINDSOR & ETON and YEOVIL TOWN who met at Yeovil in the League during January. It proved to be an unhappy day for Windsor with Rowan Dodds being injured after 15 minutes, a missed penalty with the score at 0-0 and the descending fog culminating in a 2-0 defeat in front of a crowd of 2,371 crowd at Huish..

There were mixed fortunes for the VOL clubs in the F A Trophy. LEYTON-WINGATE scored the result of the round when they thrashed BOSTON UNITED 5-2. Leyton-Wingate's goals included two from Lee Holmes, his first for the Wingate, who by strange coincidence scored the winner against Boston when he played for Wealdstone in the 1985 Trophy Final.

WOKINGHAM TOWN had a 600 mile round trip to GATESHEAD in their Trophy match but returned happy after a 4-0 victory. David Pearce, signed from Dagenham last summer, grabbed a hat-trick while two players, Mickey Spencer and Nicky Collier, both went by plane to the match because of work commitments. Wokingham's 3rd Round match at home to Spennymoor United will be played on Sunday 14th February - Kick Off 2.00pm.

Not so lucky in the Trophy, however, were HENDON, HARROW BOROUGH and SLOUGH TOWN. Hendon drew at home with BARROW but lost the midweek replay at Barrow 2-1. Harrow, meanwhile made the long trip to Spennymoor, only to lose 1-0. Slough also lost narrowly - losing 2-1 to a late goal at Fisher Athletic after equalising with five minutes left.



DARTFORD maintained their lead at the top of the Beazer Home Premier Division in what now looks to be a 'two horse' race for the Championship with AYLESBURY UNITED. Dartford's only slip during January was a defeat at DORCHESTER TOWN whose 1-0 victory over the League leaders was their 11th consecutive home victory in the League this season.

Kettering Town's experienced midfielder, Dennis Mortimer has decided to leave Rockingham Road in order to take up the position of Player-Manager at struggling Beazer Premier side REDDITCH UNITED. Mortimer joined Kettering at the start of this season following an illustrious Football League career lasting almost 600 Football League appearances.



CHORLEY held a strong position at the top of the Northern Premier League at the end of January following a month where they leap-frogged new year leaders, MORECAMBE, whose only NPL game during January was a 1-1 draw at South Liverpool.

RHYL's Manager John Williams, the former boss at Altrincham and Runcorn, has signed former Caernarfon Town striker Austin Salmon from Northwich Victoria. Salmon made an impact by scoring on his debut in Rhyl's 2-1 win over Worksop Town.

BISHOP AUCKLAND have resigned from the Northern League and applied for membership to the Northern Premier League. Their application should be accepted as the NPL is planning to increase it's Second Division membership next season. The move also means that the most famous of amateur clubs will have its first chance to progress into the Conference.

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Saturday 30th January 1988

PDS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Bromley	23	15	3	5	40	17	48
2	Windsor & Eton	26	14	6	6	41	24	48
3	Slough Town	25	13	5	7	47	27	44
4	Yeovil Town	21	13	3	5	36	19	42
5	Leytonstone/Ilford	23	12	5	6	33	20	41
6	Farnborough Town	23	12	4	7	43	30	40
7	St Albans City	25	12	3	10	43	39	39
8	Wokingham Town	20	12	2	6	31	23	38
9	Hayes	22	11	4	7	37	32	37
10	Bishop's Stortford	23	11	3	9	34	31	36
11	Carshalton Athletic	22	10	5	7	36	29	35
12	Harrow Borough	23	8	7	8	30	32	31
13	Kingstonian	28	8	6	13	31	43	30
14	Bognor Regis Town	21	8	6	7	27	29	30
15	Hendon	22	8	4	10	33	36	28
16	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	18	7	4	7	22	27	25
17	Leyton-Wingate	19	7	4	8	26	32	25
18	Croydon	20	4	7	9	19	25	19
19	Barking	23	3	7	13	19	34	16
20	Basingstoke Town	23	3	7	13	20	45	16
21	Dulwich Hamlet	26	3	7	16	24	50	16
22	Hitchin Town	22	2	4	16	18	46	10

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Saturday 30th January 1988

PDS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Dartford	24	15	5	4	43	24	50
2	Aylesbury United	22	14	4	4	41	19	46
3	Crawley Town	26	12	6	6	47	38	44
4	Leicester United	25	10	10	5	47	32	40
5	Bromsgrove Rovers	23	11	5	7	32	23	38
6	Cambridge City	22	11	3	8	47	28	36
7	Dorchester Town	24	10	7	7	30	26	36
8	Worcester City	20	10	4	6	28	25	34
9	Fareham Town	19	8	7	4	29	24	31
10	Alvechurch	21	8	7	6	26	30	31
11	Burton Albion	27	7	9	11	41	45	30
12	Bedworth United	21	7	8	6	31	35	29
13	Corby Town	24	8	5	10	30	40	29
14	Chelmsford City	23	7	7	9	34	34	28
15	Willenhall Town	21	7	6	8	22	30	27
16	V S Rugby	21	5	9	7	27	26	24
17	Gosport Borough	25	5	8	12	19	32	23
18	Ashford Town	19	6	4	10	27	37	22
19	Shepshed Charterhouse	24	5	7	11	31	39	21
20	Redditch United	21	4	7	10	28	36	19
21	Nuneaton Borough	24	4	8	12	30	43	17
22	Witney Town	21	2	7	12	19	40	13

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Saturday 30th January 1988

PDS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Chorley	24	16	4	4	49	20	52
2	Frickley Athletic	27	15	5	7	43	33	50
3	Hyde United	27	14	7	6	55	33	49
4	Morecambe	25	13	10	2	40	20	49
5	Workshop Town	26	13	7	6	54	38	46
6	Barrow	23	13	4	6	43	17	43
7	Rhyl	27	11	10	6	40	24	43
8	Goole Town	27	13	4	10	46	35	43
9	Southport	25	11	7	7	32	28	40
10	Bangor City	25	10	7	8	43	36	37
11	Marine	25	9	9	7	39	24	36
12	Horwich	24	10	5	9	31	23	35
13	Witton Albion	25	9	8	8	30	28	35
14	Euxton	24	7	10	7	47	40	31
15	South Liverpool	22	7	10	5	34	32	31
16	Caernarfon Town	23	7	9	7	21	29	30
17	Gateshead	29	8	4	17	40	49	28
18	Mossley	26	5	8	14	29	45	23
19	Matlock Town	22	5	5	12	24	42	20
20	Gainsborough Trinity	28	4	7	17	21	61	19
21	Workington	28	4	2	22	20	61	14
22	Oswestry Town	28	2	6	20	22	75	12



Some of you may have read the leaflet distributed in the Vycombe/Lincoln programme earlier this season giving details of the FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION. For those of you who haven't joined, here is some additional information.

The F S A was formed in 1985 in reaction to the Brussels tragedy. Basically, its three main aims are:

1. To increase the influence of supporters through representation on the game's governing bodies.
2. To improve conditions for football supporters generally (ticket allocations, admission charges, ground conditions, etc).
3. To encourage goodwill among supporters of different clubs.

Since its formation the F S A has had talks with the Football League, The Football Trust, the police, the P F A and the Wembley Stadium authorities, to name but a few. The people in power are beginning to respect the F S A and recognise them as a legitimate supporters authority. After all, supporters are the biggest sponsors of the game - roughly £56 million a year compared to less than £2 million by Barclays.

The F S A desperately needs more members to establish its credibility. The cost of annual membership is £2.00 - this covers the cost of a membership card, and six - postage paid - issues of the national newsletter (now expanded to sixteen pages of A5). Members are also entitled to elect delegates to represent them at the national conference, and to attend the conference themselves. They can also elect (and replace) their own branch officers.

The London area has its own branch of the F S A and meets on the first Thursday of each month at the University of London Union in Mallet Street. These meetings are well attended and there is a guest speaker each month. The January meeting saw Steve Perryman give a very enjoyable talk - including a question and answer session lasting well over an hour. The guest for the March meeting is due to be a Director of Fisher Athletic. The meetings start at 7.00pm - membership can be obtained on the night along with subscription to the London Branch newsletter - which is £2.00 for twelve monthly issues (4 pages of A5).

.....

I would like to join the Football Supporters Association and I agree to abide by its rules. I enclose the membership fee of £2.00 (cheques or PO's payable to Football Supporters Association)

(Block Capitals)

Surname Forenames

Address

.....

Post Code..... Telephone No.....

Team supported.....

Indicate Age: Under 16....16-21....Over 21.... Are you disabled? Yes/No

Signature..... Date.....

Send to: F S A, 59 Oakwood Road, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 1XD

BULLDOZED INTO HISTORY by Pete Oxbrow

In an earlier edition of Chairboys Gas I wrote about some of the grounds that I have seen Wycombe play on - this time I'm going to stroll down memory lane and mention a few grounds that are no longer in existence.

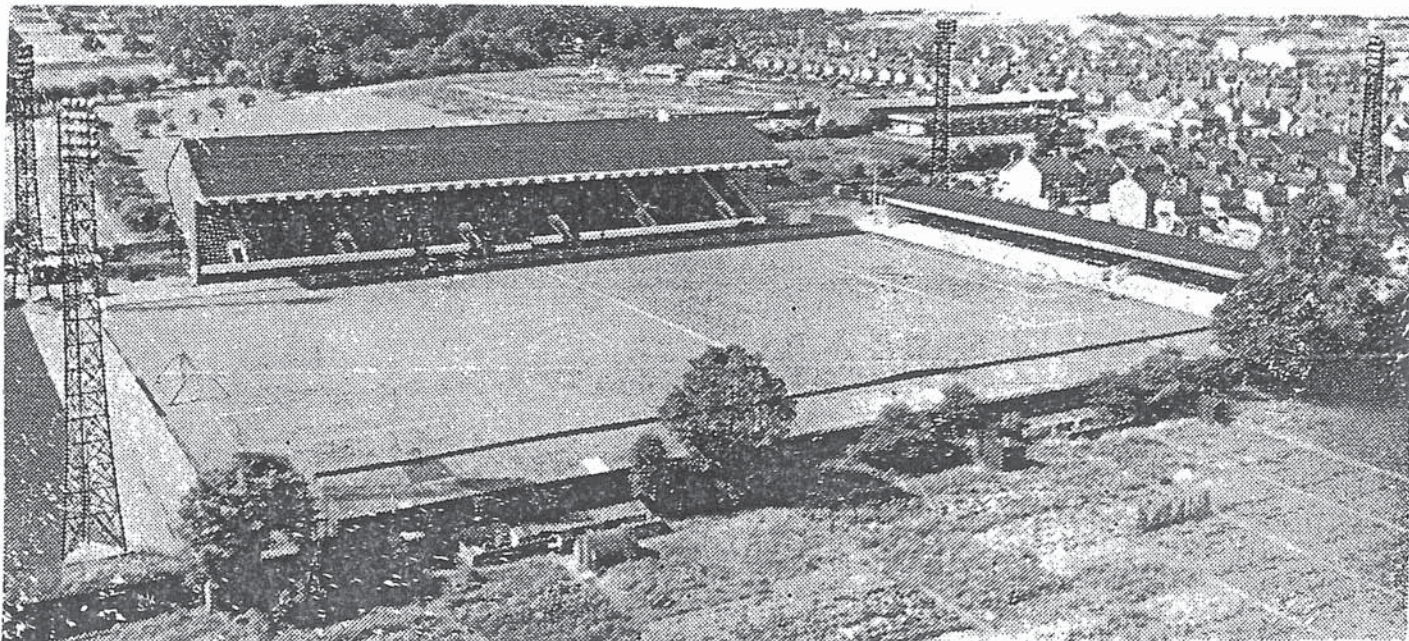
Once upon a time there was a club called Ilford F C - before they became Leytonstone & Ilford and before they eventually moved to Walthamstow (at the time of publishing they'll probably be called East London United). Ilford played on a nice little ground, just off the High Street, with a stand similar to Enfield's and even covering behind one goal. They were a club years before their time, however, as they had another stand which was condemned as unsafe in the early 1970's! My abiding memory of this ground was Steve Perrin lobbing a goal for Wycombe from the half-way line after their goalkeeper had been left stranded blocking a Tony Horseman breakthrough - a goal that Noel Ashford would have been proud of (stop crying).

Ilford then merged with Leytonstone to become Leytonstone & Ilford and played at Granleigh Road in Leytonstone, another ground unique for two reasons. Firstly it must have been the only ground at that standard of football where you could not get along one side of the pitch as it backed onto the garden walls of a row of houses. Secondly if you stood behind one goal your eyes were at pitch level thus affording you a unique view of the game or good idea about what trench warfare was like, with the pitch completing the illusion of muddy combat. Once again this ground has died.

My review of East London's forgotten grounds would not be complete without mentioning Barking's old stadium at Vicarage Field - about a mile from their present apology of a ground. This ground should serve as a warning to all those who wish for us to move, to take care. Barking's old ground was very similar to St Albans' Clarence Park and it's a great pity that they have ended up with what they have now.

Another fine ground from the past is Bedford Town's which possessed one of the finest stands I have seen in non-League football. I was too young to see our four game marathon with Bedford in the 1960's but I did see the three game affair in the 1970's when a crowd of 5,000 saw a superb 2-2 draw their in the F A Cup before we won the third game 2-1 at Loakes Park.

Finally a brief mention of the Dolphin Greyhound Stadium at Slough, a fine place to watch a game, with only 50 yards, 2 fences and dog racing lights between you and the action. Well who'd actually want to see Slough play anyway?



'The Eyrie' - Bedford Town F C

LIVE IN THE PAST

What a pleasant change it made to see some Saturday night football highlights on TV last month. Since the revival of live matches, the popular Saturday evening slot, so much a part of an English Saturday, has sadly diminished. On F A Cup Third Round day there was the chance to see how muddy the pitches were at Gander Green Lane and at Huish and also hear Wycombe Press Officer, Alan Parry, continue his football comeback with commentary on the Sheffield Wednesday/Everton tie.

Life before live TV saw the Saturday and Sunday highlight shows achieve some of the best viewing figures for the week yet the programming chiefs insist that live football is the future. This means we get to see approx. one live game every other week and possibly a poorly edited token midweek highlights match thrown-in. Compare this to the highlight days when at least 6 matches were shown per week and therefore giving coverage to a least a dozen clubs. With the live matches concentrating on the 'Big' clubs (ie Liverpool and Manchester United) for at least 80% of matches the football fan has little chance to view the chasing clubs or teams from the lower divisions. Apart from the supporters of the Clubs involved does anyone know how bad Charlton are or how good Sunderland are this season?

Perhaps there is deeper reasoning behind the switch to live TV coverage? They are undoubtedly cheaper to finance than a package of highlights - after all, no editing is required and just one camera crew and commentator. Of course there is the additional cost of 'expert' analysis now an obligatory extra for all live matches. And how they like to build the matches up, with the viewer constantly being reminded of the so called spectacle on show. The live game on January 3 between Everton and Nottingham Forest at Goodison, even had the respected figure of Bobby Charlton going 'over board' when he

described Everton's first goal after fifteen minutes. *"You'll not see a better goal than that in the Barclays League all year"* Not bad for three days into the new year and by the way in case you have forgotten, the goal was scored by Wayne Clark. Just before half-time he was at it again with *"Heath's header would have been unquestionably the goal of the season"*.

Another rare highlights evening on Saturday 23 January saw another twist in the tale. Watford's game with Nottingham Forest at Vicarage Road had been lined up for live transmission to Scandinavia. The pitch was, by all accounts unplayable, but referee Keith Hackett gave the go ahead. He insisted that the presence of the cameras had nothing to do with his decision but from the outside it would seem the he had been pressurised to play on a sea of mud for the sake of live TV.

Over on Channel 4 there is now saturation coverage of American Football. If Channel 4 insist that they cater for the minority, why not begin coverage of the lower divisions or even the GMVC?

People are beginning to forget what colours clubs play in, let alone who plays for them, although perhaps this is a good thing when a highlights programme earlier in the season landed the jackpot with Man City's 10 goal demolition of Huddersfield Town - Town displaying the kind of kit that even Derek Richardson in the Welling goal wouldn't be found clutching thin air in.

Football is the most popular participant and spectator sport in the country, so why can't the television authorities give us the coverage that our national game deserves?

Paul Lewis

Send your views on Wycombe Wanderers or the game in general to the address at the front of the magazine. Alternatively call in at the Club Shop on match days.

Sports Argus

IS A WINNER EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT



Results

Some of you may be familiar with the BIRMINGHAM SPORTS ARGUS, a Saturday evening sports paper which comes out before 6.00pm in Central Birmingham and is available at Euston Station in London by 7.30pm. The Argus includes a comprehensive round-up of all the day's Football League and non-League action with match reports from the local games. However, with the reports being phoned back to the offices, spelling mistakes are frequent.

David Saunders of High Wycombe pointed out the following from the recent League game with Cheltenham.

Wickham v Cheltenham

WICKHAM: Lester; Corbin, Norman, Day, Barrett, Woodhall, Graham, Boyland, West, Durham, Greenaway. **Subs:** Gray, Carmicheal.

However it's not the first time. This is an extract from the report of the game at Stafford in October.

After 23 minutes Dunkley did well to win the ball in a challenge with Leicester but the final drive from Beech was palmed round a post by the Wickham keeper.

And this is from a Cheltenham report that broke the news of the departure of Mark Boyland.

Cheltenham, who sold striker Mark Boyland to Wickenham Wanderers for £10,000, survived early pressure before jumping back to take a two-nil lead.

Saturday 2 January 1988

Boston	2-2	Altrincham	1683
Cheltenham	5-1	Dagenham	1413
Enfield	1-4	Telford	645
Fisher	3-1	Wealdstone	538
Kettering	3-2	Macclesfield	1319
Kiddermster	1-1	Runcorn	1346
Northwich	2-3	Lincoln	1297
Stafford	1-0	Bath	1401
Welling	1-4	Sutton	840
Wycombe	1-5	Maidstone	1344

Saturday 9 January 1988

Altrincham	2-2	Kettering	1084
Barnet	1-1	Cheltenham	2751
Dagenham	1-2	Kiddermster	459
Lincoln	3-0	Fisher	3751
Runcorn	2-2	Enfield	722
Telford	2-0	Welling	1307
Wealdstone	0-0	Wycombe	1134

Tuesday 12 January 1988

Enfield	1-3	Bath	530
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Saturday 16 January 1988

Barnet	3-2	Dagenham	1175
Bath	0-0	Northwich	556
Boston	2-3	Enfield	1473
Macclesfield	1-0	Altrincham	1720
Maidstone	2-4	Telford	917
Runcorn	1-0	Sutton	680
Stafford	3-2	Fisher	1105
Welling	1-4	Lincoln	1339
Wycombe	5-3	Cheltenham	1361

Tuesday 19 January 1988

Fisher	1-1	Kettering	471
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Saturday 30 January 1988

Altrincham	1-0	Welling	948
Cheltenham	1-5	Boston	1291
Enfield	1-2	Macclesfield	818
Kiddermster	1-0	Weymouth	1107
Northwich	2-1	Bath	688
Telford	2-4	Barnet	2824

WHEN SATURDAY COMES 2 OFF THE BALL

The Blues Club Shop has the latest issues of the above magazines, WSC (out Feb 6) includes a feature on Conference candidates Newport County while DTB (out Feb 13) has a feature on 'The Chairboys'.



Fixtures

Saturday 6 February 1988

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

Monday 8 February 1988

Dagenham	Sutton
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Tuesday 9 February 1988

Bath	Weymouth
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Saturday 13 February 1988

Altrincham	Stafford	*
Barnet	Weymouth	
Dagenham	Wycombe	
Kettering	Bath	*
Northwich	Kiddermster	
Sutton	Welling	

Wednesday 17 February 1988

Lincoln	Sutton	*
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Saturday 20 February 1988

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

Saturday 27 February 1988

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

Monday 29 February 1988

Fisher	Wycombe
Kiddermster	Boston

Wednesday 2 March 1988

Lincoln	Welling
Northwich	Macclesfield

Saturday 5 March 1988

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

Tuesday 8 March 1988

Wycombe	Kiddermster
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Saturday 12 March 1988

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

Fixtures marked * are provisional due to cup involvement

BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR CUP THIRD ROUND (by 27 Feb 1988)

Windsor	v	WYCOMBE WAND
or Thatcham		
Aylesbury	v	Wokingham
Slough Town	v	Flackwell Heath
		or Hungerford
Beaconsfield	v	Abingdon Town
or Abingdon Utd		or Burnham

F A TROPHY THIRD ROUND Saturday 13 February 1988

ALTRINCHAM	v	FISHER ATHLETIC
or KETTERING		
RUNCORN	v	Barrow
CHELTENHAM	v	Bromsgrove
Leyton-Win	v	MACCLESFIELD
LINCOLN CITY	v	MAIDSTONE
Witton Alb	v	ENFIELD
TELFORD UTD	v	BATH CITY
		or STAFFORD

		Sunday 14 February 1988
Wokingham	v	Spennymoor