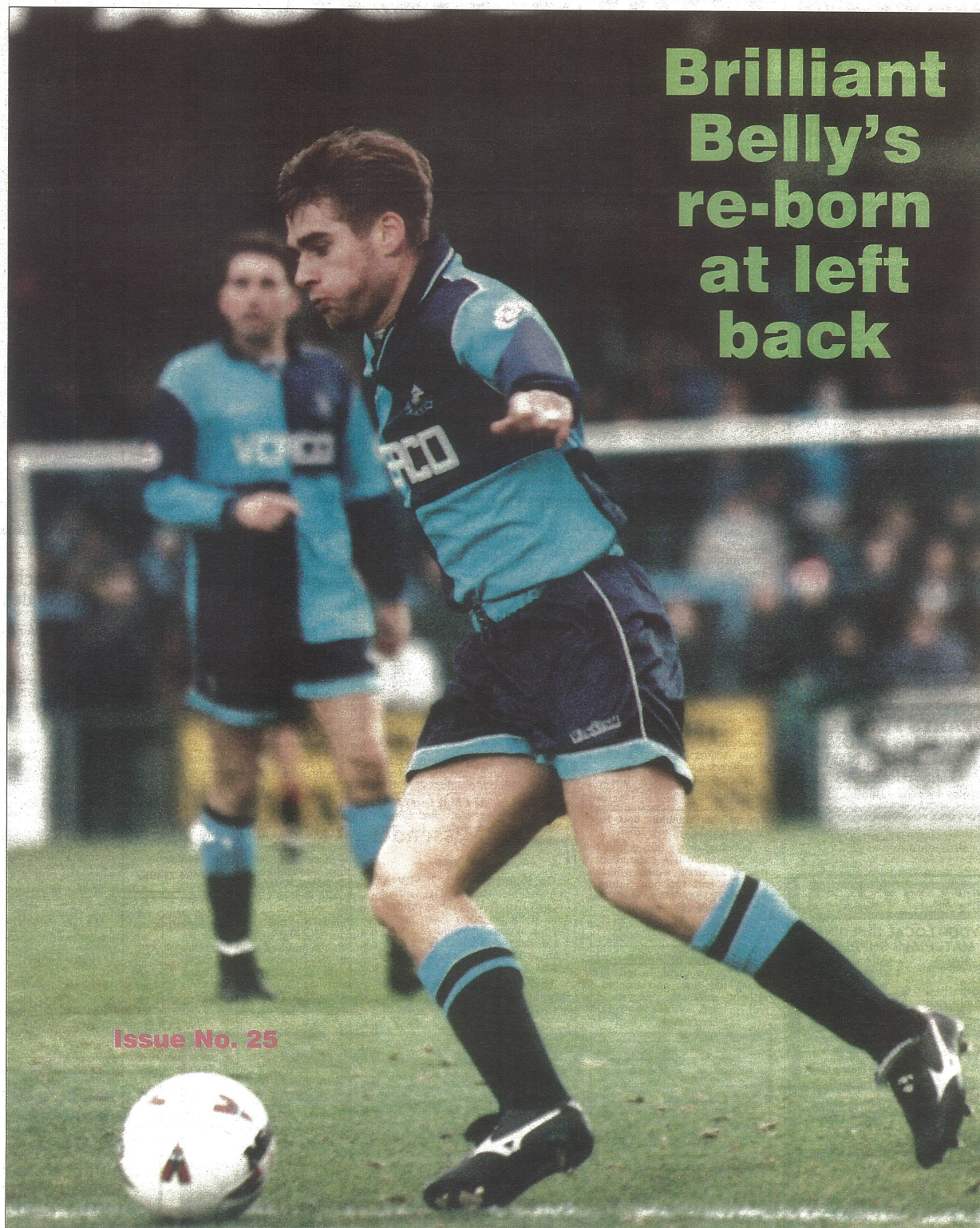




The **BLUES NEWS**

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

**Brilliant
Belly's
re-born
at left
back**



Issue No. 25

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THE BLUES NEWS

Tell us your Blues views



In for a pound: Youngsters can gain admission at a cheaper rate for the Stockport County game

WE carried out a detailed supporters' survey to assist the club in continually improving every area of service, quality and value for money in August 1994.

More than 900 people responded and all the results were published in the following Blues News and matchday programme.

With the construction of the New South Stand to hopefully start any day now, the club feel it is again appropriate to canvas peoples' opinions concerning the development of the Evans Halshaw Stand and all sorts of other aspects about Adams Park and Wycombe Wanderers.

The latest supporters survey is being launched today in The Blues News and will be repeated tomorrow in the Brighton and Hove Albion matchday programme.

As before, every fully completed questionnaire will be entered into a free prize draw which will take place at half time on Saturday, February 24 when Wycombe Wanderers play Stockport County.

The club are asking every supporter to answer 50 questions, the answers to which should identify any areas that may require additional improvement. In return for taking the time and trouble to respond, among the prizes the club will give away are hospitality

COMMERCIAL UPDATE
By Marketing Manager
Mark Austin



the scheme are no annual fee, a range of financial advantages and no booking fee for Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card holders who book tickets on the credit card hotline etc.

Wycombe Wanderers will stage its first Mothers' Day at Adams Park on Saturday, March 16, as a prelude to Mothering Sunday the next day.

Mothers will be allowed in to see Wycombe play Brentford at a concessionary rate and can enter a free half-time draw for a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of Laurent Perrier champagne, which will be presented on the pitch.

Also, Lucozade Sport is intending to do another promotion for Lucozade Sport Still Orange or Lemon and Lime via the tea bars, which have been run by the club since the start of the season.

On Easter Monday, April 8, Mars Confectionary Ltd is giving away more than 500 items of confectionery to children via Bluey the Swan, before Wycombe Wanderers entertain Oxford United in a local derby.

Finally, the club are on the look out for a group of majorettes for pre-match and half-time entertainment. Any group who would like to perform at Adams Park, please contact the sales and marketing department on (01494) 472100.

●Supporters' survey: Page 9

Sportsman's Dinners 1995/96

Monday, January 29, 1996: Guest speaker Peter Osgood; comedian Mike Pugh
One table of ten left at £350 or 14 individual tickets at £40 each

Monday, March 18: Guest speaker Ron Yates; comedian Malcolm White
Four tables of ten left at £350 per table or individual tickets at £40 each

Monday, May 13: Guest speaker Jim Watt; comedian Albie Senior
Four tables of ten left at £350 per table or individual tickets at £40 each.

●Price includes five-course meal and entertainment. Dress is lounge suits. Bars open at 6pm until midnight. To book any of these dinners, please contact Mark Austin or Tim Arnold on (01494) 472100.

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Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by Wycombe Wanderers and the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Telephone (0494) 472100. Fax (0494) 527633.

Wanderers creche supervisor needed

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club need a matchday creche supervisor for Toddlin' Wanderers.

The successful applicant must be qualified to NNEB standard in caring for children.

The creche, which caters for a maximum of 14 children between the age of two-and-a-half and eight years, operates for all Saturday afternoon home games between 2.45pm and 5pm.

You will be required to work three hours at an hourly rate of £5.00. All applicants must be over 18.

Send your CV to: Toddlin' Wanderers, WWFC, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HJ.

●If you have any queries on the vacancy please phone Tim on 01494 472100 ext 201.

●The price for each child per session at the creche is £3.50. To book, telephone Tim or Sue on (0494) 472100.

If you would like to contribute articles to The Blues News, contact Mark Austin on (01494) 472100

THE BLUES NEWS

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We are poised for a good run

HAVING lost only four games so far this season, we now enter into our remaining 23 games hoping we can improve on our wins record.

We have virtually every player back from injuries and suspensions so things look bright for 1996.

We have now been granted the planning permission for the new stand and I am told work should start in March. This will be an exciting new venture that will put Wycombe on a new peak for the start of next season and certainly I can guarantee that when you come to the ground at the start of 1996/97 you will see an impressive stadium and hopefully a team that we can be proud of.

I am particularly delighted that Keith Ryan is now back to full fitness and Simon Stapleton, who has been out for more than a year, has started training and has played two reserve games. I hope that by the time you read the newspaper he will have had another game under his belt and will soon be back to full fitness.

By Manager
Alan Smith



The only outstanding long-term injury at the moment is Matt Crossley and he continues to make progress.

It will be the first time since David Kemp and I joined the club that everybody has been available for selection, and with the new discipline on the field, I think we can look forward to a very exciting latter end of the season.

I have been particularly pleased with the youth team and, at the moment of writing these notes, they are second in their division of the South East Counties League.

I think Neil Smilie and Jim Melvin should be congratulated on building such a good atmosphere within the team and as many of

them will be only in the second year of their apprenticeship next year, I think we can look forward to a bright future.

As I have said before, we do have a community scheme at the club. This is not only involved with professional football, it is also there for players who just wish to enjoy the game.

I think this is something that we should push further as I am not sure that the schools and local clubs in the area are aware of the services we offer.

I really think this is something we must make known to the public much more often.

During the last few weeks we have drawn with Swindon and Notts County, who are certainly two of the better teams in the division.

I think that with several games coming up over the next few weeks, I will be very disappointed if we did not take maximum points.

I must say I have been disappointed at the level of our crowds this season, and I would, therefore, encourage you to bring family and friends along to the ground as there is a great atmosphere, and I am sure you will enjoy your stay at Adams Park.



Back in action: Simon Stapleton is building up his match fitness in the reserves after more than a year out with a knee injury

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THE BLUES NEWS

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Courage helps the healing process



CAPTAIN'S LOG
By Terry Evans

JUST before Christmas the whole team made two visits to Wycombe General Hospital. We took posters, sweets and spent plenty of time on every ward which was very enjoyable.

It definitely brought us down to earth seeing what some of the adults and children are going through, especially when we moan about our injuries which are insignificant by comparison.

To have Keith Ryan warming up with the lads and being named in the squad for the Notts County home match was a big boost.

The reception he received from the crowd before the game was excellent. It is almost a year since he last played in the first team.

His hard work and dedication may have gone unseen by supporters but I can confirm that it has been a long uphill battle with a couple of minor set-backs along the way for good measure. I have never heard him complain. He just gets on with the job.

We all hope that the injury is now behind him and he can concentrate on gaining full match fitness.

The treatment room is at last beginning to look quite bare with Staples (Simon Stapleton) very close to a return.

I only hope that we can keep it that way to give us the best possible chance of a push up the table.

Now that the new signings have settled in, the team spirit is first class and we are working hard for each other.

We have been concentrating on keeping it tight at the back. From a defender's point of view, a clean sheet is what we are always striving for and of late it has needed good strikes to stop us achieving this.

If we can defend in numbers it frustrates sides and gives us confidence. We may have drawn far too many games but I believe that we



Bedside chat: Dave Carroll pops in to say hello to one youngster at Wycombe General Hospital

are known in the league as a very hard team to beat.

We ended Shrewsbury's long unbeaten run quite comprehensively. I felt that we controlled the game for long periods which gave us a lift for the visit to Swindon.

Even though the conditions in the West Country were very difficult, the lads were up for the task and in the end we felt disappointed with a draw.

With these two excellent performance's behind us and the prospect of further points from the games against Brentford and Rotherham our Christmas fixtures looked to be going totally to plan.

However, the British weather

left us feeling quite cheated off. Our display at home to Notts County, though, was quite exceptional. When their goalkeeper dived to save a rasping Dave Carroll strike, I looked up at the scoreboard and noticed only 21 seconds had past.

They were never able to recover from then and I felt we dominated the entire game. Of course we were disappointed that

we could not produce a handful of goals from the 22 corners and endless pressure but it is fair to say that we will probably play much worse as the season unfolds yet win those games.

The introduction of Rhino gave both the team and the supporters a big lift. I wish that we could have

capped his return with a victory that was so richly deserved. I have already heard supporters saying that we have a good chance of making the play-offs.

It is worth mentioning that we are only just halfway through the season, with everything still to play for.

The gaffer is still enjoying a honeymoon period getting to know the lads, the club and the staff. He has only been here a few months and I feel that some people expected too much.

It nearly always takes a long time for a player to settle in. Yours truly can remember a debut appearance for Wycombe against Hereford which was, to be kind to myself, quite woeful.

The tasks of a new management team are a lot harder, but I believe all the hard work and new ideas are starting to pay dividends.

Tickets in town

WYCOMBE Wanderers' tickets can be brought before matches at Wanderers 'In Town' in the Octagon Shopping Centre in High Wycombe.

The tickets are for the AXA Equity and Law Stand and the Evans Halshaw Stand for the club's home fixtures.

Tickets for all matches can also be purchased from the shop. The shop's opening hours are from Monday to Saturday, between 9am and 5.30pm.

Anyone wishing to purchase seats for home fixtures can only do so by visiting the Commercial Office at Adaris Park or telephoning the Credit Card Hotline on (01494) 441118.

The Commercial Office are open Monday to Friday 9am until 5.30pm with the Credit Card Hotline open from Monday to Friday, between 9.15am and 5.15pm. For Saturday matches, the opening hours for ticket sales are between 10am and 3pm with the card hotline open from 10am until 1pm.

Think of a number

THE club shop Wanderers In Town is now offering the additional service of getting any clothing garments numbered and personalised.

The purchase of a heat fusion press now means that any customer can get their favourite sporting garment - football replica shirt, sweat shirt, jogging bottoms etc numbered and personalised. The fusion press is able to cope with any garment of any size - children's and adults'.

The cost and colour of the numbers are: £3 per 9in number, navy or white; 50p per 2 1/2in letter, navy or white; £1 per 3in letter - two-tone colour (navy and white).

For more information please ring (01494) 450957.

Claim a free video

WHEN customers buy Wycombe Wanderers' video So Very Near from either Wanderers In Town or the Corner Flag Club Shop they can claim the High Fives video for free.

High Fives, which is a compilation video of Wycombe Wanderers' back-to-back successes in the Evening Standard Five-A-Side tournament, was released last Summer. It costs £14.99.

So Very Near is the compilation of Wycombe Wanderers' first season in the Endsleigh League Division Two. It shows all the goals throughout their nine-month campaign home and away and also contains the goals from their FA Cup run to the third round.

It was a pretty odd name for a motor car, too.

Brewed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Abingdon MG factory, this strong, premium Morland ale is as unique as the one-off vintage MG it was named after.

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THE BLUES NEWS

Youth team look good

Smillies' trainees go second in the league

IT'S now six months since I joined the club and this is the first time I have put pen to paper for The Blues News.

At the time of writing we have just defeated Wimbledon 1-0 and the team have moved into second place in the South East Counties League.

You could say that it is a fortuitous time to be reporting back to you.

Well I think everybody is aware that this is the first YTS intake that the club have had. Our side are supplemented with some second-year non-contract boys and schoolboys.

The majority of our side are first years and it is to their credit that they are now in their present position.

Having come to this job from a caretaker/manager's position at Gillingham where short-term results were the ultimate guideline, I am aware that a youth team will be judged by the players that it produces for the first team. This is a long term goal.

In between we must find a balance whereby the youth players can learn from their successes and mistakes without playing in a team which is at the wrong end of the table and where nobody looks a good player.

The young players at Wycombe are in a fortunate position. They are at a club where the manager is looking to bring players through and believes in a strong youth policy.

Both Alan Smith and 'Kempy' (David Kemp) have worked at youth level in the past and take an active interest in the team now.

Alan certainly got worked up on the touchline at Wimbledon when they were putting us under pressure late in the game.

Also behind the scenes the club are progressive with superb facilities.



YOUTH TEAM UPDATE
By Manager
Neil Smillie

The boys need to know how lucky they are to get this chance and that they have a responsibility to the club and themselves - they all have a wonderful opportunity at Wycombe.

My job is extremely enjoyable and this will certainly increase when I see some of our own players coming through into the first team.

The YTS we have now came through some very difficult pre-season games, without a win. But they won the one that mattered on the first day of the season at Brentford.

We had a few decent results but then went into reverse - going out of the League Cup and Southern Junior Floodlight Cup, both being away games.

In fact out of the first 12 games, 9 were away.

Abilities

Just before the FA Youth Cup game with Watford we beat Colchester and Reading. That good run carried into the game and since then confidence has increased in their own abilities.

When young lads come to a club they are filled with enthusiasm and, a while after, there is a dip in form as they try to come to terms with not only training everyday but new routines and, for some, living away from home for the first time.

They are now showing signs of having adjusted. The players are benefiting from daily training and coaching and they are responding to what I expect of them.



Doing fine: Lee Allen in action during Wycombe's South East Counties League clash last November

The youth team are just the tip of the iceberg. Down below we coach boys to Under-11 with Centres of Excellence of U14 and U15. Next year we will have them at all ages from U11 to U16.

Both Jim Melvin and I have the responsibility of building up the youth policy. The watchword must be quality both of player and person and I firmly believe that Wycombe are a club that any young player in the country would be happy to join.

Can I take this opportunity, along with Jim, to say thank you to our Centre of Excellence coaches - Naz, Adrian, Pat, our secretary Alan King, the physios Steve Cook and Dave Mell, and to Roy and Alan at Molins where we play our home games.

Thanks also to our team sponsors Angela and Lorna, and not forgetting our Centre of Excellence boys.



On target: November's player of the month Damien Markman



Just reward: Allen is presented with the month award for December by Derek Vere, joint managing director of Verco Office Furniture, Wycombe's official club sponsor

Axed games means more time for yellow kit auction bids

Yellow Kit Blind Auction Application Form

Name:
Address:
Day and evening phone no(s):
The playing number of the shirt(s):
Bid amount(s):

Rules and regulations:
1) Bidders are allowed to submit bids for one or as many shirts as they wish.
2) If more than one shirt is bid for at the same, or differing amounts, then it should be clearly stated on the application form the amount of each bid for each particular shirt.
3) All submitted bids must be submitted in writing by 3pm on Saturday, January 27, 1996.
4) All successful bidders will be notified week commencing January 29, 1996.
5) Payment will only be requested for each successful bid.
6) Each successful bidder will have the choice of formally being presented with his/her shirt on the pitch before the Blackpool match at Adams Park on Saturday, February 10, 1996.

DUE to the postponed fixture on New Year's Day between Wycombe and Rotherham, the club have decided to extend the time given for supporters to submit their bids for the blind auction of the first team's yellow kit.

There will be 15 shirts auctioned in total. These included a goalkeeper's shirt worn by Paul Hyde and all the players' outfield shirts numbered two to 15.

The yellow kit was first worn by the team in the away leg of the Division Three semi-final play-off at Carlisle which Blues won 2-0.

The blind auction format means

anyone wishing to make a bid for a particular shirt (s) can do so by filling in the accompanying form.

The bidder must not enclose any money with the submitted bid and payment will only be requested from successful bidders.

Anyone wishing to make a bid should fill out the accompanying application form and submit either by post to: Yellow Kit Auction, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, FREEPOST, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HJ, or drop it into the commercial offices by hand.

THE BLUES NEWS

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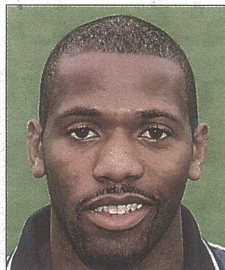
Player profile

PERSONAL DETAILS

FULL NAME: John Williams
DATE OF BIRTH: May 11, 1968
HEIGHT: 6ft 2in
WEIGHT: 13st 5lb
MARRIED: No
CHILDREN: Little girl called Atlanta
DAD'S JOB: Retired
BROTHERS & SISTERS: One brother, six sisters
FAMILY PETS: None
NICKNAME AT CLUB: Willo

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHO DO YOU SHARE A ROOM WITH ON AWAY TRIPS? Faz (Dave Farrell).
DOES HE HAVE ANY ANNOYING HABITS? Opening all windows, even in the snow.
WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD? To be successful.
WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW? Same as above.
WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? Dr Socrates (Brazilian player).
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE? Birth of my daughter.
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE? Losing my mother.
WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL? Reserve football.
WHICH PRESENT-DAY FOOTBALLER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? Ian Wright.
WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN? Pele.



WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? Bobby Gould and Frank Burrows.
WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED? Stuart Pearce.
WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? Bobby Gould.
WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER? Social worker.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT? Table tennis champion at youth level.
WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY? Spurs.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND? White Hart Lane.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY? Tennis, badminton and reading.
DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME? No.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN? Linford Christie.
WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION? Life.
DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS? No.
IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT? 100 metres world champion.
WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL? Bad sportsmanship.
WHAT ARE YOUR PET HATES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? Smoking and rude people.

FAVOURITES
TV PROGRAMME: One Foot In The Grave
POP STAR/GROUP: Galliano
FOOD: Pasta dishes
DRINK: Thomas Caffreys
FILM: Godfather
FILM STARS: Al Pacino, Joe Pesci and Demi Moore
HOLIDAY RESORT: Turkey
TV STARS: Richard Wilson
COMEDIAN: Harry Enfield and Steve Coogan
CITY: Rome
SOAP: Brookside
SOAP CHARACTERS: Jimmy Corkhill and Bing

Compiled by Steve Hayes



That goal: John Williams celebrates after equalising against Notts County

Ryan – The Interview



Superstar: Keith Ryan is well on his way to showing the sort of form which made him a key component of Blues' successful campaigns

Q. I thought footballers were supposed to be a superstitious lot, and here you are making your first start with the very competition in which you suffered the injury.

A. Well, I go against the grain, because I am the most unsuperstitious footballer. I am so unsuperstitious, I'm superstitious about it. I make sure nothing's the same each week.

Q. So the spectre of injury was laid to rest tonight, but were you concerned about the arrival of the rather physical, shall we say, ex-Wycombe midfielder Gary Smith?

A. Well, it's a nasty sight, actually seeing him out there against you, but I know him well and I know that if he did put a late challenge in, he wouldn't really mean it. I did hop out the way of one though – I'm no fool.

Q. How are you feeling about football at the moment?

A. Well, I'm on top of the world, having played 15 minutes on Saturday, and just over half a game tonight. It was by no means perfect, but it's getting there. I'm definitely on the right road.

Q. So is the knee fully recovered?

A. Still not perfect, as I say, but I feel no real pain when I'm playing. I do get a little twinge afterwards and have to keep icing it and take a few anti-inflammatory tablets, but basically it seems fine. It's just fitness now.

Q. You're famous for appearing to be one of Wycombe's fittest players, are you up to speed yet?

A. No, I'm quite a fair way off. Anyone who was watching tonight will know that I can get around a lot more than that.

Q. So, on that front, how do you react to the nickname Headless?

A. Yeah, I don't take too kindly to it, I'm not impressed with that (said with enough of a straight face that moving swiftly on seemed a very advisable course of action).

Q. How do you usually celebrate a win?

A. Go out and get drunk. I live

Forced to endure the long-term injury that is every footballer's nightmare, Keith Ryan is finally on the comeback trail after almost an entire year's absence. He discussed knees, second-hand cars and sporting deities with DARREN BIGNELL over a (polystyrene) cup of tea after the Aylesbury match

quite close, so I'm normally out and around Wycombe of a Saturday night. It definitely takes the edge off if you don't win, but I am a great believer in enjoying it while you can, I mean, I'm the proof of that. I've had a long injury, so I've not been able to have a drink after a game. Basically I'm the worst loser you're ever likely to meet, but I still think there's a time after the game to relax, have a drink and get your head right for the next one.

Q. You've been out for a long time. How did you keep yourself motivated?

A. It was quite difficult to be honest because I haven't been training with the team for a year and the manager has only just started to see me play. And it's been a bit worrying really because my contract's nearly up and you never know what's going to happen.

But the saving grace of it all was that while I've been injured along the way so have Terry Evans, Gary Patterson at the beginning, Matt Crossley and Simon Stapleton and they've really helped me through. We all keep each other going.

If I'd been on my own then I'd have definitely gone mad by now.

Q. Your comeback will also see one of the more distinctive haircuts return at Wycombe. Are there plans to change it, a Barry Venison, perhaps, or go the other way with a David Batty?

A. No, well it was longer, wasn't it? I'm losing it a bit, so I think I'd better hang on to it while it's here. This will be about it.

Q. Is Dave Carroll, in fact, Jesus?

A. Yes, I honestly do think he is. It's great to play alongside Davey. The people who have criticised him in the past obviously don't see what

he does for the team. He's absolutely out of this world in the work he does.

Q. Would you trust Terry Venables to sell you a second-hand car?

A. Probably not. But then my run of second-hand cars hasn't been too good, so I don't think I'd trust anybody selling one.

No, I think Terry's a very brave man and copes with all the pressure he's got brilliantly to do what he does, and be so relaxed all the time, I mean, I think he's got quite a hard job on his hands, especially with four or five court appearances ahead.

Q. So who are you tipping to be the next England Manager?

A. I really haven't got a clue. Robson will be involved, whether he's manager, or whether he's assistant to somebody else. Bryan Robson will be there or thereabouts, I would think.

Q. And for the Premiership title?

A. Well this year it has to be Newcastle, without a doubt, although (laughs) I think Arsenal might sneak in there.

Q. Isn't being an Arsenal fan a painful process?

A. People can say what they like about the way Arsenal play, but I'd rather support Arsenal and have won things, than watch Spurs every week with their pretty, pretty football and not have had the same success – but then I hate Spurs, obviously.

Q. What are Wycombe's chances of promotion this year?

A. Without any shadow of a doubt, we will make the top six. Whether we can make one of the top two spots, I don't know, but we will be in the play-offs and I hope I'm part of that.

Advertisement feature

Never assume

SOME time ago my wife was waiting at the school gate for our son, along with the usual throng of mums.

As they waited, conversation turned to the letter that all parents had received about class outings. It said that we should be aware that our children attended these outings at their own risk, that the county could take no liability for any accident which might occur and if we wanted to, we could take out an accident policy on our children.

This promoted one woman to start thinking about her house and contents insurance. She wondered whether it offered sufficient cover, but being written in the usual small print she found it hard to know exactly what cover the policy offered.

So, hearing that I was in insurance she asked my wife if I would go through her policy to tell her what it did.

She stressed, however, that she did not want to talk about life insurance. I agreed, and visited the family to examine and interpret their household policy. It gave them all the cover they needed, which I happily confirmed.

However, there was a point to be made. If they didn't know what contents insurance they were paying for, how did they know what life insurance they were paying for? They took the point and agreed to a review of their affairs.

On the surface they were reasonably well covered, but the bulk of the insurance on the husband's life was through his job - four times his salary, he thought, which would pay out £80,000 if he were to die.

He had no pension arrangements, having opted not to join the company scheme when he started with them. I asked if he would check the details and I would call again when he had

them. He did check - and he got a shock. He had no life cover at work, because it was only available to members of the pension scheme.

When he said no to the scheme, he lost sight of the fact that he said no to the insurance as well. Ever since he had joined that company, he and his wife had been living with a false sense of security because they assumed that everything was fine. What if he had died? His widow would have received a further bitter blow instead of financial support.

The moral of this tale is, never assume.

Look at your policies, read them and make sure that they are doing the job you think they are. Make sure that they haven't expired recently, or aren't going to in the near future.

And if you're having trouble with the small print, get in touch with AXA Equity & Law Personal Financial Planning.

One of our consultants will be pleased to interpret for you. See us at every home game, telephone for assistance on (01494) 466691 or send in the coupon below.

Happy Reading!

AXA Equity & Law is regulated by the personal investment authority and only advises on their own life insurance, pensions and unit trusts.

To: Michael Shea, AXA Equity & Law, Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5AL

Please ask a Consultant to contact me to arrange for me to receive complimentary financial advice.

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Evening:

Daytime:

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THE BLUES NEWS



Queueing up for coaching: Youngsters take part in a previous funweek organised by the club

Brush up your football skills at half term

WYCOMBE Wanderers have organised a Half-Term Funweek for youngsters at the Wye Valley School in Bourne End.

It will take place between Monday, February 19, and Friday, February 23, at the New Road venue. A full-day

session runs between 10am and 2.45pm and costs £37.50.

Included in the week's events are developing skills; coaching and testing; small-sided games; a ground tour of Adams Park; watching the first team train at Bisham Abbey in Marlow; and

meeting and talking to the Wycombe players and staff.

For a booking form and for more information, please contact: Matt Smith, WWFC, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks, or telephone (01494) 472100.

Blues Travel Club's remaining prices for 1995/96 season

Date	Fixture	Child	OAP	Adult	Date	Fixture	Child	OAP	Adult
Tues, January 30	Brentford	£3	£4	£5	Tues, April 2	Walsall	£6	£7	£8
Sat, Feb 3	Bournemouth	£5.50	£6.50	£7.50	Sat, April 6	Hull City	£10.50	£11.50	£12.50
Sat, Feb 17	Chesterfield	£7.50	£8.50	£9.50	Sat, April 13	York City	£9.50	£10.50	£11.50
Sat, Feb 27	Peterborough	£5.50	£6.50	£7.50	Sat, May 4	Bristol Rovers	£5	£6	£7
Sat, March 9	Shrewsbury	£7	£8	£9	all is £3 extra for non-members. Telephone Rena to book on (01494) 882916, or see her in the foyer on matchdays.				
Sat, March 23	Rotherham	£8.50	£9.50	£10.50					

THE GREAT WYCOMBE SPORTS CENTRE JANUARY GIVEAWAY

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THE GREAT JANUARY SALE

AT WYCOMBE SPORTS CENTRE

ON SUNDAY 28 JANUARY. DOORS OPEN 10AM TILL 4PM.

MAKE SURE YOU'RE QUICK OUT OF THE BLOCKS OR YOU'LL MISS OUT!

Will you be a lucky customer in our **FREE** hourly draws for these fabulous prizes?

EITHER A

Lifestyles

MEMBERSHIP

OR

A Family 12 Month Swim Pass -

EACH WORTH OVER **£250**

PLUS OVER 50 OTHER ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME GIVEAWAYS

There's more...

In reception there will be a **BONANZA Freestyle SALE**

And more

with stupendous goods and services. Come along and find out more about the *Freestyle* LEISURE SCHEME

LAUNCH OF THE MOON BASE

THE FANTASTIC NEW SOFT-PLAY EXPERIENCE FOR KIDS. JOIN WALLYGATOR TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO KID HAS GONE BEFORE! Countdown for lift-off will commence at 10.15

THE ULTIMATE ADVENTURE FOR THE UNDER 12s ... KIDS WILL NEVER BE BORED ... THERE'S ALWAYS MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE MOON BASE ...

TRY IT FOR FREE!

★ SKY GLIDE
★ AERIAL ESCAPE
★ RUNWAY
★ ASTRO BARS
★ ACCESS CRAWL TUBE
★ SPOOKY SPACE CHAMBER
★ TALKING FACES
★ UP/UNDER HUMPS
★ CARGO NET PYRAMID
★ METEOR PIT
★ ROLLER SQUEEZE
★ WOBBLY STEPS
★ ROPE BRIDGE
★ PLUS MANY MORE FEATURES

Quasar 10am to 4pm
Have a go at this exciting sport
Swimming 10am to 4pm
including the **Black Hole Fun**
Sessions from 10am to 12 noon

And even more **FREE...**

Aerobics at the new Simpson's dance studio
10.30-11.30 Step; 2.00-3.00 Circuit; 3.30-4.30 Aerobics

Bouncy Castle

Great fun for the under 8s

And would you believe more?

Activities including Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton and Squash available throughout the day...bring your kit along!
Visit the *Freestyle* Stand to find out more about our great family night on the 10th February

1996...Free to Freestylers

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Wycombe Sports Centre, Marlow Hill, High Wycombe, Bucks HP 11 1SX. Telephone 01494 446324

THE BLUES NEWS

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Supporters' Survey 1996

Please tick where appropriate

1. Are you
Male ☐
Female ☐

2. How old are you?
Under 15 ☐
15-20 ☐
21-25 ☐
26-34 ☐
35-44 ☐
45-54 ☐
55-64 ☐
65 or over ☐

3. Where do you live?
Within Wycombe District Council boundaries? ☐
Within the rest of Bucks? ☐
Within Berks? ☐
Elsewhere? ☐

4. Are you?
Single ☐
Married/Partner ☐
Divorced/Separated ☐

5. Are you?
Employed ☐
Unemployed ☐
Self-Employed ☐
Student ☐
Home-maker ☐
Retired ☐

6. How many children under 18 do you have?
0 ☐
1 ☐
2 ☐
3 ☐
4 ☐
More than 4 ☐

7. Do you own a car?
Yes ☐
No ☐

8. How many other competitive professional football matches have you been to this season when Wycombe Wanderers have had no fixture?
0 ☐
1 ☐
2 ☐
3 ☐
4 ☐
5+ ☐

9. If you have been to watch other matches when The Blues were playing were they?
A) At home ☐
Yes ☐
No ☐
B) Away ☐
Yes ☐
No ☐

10. Please state your favourite three articles in the matchday programme
.....
.....
.....

11. Please state your favourite three articles in The Blues News?
.....
.....
.....

12. Which are you a member of?
Season Ticket Holder ☐
Shareholder ☐
Junior Blues Supporters Club ☐
Official Blues Supporters Association ☐
Vere Suite membership ☐
Leagueline membership ☐
Super Blue Cashline ☐

13. What most persuades you to come to games?
Team play well ☐
Important game ☐
Good opposition ☐
Friends or family coming ☐
Fine weather ☐
Special promotion ☐

14. How many first team games did you see at Adams Park in season 1994/95
Under 5 ☐
6-9 ☐
10-14 ☐
15-19 ☐
20-24 ☐
25-29 ☐

15. At what age did you start watching Wycombe Wanderers
Under 5 ☐

The club are once again keen to discover the supporters' views on a variety of issues which affect decisions that are made and the comfort and well-being of all who attend the matches at Adams Park. The results of the supporters' survey will again be published in full in a future edition of The Blues News.

5-10 ☐
11-16 ☐
17-24 ☐
25 or over ☐

16. What most causes you not to come to games?
Team play badly ☐
Not big game ☐
Poor opposition ☐
Chance of hooliganism ☐
Cost ☐
Work commitments ☐
Family commitments ☐
Timing of fixture ☐

17. Next season which stand will you choose to watch matches from?
A seat in the new Woodlands (South) Stand ☐
A seat in the existing Main Stand ☐
The terraces in the AXA Equity & Law Stand ☐

18. Would you support a non-smoking policy?
In the Vere Suite ☐ Yes/No ☐
In the new South Stand ☐ Yes/No ☐
In the existing Main Stand ☐ Yes/No ☐
On the Terraces ☐ Yes/No ☐
In the Family Stand ☐ Yes/No ☐

19. What are the most important features at a modern football stadium? (Tick no more than three)
Seats with unobstructed view of the pitch ☐
Large car park ☐
Major road links ☐
Hospitality facilities for supporters ☐
Revenue from non-football related projects ☐
Use for other sports ☐
Good atmosphere ☐
Good team in it ☐

20. When would you most likely use a supporters' club bar/lounge?
Before a game only ☐
Before and after ☐
Any pub hours on a non-matchday ☐
Never ☐

21. For supporters' comforts and facilities, which of the following would you like to see? (Tick no more than three)
More programme sellers ☐
More supporters' bars ☐
Bar food ☐
Fast food ☐
Video screens instead of the scoreboard ☐
More concession stands ☐

22. How do you travel to home games this season?
By car ☐
By Wycombe Bus Company buses ☐
By train ☐
By foot ☐
By taxi ☐
Special football buses ☐

23. From which direction will you be travelling to the ground?
East ☐
West ☐

North ☐
South ☐

24. What value would you put on parking inside Adams Park?
£ ☐

25. Do you know the number of Ringing The Blues?
Yes ☐
No ☐

26. How often do you use Ringing The Blues per season?
Never ☐
Under 5 times ☐
6-9 ☐
10-19 ☐
20 or more ☐

27. How many away games are you likely to go to this 1994/95 season?
All of them ☐
More than 15 ☐
5-14 ☐
Less than 5 ☐
None ☐

28. If you go to away games, how do you travel?
Car ☐
Private coach ☐
Train ☐
Official Blues Supporters' Club executive coach ☐

29. If you go to away games by car, why do you not travel by organised transport?
No flexibility ☐
Too expensive ☐
Too inconvenient ☐

30. How do you obtain ticket information?
Matchday programme ☐
Blues News ☐
Local press ☐
Ringing The Blues ☐
Phoning club ☐
Word of mouth ☐
Wanderers in Town ☐

31. If you buy tickets in advance, how do you purchase them
Over the phone ☐
By post ☐
In person before the day of the match at Adams Park ☐
In person before the day of the match at Wanderers in Town ☐
In person on the day of the match at Adams Park ☐
In person on the day of the match from Wanderers in Town ☐

32. How would you like to purchase your match tickets?
Creditcard Hotline ☐
Town centre shop ☐
Post ☐
In person before matchday at Adams Park ☐
In person on day of match at Adams Park ☐

33. When do you visit Wanderers in Town?
Every home game ☐
Occasionally on matchday ☐

Mail order ☐
During weekday shopping ☐
During Saturday shopping ☐
Never ☐

34. When do you visit the Cornerflag Clubshop?
Every home game ☐
Occasionally on match days ☐
Once or twice a season ☐
Never ☐

35. If you are not a regular visitor to Wanderers in Town, why not?
Too crowded ☐
Too expensive ☐
Not enough that I like ☐
Don't find time ☐
Didn't know it existed ☐

36. If you are not a regular visitor to the Cornerflag Clubshop, why not?
Too crowded ☐
Too expensive ☐
Not enough that I like ☐
Don't find time ☐
Didn't know it existed ☐

37. What items have you bought from either club shop over the last year?
Replica kit ☐
Leisurewear ☐
Videos and/or publications ☐
Souvenirs ☐
Nothing ☐

38. Which of the following sources provide the best information about the club? (Tick up to three)
Matchday programme ☐
The Blues News ☐
Ringing The Blues ☐
Bucks Free Press ☐
Star ☐
Bucks Advertiser ☐
Bucks Examiner ☐
Wycombe Leader ☐
elevenSEVENTY Local Radio ☐
BBC Radio Berkshire ☐
Chiltern Gold Radio ☐
MIX 96 ☐
Star FM ☐
Teletext ☐
CEEFAX ☐

39. Would you be interested in becoming an agent for Wycombe Wanderers lottery tickets?
Yes ☐
No ☐

40. Would you like to sell 50/50 Draw tickets at Adams Park on matchdays?
Yes ☐
No ☐

41. Would you be interested in becoming a canvasser for Wycombe Wanderers lottery tickets?
Yes ☐
No ☐

42. Please let us have your thoughts on the following

	Poor	Fair	Good
Club shops			
Quality of goods			
Range of goods			
Value for money			
Tea bars			
Quality			
Range			
Price			
Ease of access			
Speed of service			
Toilets			
Cleanliness			
Ease of access			
Seating			
Price			
Comfort			
View			
Ease of access			
Turnstiles			
Quantity			
Accessibility			
Speed			
Public address			
Clarity			
Quality of announcer			
Ground signage			
Readability			
Positioning			
Size			

43. We would like to know what you think of the attitude and service shown by the following people or departments. If you have not dealt with one area, simply move on to the next one.

	Poor	Fair	Good
Stewards			
Police officers			
Gatemen			
Programme sellers			
Vere Suite bar staff			
Commercial office			
Wanderers in Town			
Cornerflag Clubshop			
Sales & marketing dept			
Conference centre			
Tea bars			
Lotteries department			
Switchboard			
Centre Spot/bar staff			
Community officer			
Written responses			

44. What incentive is the most important to you in purchasing a season ticket?
Successful team ☐
Priority booking ☐
Entertaining football ☐
Discount in club shops ☐
Price ☐
Guaranteed entry ☐
Exclusive turnstiles ☐
Number of free matches ☐
Choice of seat position ☐

45. Would you use the tea bars more during a match if you could watch the game live on a TV screen by the tea bar?
Yes ☐
No ☐

46. Would you use the mobile drink dispensers if they were re-introduced?
Yes ☐
No ☐

47. Are you aware that all the tea bars have been re-furnished and are now run by the club?
Yes ☐
No ☐

48. How long have you been a regular attender of Wycombe Wanderers home matches?
Since before Loakes Park shut ☐
1990-91 Season at Adams Park ☐
1991-92 Season at Adams Park ☐
1992-93 Season at Adams Park ☐
1993-94 Season at Adams Park ☐
Started this season ☐

49. Do you think Bluey The Swan helps project Wycombe Wanderers' family image?
Yes ☐
No ☐

Prize Draw

ALL completed questionnaires which are returned to the Commercial Office, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HJ, by 3pm on Saturday, February 24, 1996 will be entered into a free prize draw

1st Prize: A VIP day out for two guests of chairman Ivor Beeks to mark the opening of the 20 executive boxes in the new south stand at Adams Park at the beginning of the 1996/97 season.

2nd Prize: Full match hospitality package for four people at Wycombe Wanderers vs Oxford United on Easter Monday 8/4/96, prize worth £188

3rd Prize: A dozen prizes of a two-tone blue official Wycombe Wanderers signed football.

●To qualify for the free prize draw you must enter your name, address, postcode and telephone number below.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

.....

Tel no:

WAREHOUSE SALE AT ADAMS PARK

This Sunday, 28th January 1996, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club is holding
a massive stock clearance sale
 at Adams Park in the Vere Suite between 10am and 3pm.

There will be huge reductions on a wide range of Wycombe Wanderers leisure wear, sportswear, replica kits and football accessories.

Some of the heavily reduced items will include:-

- ★ Wycombe Wanderers track suits
- ★ Wycombe Wanderers shell and wet suits
- ★ Vandanel embroidered training sweatshirts
- ★ Wycombe Wanderers polo leisure shirts
- ★ Wycombe Wanderers T-shirts
- ★ Wycombe Wanderers fleece, managers, baseball and bench jackets
- ★ Mitre footballs
- ★ Wycombe Wanderers Ties
- ★ Team posters
- ★ Wycombe Wanderers Wallets
- ★ Wycombe Wanderers videos

Also as a special incentive to attend Wycombe Wanderers Football Club has decided to reduce the cost of all three of its replica and goalie kits. Below is a list of what sizes of replica and goalie kit will be on offer this Sunday and at what price:-

Sky & Navy Quarters - Home Kit **All Yellow - Away Kit** **Red & Black Stripes - Away Kit**

Shirt

Kids - 20", 22", 26", 30", 32" - Was £25.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £15.99**
 Adults - XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL - Was £30.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £19.99**

Shorts

Kids - 16", 18", 20", 22", 24", 26" - Was £12.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £9.99**
 Adults - XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL, - Was £17.50 **SPECIAL OFFER £12.50**

Socks

Kids - (sizes 12 - 2)
 (sizes 3 - 5) - Was £5.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £4.99**
 Adults - (sizes 6 - 11) - Was £7.50 **SPECIAL OFFER £4.99**

Flame Goalie Kit **Masquerade Goalie Kit** **Green Goalie Kit**

Shirt

Kids - 30", 32" - Was £27.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £19.99**
 Adults - S, M, L, XL - Was £34.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £24.99**

Shorts

Kids - 24", 26: - Was £14.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £9.99**
 Adults - S, M, L, XL - Was £19.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £12.50**

Socks

Kids - (sizes 12 - 2)
 (sizes 3 - 5) - Was £5.99 **SPECIAL OFFER £4.99**
 Adults - (sizes 6 - 11) - Was £7.50 **SPECIAL OFFER £4.99**

THE BLUES NEWS

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Special bus services to Adams Park

Four football special services run from the areas set out in the following text. The specialists pick up passengers at all the bus stops along the routes, and take you to the ground. The specialists operate all home League matches. Why not give your local specialist a try?

Route A (Operated by Prestwood Travel)

	Departure Times	Weekdays	Fare Chart
			(Return fares only)
The Common, Holmer Green	1330	1815	£1.50
Park Parade	1335	1820	£1.50
Hazlemere Cross Roads	1340	1825	£1.50
Tyack Road/Totteridge Lane	1347	1832	£1.00
Holles Road	1349	1834	£1.00
Hicks Farm Rise	1351	1836	£1.00
Micklefield Road	1353	1838	£1.00
Wycombe Marsh	1358	1843	£1.00
Home Base, Hatters Lane	1400	1845	£1.00
Wycombe Wanderers Football Ground (arrive)	1415	1900	

Return service departs from ground 15 minutes after final whistle.

Route B (Operated by Prestwood Travel)

	Departure Times	Weekdays	Fare Chart
			(Return fares only)
Blind Lane, Green Dragon	1325	1810	£1.50
Bourne End, The Parade	1330	1815	£1.50
Coles End Road	1334	1819	£1.50
The Green	1339	1824	£1.50
Boundary Road	1342	1827	£1.50
Station Road	1344	1829	£1.50
Rayners Avenue	1349	1834	£1.50
Hatters Lane	1354	1839	£1.00
Hillary Road	1358	1841	£1.00
Totteridge Road/Healy Avenue	1358	1843	£1.00
via Bowden Road/London Road	1400	1845	£1.00
Wycombe Wanderers Football Ground (arrive)	1415	1900	

Return service departs from ground 15 minutes after final whistle.

Route C (Operated by Motts Travel)

	Departure Times	Weekdays	Fare Chart
			(Return fares only)
Mill Lane, Monks Riborough	1340	1815	£1.50
Place Farm Way	1342	1817	£1.50
Princes Risborough, Market Place	1345	1820	£1.50
Lacey Green, The Whip	1351	1826	£1.50
Walters Ash, Parkwood	1355	1830	£1.50
Naphill Post Office	1359	1834	£1.50
Coombe Lane Bottom	1403	1838	£1.50
Hugden Avenue	1406	1841	£1.00
The Pastures	1409	1844	£1.00
Wycombe Wanderers Football Ground	1425	1900	

Return service departs from ground 15 minutes after final whistle.

Route D (Operated by Motts Travel)

	Departure Times	Weekdays	Fare Chart
			(Return fares only)
Piddington Post Office	1319	1815	£1.00
Studley Green	1323	1820	£1.00
Slickerchurch, Kings Arms	1330	1811	£1.50
Cadmore End	1340	1821	£1.50
Lane End	1346	1829	£1.50
Dean Street, Marlow	1358	1839	£1.50
Brittania PH	1358	1841	£1.50
Wilshire Road	1359	1842	£1.50
Marlow Bottom	1401	1844	£1.50
John Hall Way, Tesco	1414	1854	£1.00
Wycombe Wanderers Football Ground (arrive)	1414	1900	

Return service departs from ground 15 minutes after final whistle.

Persons in possession of a concessionary fares permit and under 16s travel at half fare. For any further information and additional copies of these timetables, please contact the Commercial Office at Wycombe Wanderers F.C. on (01494) 472100

Station pick-up points

WYCOMBE Bus Company provides a special service on both Saturday and midweek matches, travelling from both the train and the bus station up to Adams Park. Below is list of the pick up points and the times of departure.

	Saturday	Train station	1.55pm	2.25pm
	Bus Station	2.00pm	2.30pm	
	Weekday	Train Station	6.35pm	7.05pm
	Bus Station	6.40pm	7.10pm	

New club forms

THE OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS' CLUB
By Chris Perrin

FOR the first time since our move to Adams Park in 1990, Wycombe Wanderers have an Official Supporters' Club.

Following a meeting in October of last year, a committee was put together to form the Wycombe Wanderers Official Supporters' Club.

The officers are: chairman Bob Cairney, secretary Keith Blagbrough, treasurer and coach travel Rena Perrin, and yours truly, Chris Perrin, as publicity officer and youth membership. We have since been joined by five more members - Ena Stanmore who will deal with membership - Harold Lunnun and Carol Teare for social functions. Colin Strange will join myself with the youth side of things, and Dave Bassett is another new face.

Our constitution was drawn up at an entertaining meeting where Alan Parry joined us for a question-and-answer session. Associate director John Goldsworthy was also in the audience.

Our aim is to support the club, hold functions for the supporters' benefits, help the juniors, and run coaches to all away games.

One idea already underway is a trip to the Williams Formula One Grand Prix Team headquarters at Didcot in Oxon. It will include a look at a private collection of all the cars that Williams have ever raced.

Harold Lunnun is organising it and he can be contacted at any home game or by telephoning (01494) 440668. Carol Teare is putting together a quiz night - so get your thinking caps on for that one.

Juniors have a say as well. An evening for them takes place on March 1 to elect two members onto the main committee, one boy and one girl aged 15 to 16. They will be able to quiz first team players and some youth team players and, hopefully, Alan Smith will attend. If you would like to sit on the committee, please put your name forward, or, you can nominate someone to sit on the committee.

The juniors can also tell us what they would like. I will be working alongside Colin Strange in arranging events for you.

Finally, the Official Supporters' Club has many benefits, but if you are not in it, you can't benefit. If you want to join, contact secretary Keith Blagbrough on (01494) 563697.



Paul Hyde and Matt Crossley are two fans' favourites

Plump for your player

IF you would like to 'Mark Your Man' by sponsoring a player, contact Tim Arnold at Adams Park on (01494) 472100.

Shirt sponsorships for the 1995/96 season are as follows:

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THE BLUES NEWS



JASON ROWBOTHAM

Rotherham United tickets still valid

All tickets bought for the New Year's Day fixture between Wycombe Wanderers and Rotherham United, which was postponed due to a frozen pitch, will be valid for the rescheduled date on Tuesday, February 6.

Rotherham programme available

For the rescheduled Rotherham United home fixture, Wycombe Wanderers will print a brand new programme which will be available on the night. The programme for the postponed New Year's Day fixture is available from either the Commercial Office at Adams Park; Wanderers In Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre; or the Wycombe Wanderers programme shop which is situated at the far end of the stadium and is open every first-team match day.

My 'smart' money will help Bookies

THIS looks like being one of the closest and most exciting seasons in memory in all three divisions of the Football League.

Despite criticism of the quality of football outside the Premiership – unjustified in my view – there can be no doubt about the dramatic finale that lies in wait.

At the time of writing, even Mystic Meg wouldn't dare to predict the outcome of the major issues in each division. In Division One, just six points separate 13 clubs and it's just as tight in Divisions Two and Three where seven points divide ten clubs at the top of each table. The much maligned play-off system will ensure that the season goes to the wire for promotion and relegation.

Just to remind you of what's at stake, let's begin with Division One. There are 24 clubs competing for the biggest prize of all – a place in the promised land of the Premiership.

Two clubs will be automatically promoted and the next four will scrap it out for the one remaining promotion place through the play-offs.

At the moment, even our neighbours Reading (down in 18th place) are just a handful of points away from a play-off position. Similarly, a current top-six side like Birmingham would soon be in danger of relegation if they suffered a run of successive defeats. With three to go down, it really is that tight.

There will be no such thing as mid-table mediocrity for any club in Division One this season. Even a short run of

By Club Director
Alan Parry



success or failure will have a dramatic effect on a team's position.

So, who will be the lucky and unlucky clubs? Every summer I boost the profits of Messrs William Hill by trying to predict that very thing – and have you ever seen an impoverished bookmaker? Once again, I will not be troubling Hill's paying out department with my Division One bets, I fear.

Back in the Summer of 1995, the Parry pounds were gamed on promotion for Wolverhampton Wanderers and Sheffield United. At the time of writing, both clubs were in the bottom six! At least I had an each-way bet on Leicester City so I'm hoping that a certain Irishman will save me a few quid by weaving his magic at Filbert Street.

Moving on to Division Three, the 24 clubs here are chasing three automatic promotion places plus one more through the play-offs. The bottom club will fall through the trap-door into the Vauxhall Conference – or at least that's the theory. Recent events have suggested otherwise – but that's another story.

Once again, you could throw a blanket over the leading clubs at this stage of the season and it's anybody's guess in which order the top seven will finish.

My pre-season money here went on Plymouth Argyle for the championship with each-way bets on Preston North End and Wigan Athletic to finish in the top three. I'm not ordering a holiday in the Bahamas on the strength of this wager, but I'm still quietly confident!

Which brings me to the league table that we're really interested in – Division Two. In many ways, this is the most unpredictable division of all.

The 24 clubs are tightly packed (with the exception of struggling Hull City) and with no fewer than four clubs to go down, relegation is a very real threat for almost half the division.

Equally, half of the clubs in Division Two entertain realistic hopes of promotion with two clubs to go up automatically and another one through the play-offs.

For the record, the Parry prediction before a ball was kicked was success for Wycombe Wanderers, Notts County, Burnley and Bradford City. I wasn't brave enough to pick a winner so it was each-way bets on all four clubs.

Naturally, I will be happy to lose money on all my other bets if promotion for Wycombe is the only one I get right. At this stage, I see no reason to fear for my investment in the boys in blue and I honestly believe that we are in for a very exciting end to the season at Adams Park.

If I'm wrong, at least you now have written proof that football commentators don't have a clue what they are talking about!

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