



We want more goals

Manager Dave Anderson on plans to make the onion bag bulge more often, and the players' response to the events of last week.

What a week we've just had – and a lot of it has been off the pitch. Let me start on the pitch, because that is what we're all here for. I was pleased with much of last Saturday's performance. When we went behind after only four minutes I did start to think that there must be some kind of jinx on the club. But we came back well and scored four in a league game for only the second time this season.

Getting the ball in the net more often is something we've been working on for a while, and it's good to see the results of our work starting to come through. I spent quite a lot of time with Wazza and JT looking at the various reasons we've not been scoring. There is never a simple reason – it's actually a combination of lots of little things. So we've been urging the team to shoot more often and to accept that sometimes they'll miss. We've been

“The players have repaid some of their bonus money to the club”

working on our free-kicks. And you'll have seen that we've changed our corner routine a little bit. We won't always use the same routine, and it's good to change things around and keep the opposition guessing. And finally, we've been working on getting more crosses into the box.



Steve Ferguson shows his pace

Some of these things won't work immediately, and some will click straight away and then maybe not again for a few games. We scored two goals direct from free-kicks on Saturday. I can't remember the last time we did that, and we can't expect to score from a free-kick every game, but we've increased our options and that has to be a good thing.

One of the reasons we've been scoring a few more goals is Steve Goddard. He got two against Harrow Borough and was coolness personified for the second one. But the chances came because Lewis Cook hit an early cross for his first, and Steve Ferguson's pace put the goalkeeper under pressure for his second.

I've been pleased with the way Steve Ferguson has settled in. He has plenty of pace and skill and is totally committed to



the team, even though he's only been here a short time. He hasn't scored yet and he is clearly desperate to do so – in fact he is probably trying too hard to score. It will come, and we keep telling him he should be patient.

The other player I want to talk about is Paul Lorraine. I've said elsewhere that he is among the best in the division, and the fans are obviously delighted that we've signed him. He's settled in very quickly and is desperate to see Wimbledon succeed and be part of it. He was being chased by at least one Conference South club, so I'm delighted that he joined us. It says a lot about how well we are regarded that he did so.

Of course, the main news last week was the FA's decision to throw us out of the Trophy. I've been asked how the players took it, and the answer is that they are bemused by the logic and the rules and very frustrated that the club's best ever national cup run has been ended by red tape. But they have responded very positively, and in a wonderful gesture they have repaid some of their bonus money to the club. The management staff and I have chipped in too. I've often said that there's a wonderful spirit in the dressing room, but if anything proves it then this does. And you may have noticed that the lads who weren't available to play helped with the bucket

Lewis Cook mobbed after scoring the Dons' fourth



Paul Lorraine climbs above the Harrow defence

collection. This has only made us stronger as a club, I can tell you.

I've been told that I mustn't say anything about the decision itself. Instead I'll mention a radio programme that was on after the game on Saturday. I don't know if you heard it. I'm not sure, but I think it was "606" on Five Live, and somebody called in to Alan Green to explain what had happened to us in the Trophy and the possible Ryman League sanctions. Mr Green called the FA's decision "bureaucracy gone mad" and said that "the decision stinks". As I said, I'm not allowed to comment myself, so I'm reporting what someone else said. The fact that he is from Northern Ireland made me wonder if I was listening to myself for a moment!

My job is to make sure that the players concentrate on things on the pitch. That is the place where we can affect things. I will leave the board to deal with the other issues we face.

Finally, I want to welcome Lee Patterson, who I know well, and his staff and players to Kingsmeadow tonight, and also to the fans of East Thurrock United. We are very pleased to welcome back Scott Curley, who always played wholeheartedly for us during his stay here.

Enjoy the game.

