

ANDY Williams, whose appointment as Wycombe Wanderers new manager was announced on Monday, said that he was under no illusions of the pressure he would be exposed to in one of the most envied jobs in the non-league football world.

Williams, the former England Amateur goalkeeper, who has been in charge of Hitchin Town for the best part of three seasons, said this week, "I

know I am expected to provide success for Wycombe. But it is one of those challenges that I wouldn't be offered again."

Wycombe's interest in obtaining the services of Williams is not just a passing fancy. They approached him a year ago with regard to his availability, but with John Reardon making such a successful start at Loakes Park, that was as far as negotiations went.

Now 12 months later Williams, who at the age of 32 is one of the youngest

bosses in the Isthmian League Premier Division and younger than several of Blues' players, has taken over one of the hottest seats in non-league football.

LEE TO HELP

The situation will be eased somewhat by the fact that Brian Lee, manager in Wycombe's most successful years ever between 1969 and 1976 will be taking a more active role in the playing side of the club. At present he is vice-chairman with responsibilities for player liaison.

His deputy for all those golden years was John Reardon, who took over the managership towards the end of the 1976/1977 season, following the departure of Ted Powell.

He did so well that the Blues only just missed out on the title, but things did not go so well last season. However, they still managed to finish third in the table and win the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup.

But a month after the end of the season, he was dismissed, thus stressing the pressure anybody taking over at Wycombe is under to do well. Reardon's recent signings of defender Steve Hardick and Stewart Atkins will add to the strength of the squad.

As for Reardon, himself, he is taking a break from football. He had the chance to make an immediate return as he was offered the job of taking over at ambitious Southern League club Aylesbury United, but he declined preferring to rest.

His successor Andy Williams has a good track record at Hitchin, where he took over the managership midway through the 1975/76 season.

At the time he was player/manager but hung up his boots at the end of that season to concentrate on his job as manager. The highlight of the 1976/77 campaign was their successful F.A. Cup run, which was only ended in the second round by Swindon, who triumphed at the third attempt.