Steve is asked to explain himself

STEVE Hardwick, the Wycombe defender, was involved in a long discussion with his manager Andy Williams last week.

This followed Hardwick's non-appearance for ten days after returning from Mexico where he had been representing British Universities in the World Student games.

Mr Williams said on Monday, "Steve told me he had been resting from football for a week. I was not totally happy with this explanation and the matter has not yet been resolved."

The manager also said that he has some "Wheeling and dealing" to do now that his squad has been increased to 21 players by the return of Terry Scott and the signing of Jimmy Jacobs, who had "an encouraging debut on Saturday."

"I will be releasing one or two players and have some irons in the fire with regard to some new players," he added.

There is some speculation that Mr Williams may release John Murray, now that he has a glut of forwards. After a good start the former Reading striker has faded in recent weeks.

Ray Eaton, who limped off during Saturday's game, has badly twisted his ankle. However, he is especially keen to play this coming Saturday, when Blues travel to meet his former club Leatherhead.

Mr Williams is quite happy that Blues are without a midweek league fixture tonight. Their next match is on Thursday, when they entertain the RAF in their annual fixture at Loakes Park. Paul Birdseye, back from holiday, will be available for that game.

No doubt Tony Price, the fans' favourite after scoring a hat-trick against Hitchin, will get a chance to show his talents. He was left out on Saturday and will be keen to reclaim his first team place — after all he is the club's leading scorer!