

Sport Extra

Wycombe go for Lester

WYCOMBE'S concern for their current goalkeeping shortage has led them to approach Chalfont St Peter with regard to signing Gary Lester.

Lester, 25, is Chalfont's longest serving player, having been at the club for eight years. He has improved steadily season by season and is now regarded as one of the best goalkeepers in the Kingsmead Athenian League.

Chalfont secretary Dave Putman said the club would not stand in Lester's way if the player wanted to go. But there must be a doubt as to whether Lester wants to leave the Playing Fields. He has already turned down a chance to join Chesham United.

The goalkeeping shortage at Wycombe has been caused by John Maskell's constant back problems. He is to go into hospital this week to have a manipulative operation on his back and hopes to return to the fray before too long.

Maskell's recent problems have left a heavy burden on the shoulders of young Chris

Way, who at 19 has a bright future. But the pressure of playing every week is beginning to tell.

Although Chalfont will release Lester, Mr Putman did express annoyance at Wycombe's failure to run a reserve side.

"Many of the local clubs run reserves sides and it costs them money," he said. "But Wycombe don't seem to want to do anything about it."

"They sit back and wait for the others to nurture players and then take them when they're ready. They ought to get off their backsides and do something themselves."

Wycombe's immediate task is to get back on the winning road and if they don't do that against Tilbury tonight (Tuesday), then they never will.

Tilbury have not won a game since they lost all their players in a walk-out last month because of their inability to pay any wages.

Then on Thursday Wycombe are taking part in the Berger Isthmian league five-a-sides championship at Wembley arena.