

Reserves back after 12 years

WYCOMBE Wanderers are to run a reserve side next season after a break of 12 years. The decision was taken at a committee meeting last Monday.

It can be seen as a victory for manager Mike Keen who since his appointment has said he would like to see the club operating a reserve side.

Mr Keen was invited to the committee meeting to put forward his ideas and opinions on club policy. A reserve side is something he, and many fans, have wanted.

John Goldsworthy, the club secretary said: "Everybody is determined to run it properly and give Mr Keen our full support. It is a

long term think and an important step for the club."

After considering the alternatives the club have decided to apply for membership of the Surburban League. It was started by clubs in South London, but has gradually spread and now teams including Slough, Harrow Borough, Hayes, Wembley and Hounslow play their reserve sides in it.

Wycombe should hear in the next four weeks or so whether they have been accepted.

The last Wycombe Reserves, which competed in the Isthmian League Reserve section, played its final match in 1968 when the then new manager Brian Lee closed it down.

Enthusiastic

Mr Lee said on Saturday: "It was necessary financially at the time. I would still be happier if we could play in a more local league." However, he is enthusiastic about the prospect of a reserve side.

Mr Keen said: "Hopefully it will consist of a lot of local youngsters. It could also rekindle interest for local people who see the opportunity of getting into their local side."

He has not named a reserve team manager but goalkeeper John Maskell could be a candidate.

Mr Keen sees the reserves as a place where local players will be given a chance to prove themselves, and also as a stepping stone from local football into the faster more competitive Isthmian League.