

Blues' new groundsman

WYCOMBE Wanderers have a new groundsman. He is Bob Smith from Chinnor, who took over his duties last week, following the departure of Ian Sanderson at the end of the season.

Mr Smith, in his late 30s, has never been a full-time groundsman before but acquired experience when working part-time on recreation grounds.

According to Wanderers' secretary John Goldsworthy, Mr Smith was out of work at the time of his appointment having been made redundant by a furniture factory.

"We are in the fortunate position of having people to advise and I'm sure he'll soon pick it up. The important thing is that he's interested in football," said Mr Goldsworthy.

Meanwhile a party of 17 players and seven club officials fly out of Heathrow Airport tonight (Friday) for a week's tour of Italy. Included in the party are two players from Sutton United, Chris Sparks and Paul McKinnon.

They have come in at the last minute following the late withdrawals of Howard Kennedy and Nick Shrimpton due to other commitments. In the absence of Mike Keen, the managerial duties will be shared by chairman Brian Lee and Reserve team boss Keith Mead.

During their stay they will play two matches against top non-league opposition from near Venice. They meet Jesolo tomorrow and Caorle on Wednesday, and return next Friday.