

Blues celebrate in great style

DEFENDER Mark Hill was officially named Wycombe Wanderers' player of the season at the club's 'Champions Dinner' in the East Arms Hotel, Hurley, on Saturday night.

Hill, signed on a free transfer from Brentford at the start of the season, received his award from Mr David Addy of sponsors Norman Reeves Ltd — one member of a select committee who made the choice.

This was one of many presentations made during an evening of celebration in which Wycombe players, committee members, their wives and girlfriends savoured the club's memorable success.

President of the Servovarm Isthmian League, Barry East, one of the main guests, presented the Premier Division championship trophy — a silver salver — to Blues' young captain Bob Dell.

Private

Each member of Wycombe's first team squad received cut glass mementoes to mark their success. These also went to manager Mike Keen, assistant Alan Davies and trainer Dave Springell.

Only George Borg, who is in America and Steve Perrin, on school business, were unable to attend this private dinner attended by around 100 people.

The one player there with a previous title under his belt, Howard Kennedy, thanked the committee for their efforts during the year, especially Bill Cleere.

Kennedy, who has announced his intention to retire from this level of football, was full of praise for manager Mike Keen.

"He's been like a breath of fresh air, for he has given

me players freedom to express themselves. I don't think I've known players as loyal to a manager as they have been to Mike Keen."

Club chairman Brian Lee later invited Kennedy to join the club committee.

Mr Lee read out telegrams of congratulations from league sponsors Servovarm, who were represented at the dinner, and from Mrs Pat Smethurst, widow of the former club chairman Mr Jack Smethurst.

The current chairman welcomed the guests, who included league chairman Alan Turvey later to respond to the toast.

Tributes were also paid to Wycombe Reserves, under manager Tim Anning, who had finished runners-up in the Northern Section of the Suburban League.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Match of the Day commentator Alan Parry, fresh from his helicopter trip with Brighton earlier in the day.

Mr Parry, a Wycombe vice-president, delighted the diners with a topical joke: "I'm glad to see that Tim Anning's got his Jimmy Melia wig on."

Runners-up

Six Wycombe Reserves players accompanied by six committee members and managerial staff attended the first Suburban League presentation evening at the Metropolitan Police headquarters at Imber Court last Thursday.

Wycombe were runners-up to Harrow Borough in the North Section of the league and the winners in the Southern Division were Walton Casuals.

Captain Tim Lee accepted the runners-up trophy on behalf of the team and each member of the side received a runners-up plaque. The trophy was on display at the 'Champions Dinner' two nights later.



Wycombe captain Bob Dell receives the Isthmian League Championship Trophy from League president Barry East on Saturday.