

Blues still looking for midfield replacement

WYCOMBE Wanderers, the reigning Servowarm Isthmian League champions, are holding an open night for their supporters at Loakes Park on Thursday.

The feature of the evening will be a shortened match against Norwich Youth team, who are training at Bisham Abbey next week. The game, which will be 30 minutes each way, starts at 7.30pm.

The Blues Club will be open while fans will also have a chance to look at the pitch following the extensive drainage work done on it in the late spring.

According to chairman Brian Lee, "it looks immaculate". That is the reassuring news after a "five figure sum" had been spent on the improvements.

Tickets

Season tickets are available and Mr Lee made it clear that the disbandment of the Supporters Club would in no way change the position of fans coaches to away matches. He indicated that

Football

the same people would be involved.

Manager Mike Keen has failed to acquire the services of Paul Saunders, a midfield player who has played at Watford and Northampton.

Saunders lives near Northampton and although keen to play at Wycombe, declined because of the travelling involved. So Mr Keen is still seeking a replacement for Howard Kennedy, who has retired from the game.

Wanderers face a testing start to the season. After a game behind closed doors against Beaconsfield United tomorrow (Saturday), they face a friendly away to top Alliance Premier League side Enfield at Southbury Road on Tuesday.

Both teams will be eager to win a prestige game. There is plenty of rivalry left over from the days when both were in the Isthmian League.

Then on Saturday week, Blues entertain Sutton in the Dylon Charity Shield, the traditional game between the

League champions and Cup winners.

Wycombe will be without George Borg (in America) and Steve Long (on holiday), but goalkeeper Gary Lester has recovered from a slight back strain and Mark Hill is fit after breaking his wrist.

The Wanderers' annual meeting will be at Loakes Park on Wednesday, starting at 7.30pm.

Training

Burnham made a losing start to the new season on Monday night, going down 1-0 in a friendly game at Maidenhead United.

Manager Mick Jones used the match to try out players who have been training with the club and to give injury victim Nick Collier a workout after his long absence.

Collier came through the game well, as did Marlow's Ian Dare and Dave Harrison, who could sign for Burnham soon. Burnham played a friendly with Newbury Town last night and their next outing is at home to Windsor and Eton on Monday night, kick off 6.45pm.

Marlow have signed four

players from manager Steve Melledeew's old club, Wallingford Town.

Among the men who have followed their old boss are Robert Blackmore, a promising 19-year-old midfield man who attracted interest from senior clubs last season.

The other Wallingford recruits are David Robinson, John Wylie and a youngster with a very famous name, Harold Wilson.

But they have lost the services of Andy Smith to Maidenhead United and others, including Dave Harrison, Ian Dare, and Dean Woodley are expected to leave soon.

Marlow's season gets underway on Tuesday night with a home friendly with a Harrow Borough XI, kick off 7.30pm.

Dave Crook of Flackwell Heath has been training with Wycombe Wanderers and manager Chic Saunders expects to be without the centre-half's services this season.

Heathens have signed Steve Hunt, an ex-Flackwell player, who was manager of Molins last season. Their first match is on Tuesday night at