



Hounslow Reserves' goalkeeper Matt Burdett is sent the wrong way from the penalty spot by Kevin Stone of Wycombe Reserves (out of picture) during Saturday's Suburban League encounter at Loakes Park.

'Public support could save us' — Anning

MANAGER Tim Anning is pinning his hopes on public support to save Wycombe Reserves — and his job at Loakes Park — from the axe.

Anning, in his second season in charge of the Reserves, is "sickened" by the decision to disband his team at the end of the season.

But he is hoping that the punters on the terraces can help to force the club's committee to do a U-turn and reverse their decision to fold up the reserve team.

"The decision to axe the reserves seems to have been taken and, realistically, that is the end of it," declared Anning after watching his side win what could be their last ever home match on Saturday.

"Public support is the only thing that may change the minds of the people at the top and I believe there is enough of that to give us a chance."

Despite Anning's disapproval of the way the Reserves affair has been handled, he would be willing to stay on at Loakes Park.

"I don't want to leave Wycombe but if the reserves fold I don't really see what they could offer me," he said.

"I've learned a lot here from men such as Mike Keen and Alan Davies and it's opened my eyes about a lot of things."

Anning was full of praise for his squad of

players whose attitude has been "first-class" since they heard the axe was going to fall.

Spirit

"They have shown a great will to win when it might have been hard for them to motivate themselves," revealed the reserve boss.

"When we heard the news the players held a meeting and decided that they would see it out until the end of the season. That says a lot for their spirit and their love of playing for Wycombe Wanderers."

Anning disagrees with the men, of whom chairman Brian Lee is one, who believe that the reserve team no longer has a role to play at Loakes Park.

"You only have to look at the team on Saturday which turned out at Carshalton and the number of my players who were involved," said Anning.

"The reserve team is there principally to give good local players a chance to see what they can do.

"You can't expect a flood of them to make the first team but without a reserve team how are these players going to get an opportunity at Wycombe.

"In my view the decision to axe the reserve side is silly and I only hope it's not too late for other people to see that."

Jim McCann