

Reserves' title chance in their 'final' season

JIM McCANN'S football round-up

WYCOMBE Wanderers

Reserves could be on their way to a championship success in the same season as they go out of existence.

That extraordinary prospect became more likely last week when the Blues second string emphatically defeated Hounslow Reserves 3-0 in possibly their last ever home game.

Nearest rivals Harrow Borough Reserves went down at Staines and were five points adrift from Wycombe with two games in hand. They closed the gap with a 4-0 victory over Wembley on Tuesday.

Bolstered

Obviously no one told the Wycombe players that Saturday's match was supposed to be a sombre occasion. They went out full of spirit and goals from Kevin Stone, Neil Wiles and Steve Thorne turned the 'funeral' into a party for around 150 faithful fans.

It was another fine per-

formance from Tim Anning's troops who can take a bow no matter what happens at the end of the season for a fine league campaign in adverse and politically complex conditions.

Striker Steve Smith bolstered **Chalfont St Peter's** Athenian League title bid with two goals in their 3-0 win at Horley.

Colin Davis was also on the mark as Saints put some recent bad results behind them to profit from draws by other championship contenders Burnham and Redhill.

Burnham seem to have lost all hope of winning the title by dropping two vital points in a 1-1 draw at Harwich and Parkeston.

But it could have been a different story if the referee had awarded **Burnham** a goal 10 minutes from time when a George Burbridge shot was cleared with visiting players convinced the ball had crossed the line.

Ian Alleyn scored for **Burnham** but they failed to capitalise on chances created and conceded a sickening equaliser with 20 minutes left.

A fighting finish by **Marlow** on Thursday night brought them three points with a 3-2 win over Ruislip Manor.

Top marksman Joel Arnett scored for **Marlow** early on but Ruislip looked set for victory until Martin Hunt and Mick Kearney popped up to net in the final 15 minutes.

Rammed

A memorable goal from John Franks was **Chesham United's** only consolation from a 3-1 defeat by Aveley in the Isthmian League Division 1.

Franks rammed home a brilliant shot from the edge of the box but by then **Chesham** had conceded three goals and never looked like making their undoubted

territorial advantage pay off.

Former Everton and Crystal Palace star Alan Whittle revived memories of the past as he denied **Beaconsfield United** a win against Merstham in the London Spartan League Premier Division.

Whittle scored 10 minutes from time to gain his side a 2-2 draw after goals from Anthony White and Nick Shrimpton had put the Rams in the driving seat.

SUBURBAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

Up to April 3)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	31	24	4	3	86	33	62
Harrow	30	22	5	3	81	17	49
Staines	30	17	7	6	62	32	41
Hendon	30	16	6	8	71	38	38
Woking	29	16	6	8	42	34	36
Wembley	29	14	6	9	66	40	34
Uxbridge	28	12	7	9	55	35	31
Farnboro	28	10	10	8	46	38	30
Slough	28	10	9	9	65	50	29
Egham	31	10	9	12	35	49	29
Feltham	31	10	5	16	46	90	25
Hillingdon	31	9	6	16	54	42	24
Hounslow	27	8	5	14	45	50	21
Chertsey	29	7	7	15	33	69	21
Wokingham	30	8	4	18	35	62	20
Southall	30	7	6	17	35	59	20
Addlestone	30	7	6	17	39	77	20
Camberley	32	5	4	23	25	116	14