

Good news from Loakes Park

RESERVES GET A REPRIEVE!

WYCOMBE Wanderers Reserves have been saved from the chopping block.

The club announced this week that they will run a second string side at Loakes Park next season.

The news comes only five months after Blues dramatically decided to axe the reserves.

Since then the second team have won the Suburban League title, gaining major support for their continued survival.

But their success was not enough to stop reserve team boss Tim Anning resigning last week after hearing that he was not in line to run the side if they won a reprieve.

The club's U-turn in policy follows a discussion between committee members and new manager Paul Bence.

Blood youngsters

Bence made it known that he would like a second string side — run on different lines from last season.

The team would be used to blood youngsters

who could eventually help Wycombe win the Isthmian League title, he maintained.

At a committee meeting last week the club decided to back Bence.

Announcing the news, chairman Brian Lee said: "Following a discussion between the committee and Paul Bence we have decided to continue the Reserves in a re-organised manner."

Mr Lee admitted that there was a "lesson to be learned" from the whole affair.

"Sadly the original decision to axe the reserves brought a lot of ill grace to the club," he said.

Stirring up

"We had to let the Suburban League know in January of our plans to pull out of their league or we would have been fined £100.

"Now it looks as though we would have been better risking the fine than stirring up a situation where no one gained anything.

"We're happy to have a reserve side next season which will be run in a different way.

"Paul wants to produce players for the first

team, something I still maintain wasn't really done under the former set-up.

"We won the Suburban League title but that should not be the number one priority of a reserve team."

Big boost

Nevertheless, the news will come as a welcome relief to the faithful band of fans who attended second team games home and away last season.

It will also be a big boost to the reserve squad who did the club proud with their efforts earlier this season.

Bence is now hunting for the right man to run the second string following the departure of former manager Anning.

The new manager felt that Anning did not have the footballing know-how to coach the crop of promising youngsters that Wycombe hope to find for the new season.

Bence is looking for an experienced coach to nurture these talented teenagers who will take the field in the coming campaign.

Jim McCann