

Bence going back to Wokingham — for first game

WYCOMBE Wanderers opening league match of the new season will mean a return to his old stamping ground for manager Paul Bence.

In an ironical turn up, Blues travel to Bence's former club Wokingham to start their Isthmian League Premier Division campaign on August 25.

But manager Bence will be treating it like any other game. "It will cause a lot of local interest in Wokingham but to me it's just one of 42 league games," said the Blues boss.

"The only advantage, maybe, is that I know a bit more about their players than other teams."

New boys Epsom and Ewell provide the first opposition at Loakes Park on Tuesday, August 29.

Another intriguing encounter will come on October 16 when Blues travel to neighbouring Burnham in the 1st round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup.

As everyone at Loakes Park knows, Wycombe's record in the county cup in the last few seasons has been nothing short of disastrous as they tumbled out in successive seasons to Bracknell.

No doubt they will be determined not to allow Spartan League side Burnham the chance to make it three nightmares in a row.

Wycombe started their Centenary season preparations this week with two training sessions at Blisam Abbey supervised by Bence and assistant Alan Gane.

Several first team men were absent because of holiday commitments but the squad was boosted by several players from other clubs who Bence is having a look at.

Comeback

Striker Steve Long attended the Tuesday evening session but was unable to train because of an injury picked up last season.

His comeback target is the first league game of the season but it could be that he, and fellow striker Ken Willson, will not make the big kick-off.

Wycombe Reserves will kick-off their competitive season on the same day as the first team.

The second string are still managerless although boss Bence is believed to have a few men in mind.

In the coming season the reserves will play their mid-week games on Wednesday nights at the request of manager Bence.

Blues have reached provisional agreement with First Division side Leicester City to play a special match at Loakes Park to celebrate both clubs' centenaries.

But, as yet, no firm date has been fixed for the attractive crowd-puller.



Pull the other one — Wycombe manager Paul Bence decides to lead by example at Wanderers' first training session.