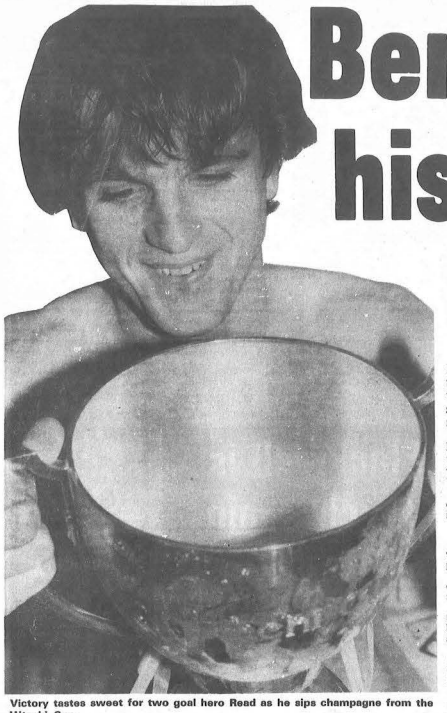
Bence starts his next big mission



Victory tastes sweet for two goal hero Read as he sips champagne from the Hitachi Cup.

MANAGER Paul Bence will tomorrow (Saturday) begin his bid to keep together the Wycombe squad which he so sensationally moulded into heroes this season.

After the joyous celebrations following Monday's Hitachi League Cup triumph, Bence will take his players to watch the F.A. Trophy Final at Wembley.

And he will use the occasion to have a quiet word with the men he wants to lead into the Gola League next season.

Cannot afford

"Until last week I did not know where we would be playing next season," explained the elated Blues' boss.

"But now that we are well nigh certain of Gola League football I will start negotiating with the players on that basis."

Not surprisingly, Bence wants to keep all the prized assets which brought glory beyond a wildest dream in his first season at the Loakes Park helm.

But he knows that the Wycombe club is run on a tight budget which he does not want to put in jeopardy by large wage increases.

"I hope the players will be realistic and realise what the club can and cannot afford," he stated.

Bence is aiming to strengthen his squad and he has a number of new faces under scrutiny, one of whom could be talented Harrow midfield man Steve Emmanuel.

But for now the Wycombe boss is only looking as far as the club's tour to the Algarve which begins on Sunday, May 26.

There, in sunnier climes, he will be able to reflect — and come to terms with — the success story which surprised even himself.

"I was confident that myself and Alan Gane would bring success to the club but I thought it would take two or three years," admitted the Blues' boss frankly.

"To have done it so quickly is absolutely unbelievable and I'm delighted."

One of the main reasons for Wycombe's amazing end to their Centenary — in Bence's opinion — was a lack of injuries which allowed him to field a settled side almost every week.

"That bred consistency which is always essential for success," he admitted.

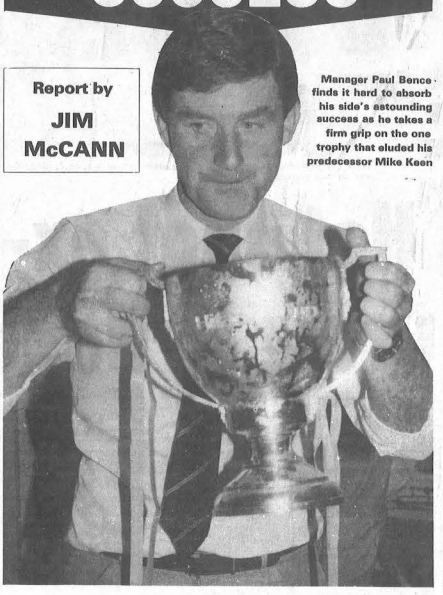
Every Wycombe player won plaudits from the manager but Bence had a special word of praise for captain Anton Vircavs and recent arrival Kevin Collins.

"Their presence I feel was absolutely crucial in areas of vital importance," explained the Loakes Park manager.

It is men like this that Bence knows he will need next term if more silverware is to find its way to the Loakes Park boardroom.

THE SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS

Report by **JIM McCANN**



Manager Paul Bence finds it hard to absorb his side's astounding success as he takes a firm grip on the one trophy that eluded his predecessor Mike Keen

New firm will bridge gap

THE Thames Valley Cricket League gets underway tomorrow (Saturday) with new sponsorship from Hetheringtons, Pretty and Ellis.

The estate agents and property services are backing the league following the withdrawal of Norman Reeves.

High Wycombe Cricket Club's chances of success this season have been boosted by a trio of highly notable pre-season acquisitions.

The London Road club will have Bucks skipper David Smith, county opener Andrew Harwood and former county bowler Jone Bone in their new line-up.

Smith has moved to Wycombe from Slough.

But Harwood, who is on a two year contract with Middlesex, is perhaps the biggest scoop.

Last season he played at Buckingham. But, with his move into the big county scene, he was looking for a higher grade of cricket to play at weekends when he is not committed to Middlesex.

Bone, who played at Reading last term, will also help to strengthen the Wycombe squad.

Wycombe have lost the services of Kiwi seamer Derek Beard, who has returned to New Zealand.

But they eagerly await the arrival of High Wycombe Royal Grammar School vice captain Sean Sawyer to boost the bowling which will again have arguably the best leg spinner around, Stuart York.

While it will be difficult to top last season's record 28 wins, Wycombe are looking forward to a successful season under the captaincy of Alan Williams.

They will be hoping to better their highly creditable fourth place last season in the Thames Valley League.

Champions Beaconsfield will begin their quest for a record hat-trick of league championships with a visit from Uxbridge.

The Wilton Park side hopes of retaining their title were bolstered by the return of Howard Thomas after more than two years in South Africa.

John Fordham will skipper the side.

Paul Ashton will lead Amersham in their bid for a first ever league championship.

They open their account tomorrow at Finchampstead.

Gerrards Cross, who were seventh last term, kick off their league campaign at home to Tring Park who finished bottom last season.

More cricket on pages 25 and 38.

Blues' famous guest Stan

ONE of football's greatest ambassadors, Sir Stanley Rous, (right), was on hand as guest of honour on Monday to present the Hitachi League Cup to Wycombe skipper Anton Vircavs.

But, before that, he carried out another historical ceremony when he unveiled a Roll of Honours board at Loakes Park to mark the club's Centenary Year.

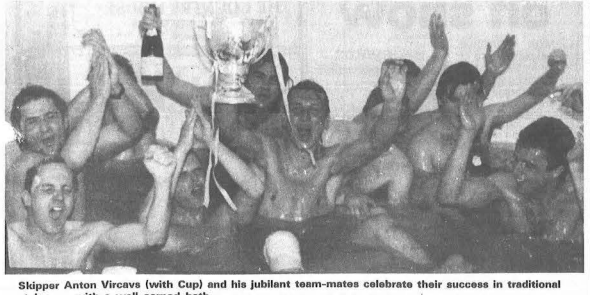
CLUB HONOURS

WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded · 1884
Grounds · Wycombe Rye (1884), Spring Gardens (1895) Loakes Park (1895)
Leagues · Southern (1896), Spartan (1919), Isthmian (1921).
Ground capacity · 12,000.
Record attendance · 18,890 v St.Albans FA. Amateur Cup 1950.
Best performances · F.A.Cup 3rd Round V Middlesbrough 1974. F.A. Amateur Cup Winners 1931. F.A.Trophy Semi-Finalists 1981. Isthmian Champions 7 Times. Berks and Bucks Cup 22 Times.
Most appearances · Tony Horseman - 900 games.
Most goals · Tony Horseman - 325 (76 in 1966/67).
Highest win · Staines Town 10-1 in 1909.
Highest defeat · Watford 15-0 in 1898.
Amateur International players · 15 England · 5 Wales

LOAKES PARK - A GIFT FROM FRANK ADAMS IN 1947

Unveiled by Sir Stanley Rous C.B.E. on 6th May 1985 to mark the Club's Centenary, must end is a tribute to all former players and officials of the Club.



Skipper Anton Vircavs (with Cup) and his jubilant team-mates celebrate their success in traditional style . . . with a well earned bath.

Photographer JEFF HOLMES captures all the best action of Wycombe's Hitachi triumph

The joy of scoring in a Cup Final! Kenny Wilson (left) and Anton Vircavs mob striker Simon Read after he had put Blues into an unbeatable 4-0 lead on Monday.

Days that will last for another century

By Rolf Niven

WYCOMBE Wanderers took just five days to transform their centenary season into one that will be savoured for the next 100 years.

In that time they forced their way into the Gola League and completed an unbelievable metamorphosis by winning the Hitachi League Cup on Monday.

To achieve their historic feat, Blues withstood incredible pressure — pressure that would have broken other teams.

No-one could have predicted that they would win six of their last seven matches during a gruelling 13 days run-in to the season.

Bayed

But the team, shaped into such a formidable force by manager Paul Bence performed the impossible to bring yet more glory to the club.

The same fans who bayed their disapproval earlier in the season were left breathless with excitement last Thursday as Blues ensured promotion from the Isthmian Premier Division by thrusting Croydon aside 2-1 in their final league match of the season.

Declan Link claimed the glory that night.

It was his deadly double that turned the tide and ensured the vital three points.

The fans were then sent into raptures on Saturday when Wycombe vanquished the Division 1 champions Farnborough Town 3-0 in the Hitachi Cup first ieg with a vintage display.

Simon Read and Mark West graced the match with two exceptional goals and Declan Link killed off any hopes of a comeback by adding a third in the second half.

Their feared giant killing reputation now in tatters, Farnborough were damaged beyond repair and Wycombe barely needed to lift themselves to the same dizzy heights in the return match on Monday.

They left their supporters in sheer ecstasy by triumphing 2-1 with an efficient performance in front of 1,020 at Loakes Park.

Simon Read, the Premier Division's second highest scorer lashed out with a deadly double to spark off a night of unreserved emotion as Wanderers celebrated in style.

It was a fairytale conclusion to a century of football at Wycombe.

They have a glistening piece of silverware with which to remember the past century as they prepare to step into fresh a future.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutton	42	23	15	4	115	55	84
Worthing	42	24	8	10	89	59	80
Wycombe	**42**	**22**	**6**	**13**	**84**	**48**	**78**
Wokingham	42	20	13	8	74	54	73
Windsor	42	19	10	13	65	55	67
Bognor	41	20	6	15	66	56	66
Dulwich	42	16	17	9	82	57	65
Harrow	42	18	8	16	70	56	62
Hayes	42	17	8	17	59	56	59
Tooting	42	16	11	15	64	66	59
Croydon	42	15	12	15	62	63	57
Walthamstow	42	15	11	16	64	65	56
Slough	42	13	12	17	69	74	51
Epsom	41	12	14	15	63	61	50
Carshalton	42	14	8	20	56	68	50
B. Stortford	42	12	12	18	48	67	47
Hendon	42	9	19	14	62	65	46
*Billericay	42	11	14	17	53	74	46
Barking	42	13	17	22	43	75	46
Hitchin	42	10	15	17	55	70	45
Leytonstone	42	11	10	21	37	72	43
Harlow	42	5	12	25	45	95	27

*1 point deducted

★★★★★★★
★ Extra Sport ★
★ on page 38 ★
★★★★★★★

BROADWAY
TYRE AND EXHAUST CENTRES
WE TRY WE CARE WE HOPE IT SHOWS
FRIENDLY FACES FRIENDLY SERVICE AND VERY VERY FRIENDLY PRICES
DUNLOP SP4 INSTANT MOT ALSO SHOCK ABSORBERS AND BATTERIES ALL FITTED WHILE YOU WAIT 145 SR13 RADIAL
EXHAUSTS
MINI (Excl GT)..... £16.95
ESCORT Mk I & II (excl GT)..... £17.00
FIESTA (excl XR2 and 1300)..... £17.00
CAPRI (excl 3 litre and GT)..... £30.00
METRO (excl Turbo)..... £34.00
No extras for clamps, fitting etc. All prices subject to VAT
Look at these DUNLOP SPECIAL OFFERS

	DUNLOP	ECONOMY BRAND
145-10 SP4	17.00	12.50
145-13 SP4	19.50	13.80
155-13 SP4	21.00	16.25
165-13 Elite	24.50	17.95
185/70-13 SP4	29.90	26.00
175-14 Elite	29.50	20.70
185-14 SP4	33.00	23.50
185/70-14 SP4	35.00	24.95

ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO VAT
Balancing and wheel alignment
PHONE TODAY FOR A REALLY SPECIAL PRICE
STATION YARD, CRENDON STREET HIGH WYCOMBE. PHONE 32718/9
WARWICK ROAD (BEKONSCOT) BEACONSFIELD. PHONE 71338/9
BEACONSFIELD ROAD FARNHAM COMMON. PHONE 5558
53 OXFORD ROAD, NEW DENHAM UXBRIDGE. PHONE 33705
OPEN: 8.45am-5.45pm MON-FRI 8.30am-4.30pm SAT
(Close 1pm on Sat at Beaconsfield and Farnham Common)

Heading for Wembley!

Neil, right, and Alan Cordice.

TWO Wycombe brothers could be stepping out together on to the hallowed Wembley turf tomorrow (Saturday) in front of more than 20,000 screaming fans.

Alan and Neil Cordice are expected to be included in the Wealdstone team who clash with Boston United in the FA Trophy final.

"It is every player's dream to get to Wembley in some way and I just hope the manager picks both of us," said an excited Alan from Rutland Avenue.

Alan, the elder of the two at 30, is an England amateur international and a regular member of the Wealdstone side which has already clinched the Gola League championship.

It was his pace and flair up front that helped the Middlesex club defeat Wycombe Wanderers 2-1 in the second round of the Trophy.

"Now we have a chance of completing the double at Wembley and is a fabulous way to end the season," added Alan.

Twenty-five-year-old Neil has struggled to maintain his place throughout the season but a series of excellent performances recently have put him back in the picture.

"We both want to win the Trophy badly, partly for our sister Melanie whose birthday is also tomorrow (Saturday)," explained Alan.

Alan is included in the England amateur side to play in an annual four nations tournament involving Scotland, Italy and hosts Holland from June 11-15.

Supercook 85
JOIN US AT THE BUCKS FREE PRESS COOKERY EVENING
A full evening's entertainment with
★ Cookery demonstrations by North Thames Gas
★ Finals of the Bucks Free Press Supercook Competition
★ Judged by Mary Berry, TV Cook and author of many books
★ Free Raffle
★ Cabaret and entertainment by Tony Crosse — a musical comedy act and a skilled artist. His performance is funny, respectable, original and popular the world over. He has just returned from working in Barbados, Africa, The Orient Express and we are pleased to welcome him to High Wycombe.
ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY FOR
THE BUCKS FREE PRESS COOKERY EVENING
HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 at 7.30pm
Doors open at 6.45pm
Admission 50p in advance, £1 at the door.
COOKERY EVENING
Please send me.....tickets for the cookery evening at 50p each.
I enclose a cheque or postal order made payable to the Bucks Free Press for £.....
Post to: Cookery Evening tickets, Sales Promotions Department, Bucks Free Press, Gomm Road, High Wycombe or take this coupon to our office in Castle Street, High Wycombe.
Name.....
Address.....