

BIG SHAKE-UP AT WYCOMBE

Story by **ROLF NIVEN**

WYCOMBE

Wanderers are to disband their reserve side in favour of one large squad next season.

Second string players will be combined with the first team as part of a major shake-up at Loakes Park aimed at ensuring survival in the Gola League.

Wonderful

And instead of running a reserve side, Blues will blood new players in the Capital League — a new competition run exclusively for Gola and Football League clubs.

The drastic re-structuring will force Alan Ackrell to step down as Reserve team manager.

Ackrell, who took Wycombe Reserves to third

place in the Suburban League (North) last season, will be offered a new coaching position within the club.

"Alan has done a wonderful job for us and I hope he stays," said first team boss Paul Bence. "By joining the Gola League we knew there were going to be changes.

"We are simply falling into line with most of the other top Gola League clubs by forming one powerful squad.

"The reserves are not being axed, simply amalgamated with the first team. Unfortunately that means we do not require a reserve manager."

But with Bence aiming for a set-up of between 16-18 players, several of last season's reserves will have no future at the club.

"This is not a guillotine job," said Bence. "Many of the back-up boys found the jump in standard between Suburban League and Isthmian Premier Division too big to handle last year.

"It would have been too much to ask them to make the transition from Suburban to Gola League.

"It is in their own best interests to find a better level of football elsewhere."

The Wycombe management team of Bence and assistant, Alan Gane, believe the new Capital League is the

ideal substitute for reserve fixtures.

As members of the new league Wanderers will face Wimbledon, Brentford and Aldershot as well as Wealdstone, Enfield and Barnet in their section formed last season.

Matches will be played in midweek, providing Bence and Gane with the chance to experiment and introduce young players against professional and semi-professional sides.

"I believe the standard of the Capital League is equal to if not better than the Football Combination and will be perfect for youngsters

such as Trevor Bunting and Paul Swannock," said Bence.

"They should be able to step into first team games with little trouble."

Finance

Because there are so few Capital League fixtures Bence hopes to arrange mid-week friendlies against Isthmian Premier Division sides during the season.

"Although I have a fair idea of what the squad will be, finance will eventually dictate its exact size," he admitted.

"As well as bringing in reserves I want to add one or two class players to the squad. I should know the make-up of that squad within 4-6 weeks."

Prices go up

SUPPORTERS will have to dig deeper into their pockets next season as Wanderers have been forced by Gola League rules to raise admission charges.

Adults will pay £1.50 instead of £1, while juniors will pay £1 instead of 75p. Admission for old-age pensioners and stand tickets will rise from 30p to 50p.

"We are sorry but these increases have been forced upon us," said club secretary John Goldsworthy. "They are the minimum Gola League charges although many clubs ask for considerably more."

Season tickets can be purchased at £30 (adults), £15 (juniors and old-age pensioners).

Wycombe Wanderers' annual meeting will be held in the Blues' Club on August 15 at 7.30pm.



PAUL BENCE
... all change