

ACKRELL LEAVES LOAKES PARK

By JIM McCANN

ALAN Ackrell's desire for a tracksuit role at Wycombe has forced him to leave Loakes Park.

Ackrell originally lost his job when Blues disbanded their reserve side in favour of a squad system for the Gola League.

But manager Paul Bence wanted to keep former second string boss Ackrell at the club.

He offered him a scouting role, assessing the opposition Wycombe will face next season.

That did not appeal to Ackrell, a fully qualified FA coach, so he is now amicably parting company with the club.

"Paul outlined what he had in mind for me but it did not appeal," commented Ackrell.

"By profession I am a tracksuit man who likes to work with players and prepare them for matches.

"I'm like a fish out of water if I'm not doing that because I'm not really a boardroom fellow."

Economics

Ackrell had hoped Wycombe would offer him a job helping Alan Gane as assistant manager.

"Clearly basic economics did not make this possible," he added.

Despite his disappointment at losing access to a host of talented youngsters at Loakes Park, the parting coach was ironically in full agreement with the decision to axe the reserve side.

"Apparently it cost the club around £3,500 to run the reserves last season and that kind of money will be needed next season to pay players and expenses for the Gola League," revealed Ackrell.

"I also felt that most of the reserve side squad would have been incapable of making the jump from Suburban League football to the Gola.

"So if so economics had to be made then the reserves clearly had to go."

LOAKES PARK

Scouting offer is not enough for coach

Ackrell feels no animosity towards his old friend Bence but does think the first team boss has been 'put in a coner.'

"Apparently Paul has to work with the same budget as last season and that puts him in a difficult position with players asking for more money to play in the Gola," stated Ackrell.

"Ironically, I am being made to pay for the club's success last season.

"Success put us in the unexpected position of going for the Gola League.

"But Wycombe, quite rightly, will not get them-

selves into big debt to compete with the likes of Wealdstone so something had to go and unfortunately it's me."

Ackrell, coach for 28 years, remains optimistic about getting another tracksuit job.

"I'm a realist," he said. "No one has a divine right to a job but I want to keep actively involved with players.

"Working at Wycombe, I believe, proves the pedigree of anyone in non league football and I just hope other clubs, preferably locally, see I am now available."

To prove there are no bad feelings between himself and Bence, the departing coach added: "I will continue to do odd jobs for Paul if I'm asked

Former Wycombe Wanderers manager Mike Keen is back in football.

Keen is taking over as boss of Marlow following the departure of Steve Melledeew.

Read MIDWEEK on Monday for the full story.



ALAN ACKRELL
... on his way