

Bence's secret shock

PAUL Bence covered up news of his departure from Loakes Park for a month.

Bence, whose resignation last week shocked many Blues fans, actually told Wycombe chairman Brian Lee about his decision on December 12 last year.

But Lee asked the manager to stay on until after Wycombe's FA Cup run was over.

"The chairman swore me to secrecy and that's why I didn't even tell the players," revealed 35-year-old Bence.

The departing Wycombe manager admitted that his exit was inevitable because

of promotion in his career at the Morland Brewery.

"I was promoted in November and now I have the chance to go all the way," said Bence.

"In five years, if everything works out, I could win a seat on the board of directors.

"I could have stayed on at Wycombe and done a reasonable job but I am not a cheat and I realised I could not give it 100 per cent.

"And that would not have been fair to the players, officials and supporters of this great club."

Bence admitted that re-

signing was the hardest decision of his football career.

In his 18 months at Loakes Park he had led Wycombe into the Gola League and brought them a glorious FA Cup run.

The foundations had been laid for future success, claimed Bence.

But the pressures of combining a flourishing career with managing the Blues proved too much.

"Something had to go," admitted the man who led Wycombe in their centenary season.

"I was leaving home four days a week at 7.30am and

not getting home until midnight.

"I was not seeing enough of my wife and kids and I was eventually turning up tired for work."

Last weekend Bence spent his first Saturday afternoon at home for 20 years.

"It was an empty feeling not being involved with football," he admitted.

But Bence has not completely severed his ties with Wycombe.

"If they need me to look at players or assess teams I'll be around," he said.

"The only difference now is that it will be at my convenience."



PAUL BENCE
... now gone