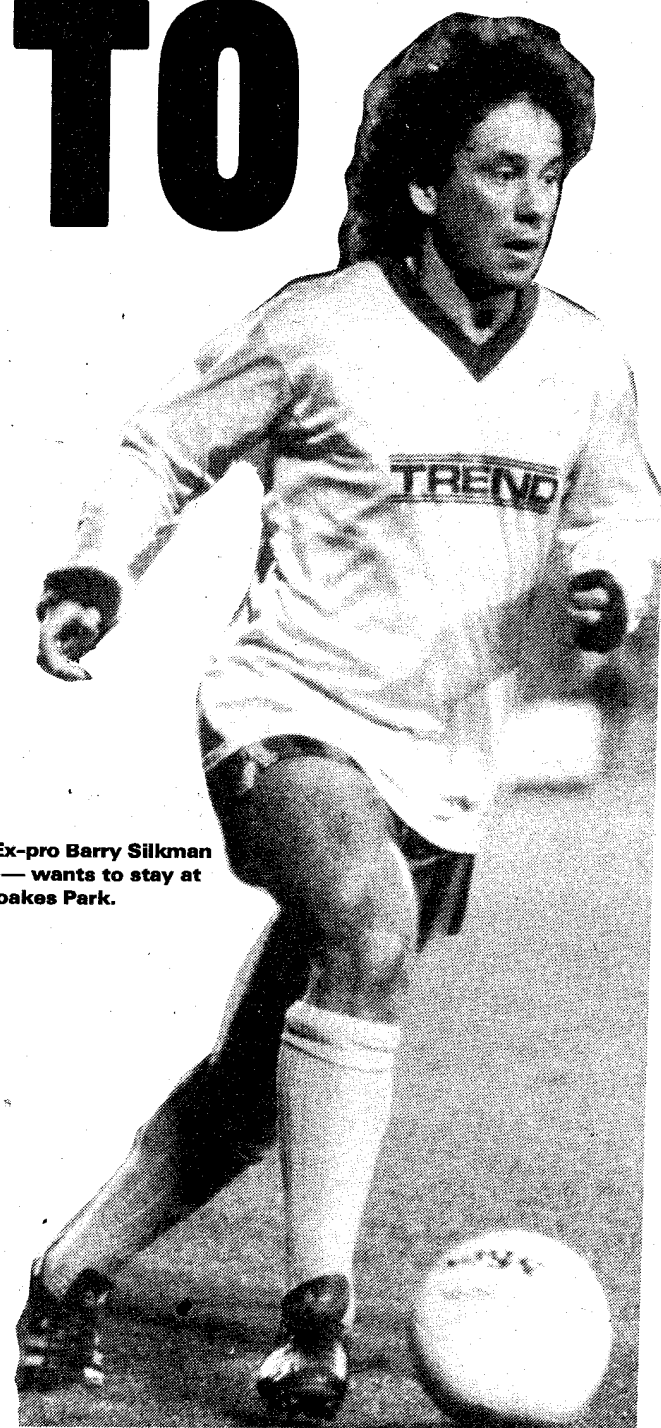


BARRY BOY TO STAY



Ex-pro Barry Silkman — wants to stay at Loakes Park.

Silkman's surprise decision delights manager Gane

BY ROLF NIVEN

BARRY SILKMAN is to stay with Wycombe Wanderers.

The former Manchester City ace told Blues boss Alan Gane on Monday night that he wants to continue playing at Loakes Park this season.

The news will surprise and delight Wycombe fans who had expected Silkman to be lured away by big money offers from other clubs.

No-one was more delighted than Gane.

"It is great news," enthused the Wycombe manager. "Barry rang me up on Monday and said he was quite happy to continue playing for us and become one of the squad."

The ex-QPR and Crystal Palace star, who has inspired Blues to two brilliant victories over Slough and Tooting, first turned out for Wanderers against Harrow two weeks ago.

Rumours

Because he only appeared as a favour to Gane and was still being chased by several clubs, most Wycombe fans believed he was simply a one night wonder.

But despite attractive cash offers from Brentford, Crewe, Maidstone and Dagenham, the 34-year-old seasoned pro has decided to parade his talents at Loakes Park instead.

"Barry is enjoying it at Wycombe because we try to play football — and

that is him all over."

Silkman, who played alongside Gane at Hereford will not be on contract.

Gane scotched rumours at the weekend that Silkman was being paid £150 per game by Wycombe.

"It is simply not true," said Gane. "I didn't give Barry a penny to play for us".

And he added that his former playing partner will receive no preferential treatment now he has decided to stay.

"Barry will be treated on the same basis as any other player — he would not want it any other way."

Silkman, who will play in tomorrow's (Saturday) FA Cup fourth qualifying round match against VS Rugby, was a revelation in Saturday's 4-0 annihilation of Tooting and Mitcham.

He unlocked the best defence in the Vauxhall-Opel Premier League with his silky skills and also inspired his new Wycombe team-mates.

There is no doubt that his considerable presence in midfield will boost Blues' chances of winning promotion back to the GM Vauxhall Conference this season.

"He is a quality player — and we have several in the side already," said Gane.

"The crowds are coming back because we give them good value for money.

"With players like Barry around crowds will continue to come back," he added.