

ARMY IS ON STANDBY



Blues' secretary John Goldsworthy prays for a thaw in time for tonight's match at Loakes Park.

AN ARMY of volunteers could be marching on Loakes Park this morning (Tuesday) in a desperate attempt to clear away the remaining snow from the pitch in time for tonight's Berks and Bucks cup match against Windsor and Eton.

Blues secretary, John Goldsworthy, will wait until today for the referee's decision on the state of the pitch before calling for supporters to come along to the ground and help ready the pitch.

"Although the weather forecast is gloomy with no sign of any real thaw in the early part of the week, we shall wait to see what the referee decides before we call for help.

"The ground is mostly free of snow now and only a third is still covered. But with frost and low temperatures forecast there could be plenty of frost about and that will make the surface very hard."

Blues boss Alan Gane was also hoping for a quick thaw.

"It's a good idea to get the help of the supporters involved. We want to play the game to avoid a fixture congestion. If we get the snow cleared, then hopefully, we'll get the game underway."

Family act

With Blues' game at Bognor becoming a casualty of the weather on Saturday, the Vauxhall Premier leaders still managed to get much needed match practice when they took on division one side, Staines at Bisham Abbey.

The game was made possible because of the astro-turf and Wycombe dominated the game running out 3-0 winners with goals from Neil Price, Andy Graham and Declan Link.

After seeing the Link brothers turn out for the Blues, Alan Gane plumped for another family act when he gave 16-year-old Sean West, brother of Blues striker, Mark, a try in the first team.

"Sean did well when he came on as substitute in the Staine match. He has got a lot of promise and should do well. He has been training with us but there is no way of telling whether he will be on the books because he is still very young.

"He looks good and is getting his experience with Stokenchurch at the moment," explained Gane.

Why the delay

LAST year there was a tremendous public campaign to persuade Wycombe Wanderers and the District Council to allow part of Loakes Park to be used for hospital development. Like many others who signed a petition I welcomed the change of heart by the football club and began to look forward to seeing the work start.

When I enquired recently about the lack of any obvious progress I was told that nothing could be done until planning problems concerning Loakes Park were overcome. The recent Health Authority plan you reported had no reference to any developments at High Wycombe.

Surely by now the council has had plenty of time to help the Wanderers find a new location so that these extra hospital facilities so badly needed in the town can be provided.

We were told that money is available to invest in the hospital at Wycombe. This investment of public funds must be in the interest of the Council. Why can they not get off the fence and thus put pressure on the Health Authority to get on with the work before somebody comes along and discovers another use for the money simply because our elected representatives are incapable of making a decision. — P. J. Baines, Amersham Road, High Wycombe.

Editorial note: Delay is due to Wycombe Council's inability to find an alternative soccer ground that does not offend Green Belt policy.