

ON THE BALL

SPORTS commentator Alan Parry has got out from behind the microphone to find out first hand about soccer training.

He now joins the lads at Wycombe Wanderers as they are put through their paces.

Alan, of Dean Lane, Cookham Dean, said: "Brian Lee of the Wanderers invited me to come and train with them and so I go down when I can.

"I feel if you are commenting on a sport you ought to take part in it even if at a low level. It helps to make you appreciate how skilful the people are who you commentate on."

Alan did not start off life wanting to be a commentator. His main interest was newspapers. He worked as a reporter in Liverpool.

An agency he joined won the contract to supply news and sport to the local BBC station.

That got him the chance to do

TV pundit trains with soccer club

some broadcasting and soon he had a chance to do live commentating.

He eventually joined the BBC full-time commentating on Match of the Day. He commentated on the world cup finals in 1974 and, switching to athletics the following year, commentated on the Olympics in 1976.

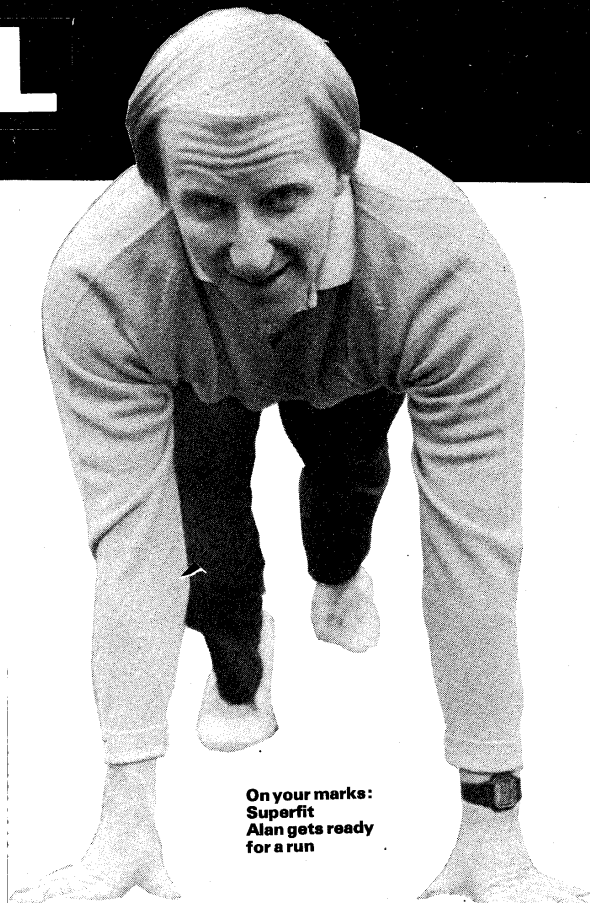
When ITV won the domestic athletics contract, he was offered a job.

His association with Wycombe Wanderers began in 1974 when he commentated on a Wanderers game and became friends with manager Brian Lee.

Brian invited Alan to become a vice-president and shortly afterwards Alan moved into the area enabling him to see the team when he can.

He is optimistic about the future of football and the future of Wycombe Wanderers - currently top of the Vauxhall-Opel Premier League.

He said: "Wycombe's potential is considerable. It has good management and a good squad of players and with the right financial backing I can see no reason why they cannot get into the football league.



**On your marks:
Superfit
Alan gets ready
for a run**