

DELANEY GETS IT!

JOHN DELANEY has been appointed manager of Chesham United.

As predicted in last week's Bucks Free Press, the former Wycombe Wanderers star was chosen from a three-man short-list to succeed Barrie Gould.

Forty-four-year-old Delaney is a controversial choice, having been out of football for some time.

He has twice been sacked as a manager — firstly at Oxford City following financial problems and then at Tring after a brief, unsuccessful term in charge.

But Chesham chairman Tony Aplin, who announced the appointment on Wednesday night, is convinced Delaney is the right man for the job.

"We are not looking at him in terms of past managerial success," said Aplin, who sensationally sacked Gould two weeks ago after he had taken United to the Vauxhall-Opel Division 2 (North) title.

"There is a risk element in it but we feel it is justifiable," added Aplin, who wants Premier Division football within three seasons. "John has never really been out of football."

Capped

Delaney, who lives in The Lee just outside Chesham, was capped 22 times by England at non-league.

He had a remarkable scoring record as a centre-half, scoring 18 goals for England — 16 of them with his head.

Delaney, a security manager

Former Blues ace is United's new manager

By ROLF NIVEN

with British Caledonian at Heathrow, was also a regular scorer for Wycombe before turning professional with Bournemouth at 31.

"He knows what is expected of him and as he has been sacked twice before as a manager he knows the score."

Aplin, who saved the club from financial ruin last year, also revealed that Delaney will be able to buy quality players during the close season.

"Money is unlikely to be a constraint," he stated.

Pattern

"One of the things that impressed us was his personality. He is strong but with an inner calm," said Aplin. "I like his views and his attitudes and I believe he's a winner. John has a tremendous amount of spare time and can really devote himself to the job."

Delaney will be assisted by Tony Horsefield, formerly at Hemel Hempstead and a qualified FA coach.

Aplin added: "He believes in a pattern of play and if we can see it developing at Chesham then we will be happy. If you carry out the basics then success comes as a consequence."

Another major plus point in Delaney's favour is his connection with Wycombe Wanderers.

"It is quite important to establish a link with the premier club in the area," said Aplin. "Hopefully we may be able to work with them regarding players either moving up in standard or dropping down."

Aplin also said that he won't interfere with team affairs.

"There is tight overall control of the club but John will have tremendous flexibility with the team," he confirmed. "There were several candidates for the job but he was always the front-runner."



John Delaney . . . success as a player but sacked twice as a manager.