

Suddaby takes charge

NEW BOSS IS NAMED!

FORMER Blues defender Peter Suddaby has taken the helm as Wycombe Wanderers' new manager.

Suddaby, who made over 350 first team appearances for Blackpool during the 1970s, is making his first venture into management.

The 39-year-old Maths teacher who watched Saturday's disastrous 4-0 defeat by Stafford Rangers knows he is taking on one of the toughest jobs in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

But like predecessor Alan Gane, Suddaby's ambition is to lead Blues into the Football League.

"This is a great challenge," said the

By ROLF NIVEN

ex-Brighton and Wimbledon centre-back "You have to have ambition otherwise it is pointless doing the job.

"I saw the team beat Slough in midweek which was totally the opposite of Saturday's display. I will not judge a team after two games however.

"Confidence is a bit low but I have to assess the players before I start making decisions. That won't mean a mass clear out. There are players who played well within themselves last season who may need a little adjusting to the level of Conference football."

Suddaby, who played First Division football with Blackpool and was also skipper for a spell

hopes to use his contacts within the professional game to strengthen Wycombe's challenge.

Suddaby has played a season and a half with Hayes but his knowledge of non-league football is limited as he admits.

"All the contacts I have are in the professional game — and hopefully I will learn of players whose professional careers are coming to an end and who might want to step down in the semi-professional game," he pointed out.

Suddaby joined Wycombe in the late 1960s while still at Oxford University. He moved to Blackpool where he spent nine happy years mostly in the Second Division.

In 1979 he was bought by the then Brighton boss Alan Mullery before switching to Wimbledon two years later.

After a year at Plough Lane Suddaby was forced to quit football because of a back injury.

He took up teaching but was then invited to rejoin Brighton as first team coach by Mullery. That lasted only a short time because Mullery was sacked soon after.

He then took up a part-time job with Spurs, coaching their Under 15 side and was considering continuing that role when he saw the Wycombe job advertised in the national press.

"It was a difficult choice to make but I really want to be able to have a go at management where I can make my own decisions and run a side the way I want," he stated.

A statement read by the chairman of the board of directors Brian Lee said: "The board is unanimous that we have found the right man from a long list of applications. I was manager when he played here and I'm sure he'll do a good job."



New Wycombe manager Peter Suddaby.

**But what
a job
he's got!**