

It's tough finding new manager

THE name of the new manager at Loakes Park is expected to be announced at the end of this week, but, at the time of going to press, no announcement had been made by the board.

Club secretary John Goldsworthy confirmed that it was hoped that a decision could be reached as soon as possible, but added that talks with applicants for the job were not necessarily over.

It was still not clear whether the new man would be appointed in time for Saturday's home clash with Cheltenham Town although that was the Board's original intention in order to end the speculation and settle the side in readiness for the relegation battle that lies ahead.

Earlier speculation linked Enfield manager Eddie McCluskey with the Wycombe job and others thought to be being considered were Sutton United youth manager, Ted Shepherd, and Spurs youth coach, Keith Blunt.

However, the reference by the club secretary that talks are continuing would seem to indicate that Wycombe are looking elsewhere for the saviour to keep them in the Vauxhall Conference.

Good signs

On the field there are signs that the present squad has the ability to stay up, but needs a motivator to make them believe in themselves. The drawn game at Wealdstone last week and even Tuesday's defeat at the hands of Barnet in the Capital League showed promising individual performances.

The appointment of a new manager would be the first step towards restoring confidence in the team after such a disastrous run and it is for this reason it would be unwise for the Board to allow the decision over a new manager to drag on.

School in national final

THE Under 16 hockey team of the Royal Grammar School won the South Regional Indoor Tournament on Sunday and will now represent the South in the national finals.

The school, fresh from a few practices in their recently opened sports hall, played hosts Seaford College and a Jonathan Wyatt hat-trick ensured a convincing 7-4 victory. Further wins over Bromley HC (3-1) and Borden GS Sittingbourne (4-1) earned a final place, with Colin Carter outstanding.

The play-off against the Royal Military School, Dover, was a close contest. A cleverly worked goal from Scott Ashdown gave RGS the lead, but RMS equalised before the interval. James Dean scored a penalty and an important save from Simon Noakes close to the end of the match ensured a 2-1 win. The National Finals will be at Crystal Palace on Sunday, January 31.

RGS squad: James Dean (Capt), Daniel Anderson, Scott Ashdown, Martin Cartledge, Colin Carter, Simon Noakes, Murad Vassib, David Warboys, Jonathan Wyatt.

Westley is out against Cheltenham

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' problems were compounded this week with the news that winger Graham Westley has joined Mark Boyland on the injured list for Saturday's home fixture with Cheltenham.

Ex-Robin Boyland has still not recovered from the nagging pelvic injury which has kept him out since Boxing Day. It was hoped to give him a run out for half an hour in Tuesday's Capital League match with Barnet but this plan was abandoned on medical advice.

Westley is suffering with an aggravated injury behind his knee, which is likely to keep him out of the Blues line-up for the weekend.

He came on for 20 minutes against Wealdstone on Saturday and had problems, and was consequently ruled out of the Barnet fixture as well.

Apart from Westley, caretaker-manager John Reardon is likely to stick with the squad which hung on for a point in the dour struggle at Lower Mead Stadium.

He obviously knows what to expect from Cheltenham, with Blues having forced a 2-2 draw at Whaddon Road in September, before going down 3-2 at home in the first round of the FA Trophy in December.

Former Wycombe stalwart Anton Vircavs is likely to be in the Robins line-up once again, along with in-demand striker Brett Angell, formerly with Portsmouth and recently the subject of a rejected £35,000 bid from Conference rivals Weymouth, as well as a substantial five figure offer from Lincoln City.

Cheltenham are currently lying eighth in the table, 14 points behind leaders Barnet, but 15 points clear of struggling Wycombe.

Reardon said: "Obviously it won't be easy, and I would have thought we would have to put on a better performance than last week if we want to get anything out of the game."