

5/2/88

Docherty goes after 19 weeks in his 14th job

By Peter Ernest

TOMMY DOCHERTY, who signed a three-year contract in December to manage GM Vauxhall Conference club Altrincham, yesterday parted company from his first job with a non-League team — 19 weeks after he took over in a blaze of publicity.

News of his departure from the 15th-placed Conference side came 24 hours after it was announced that Geoff Lloyd had taken over as chairman in succession to Gerry Berman who left the post earlier this week due to business commitments.

Mr Lloyd, 39, managing director of an international recruitment consultancy, said yesterday: "We found we were unable to work together and we have parted company. I had a chat with Tommy this morning and it quickly became evident we didn't see eye to eye on how the club should be run."

Mr Docherty, 59, who described his Altrincham appointment on Sept 28 as "just the sort of job I have been looking for", was carrying out a luncheon engagement in Wolverhampton yesterday and now finds himself leaving his 14th managerial post.

Altrincham, renowned as one of the Conference's most ambitious clubs now that the prize of a place in the Fourth Division is at stake, were 17th in the table when Mr Docherty took over from John Williams, the previous manager. Since then they have made only a slight improvement and are 25 points adrift of Barnet, the long-time leaders.

Jeff Johnson, the club's former long-serving player who became assistant manager under Mr Docherty, has been appointed caretaker manager and was in charge of the team for the second round FA Trophy replay at Kettering last night.

On Saturday Altrincham visit Kidderminster Harriers for their 28th league game.

The other teams Mr Docherty has managed at home and abroad are: Chelsea, Rotherham, Queens Park Rangers (twice), Aston Villa, Hull, Manchester United, Derby, Preston, Wolves, Oporto, Sydney Olympic and Scotland.