

WANDERING BACK?

By Rolf Niven

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' dreams of emerging as a major GM vauxhall Conference power could move a step closer to reality with the return of three former stars this summer.

My sources reveal there are already moves to woo back favourite midfielders Noel Ashford and Graham Bressington and there are strong rumours of defender Anton Vircavs re-signing.

With all three currently under contract, Blues manager Jim Kelman not surprisingly declined to comment on the situation. But I understand that both Bressington and Ashford are unhappy and considering a return to Loakes Park.

Twenty-two-year-old Bressington was sold by Wanderers to Lincoln City for £10,000 only last November.

At the time Imps boss Colin Murphy claimed he could get Bressington into the Welsh senior side within a year but since then the move has gone sour.

Suspension and injury kept him out for a while but when Murphy played the stocky midfielder in defence and then dropped him, Bressington became disillusioned. He has fallen out with Murphy and despite City's triumphant rise back to the Fourth Division is keen to move elsewhere.

Held key

Wycombe are likely to be the first choice of the former Beaconsfield United man although Barnet, who tried to sign him before Lincoln, could be a threat.

But Barnet may have problems of their own in trying to hang onto England non-league star Noel Ashford following their fail-

ure to reach the Football League.

Ashford admitted to the Free Press recently that he was unhappy at Underhill and it seems likely that he too could be making a move during the close season.

The 30-year-old was signed by Blues from Enfield in August 1986 in a £9,000 deal that included current skipper Keith Barrett.

He held the key to last season's record-breaking promotion run and became one of the most popular players to don a Blues shirt in recent years.

Ashford became disillusioned when the club failed to buy big names during the close season and moved to Barnet in September for £18,000. Now his dream of playing League football has been shattered I believe Ashford will depart Barry Fry's squad.

The intriguing reports linking Vircavs with a possible return, hint that Vircavs is looking to leave Cheltenham Town after two years.

The big central defender, sold to The Robins for £5,000 in August 86 following a bitter transfer wrangle, has always been popular with the Loakes Park faithful.

Blues boss Kelman meanwhile was disappointed at his side's performance in their final Conference match at Lincoln on Bank Holiday Monday.

Wycombe failed to impress as City won 2-0 to take the championship.

"We would not have won if we'd been out there all day. It was no way to end our season," he added.

"We were woeful up front, hence the substitutions, and there was nothing in midfield. Lincoln were stronger and fitter and their bold decision to remain full-time has paid off for them.

"It seemed nothing was going to spoil their day and the police actually said to me before hand to get my players off the pitch as quickly as possible at the end. It would have been very difficult for a referee to have

given anything against Lincoln in front of a crowd like that. In a way we went along with it and did not compete as we can do.

Shame

"It was a shame the forwards were not able to do more because their back four looked very nervous."

● Kelman has a chance to pick up some silverware next week when they meet either Gillingham or Brentford in the President's cup final at Loakes Park.

The date of the final depends the outcome of next Monday's semi-final between the two League clubs. If Gillingham win then the final will be on Wednesday. If Brentford win it will be held on Thursday night. Kick-off will be 7.30pm.

● Chelsea are hoping to send their strongest possible side for Monday's charity match against a representative side made up of players from Wycombe Wanderers,

Former favourites tipped for a return to Wycombe