

Striker set for Blues?

WYCOMBE WANDERERS boss Jim Kelman flew back from a fortnight's holiday in Corfu on Tuesday and immediately stepped up negotiations with a crack GM Vauxhall Conference striker.

The Blues manager refused to name the forward because discussions are still in a delicate state but the 23-year-old player in question is a proven goal-scorer at this level.

"I have spoken to the player and he is on a free transfer and is keen to come," admitted Kelman on Thursday. "Our top priority is a striker so hopefully we can sign him by the weekend."

The forward, who had a spell with a professional club, is also being wooed by a rival Conference club but was due to contact Kelman last night (Thursday) with his decision.

The Wycombe management duo of Kelman and John Reardon have already contacted many of the Conference's other big name sharpshooters but are likely to draw a blank because of high fees and contracts.

"At the moment I am looking to get into pre-season training," said Kelman who said he was refreshed and raring for action after his first break from football for four years.

The squad are due to weigh in on Tuesday night at

7.30pm. They will undergo fitness tests and meet club officials before starting training properly on Thursday, July 12.

Wycombe have a number of pre-season friendlies already arranged, starting with a trip to United Counties League side Brackley on July 30.

There are two games on August 6 with the first team at home to Vauxhall-Opel premier side Harrow Borough and the second string at Thatcham.

Kingstonian visit Loakes Park on Tuesday, August 9 while Blues have two ties on Saturday, August 13 at Bromsgrove Rovers and Chertsey.

● Blues are to face bogey side Yeovil Town at Huish in the first match of their 1988/89 Conference campaign on August 20.

Wycombe pipped the Somerset club for the Vauxhall-Opel premier title two seasons ago but lost all four of their meetings that term.

Other opening day fixtures are: Aylesbury v Altrincham, Boston v Sutton, Cheltenham v Maidstone, Chorley v Barnet, Enfield v Macclesfield, Kettering v Northwich Victoria, Kidderminster v Fisher, Runcorn v Weymouth, Stafford v Newport County, Telford, Welling.

● Wycombe have drawn a home tie in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup on September 17. They will play either Billericay or Haverhill Rovers. Should they win they would then meet either Buckingham Town, Finchley or Wootton Blue Cross. Blues will start this year's FA Trophy campaign in the third qualifying round.