

TARGET - DUBLIN!

Trophy draw

WYCOMBE Wanderers have drawn Bath City away in the first round proper of the FA Trophy to be played on January 14.

The Twerton Park team are no strangers to Blues fans having been a Conference club themselves until last season.

But they finished third from bottom last term and dropped into the Beazer Homes Southern premier division where they currently occupy a midtable position with five wins and 21 points from their 18 league matches.

They defeated promotion candidates Dartford 4-2 at the weekend.

City, who reached the third round in 1979/80, were exempt until the first round this season.

WYCOMBE Wanderers are to renew negotiations with Cambridge United over striker Dion Dublin.

Blues manager Jim Kelman is set to re-open discussions with United boss Chris Turner in the hope of bringing the 19-year-old to Loakes Park on a permanent basis.

With Gloucester City turning down his offer for Lance Morrison and John Regan still on the transfer-list, Kelman is planning to bolster his squad with a back-up forward.

But there was a set-back to his plans last week when Dublin was called up from the Cambridge reserves to play in their first team. The Wycombe manager also enquired about Wimbledon's Robert Turner but Dons manager Bobby Gould reacted by drafting Turner into his first team.

Turner is probably beyond Wycombe's financial capabilities but Dublin, who made two appearances for Blues while on loan in October, could still be a possibility.

"He has been playing mostly in the reserves at Cambridge and has also been on-loan at Kings Lynn," pointed out Kelman. "He is young and a great prospect. I'll be talking to Chris Turner this week about him."

Reaction

The Wanderers chief is meanwhile keeping his fingers crossed that defender Matt Crossley gets the all-clear from a knee specialist today (Tuesday).

Crossley had been expected to play in Saturday's 2-0 FA Trophy win over Cambridge City but he suffered a reaction following last Tuesday's County cup match against Chesham and was kept on the sub's bench.

"His knee blew up again and I was worried that if I played him it might collapse again and put him out for another three

Rolf Niven reports

or four weeks," explained Kelman. "He'll see the specialist at Wycombe Hospital this week. At the very worst he may need another operation."

With skipper Keith Barrett already serving a three-match suspension and Andy Kerr due to start his this weekend, the Blues management team are anxious that Crossley will be available for the trip to high riding Barnet.

If not then Kelman will be forced to recall Kevin Day from Harrow Borough and probably persevere with Andy Robinson as sweeper.

Dull

"Andy did quite well on Saturday because he an intelligent player. I've tried using Steve Abbley as sweeper but then we miss his runs along the flank. Martin Blackler has played sweeper for Trowbridge in the past so he is a possibility."

"It was a dull game and although there was never any real

Kelman was far from pleased with Saturday's performance although his side reached the first round.

danger of us losing, all the players lacked sparkle. The first half was very poor but we perked up slightly in the second half."

● The Capital League match against Leyton Orient scheduled for tonight (Tuesday) has been postponed because the League club are involved in the Sherpa Van Trophy.

● Marlow's quest for a first ever victory in the Vauxhall-Opel premier division turns to Hayes Lane tonight (Tuesday) when they take on Bromley.

Bromley are only six places above Mike Keen's men in the table and showed they are vulnerable by losing 2-1 at home to Barking at the weekend.

Keen and assistant Dave Russell will be hoping they can continue their recent encouraging form in the league and close up on the rest of the league.