

A DERBY DILEMMA!

Kelman may field weakened side for county cup clash

Rolf Niven reports

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Jim Kelman faces a dilemma as he prepares for tomorrow night's (Wednesday) Berks and Bucks County Cup derby with Marlow.

The Loakes Park chief could come under fire from certain quarters if, as expected, he rests the majority of his first team and fields an understrength side at Oak Tree Road.

The quarter-final clash has come at just the wrong time for Kelman, sandwiched as it is between two of the biggest games of the season.

Following Saturday's magnificent win over Conference leaders Kidderminster he is loathe to risk his first team stars with an equally important FA Trophy clash against Merthyr Tydfil looming this weekend.

"I will be fielding a Wycombe Wanderers eleven at Marlow," he stated on Sunday.

But his confirmation that there will be full training on Tuesday and Thursday hints that tomorrow's line-up will be a mixture of fringe and youth players.

That decision may annoy some fans who will feel as though they are being short-changed.

But most Wanderers followers will agree that with both League and FA Trophy glory still beckoning the Berks and Bucks Cup has become almost an unimportant side issue.

Reading have been fielding a reserve side in the competition for some while so a similar move by Blues will surprise no-one.

Marlow, rooted to the bottom of the Vauxhall-Opel Premier table and staring relegation in the face, will be eager for victory whatever the opposition.

"We anticipate that Wycombe won't send a full team but we will not be treating this game lightly," said assistant manager Dave Russell. "Whatever side they put out it will still be nice to beat them."

The present Marlow set-up has a strong Wycombe connection.

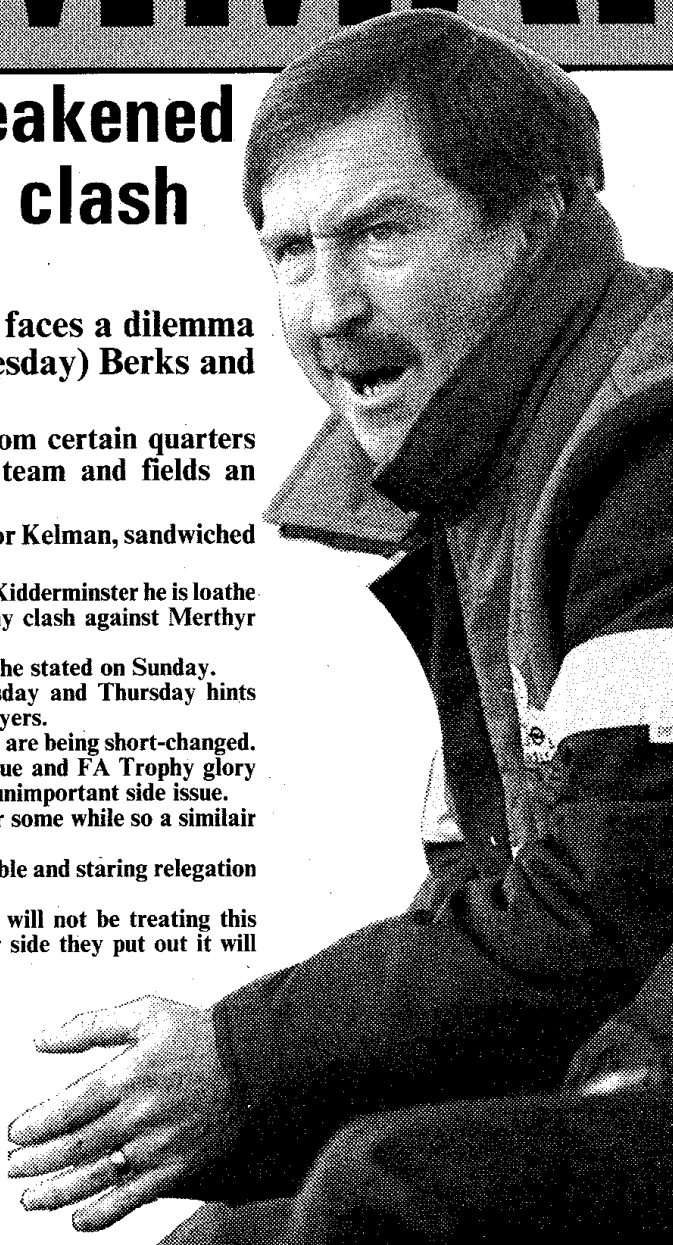
Oak Tree Road boss Mike Keen is a former Blues manager while Russell and half the playing staff are ex-Wanderers.

One of them, defender Billy Hubbick, is struggling with a groin strain and may be replaced by Graham Pearce - another name familiar to Loakes Park followers.

"We will be looking to involve all our ex-Wycombe players," added Russell.

Marlow officials have again appealed to fans travelling by car to use the public car parks situated in Liston Road, off Chapel Street and in Dean Street. Both are free of charge after 7pm.

Saturday's match report inside.



■ Jim Kelman...may rest first team for Trophy game.