

The best in Blues news

GOALKEEPERS are in the news at Loakes Park this week ... Gary Lester, the club's longest serving player, is hoping to announce the visit of a top Football League club for his testimonial match in April.

Gary recently played his 500th game for Wanderers - easily the most for any current player, but still a long way short of the incredible 900 games (and 500-plus goals!) chalked up by Tony "Bodger" Horseman between 1961-78.

Said Gary: "It's a long time since we had a League club at Wycombe, so I've contacted several big names and I've had a positive response. I'm hoping to finalise the details very soon."

● John Granville, the man who took Lester's first team place this season, has found that his persistent leg injury has enabled him to display his extraordinary skill at throwing the ball. Opposition players have been staggered by Granville's ability to throw the ball half the length of the field, and the big West Indian explained: "It was something I learned back home in Trinidad. Out there we played a South American style of football and outfield players were always happy to receive the ball thrown to their feet."

"Here in England, most goalkeepers just want to boot the ball as far as they can, but that way, you've got a 50-50 chance of losing possession. Since I collected this injury, I've been unable to kick the ball cleanly, so I've had to use the long throws. Now that the Wycombe lads are getting used to it, it's a very useful tactic."

● One of England's greatest-ever goalkeepers will be visiting Wycombe later this month. In a fabulous career with Liverpool, Spurs and England, Ray Clemence played with and against some of the greatest stars in the game and has a fund of amusing and revealing stories. He'll talk about his career at a special Wanderers' dinner at High Wycombe British Legion on Thursday, March 30.

The dinner is open to anyone at a bargain price of £11 for League Line members, £14 for non-members. Tickets can be obtained at the ground from Wanderers' commercial manager, Allan Robson, who said: "We've had a very successful series of Sportsmen's Dinners at the Maidenhead Crest, but we've had to price the tickets at £23 each just to break even. We had a lot of suggestions from supporters that we should hold a cheaper evening, so that's what we're doing. I'm sure the food and entertainment will be of the usual high quality."

● Congratulations to former Wanderers' favourite, Graham Bressington, on the birth of his first child. Graham and his wife, both from the Wycombe area, are celebrating the arrival of a healthy baby daughter. "Bressy" now plays for Lincoln City, last season's Conference champions, who are having a successful season in the Fourth Division.

Said Graham: "I'm still a Wycombe lad at heart - I always look for the team's result, and I get to see them play whenever I can. I'm really pleased that Wanderers are having such a good season, and I can tell you that there are plenty of Conference players good enough to be playing in the League. The biggest difference I've found is in terms of organisation and professionalism."

● Wanderers have re-arranged their Conference fixture away to Enfield. They will now travel to Enfield's Southbury Road ground on Tuesday, April 11, kick-off 7.30pm.