

QPR boss predicts big time for Wanderers

PETE LANSLEY reports

QPR SUPREMO and former England coach Don Howe relaxed in the luxury of the Adams Park facilities after Tuesday night's friendly in no doubt that Wycombe Wanderers could be about to hit the big time.

"It's just ready to take off," said Howe. "I think there's league potential here, and support league potential as well. I just hope the lad does it, I wish him all the best," he added, referring to Martin O'Neill.

Howe described the new ground and its facilities as superb. "I'm very impressed. It's a First Division pitch.

"High Wycombe, and this side of London, is a QPR site. It's good for us if we can come to a thing like this because it's a good work out for us. We can practise all the things we've been trying in training without any pressure.

"And what makes it for us is if the other team try to play football then it's okay. They tried to play good football."

When asked if any individual Blues players had impressed him, Howe replied: "I thought they played well at the back, from where they tried to play it out. They were happy on the ball. Up front there was stacks of movement."

Howe was clearly happy with his side's evening's work, and is relishing the new season as he concentrates solely on club football, having resigned from his post as Bobby Robson's assistant with the England squad.

"It's a good time to bow out. I've been there 12 years, involved in over a hundred games. I've enjoyed it, I've been very proud, but it's a good time. Graham's come in, he's got a lot of new ideas, and all my mates have gone.

"I said to Graham I've had enough, but if there comes a time when you need some experience, give us a call, I'd still be glad to help. I think Graham will be very successful."

● Howe's counterpart at Wycombe, 'the lad' Martin O'Neill, was eager to set about his business of winning promotion on the morning after the game.

"People who have turned up have complimented the ground and the pitch. But the pre-season has gone now: now it is down to the serious GM Vauxhall Conference business.

"We could seriously be signing three or four new players within the next ten days."

Competition for places is hotting up as O'Neill shuffles his pack, particularly in midfield, as he looks for his best line-up.