

New faces show talent

THE Blues have two new faces this week ... and one familiar one is still pulling on the number ten shirt as a bid from Barnet is laughed out of Adams Park and talks with Kettering break down.

Nicky Evans' name is still on Wycombe Wanderers' transfer list, and Barry Fry's offer of £20,000 was not nearly enough to tempt Martin O'Neill to part with the talented striker. Talks with Kettering have broken down and a stalemate seems likely to continue.

Cheltenham's Mick Nuttall, signed for £6,000, made his first appearance in the second half of the Bob Lord Trophy 1-0 defeat at Kettering on Tuesday night.

The other new face at Wycombe is Peter Leahair, an RAF man who is hoping to persuade Martin of his potential in midfield. A trial in a friendly in the near future could lead to a deal.

These should boost a squad which is slowly returning to fitness after almost the entire midfield was wiped out by injury. Both Simon Stapleton and Martin Blackler could be fit for tomorrow's league game at Kidderminster, although Gary Smith could be out for a few more weeks.



Blackler ... fit for tomorrow?

By Claire Perry

Blackler, voted Player of the Month for December — when he scored the goal that secured the Peterborough FA Cup replay — picked up the award before Saturday's FA Trophy match against Wealdstone.

In a week of cup competitions, the Blues exited from one and continued in another. On Saturday in the Trophy they beat Wealdstone 1-0 in a lacklustre performance. The goal went deservedly to Steve Guppy, who since battling back into the side has put everything into making his mark.

Kettering won the long-postponed Bob Lord Trophy game on Tuesday with a 35th minute goal.