

Should he stay or should he go?

AS speculation now starts to build with Martin O'Neill nearing a decision on his immediate future in football management, those who know both O'Neill and League football spoke to the Bucks Free Press about his possible next step.

Blues' centre half Andy Kerr, who played for Shrewsbury Town and Cardiff City, said: "He knows how to bring the best out in people — and the worst.

"He's an honest fellow, and he speaks his mind. As a manager, you've got to upset people, and I think people should respect that kind of honesty. A League club? He wouldn't have a problem."

Director Alan Parry was working alongside media-man O'Neill when he

prompted the Irishman to apply for the job as Wycombe manager 18 months ago.

Parry advised: "I'd look at what Bristol Rovers have got, and I'd look at what Wycombe Wanderers have got.

"They haven't even got their own ground. And Gerry Francis will be a very hard act to follow."

One of O'Neill's best managerial decisions was buying Keith Scott from Fourth Division Lincoln City three months ago.

The striker scored 11 goals in 16 games and has only cost Blues £10,000 so far.

Scott pointed out: "He's in football for the same reason as all of us — to progress.

"He's very ambitious: he's made no

secret of that. Plus he's got to take in the financial situation.

"I'd feel disappointed if he went, but, after what he's achieved, no resentment. I'd wish him all the best — and hope he comes in for me."

Another of the new managerial pack is former Wolves man, Ken Hibbitt, now manager at Walsall, who swapped shirts with O'Neill after Forest lost the 1980 League Cup Final.

Hibbitt, formerly coach at Rovers, said: "Martin's played at the top level in football, and whatever he tries in the game, he'll handle it. He's very capable."