

Chesham ready for mighty Barnet

CHESHAM United held Third Division Reading 0-0 at The Meadow on Saturday — and are now set to give newly-promoted Barnet a run for their money tomorrow night (Wednesday, 7.30pm).

United boss George Borg will be meeting an old friend in Barry Fry, who last season led Barnet into the Fourth Division as Conference champions.

Borg recalled: "I played for Barry at Maidstone when we survived relegation. Then he was sacked with five games to go, so I went on the transfer list at the end of the season.

"I've spoken with Barry and he's bringing the League side which will be playing Fourth Division football next month."

Borg was delighted with his team's performance against Reading. "We played them off the park, and I was pleased to see Mark McGee gave us a lot of respect afterwards.

"McGee played himself in the first half, and then Trevor Senior came on in the second. But we attacked them from midfield, and they couldn't handle it. I was really impressed with our boys."

So far, midfielder Tony Thompson is the only departure from Chesham's playing staff, while Borg hopes to complete an intake that includes two Bishop's Stortford players and one from his former club Chelmsford United.

Last season's top scorer Micky Banton has settled his differences with the club and is staying, but the door is still open

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for former Wycombe left back Sean Norman to leave.

"Martin O'Neill rang Sean, and if he wants to have him for a couple of friendlies, he can," offered Borg.

"Chesham paid £20,000 for him, so I'd be looking for a decent price, because he's class. But it's not at that stage yet, although I wouldn't stand in anyone's way if they want to progress. I do want it sorted it out before the season starts."

● **FORMER Blues favourite** Andy Robinson made his debut for Aylesbury United in their 1-0 defeat of Kettering Town at Buckingham Road last Tuesday night.

Aylesbury's second game of the season on August 20 is at home to Chesham, for whom Robinson could have signed.

The midfielder preferred to join Aylesbury, although Borg said: "I saw him against us in the Berks and Bucks Cup game, and in a couple of Capital League games. I said we'll get you sharp, but you're not guaranteed a first-team place."

Robinson has signed a two-year contract for Trevor Gould's Premier Division team.

● **MARLOW** won 2-1 in their friendly at Yeading. John Caesar scored Marlow's goals.

O'Neill targets speedy youngster for Wycombe

WANDERERS' boss Martin O'Neill is hoping to keep exciting youngster Ty Gooden at Adams Park.

Gooden gave a match-winning performance in Blues' 2-1 win in the friendly against West Ham on Saturday.

Afterwards O'Neill praised Gooden's contribution. "The crowd certainly warmed to him and he did very well. We would very much like to have him here," he enthused.

"We've spoken to him and his dad and his dad has said that we were the only club to have shown any interest in him since he was released. I'm hoping that what we've said will persuade him to come here."

West Ham have allegedly expressed an interest in Gooden and O'Neill commented: "I would be very surprised if anything happened. I've not heard they are interested but I can't believe they would sign him after just seeing him once."

Meanwhile, O'Neill gave a mixed verdict after Blues' win against West Ham: "It was a good game. I wasn't pleased with our first half performance — we never shut them down. We gave them far too much room to play and they are capable of tearing you apart," he told Midweek.

"We didn't support our front two players enough. In the second half it was much better and I'm delighted for the lads at the way they came

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and PETE LANSLEY**

back into it."

O'Neill commented on West Ham: "They did us proud by sending down all their available first team players and it was marvellous for the crowd to be able to watch an exciting talent like Stuart Slater."

In his assessment of Wycombe's performance O'Neill said: "I thought that the lads at the back did well for us. Andy Kerr had an operation on a sinus problem a few days ago and he has come back here and played superb."

And he was pleased with full back Gavin Covington. "He impressed me. He has signed on for us," O'Neill told Midweek.

Blues (second half in brackets): Shoemaker (Hyde), Crossley (Whitby (sub 85 mins Corbett)), Covington (Kerr), Cousins (Walford), Crosser (Collins), Blackler (Stapleton), Hutchinson (Price (sub 85 mins Cook)), Smith (Guppy (sub 85 mins Bixby)), Nuttall (Scott), Ryan (Carroll), Joyce (Gooden).
Hammers: Mikosko (Banks), Hughton (sub 63 mins Livett), Horlock, Gale, Basham, Parris, Keen (sub 75 mins D. Martin), Slater, Downie (McAvennie), Allen, Morley (Rosenior).
Attendance: 3,260

● **STEVE Guppy** starred in a comfortable 2-0 win for a Wycombe Wanderers XI at Thame United on Thursday. Guppy was involved in the moves

that brought goals for Tommy Vance and Paul Cochran.

● **KEVIN Keen's** return to Wycombe lasted an intermittently lively 75 minutes, but it was also a time for Steve Walford to meet up with some old pals.

Walford spent several years at Upton Park, and enjoyed another steady half in the middle of Blues' defence on Saturday.

"It's nice to see a lot of good friends, but beating them is nothing special," said Walford, who has agreed to stay with Wycombe for a further year.

The former Arsenal defender added: "If a chance of becoming player/coach came up at a non-league club, Martin knows I'd be very interested.

"But otherwise, there's no better place to be in non-league football. I'm just happy to play games."

● **BLUES** have a number of friendly games this week.

First-team squads visit Trowbridge tonight (Tuesday, 7.30pm) and Sutton United this Saturday (7.30pm).

Watford visit Adams Park this Thursday (7.30pm) and Mark West, recovering from a toe operation, hopes to play.

Meanwhile, a Capital League side travel to play Hitchin Town tomorrow night (Wednesday).