

Wilde's joy is knocked out of tune



Simon Wilde: demoralised

Exclusive

**Report by
PETE LANSLEY**

ADAMS Park public announcer Simon Wilde heard he has been relieved of his duties just hours before Wednesday night's game with Coventry City.

And demoralised fan Wilde has hit out at Wanderers' 'unprofessionalism'.

But the loyal Blues fan may still be included as part of a new 'Blues Radio' broadcast which will go out as pre-match entertainment this season.

The 'Blues Radio' will be broadcast by a three-man team from Wycombe Hospital Radio, and will feature a player's desert-island discs plus interviews with supporters and sponsors. With an improved tannoy system and the technology they use for their commentaries, the Hospital Radio team will also be responsible for all public announcements.

Wilde, 23, of Shirley Road, Marlow, has been the voice behind the Adams Park tannoy for the past 18 months, and Wanderers general manager Brian Lee yesterday agreed that Wilde will be included as part of the Hospital Radio team.

But Lee only managed to inform Wilde of the changes at 5pm before the game against Coventry. Wilde, who was given no part in Wednesday night's broadcasting as the new announcing team found their feet, has spoken exclusively to the Bucks Free Press.

He said: "Brian Lee said he'd been trying to get hold of me for a week, and the Marlow codes have been changed recently.

"But at 5 o'clock, I was told they wanted to make it more professional, and Hospital Radio, with more technological back-up, would be doing it. Telling me at that time — I don't think that's very professional. It's a pretty poor way to do it."

Lee said he contacted Wilde, who also worked on most of Blues' Capital League games, at the earliest time he was able. He added that having more than just one man involved would help, and that Wilde would be able to learn from working with the technology and the Hospital Radio reporters.

Wilde, who went to nearly 60 Blues first-team games last season, added: "I hope the club progresses, and I wish Hospital Radio all the best. I think it's a good idea, actually, but Brian said they'd be taking over, and asked me if I wanted to do another job. But I enjoyed doing this job."

Wilde and the Hospital Radio team are all voluntary workers, and have regularly travelled with Wycombe. Douglas Lunn, chairman of Hospital Radio, was at Adams Park setting things up from 10.30am on Wednesday and said: "I said I wanted Simon to be part of the team. We've been discussing this for two or three weeks.

"Surely the correct way to do the change was for the club to contact Simon."