

## NON-LEAGUE

# The Slough connection

By Geoff Young

**MILLWALL** connections are to the fore at Slough, the GM Vauxhall Conference's only club with a 100 per cent record.

Top of the list is Alan Thorne, the former Millwall chairman, who took over the Berkshire club in the summer.

Also, Bob Pearson, once Millwall manager and chief scout, was instrumental in persuading midfielder Les Briley to drop three divisions and join as player-coach.

David Kemp, former manager of Plymouth Argyle, is moulding the new blend together at Wexham Park. New additions are Andy Sayer (ex-Orient), Ian Hazel (Bristol Rovers), Mark Foram (Millwall), Mark Quamina (Plymouth) and prolific goalscorer George Friel (Woking).

Slough — yet to concede a goal in the league this season — attempt to keep their impressive record at home to indifferent Altrincham today, while second-placed Wycombe tackle sixth-placed Telford. Bottom club Welling travel to unbeaten Stalybridge.

## FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

**WANDERERS'** current player of the year has a very simple ambition when he considers how to improve his game this season — to stop conceding 95-yarders.

Paul Hyde conceded just 35 league goals last term, but it will always be the goal by Colchester's own keeper Scott Barrett that sticks in people's minds.

"I was pleased with my performances of last season," says Hyde, 29, who joined Wycombe from Hayes for £15,000 13 months ago. "I would love to win player of the year again, that would be an amazing feat, but I'll start by trying not to concede too many 95-yarders."

If Hyde has set himself very high standards after his first year of Conference football, he is aware Wycombe will have to go some to match their 94-point season. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating. We've got ten points out of a possible 12 so far. There is pressure on us, and it's going to be harder second time around perhaps because teams know what we can do. But the lads are more than capable of maintaining standards."

Hyde, married with three children, is a marketing manager with a photographic company when he's not playing football, and he has a very clear view on the new backpass law.

"It's not good for the game at all," suggests Hyde. "It will create a lot more sending-off instances, there'll be a lot more offside as forwards return from pressurising the keeper, and there will be a lot more disputes."

"It will take away a lot of defenders' chance to show their skill as well because they'll just lump it out of the ground."

Ball skill is something the Blues' fans know Hyde won't be lacking when he is forced to play the ball instead of picking up backpasses. His viciously-hit volleying has become the most entertaining part of the pre-match



**Paul Hyde**

**They say keepers are the madmen of football, and frustrated centre forward Paul Hyde is certainly one of non-league football's biggest characters. PETE LANSLEY chats with the Blues' keeper**

build-up at Wycombe games.

As a non-contract player at Hayes and Hillingdon Borough, Hyde used to play centre forward for his Sunday morning team — with his brother Mark in goal! "I loved playing centre forward," says the keeper with relish. "I enjoy my football, and I regularly used to finish top or second top scorer. Now I do a good workout in goal before a match, then five minutes' volleying to stretch my legs, test the other keepers — and because I enjoy it. I wish Scotty was half as good!"

## The Diadora League Goalkeeper Guide

Paul HYDE



( Wycombe Wanderers )

The most contemptible No.1 on the circuit, the Jekyll now plays for GM Vauxhall Conference table toppers Wycombe Wanderers. Made his name at Hayes, where in the company of the infamous Reg Leather, he brought disgrace to the playing fields of Church Road. With a disciplinary record that reads like a roll of used toilet paper, Paul has admirably upheld the Hayes motto 'Quadram di perenum el kicko demonstrato' which roughly translates as 'Kick em where it hurts'.

Sleeping Giant Rating - 3 out of 10