

Michelle seeks Andy's stolen car



Andy Kerr

WYCOMBE Wanderers' star defender Andy Kerr thought April Fool's Day had come early when he received a call from Midweek hackette Michelle Davies.

Our reporter contacted amiable Andy to do a feature for the motoring section of the Bucks Free Press.

A colleague had told Michelle that Andy, like most footballers, had a sporty car that would be perfect for a spot on Me and My

Motor.

But the Blues hero thought she was winding him up when Michelle asked Andy if his car was available for a picture.

It took five minutes for her to persuade him that she was a genuine reporter and did have a serious interest in his car.

Michelle asked why he thought it was a practical joke. Andy replied: "Because my car was stolen two months ago."

Blues' pitch battle will be resolved next week

WYCOMBE Wanderers' battle for a controversial new training pitch is set to be resolved at a meeting next week.

The club got preliminary approval at a Wycombe District Council planning panel last November, but the final decision will be made at a full planning and development committee on Monday.

This is the fifth application made for the Adams Park stadium in Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe, and includes a plan for 224 car parking spaces.

Council officers are recommending members give the go-ahead to the proposal, subject to conditions.

But Cllr Val Letheren believes the new spaces will not help the problems of nearby residents in Sands. She fears having more parking space will only increase these difficulties.

Council leader Andrew Green also said he was worried about the additional pressure of vehicles.

And Cllr David Turner objects because the building would harm the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Aplin aims for 'dream' meeting

FA TROPHY PREVIEW
By CLAIRE NASH

CHESHAM boss Gerald Aplin is dreaming of playing Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Trophy.

Ideally, he hopes they would play each other in the final with Chesham emerging victorious.

"I would love to see it. That would be my ideal game, Chesham versus Wycombe," said Aplin this week.

But, in the meantime, The Generals have VS Rugby to fend off in tomorrow's First-Round match.

The Chesham manager's confidence is currently as high as his side which leads the Diadora League Premier Division, with only one league defeat this season.

They have also been unbeaten at home for more than a year.

But they have not fared as well in cup competitions, including the FA Cup where they lost to Solihull in the fourth qualifying round.

Aplin, however, believes this has helped Chesham's title chase.

"It was probably the best thing that happened to us. There will be times in the future when we hope to do well in the FA Cup.

"This season it would have been a distraction for us."

But Aplin believes the FA Trophy ties in very well with Chesham's plans and will not create a fixture headache.

Cheltenham put faith in youth

By Peter Ernest

LINDSAY PARSONS, Cheltenham Town's manager, sends out six teenagers to face favourites Wycombe Wanderers when the first round of the Vauxhall FA Trophy gets under way today.

"I am a firm believer in the club's youth policy and the average age of our side is now only 19," said Mr Parsons, whose team lie fourth in the Beazer Homes League after last season's relegation from the GM Vauxhall Conference.

The experienced Anton Vircavs misses today's game at Adams Park because of suspension, while there are injury doubts over Jon Purdie, Paul Hirons and Jason Eaton.

Wycombe, 13 points clear of Slough Town in the Conference title race, expect another 4,000-plus crowd for the visit of Cheltenham, whom they beat on the way to winning the Trophy two years ago.

This season, with prize money totalling £100,000, Martin O'Neill's Buckinghamshire side are 7-4 to repeat their 1991 success and, at 2-1, are the shortest-priced favourites for a pyramid double at this stage of the campaign.

Slough, one of five Conference clubs named as 10-1 joint second favourites for the Trophy, face a tricky visit to nearby Yeading, of the Diadora Premier Division.