

INTERNATIONAL

Leworthy clincher

By Peter Lansley

England 2
Wales 1

FORMER Tottenham striker David Leworthy, the leading marksman in the GM Vauxhall Conference this season, headed England's winning goal in the semi-professional international against Wales at Cheltenham last night.

It was the old head of Leworthy, now with Farnborough Town, who nodded home Steve Guppy's 54th minute corner, after Paul Richardson's flick-on.

Guppy was one of four Wycombe Wanderers men on view for England and his colleague, Steve Thompson, earned England's equaliser when he was tripped for a 45th minute penalty converted by Terry Robbins.

Wales, selecting solely from their newly-formed Konica League, had taken a 41st-minute lead when Bob Colville, their only previously capped player, slotted home from an acute angle.

England: Price; Shirtliff, Watts, Shail, Kerr, Stapleton, Thompson, Richardson, Robbins, Leworthy, Guppy.

Wales: Morgan; Knight, Lloyd, O'Brien, Blackie, Parselle, Gummer, Glover, French, Colville, Davidson.

Referee: S Dunn (Bristol).

Thommo battles to join Blues' England debutants

STEVE Thompson is facing a fitness battle as he hopes to be one of four Wycombe Wanderers players picking up their first England semi-professional caps tonight.

England play Wales at Cheltenham Town's Whaddon Road ground (ko 7.30pm). Thompson, Andy Kerr, Simon Stapleton and Steve Guppy have been training with the squad at Lilleshall since Saturday night.

Wycombe manager Martin O'Neill reported after Blues' draw at Northwich that Thompson was struggling with a niggling groin injury, originally picked up last November.

But after England's training session in the snow yesterday morning, manager Tony Jennings said Thompson had seen the FA's doctor and physio and was able to train.

Jennings was finalising his team selection last night but I expect all fit-enough Wanderers players to make their debuts. Jennings said: "Because in all probability they will win the league, unless they move clubs, this might well be one of their last chances with us. They should be able to enjoy it, in the best facilities we can give them."

Guppy missed winning his first cap when struck by food poisoning before last year's 1-0 win over Wales, who now select solely from Konica League players. Chesham's new signing from Inter Cardiff, David Webley, has consequently had to step down from the Welsh squad.

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