

Mann on Friday

Martin's decision to stay loyal to Blues shows his good sense

I AM not surprised that Martin O'Neill has decided to stay at Wycombe Wanderers, despite his self-proclaimed ambition.

Unlike some of his colleagues in the Premier Division, he is a highly-intelligent man with a keen sense of honour and duty. I believe him when he says he was moved by the Blues' fans pleas for him to stay.

I also believe that he has struck a lucrative deal with Wanderers' chairman

Ivor Beeks. He was already one of the highest-paid managers in the country and I think he must have doubled this overnight. Talk of a two-year deal worth more than £150,000 will not be wide of the mark.

Also Martin has the chance to develop the team he has guided to success over the last two years without the pressures that replacing Brian Clough would bring.

I think all in all that Martin has made the right decision. Wycombe has tremen-

dous potential. He can enjoy the benefits of a good salary without the stresses and strains of trying to turn round a high-profile club.

It is a fairytale end to the season.

MEANWHILE back at Wembley. My six-year-old daughter was very intrigued by the emergence of the two streakers on to the field. To my soccer-mad son's obvious annoyance it was all she could talk about after the match.

When my wife took her to school the

next morning she said she would tell the teacher about the 'bare men'. She then stopped and thought about it and said: "I'd better not because she's not married."

My wife told the teacher and both giggled. My reassured daughter later described her experiences in a little essay accompanied by a drawing of a bare man, complete with accessories. I hear the teacher gave her a star. Well I suppose it beats reading about trips to the zoo.

ALSO on the subject of the Blues, I was fascinated by the crowd's reaction to the councillors at the civic reception.

I gather chants of "Do you know who we are? We are the famous Wycombe Wanderers. We are a football team. We play in blue" did not go down too well. The councillors, who initially were desperate to bask in the reflected glory, found better things to do inside.

Jean Teesdale was unamused by Judas cries for voting against the training pitch.

-Charles Mann-