

Likely lads await contract terms

WYCOMBE Wanderers' full-time candidates will be kept sweating over their professional aspirations for a further week after manager Martin O'Neill began a week-long family holiday yesterday, following 'chats' with his players.

O'Neill met with players, including Andy Kerr and Paul Hyde, individually last Friday and this Monday, after the Blues boss and his squad returned from their tour of Rhodes.

Hyde revealed the content of his conversation with O'Neill. "He asked me whether I would be interested in going professional. He was asking me what I thought about things, and I told him how I felt. He asked what the situation was with my job."

Hyde, who works full time in sales at a graphic design company, added: "No figures were discussed. I think Martin was just getting a feel of the situation. It was a ten-minute chat and he said he would get back to me."

The 30-year-old keeper, like most of the players, has been retained until his contract is confirmed. "Obviously I would like to see myself at Wycombe as a full-time player and I would like to know as soon as possible what the position is," he said.

Defender Kerr said: "I think he wants to get an idea of who he wants to keep at the club and who he wants to get rid of. I think he also wants to impress on the players that they are not indispensable."

Forward Dave Carroll has not yet received a summons to O'Neill's office at Adams Park. "I have not seen Martin yet, so until I see him I do not know what's going on."

Wanderers chairman Ivor Beeks, on holiday until Monday, gave O'Neill his

By CLAIRE NASH

budget before the manager went to Rhodes.

Anton Vircavs and Ty Gooden, meanwhile, have been given a clearer idea of where they stand.

Gooden, who has struggled for a regular first-team place through a combination of injury and loss of form, will not have his contract renewed. He was signed up two seasons ago after a blazing debut in a pre-season friendly against West Ham.

Vircavs is staying on with a part-time contract. O'Neill was impressed and grateful to the central defender for sturdily stepping in for vital games against Slough and Dagenham/Redbridge last season.

Homegrown striker Mark West has been retained by the club for a further season, but he is uncertain how his season will pan out.

"I am waiting to talk to Martin. Until then I do not know what I will be doing," he said.

● WANDERERS' fixture list for their first season in Division Three will not be released until the beginning of July.