

Guppy muscles into battle for Conference award

Wycombe pair set to thrash out contracts

THE day of reckoning is almost nigh for members of Wycombe Wanderers' squad, with players' contracts set to be confirmed following Martin O'Neill's return from a family holiday this week.

Blues chairman Ivor Beeks and manager O'Neill are due to put their heads together to discuss progress with negotiations so far.

It will be the first detailed meeting between the two since Beeks gave O'Neill his budget for players' contracts three weeks ago.

Beeks revealed as many as ten to 12 players may go full time, with five to six remaining at the club on part-time terms, though he indicated this could change.

A fortnight ago, before embarking on a week's holiday, Beeks said: "I doubt if we are in a position to confirm the number of, and who the players are for another ten days."

O'Neill met with many of his players individually, between returning from the squad's week-long break in Rhodes on May 27 and going on a family holiday on June 3.

Last week, players Paul Hyde,

Report by **CLAIRE NASH**

Andy Kerr and Simon Stapleton confirmed they had been asked by their manager whether they would be interested in signing full-time, two-year contracts.

They said they were now waiting for O'Neill to get back to them.

But before contracts are finalised Beeks and club secretary John Goldsworthy are attending the Football League's annual general meeting in Walsall today which will officially approve Blues' promotion to Division Three.

It will be followed with a signing-off of Wycombe's non-League years, for now, with the GM Vauxhall Conference AGM at Blackpool tomorrow.

Wanderers winger Steve Guppy is well in contention for the Conference's Player of the Year title, say organisers.

Ken Scott, of the Conference Bulletin, confirmed that Guppy is presently battling it out in the award stakes with potent Farnborough striker David Leworthy.

He added that Blues' Keith Scott, Hyde, and Stapleton, as well



Simon Stapleton

as Runcorn striker Ken McKenna, are also in the running for the accolade, decided by Conference managers.

"Guppy is up there with David Leworthy. Quite a few Wycombe players are in the running," said Scott.

The winner receives £1,000 and a memento. O'Neill is the overwhelming favourite to win the Manager of the Year prize.

Wanderers' ins and outs

Paul Hyde: contract, retained; Jason Cousins: contract, retained; Matt Crossley: contract, retained; Andy Kerr: contract, retained; Glyn Cresser: contract, retained; Steve Thompson: non-contract, retained; Dave Carroll: contract, retained; Kim Casey: contract, retained; Simon Stapleton: contract, retained; Keith Scott: contract, retained; Steve Guppy: contract, retained; Dennis Greene: contract, retained; Keith Ryan: contract, retained; Ty Gooden: released; Anton Vircavs: non-contract, retained; Mark West: contract, retained; Simon Hutchinson: contract, retained; Tim Langford: contract, retained; Hakan Hayrettin: free agent; Geoff Cooper: free agent; Chuck Moussaddik: non-contract; Paul Barrowcliff: non-contract, released.