

Barnet boss seeks greener fields with Blues

By CLAIRE NASH

BARNET'S caretaker manager Gary Phillips has sent out an SOS to Wycombe Wanderers boss Martin O'Neill to discover whether a place is available to him in Blues' squad if his beleaguered club is dissolved.

The respected 31-year-old goalkeeper is one of the six players left at the Division Two club to have applied for free transfers. He confirmed this week that midfielder Duncan Horton and defender Tony Lynch are already training with Wycombe.

Phillips would pose stiff competition for Blues' dependable keeper Paul Hyde if he joined Wanderers.

But O'Neill said it was unlikely he could afford to have two quality goalkeepers on his books, as well as Hyde's regular number two Chuck Moussaddik.

He added, however, that he was monitoring the situation

at Barnet.

"I have spoken to Gary. I feel I do not want to go down a road where I would have two very, very competent goalkeepers here. But I wondered if I could afford to have another full-time goalkeeper who has proved himself in the League," he said.

He added: "There are people there I feel could do a job for us. But I will wait to see how their situation develops."

O'Neill said his conversation with Phillips was just one of 40 enquiries from professionals wanting to join Wycombe.

Phillips said: "Martin O'Neill spoke to me. I would have liked to have spoken to him in greater detail, but he said he would be getting back to me."

He believes Barnet's players' D-day is today, pending whether club chairman Stephen Glynne has raised

£500,000 to stave off expulsion from the League.

"I would love to stay at this club. It is my testimonial year next season. But clearly players need to put feelers out to protect their interests."

Phillips, spoke of his admiration for Hyde, who joined Blues two seasons ago for £15,000 from Hayes, and was voted supporters' player of the year in 1992.

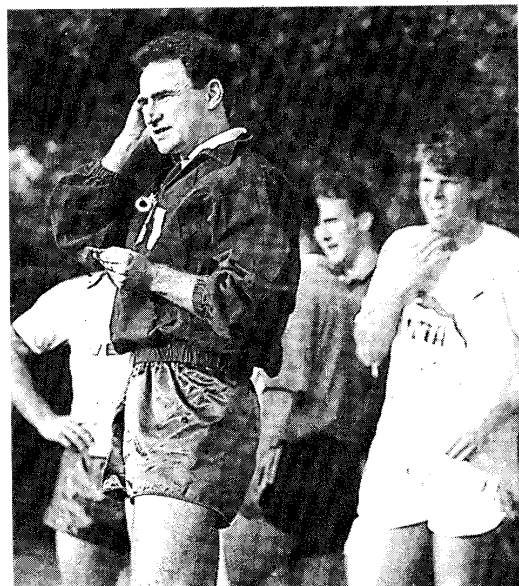
"I think Hyde is a good keeper."

He added: "I think a Football League club has got to have two good keepers. I would not want to go anywhere as number two, but I would be prepared to fight for my place."

● JASON Cousins' signing up full time brings the number of Blues' professionals to 11.

O'Neill said he aims to complete negotiations with Andy Kerr and Steve Guppy as soon as possible.

● Wanderers gear up for friendlies: Page 31



Martin O'Neill directs proceedings during Blues' training this week