

Lynch opts to answer Barnet call

By CLAIRE NASH

STRIKER Tony Lynch has left Wycombe in a speedy about-turn by returning to former club Barnet after shaking hands on a six-month full-time deal with Blues boss Martin O'Neill.

The manager believed he had settled terms with the forward who played in three of Wanderers' friendlies last week, although Lynch had not officially signed on the dotted line.

"I shook hands with Lynch that he would be with us until Christmas time. But he had a chance to go back to Barnet because they are short of players," said O'Neill after Saturday's friendly against Swindon Town.

He denied that he was put out by Lynch's decision to go back to the crisis-torn north London club, rather than stay with Wycombe, who have the potential to follow in Barnet's footsteps, but with a sounder financial base.

"It does not bother me. Good luck to him. People will do things for their own reasons, not yours," said O'Neill.

Second Division Barnet no longer have to raise £500,000 to stave off expulsion from the Football League and are currently taking on more players to boost their squad, which is now being paid from money raised by the club's supporters.

● **BOOKINGS** for Wycombe's opening Football League game against Carlisle will be taken before and after tonight's match against Southend in Adams Park's Vere Suite bar. Prices are adults £20, children £21, OAP £20. There is a pound off for members of the travel club, which costs £5 to join.

Bookings for Carlisle and the Coca Cola Cup first round match first leg at Leyton Orient will be taken on Saturday before Blues' friendly against Portsmouth.

● **WYCOMBE** Hospital Radio's sports team Dick Croxson and Tessa Ware will make the epic trip to Carlisle to provide reports for listeners at Wycombe General and Amersham hospitals.

Southend next for Blues

WYCOMBE have Chesham's 3-3 draw against Southend to emulate tonight at Adams Park (ko 7.45pm).

Former Barnet manager Barry Fry is expected to include new signings Ricky Otto, from Leyton Orient, and Tommy Mooney, who cost £100,000 from Scarborough, at tonight's game. He paraded both players in last Saturday's game at Meadow Park.

But it is unlikely striker Brett Angell will join them at tonight's game, after failing to reach agreement with Fry over a new contract.

● **WANDERERS** take on Jim Smith's Portsmouth in Mark West's testimonial this Saturday at Adams Park (ko 3pm).

Virus impedes O'Neill's preparations for new season

THE flu virus ripping through Wycombe's ranks is hindering Blues boss Martin O'Neill's training schedule for honing players' fitness in preparation for their season-opening game against Carlisle in 11 days' time.

Steve Guppy and Andy Kerr, who have yet to sign new contracts with Wycombe, were both missing from Blues' line-up against Swindon on Saturday.

And trialist Duncan Horton was stricken with nausea during the game.

"It is not auguring well," said O'Neill. "I am hoping it will pass through as quickly as possible. I want to get a settled team and this does not make it easy for me. I need to get everybody to a



Duncan Horton: Set to sign for Wycombe

certain level of fitness."

Guppy has been out of action for nearly a week after becoming ill prior to Wycombe's match at Merthyr Tydfil last Wednesday — one of six Blues fixtures played within seven days.

But O'Neill says the winger

is set to start training again this week.

Keith Ryan missed Saturday's game with an ankle injury. But O'Neill expects him back in action by the end of the week.

A friendly was arranged against Heybridge Swifts last night to give trialists and part-time first team players such as Mark West, Anton Vircavs and Ty Gooden an extra game for match fitness.

● **FORMER** Barnet skipper Horton is set to sign a two-year full-time contract, says O'Neill.

Midfielder Horton, who played in defence against Swindon, has been released by the north London club after applying for a free transfer. "I think he will be a good asset to the club," said O'Neill.