



Dave Alexander

CHALFONT plans to get on the players' coach to Carlisle this Friday morning.

DAVE Alexander played in some great Wycombe Wanderers sides. Now he is using his experiences as a player under Brian Lee in the Seventies to help put a smile back on the face of Chalfont St Peter Football Club.

Alexander joined Wanderers before their epic FA Cup tie with Middlesbrough in the 1974-75 season and stayed with the Blues for three seasons, operating as a wide midfielder.

But those halcyon days, when Wycombe forced a replay against Middlesbrough, are now happy memories for Alexander, who picked up the managerial reigns at Chalfont following the sacking of Tony O'Driscoll during the summer.

With Chalfont battling to avoid relegation from Diadora Division One last season — they

Chalfont St Peter's new boss Dave Alexander is endeavouring to dig the Division One club out of last season's doldrums, finds NICK GOODMAN

finished fourth from bottom — it is scarcely the most propitious time for Alexander to try his hand at management for the first time.

But Alexander's refreshing philosophy shrugs off such an impediment.

"Chalfont are a friendly club; there is a nice atmosphere there. The club seem happy I have got these sentiments: I want to encourage a lot more football.

"The club are happy perhaps with the old-fashioned values I was used to when I was playing: like good time keeping, pride in your appearance, loyalty and

commitment, all these sort of things."

What he perceived as declining standards in the Diadora League prompted Alexander into management.

Alexander had considerable playing experience with stints at Woking, Kingstonian, and Slough, and prefers a passing, rather than long-ball game.

"I would like families to be encouraged to watch us. I would like players to enjoy their training and playing at the club and mix after the game," said Alexander.

Alexander understands the task facing him at The Playing Fields. "It's been difficult for them. I have got the job at a dreadful time."

He hopes to retain the bulk of last season's squad and hopes youngsters at Chalfont will also play their part.

Chalfont have been boosted by the arrival of former Marlow keeper Steve Ellis, forward Steve Wallace from Hemel Hempstead, and sweeper Steve Toll, also formerly of Wycombe, has rejoined Saints.

"He is only about 5ft 9in but he's brilliant in the air. He is very strong and is difficult to knock off the ball," said Alexander of Toll.

Alexander, 41 next month, still plays football himself, for Corinthian Casuals vets on Sundays.

But it was probably as a player with Wycombe which provided some of the best moments in his career.

Alexander, head of special education at Sir William Ramsay School, recalls players like Maskell, Phillips, Reardon, and Horseman with fondness. "We were just as successful but in a different era."