

Blues were not asked for extra cash

WYCOMBE Wanderers were not approached by Nottingham Forest for extra cash-in-hand payments when the club visited Adams Park for a friendly in 1990, said club chairman Ivor Beeks this week.

The World In Action documentary which alleged that former City Ground boss Brian Clough received 2,000 tickets for the 1992 Rumbelows Cup Final, also alleged that extra payment was demanded from some clubs whom Forest played friendlies against, under the guise of travelling expenses.

"There was no request that I know of," said Beeks. "They came down here, played the game and that was it."

"Martin (O'Neill) obviously knew Brian Clough from when he played there and asked him to bring a team down which he did and that's all there is to it."

Forest's boardroom battle was due to come to a head at yesterday's annual general meeting where the alleged financial irregularities were expected to be discussed.

● **BOBBY** Gould told his former chairman Bryan Richardson that he would have resigned as Coventry City's manager if Wycombe had knocked them out of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Gould walked out on Coventry on Saturday, citing Richardson's demand to sell talented Zimbabwean international Peter Ndlovu as his reason for going.

But Richardson accused him of using that as a smokescreen for other reasons.

He added: "Resignation has been on Bobby's mind for some time. Two weeks ago he told us he would have quit if we had been beaten by Wycombe in the Coca-Cola Cup."

Kerr hurts knee as Langford recovers

ANDY Kerr is out of action for up to three weeks after pulling a knee muscle in training this week.

The injury is a blow to the Wycombe defender's hopes of returning to first-team action after sitting out last Saturday's game on the substitutes' bench.

Brighter news on the injury front is that Tim Langford is about two weeks away from a return after a hernia operation.

OUT OF THE BLUES

DEAN JONES reports on Wycombe Wanderers' progress

DEPENDING on who you talk to, the beginning of the end for controversial Coventry City manager Bobby Gould came at Wycombe earlier this month.

Gould resigned in the aftermath of his team's 5-1 defeat at Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday.

But Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson has reportedly said that he and his manager first brought up the subject of Gould's resignation immediately after the Wycombe game in the Coca-Cola Cup second round on October 5.

Then Coventry got out of jail with two late extra time goals to win 5-4 on aggregate. Without a statement from Gould to the contrary, it would not surprise me.

Cup competitions are a potential managerial graveyard and defeat by a comparative Football League minnow sometimes makes blue seem black.

In this respect, Wycombe have been lucky this season — they have had nothing to lose in the cups this season.

First they were drawn against Endsleigh Division 2 Leyton Orient in the Coca-Cola Cup. Then FA Premiership side Coventry. And now Bristol Rovers in the FA Cup first round.

The irony of the present Wycombe-Gould axis is that the former Wolves striker used to manage Bristol Rovers. These days they are under John Ward who has been in the hot seat since March.

But Wycombe will travel to Bath's Twerton Park — which Bobby Gould tried to rename the Azteca Stadium while he was in charge — more in hope than in expectation.

It is not a good draw for Wycombe. They could feasibly go out of the cup at the first hurdle without registering a ripple, let alone a wave, in the big event in their first full season as a Football League side.

It is a point manager Martin O'Neill may have had in mind when he told the Blues club-call line that it would not be an easy game.

He said: "We were hoping not to visit Twerton Park so early in our Football League life. It happens. We can't do anything about it. I suppose Bristol Rovers, I would think, will think it's a hard game for them (as well)."

But to look on the bright side, Wycombe are unbeaten away from home this season in the Endsleigh Division 3. That includes their 0-0 draw at bottom-of-the-table Darlington on Saturday which O'Neill described as a terrific performance.