

Blues' bargain boys are keen to stay on

WYCOMBE'S invaluable free transfer signings Simon Garner and Nicky Reid reiterated their commitment to the club after their success at Wembley on Saturday.

Blues have not lost in the seven games Reid has played in since he arrived at Adams Park in March.

He lost his place in the side after injury, but stormed back in the play-off matches against Carlisle and Preston.

The 33-year-old, who has been playing alongside Keith Ryan in central midfield although his favoured position is full back, said he would be happy to stay on, pending discussions with his boss, and former Manchester City teammate, Martin O'Neill.

"I would like to stay, but it depends on Martin. I don't know what he is going to say," said Reid, who has come to the end of a contract which Wycombe took over from West Brom in March.

Reid, who was man of the match for West Brom in their play-off final against Port Vale last year and played in the 1981 FA Cup Final for Manchester City against Tottenham Hotspur, added that he would understand if his wages were not as much.

"I understand that. I would fully expect a cut in wages," he said.

Garner's firepower has been vital since he moved to Blues from West Brom in February.

This year's play-offs were the seventh he has been involved in during his career.

When asked after Saturday's match where his future lay, the 34-year-old former Blackburn star and manager Martin O'Neill confirmed he still has another year to run on his contract.



Lapping it up: Jason Cousins drinks to Wycombe's assured climb up the Football League ladder

Hyde beats illness to make final

GOALKEEPER Paul Hyde defied a vicious flu-virus to avoid having to give up his gloves for the first time this season on Saturday.

The 31-year-old ever-present lost 10lbs in weight during the week leading up to the play-off final.

"I had a temperature of 102-104 on Thursday. I thought that's it, I've got

to get to the players' hotel to give my gloves to Chuck (Moussaddik)," said Hyde.

He was confident early last week that he would shake off the illness after missing a training session.

But Hyde was determined to play and manager Martin O'Neill checked his condition on Friday.

"I was blowing very hard in a training session on Saturday morning, but I got through it okay and had a bath and felt a lot better."

"This game was a massive game. I thought last year was the pinnacle of my career. But this year was way beyond that," said a visibly drained Hyde afterwards.

It's going to be tough stuff in Division Two

WYCOMBE'S debut season in the Football League was grueling enough, but they face a longer haul next term.

They need to negotiate 46 League games, one more than they did this season, including the play-off matches. We highlight some of the forthcoming clashes.

Games against **Brentford** are set to be spicy with Wycombe's team skipper Terry Evans and Jason Cousins both itching to put one over their former club.

Martin O'Neill's old pal Barry Fry is at the helm at **Birmingham City**. The Midlands club ran up possibly the biggest squad list in football history last season as they tried in vain to avoid the drop from Division One.

Mileage to away games should be less. Matches against **Oxford, Cambridge, Brentford and Leyton Orient** are welcome local derbies after last season's treks to Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Cambridge and **Bristol Rovers** will try to gain revenge for the upsets Wycombe inflicted in the FA Cup last year. Orient may also feel aggrieved at the beating Blues dished out in the Coca-Cola Cup.

The Welsh threat is alive and kicking, let's hope not literally, in the form of **Cardiff City**, who were beaten by Blues in the Autoglass Trophy, and **Swansea**, who defeated Wycombe before winning the competition.

Wanderers have Division Three champions **Shrewsbury**, runners-up **Chester**, and third-placed **Crewe** for company.

They will not return to Fulham, who they knocked out of the Autoglass Trophy. The Craven Cottage club was relegated along with: Exeter City, Hartlepool and Barnet.

The other Division Two clubs are: **AFC Bournemouth, Bradford, Brighton, Blackpool, Huddersfield, Hull, Peterborough, Plymouth, Rotherham, Stockport County, Wrexham, and York.**