

Bookies plot steady course

THE bookmakers are confident once again that Wycombe Wanderers will more than hold their own in unknown territory.

Blues are 8-1 to be promoted and 18-1 to win the Division Two title next season. Football specialists Surrey Racing have them in ninth spot in their list of odds behind teams including favourites Birmingham City, last season's beaten play-off finalists Stockport County, Plymouth and near neighbours Oxford.

The same bookmakers

By CLAIRE NASH

made Blues pre-season favourites to win Division Three last season.

Betting pundits expect Wycombe to fare better than fellow promoted Division Three clubs Crewe (12-1 to be promoted, 7-4 to be relegated), Shrewsbury (13-1 to be promoted, 7-4 to be relegated) and Chester (18-1 to be promoted, evens to be relegated) who all earned automatic elevation places to Division Two.

■ Former Colchester United midfielder Nicky Smith joined Wycombe Wanderers for pre-season training yesterday.

The 25-year-old, released by the U's earlier this month, has said that he would jump at the chance to play for Martin O'Neill's Blues.

But he has not been signed up by the Wycombe manager, contrary to a report on ITV's teletext.

Smith is looking for a secure deal after being out of the frame at Colchester last

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