

Martin made right choice

LOYALTY is a rare commodity in this day and age, especially in the turbulent world of professional football.

That is why Martin O'Neill's decision yesterday to remain manager of Wycombe Wanderers is so worthy of commendation.

O'Neill would have been a Premiership manager this morning had he accepted Leicester's offer.

He would be regularly pitting his wits against the likes of Kenny Dalglish and Kevin Keegan.

Instead, he opted to stay as a Division Two boss, battling it out against the likes of Crewe Alexandra and Shrewsbury Town.

Other managers have had no such qualms, lately, about leaving to join big-name clubs.

Brian Little caused a furore when he resigned from Leicester, jumping almost immediately into the Aston Villa vacancy. Joe Royle, a symbol of integrity, left Oldham for Everton.

So why should Martin O'Neill – who also turned down a lucrative job at Nottingham Forest 18 months ago – be any different?

He has never made a secret of his ambition to join a top club.

Yet, when it comes to the crunch, there are few better clubs around than Wycombe Wanderers.

They are financially sound, have a good base of support, are led by a go-ahead set of directors and have massive potential.

O'Neill has taken them to the threshold of greatness. They were a non-league club just two seasons ago. Now they have a good chance of winning promotion to Division One.

This is the club O'Neill built. Wembley and trophies are now second nature to Blues fans. Yet, no one could have dreamed of this success before he came.

In some ways, it would have been folly for him to jump ship now and swim in the murky waters of the Premiership relegation zone.

Instead, he is quite right to want to finish off the job he has started. There is no reason for him to go to another club if he wants the Premiership; he can get there himself with Wanderers.

But just a word of caution for the Blues faithful. O'Neill has shown you his loyalty; now return it.

The discontent was alarming last season, when Wanderers went through a sticky patch of results. Let's hope we do not see a repeat of this sorry behaviour, if ever the team stumbles for a few weeks.

Otherwise, Martin O'Neill might not be able to say no the next time a Premiership chairman comes knocking at his door.