

Wanderers player hopes invention is a surefire hit

Cyrille Regis scores a nice one when he backs friend's venture

WYCOMBE Wanderers player Cyrille Regis hopes to score a winner after backing another sporting star's invention with £20,000 of his own cash.

The former England international has injected the money into a pioneering new exhaust system which could revolutionise the diesel engine.

The scheme is the brainchild of former West Indian and Worcestershire cricketer Ron Headley.

"There was an idea there and the money has been invested in an idea," said Cyrille, 36.

Ron has spent 13 years developing the Sports Diesel Injector (SDI), which reduces pollution from diesel engines while improving performance.

Cyrille has known Ron for more than 20 years, since the days

when they trained together at West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

"Ron used to come up to train with us at the Albion back in the 1970s," he said. "I have seen him at different functions and got to know him better through Christians in Sport."

He learned about the system from Ron and the problems he was having to get the product on to the market, in particular to fund research and development.

Cyrille put £20,000 into the venture in 1991.

"Ron's been struggling to get this on the market for a good 12 to 13 years without backing, with scepticism, blockages and all sorts of problems," he said. "He has been let down so much over 13 years. It takes a lot of courage to keep coming back.

"We know what it does, but to put it out there working, to get up to marketing standard, to get it on to the market, needs finance, time and energy. That is a huge problem without investment."

The SDI works by reducing the size of the droplets fed into the cylinder by the fuel injectors, making the fuel more combustible and, as a result, less escapes through exhaust emissions.

Because of his career, Cyrille has taken more of a back seat in the project for the past two years, although Ron keeps him in touch with what is going on.

"He is a friend. He needs backing," said Cyrille. "You back your judgment. It is still running and the light is a little bit clearer now."

"It would be a shame if this idea, which can help to cut down emissions and help the environment, is not given a chance."



Backer: Cyrille Regis in action for Wycombe Wanderers