

No shortage of good candidates, say club

WYCOMBE Wanderers are delighted with what they say is the calibre and number of applicants for their managerial vacancy.

Blues have received 40 applications from ex-Premiership material to some untried and untested individuals, revealed director Graham Peart.

"We've had some from the top level to some with no experience," he said this week.

The club, who advertised the manager's job in the national press last Saturday, will hold a board meeting during the weekend to draw up a shortlist of interviewees.

Wycombe are hopeful of announcing a new boss by the end of next week.

The board meeting has been brought forward because chairman Ivor Beeks is arriving home from a holiday two days earlier than expected today.

Interviews

Director Alan Parry is also returning from a summer break this weekend.

"It has allowed us to hold a meeting to review the applications, and interviews will take place the following week," Peart explained.

The exact timing of an announcement for a new manager is more difficult to predict, though.

"We could make an offer which is not accepted," said Peart.

He revealed that some applicants have been appointed as managers elsewhere since sending in their CVs.

Peart added that the club do not expect to be in a position where they have to approach someone who hasn't applied.

Cyrille Regis, meanwhile,

REPORT By Claire Nash

was being coy as to what his plans are. The veteran striker has been mooted by many fans as a possible successor to O'Neill, possibly in tandem with someone else.

But he told the Bucks Free Press: "Congratulations to Martin, but as for myself my picture is not clear at the moment."

"Obviously I'm flattered to be mentioned in connection with the job, but first and foremost I enjoy playing."

Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club are keen on an Alan Smith-Regis partnership.

"The club need to go for a high profile replacement. They also need to retain a sense of continuity," said WWISC chairman Bob Officer.

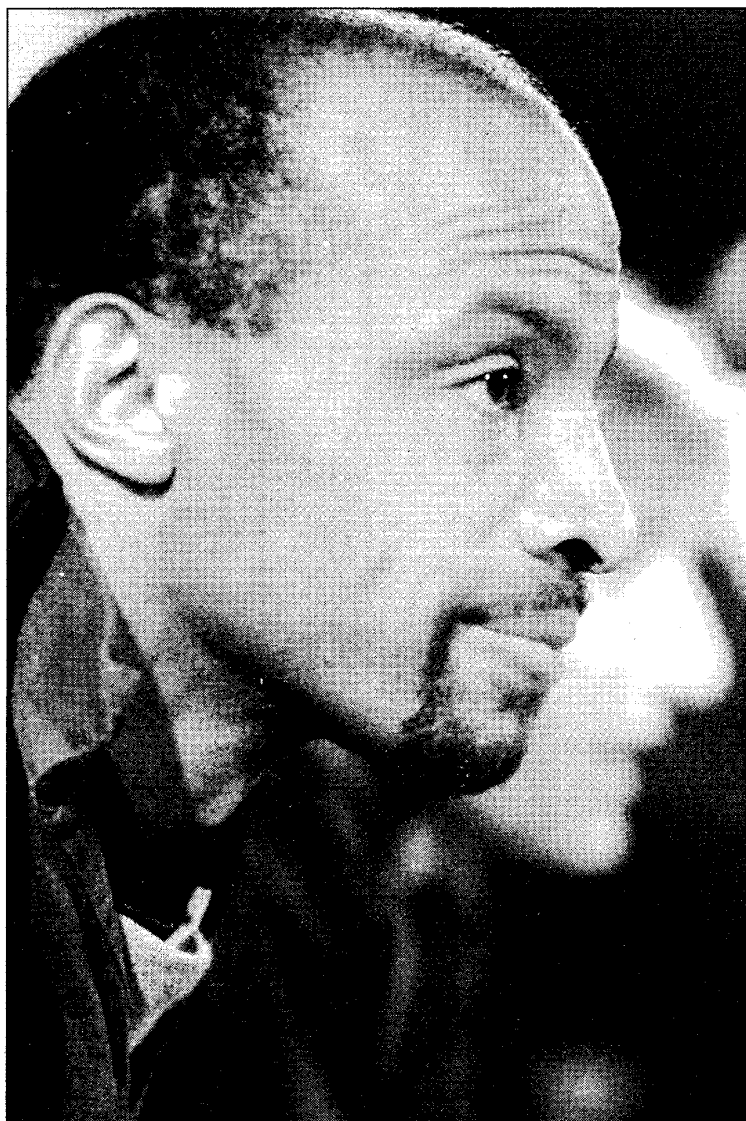
Players are awaiting the appointment of Wycombe's new manager with an edge of trepidation. "He could have completely different ideas of how to go forward," said midfielder Simon Stapleton.

Central defender Matt Crossley commented: "I don't mind who takes over so long as he likes defenders."

Whoever does take over at Adams Park will be able to bring in his own management team, with coach Paul Franklin and scout John Robertson set to join Martin O'Neill at Norwich.

Franklin has not renewed his Wycombe contract.

Chairman Beeks said players would not be heading for Carrow Road unless a healthy fat fee was in the offing. "Martin's not taking any players at all. He will have to pay," he said.



Mr Popular: Fans would be happy for Cyrille Regis to stay on board as a player/coach or player/manager, but he's not so sure