

Rigorous training regime for Blues

TOUGH GUY SMITH GETS STUCK IN

WYCOMBE Wanderers' players are in for a shock when pre-season training begins with new boss Alan Smith tomorrow.

The Smith effect has already taken hold in a big way at Adams Park, with season ticket sales being boosted significantly since the new Wycombe manager arrived last week.

But the players should beware, they're going to be put through the fitness mangle at Bisham Abbey tomorrow.

Behind Smith's disarming smile lies a stickler who will ensure there is plenty of gruelling training in preparation for the new season.

Smith said the club's board of directors gave him everything he asked for before signing a two-year contract last week. And one of the things he asked for was a big



Smith: A thorough coach

hill. "Training is going to be more intensive than it was before. I think some of the players are going to struggle," said Wanderers director Graham Peart.

He added: "Alan asked if there was a big hill near to the training ground."

Peart also revealed that

Smith is strict on punctuality and imposes fines if players are late for training. "I think it's £5 for every five minutes they're late," said the director. Youth team players will be fined to a lesser degree.

Smith will make decisions on players – who to keep and who to let go – within the next few weeks before the club's assault on promotion to Division One begins on August 12.

The contracts for teenage striker Anthony Clark and Peter Garland, who was set to join Blues on a free transfer from Charlton, still haven't actually been signed by both parties.

Blues' former boss Martin O'Neill has left the formalities for his successor to complete, or not complete, if he doesn't want to take the players on.

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