

NEW Wycombe Wanderers manager Alan Smith is taking his time to assess his squad, before deciding if he needs any new input for this season's Division Two promotion challenge.

"I honestly do not know," he said, when asked if he thought his new team were up to a serious push to get into the Endsleigh League Division One.

"I would reserve judgment on that until we have played our third or fourth friendly," said Smith, who already has four new trialists in his squad.

The manager added he is learning about his side all the time and hoped to know more after last night's first pre-season friendly against Poole Town.

Smith took 22 players on a three-day trip to play the Beazer Homes League side on the south coast.

He was intending to give all of them a run-out in the game, as well as continue his tough training programme during the trip, when Wycombe will be staying at a nearby army camp.

"It is quite a nice place for us to stay, and it also gives us a chance to get in some work down there too," said Smith, adding he was happy with the way his players had come through another week of training.

He currently has ex-Arsenal striker Martin Hayes,

midfielder Graham Bressington (back at the club he left in 1987), Ray Daniel from Portsmouth and Paul Hardyman from Bristol Rover, on trial and training with the squad.

"I am very pleased with all of them. I have not had a problem with anybody. The only ones who are injured are the ones who were injured when I arrive," Smith reported.

He added captain Terry Evans is likely to be out of action for at least three to four months.

The central defender's most recent problem has been appendicitis, resulting in an operation, after a series of injuries troubled him during last season.

Turning his attention to the rest of the squad, Smith said he thinks they are all enjoying the new regime, since he took over from Martin O'Neill last month.

"I think if you spoke to them they'd all say they feel fitter," he said, before adding there is more to football than physical fitness.

"Eventually, I think, the emphasis will be on skill," he said, referring to his techniques on the training ground.

One permanent new face in the Wycombe camp, regardless of trialists, is youth team coach Neil Smillie. The ex-Watford and Crystal Palace player has been appointed after a spell as caretaker player-manager at Gillingham last season.



Unwinding: Terry Evans and his Wycombe team had a night off to try clay pigeon shooting before this week's first friendly match against Poole