

Evans is back

TERRY Evans, Wanderers' club captain, says he is fit and ready to return to first team football.

Evans made his first appearance in 23 weeks on Wednesday night when Blues' reserves took on Reading Reserves at Adams Park.

Now, the towering defender, who played the full 90 minutes, insists he is itching to resume his place in the Blues' line-up and all he needs is the all-clear from boss Alan Smith.

For his part, Evans gave the record crowd what they wanted to see. Blues went down 2-1, their first defeat in the Capital League, but the scoreline to many may have been immaterial.

The fact that Evans made such a successful comeback match was the key to the night.

REPORT By Sharon Walter

Creating many of the opportunities that Wycombe had, he set up the goal that went some way to pulling Blues back into the game on 72 minutes, when his powerful header sent Jason Solomon goalbound.

"I was very pleased with my performance, I felt a bit slow at first but it all came flooding back very quickly," he said.

"As far as I am concerned when he (Smith) wants me, I am ready and fit to play."

Evans hasn't played a game since the end of last season, when he injured his shoulder in a clash with West Ham.

However, he believes now he is

back on the pitch, a quick return to the first team could be possible as he is fully fit.

"Because it was only an upper body injury, I have been able to keep my fitness up with running and leg work, that is why I could play the full 90 minutes."

It is unclear if Evans will make the line-up for Saturday in the derby with Oxford United, where Wycombe hope to maintain last season's 100 per cent record over the side.

Alan Smith said he would wait until after training today before making a decision on the defender.

He added that Wanderers were looking forward to the derby match, but warned they needed to keep their heads: "We must make sure we don't get sucked in by the atmosphere."

The return of Evans, however, could give the team just the right touch of leadership on the field, to further bolster their game.

There is no doubt the supporters are, desperate to see him back in action, with a crowd of nearly 600 turning out to witness his reserve game.

With reserve match attendances usually averaging around 100, Wednesday night's gate broke all previous records.

The reserve side was depleted by the absence of both Steve Thompson and Tony Hemmings, who have both left the club this week.

Thompson has been snapped up by GM Vauxhall Conference side Woking, while Hemmings was released by Wycombe to resume his career elsewhere.

■ Transfer story: Page 34

Final approval for Wanderers' 5,000 seater stand

WYCOMBE Wanderers have leapt over the final hurdle in their battle to build a 5,000 seater stand at Adams Park.

The club were given the go-ahead on Thursday by the Department of the Environment to build the two-tier South Stand, well ahead of schedule.

The DOE decision marks the last part of the club's battle for the stand, which started back in February when they submitted a

planning application to Wycombe District Council.

Work on the stand, which will incorporate 20 hospitality boxes, room for 50 disabled supporters, a 1,500 seater family stand and restaurant, is expected to begin within the next three to five weeks.

The hospitality boxes are being offered by the club from £24,000 for three years, with an extra year free of charge.

The final deadline for tenders to construct the new stand is next Monday.

Chairman Ivor Becks said: "The football club are absolutely delighted they have received final approval and that the application will not be called in, thereby confirming the consent given by Wycombe District Council."

Wanderers are expecting the stand to be in operation before next season.