

Blues spy talent

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Alan Smith returns from his holiday next week to find that the air of expectation for new signings is all the greater as the countdown begins towards pre-season preparations.

Blues resume training in two weeks' time, and, a year on from Smith being interviewed for the Wanderers manager's job, the fans eagerly await the arrival of new faces to boost their challenge for Division Two honours next season.

Jim Melvin, Wycombe's youth development officer and scout, said this week that the club have scoured the country for players who can fit into Smith's scheme of things, ability and money-wise next

Scouts scour UK for new signings

REPORT

By Claire Nash

term. "We have been looking at players during the last three or four months, but Alan needs to see if the price is right. Every Premiership and First Division club's reserve teams have been looked at at least twice.

"We have spoken to a few clubs about players but everybody's in the same boat. What we want and what we will actually be able to get are two different things. But I'm sure Alan will only bring in players

who can improve the squad."

Melvin revealed that Wycombe have spread their scouting net to take in Scotland and Ireland as well as England.

Blues now have a timetable for their plan of action next term after their league fixtures were revealed on Monday.

Although football fans in general are transfixed on the dramas unfolding in Euro 96, Wycombe's supporters are still keeping a beady eye on what is going on at Adams Park.

More than 80 per cent of their season ticket sales are for the new

all-seater Woodlands stand which is now structurally complete.

But even Wycombe's marketing manager Mark Austin admitted that a new signing or two could do even more to set the cash tills ringing.

■ Jim Melvin will meet with his opposite youth development officer number at Chelsea early next month to discuss South Bucks District Council's invitation to the Premiership club to set up a Football in the Community scheme.

Wycombe are unhappy with the project, believing it encroaches into their area.