

Fans made it hell, says sacked Smith

ALAN SMITH was sacked as Wycombe manager yesterday after a harrowing few weeks in which his car was vandalised and he and his family were abused by fans.

'It wasn't as bad as Ian Branfoot experienced when he was at Southampton but it wasn't too far behind it,' said the former Crystal Palace manager. Smith, who had eight months of his contract remaining, had £2,000 worth of damage done to his car by vandals.

He added: 'The fans weren't happy with me. I don't think they could relate to me. They thought I was a bit of a Flash Harry up from London with a big car.'

Smith's assistant David Kemp was also dismissed

By BRIAN SCOVELL

and former youth team coach Neil Smillie, another former Crystal Palace player, is now in charge. Smith added: 'I get on great with the chairman Ivor Beeks and I think it hurt him as much as it did me when he gave me the news.'

'There was pressure on him from other people and he had to do something. I don't want to give the impression I'm moaning because I'm not. This has hurt me but I'm not blaming individuals. I still love football and want to get back into it.'

Wycombe finished 12th in the Second Division last

season but are currently bottom.

Everton manager Joe Royle is believed to be lining up a bid for Inter Milan's Paul Ince following a trip to Italy on Sunday.

Chelsea chairman Ken Bates has called on the Football Association to foot the wage bill of England players when they are away on international duty.

His demand comes as a 23-man England squad assemble at Bisham Abbey today for an unprecedented nine-day preparation for the World Cup qualifier against Poland on October 9.

Southampton have signed Viking Stavanger's Norwegian international striker Egil Ostenstadt for £900,000.

AL GETS ADAMS AND HEAVE-HO

WYCOMBE have released manager Alan Smith after just 15 months in charge at Adams Park.

Assistant David Kemp has also left the Second Division strugglers after their dismal start to the season. They have failed to win once in nine league games and are bottom of the table.

Youth team boss Neil Smillie has been put in charge for tonight's home game with Rotherham and possibly for the next month.

Chairman Ivor Beeks said: 'We are not going to be rushed into a quick appointment but the job will

be advertised. Results in the last nine games have brought us to this.'

Smith said: 'Obviously, I'm sad. This club has been great and it has been a privilege for me to have been associated with it.'

'I have always put Wycombe Wanderers ahead of myself and I feel that they are too good a side to go downhill. I hope they do well in the future.'

ALEX MILLER has resigned after 10 years as manager of Scottish Premier Hibs.

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