

Players cheered Smith's sacking

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FORMER Wycombe Wanderers captain Terry Howard has told how players rang him and cheered down the phone to celebrate manager Alan Smith's sacking.

Meanwhile, the club's high-profile director Alan Parry has also revealed the manager had a major problem because he had lost the respect of his players.

But Mr Smith hit back yesterday, claiming he was up against criticism from day one and that fans turned against him after being fed misinformation. Mr Smith was axed on Monday after Blues dropped to the bottom of the Second Division.

Mr Howard, who was transferred after clashing with the manager, said: "I will not be shedding any tears for Mr Smith and I

Ex-skipper slams axed manager

don't think many players at Wycombe will either. People will think I'm being bitter because I was released by him, but most of the other players will say the same. Some of them phoned me and were cheering down the phone.

"Wycombe is a good club, the fans are great - the only thing wrong was the manager. He's a very good PR man, he should have been in politics, not football."

Mr Parry said: "Alan Smith had many qualities, his organisation and administration was outstanding, but in the end it comes down to how you communicate your ideas to your players and what respect they have for you - and clearly he had a major problem in that area."



Sacked: Alan Smith

Mr Smith said there was an undercurrent of feeling against him but dismissed Mr Howard's claims, adding: "Several of the players have rung me since Monday and if you spoke to most of them, they weren't happy to see me go."

Mr Parry was upset at comments attributed to Mr Smith in a national newspaper in which he said his car was vandalised at the club.

"I was hoping Alan would leave with dignity," said Mr Parry.

Former England striker Cyrille Regis and ex-QPR boss Ray Wilkins are now among those vying for the Blues hot seat.

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