

WANDERERS ROUND-UP

Wanderers fine Christmas gift to sick children

THE entire Wanderers team will visit the children's ward at Wycombe Hospital on Monday armed with presents – paid for by manager John Gregory's fines system.

The Blues boss fines his players a fiver if they are late, caught swearing in public, or walking around barefoot.

Gregory said: "We've raised £200 in the short time that I've been here."

Fines boss Gregory, a stickler for timekeeping even had to shell out after he was late for training.

He said: "It happened on Richard Hill's first day here and I was taking him to training, I couldn't find Holmer Green, I'd always been taken there before and this was the first time I'd driven myself and I got lost. I had to pay a fiver for me and pay Richard's fine as well."

But the boss got his own back on Hill when he caught him barefooted in the corridor and ordered him to cough up £5.

The money has been matched by the Child's Toy Shop in Desborough Road and club staff have gone out and bought £400 worth of presents.

■ Wanderers will play their ill-fated Auto Windscreen Shield first round match away at Swansea on January 8 – when all

the other sides are engaged in second round action.

The tie was due to be played last Tuesday, but Swansea called it off because they had four players in the Welsh Under-21 squad. Then it was due to be played on December 18 but Wycombe's cup replay put paid to that date, and then it was going to be on January 7 but Swansea moved that one because it was too close to their league game at Fulham on Sunday January 5, so the match will now be played at The Vetch Field on January 8.

The winners will be at home to Bristol City in round two.

■ Striker Miquel Desouza is refusing to talk about the FA Cup draw which sets Wycombe up for a home tie against Bradford in the third round if they can overcome Barnet in Tuesday's replay.

Desouza who last season scored two hat-tricks against the Bantams as they were beaten 4-0 at Bradford and 5-2 at Adams Park said: "No comment. There's no point in talking about it yet. Until we've beaten Barnet its pie in the sky."

Dave Farrell said: "I think it's a brilliant draw. We've got a good record against them and it gives us a good chance of reaching the fourth round for the first time in our history."

Gregory said: "I was hoping we might get one of the big clubs away, but we haven't and the important thing is that we are at home and we've got a chance of getting to the fourth round."

■ Barnet boss Alan Mullery, who signed John Gregory when he was manager of Brighton wishes Gregory still played for him.

Mullers said after last Saturday's 3-3 cup draw: "If John Gregory had been playing for us we would have won 3-2. He would have gone for the corner flag, or kept the ball, but we were naive and went chasing the fourth goal."

■ Wanderers will have three kits in use next season. They will use the new red and navy quartered away strip which they are introducing this summer, alongside the current white away shirt on their travels. The home strip will remain the same.

■ David Farrell's distinctive red boots are set to return – much to the annoyance of the apprentices who can't find any polish to clean them.

Farrell has got a new pair of the flashy John Barnes style boots on order and wants to wear them in Tuesday night's televised FA Cup replay at home to Barnet.

He said: "I haven't been wearing them recently because I haven't been starting matches. I

didn't fancy running up and down the touchline wearing them as a substitute because the fans give you too much stick".

■ Former Blues boss Alan Smith was widely tipped to be the new boss at Brighton until the struggling third division club appointed Steve Gritt on Wednesday instead.

■ Young gun Maurice Harkin is not getting carried away by his call up to the first team at Barnet on Saturday.

Harkin, who made his debut as substitute during the 3-3 draw, said: "I know I only got my chance because of injuries and suspensions. I had lots of butterflies but I was OK when I came on. I'd love to have another chance."

■ Wanderers have been drawn away to Thatcham in the first round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. The match should be played on January 13.

■ Former Blues defender Terry Howard was featured on Tuesday's London Tonight news programme.

Howard, who now works at Billingsgate Market, plays part-time for Woking and featured in the programme's round-up on the third round of the FA Cup.

Woking drew Premiership club Coventry on Monday night in the draw for the third round.