

Blues favourite heads list of eight players not offered new contracts



OUT: Cheesewright



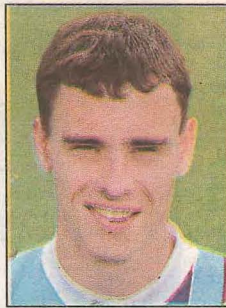
OUT: Crossley



OUT: Evans



OUT: Patterson



OUT: Farrell



OUT: Clark



OUT: Skiverton



OUT: Hall

Axe falls on hero Evans

CLUB captain Terry Evans heads a list of eight players released by Wanderers boss John Gregory this week.

The others going in his big clearout are: John Cheesewright, Dave Farrell, Gary Patterson, Terry Skiverton, Graham Hall, Anthony Clark and Matt Crossley. All leave on free transfers.

Meanwhile Gregory has offered new terms to his three remaining out-of-contract players.

Jason Cousins has been offered a one year deal, Steve McGavin two years, while Player of the Year Mickey Bell, who has been stalling on re-signing, was given an improved offer on Tuesday in a bid to persuade him to stay.

But it is the exit of Evans, predicted in the Bucks Free Press in February when we revealed Wanderers were chasing Swansea defender Keith Walker to replace him, that will shock fans.

Earlier this season Evans, who is one of the club's top wage earners, looked to have a job for life at Adams Park as he was appointed assistant caretaker manager alongside Neil Smillie until Gregory's appointment.

But under Gregory he has been chopped and changed with Paul McCarthy.

Gregory said: "I consider it progress. I couldn't guarantee him

REPORT By Dave Peters

a place next season and I think he's got a better chance fixing himself up with another club this summer than he would next year.

"It was a difficult decision because he's been an inspiration to us. We thank him for what he has done and wish him luck. I thought long and hard about it, but there's no room for sentiment."

Evans said: "I thought I was worth a new contract but it didn't really shock me that I didn't get one. I've been dropped a couple of times after winning the man of the match award in the previous game and I thought then the writing was on the wall. John Gregory has decided to clear the decks and build for the future."

"I'd have loved to stay but football is cruel, there's no loyalty. I'm sorry to be leaving the fans behind because they've been fantastic and I want to thank them."

Evans could be fixed up quickly though. On Wednesday he was Martin O'Neill's guest at Leicester against Sheffield Wednesday and when he got home there were already messages from other interested clubs on his answerphone.

Continued on page 22



Quarterback: Richard Hill (left) and John Gregory fashion hopes of a kit change next season

Cost of the Adams Park eight

JOHN Gregory has released all eight players for nothing. Here we list their value when they arrived at Adams Park.

- David Farrell: £100,000 from Aston Villa (44 league starts - £2,272 per start before wages).
- Gary Patterson: £70,000 from Shrewsbury (46 league starts - £1,521 per start before wages).
- Terry Evans: £40,000 from Brentford (128 league starts -

£312 per start before wages).

- Matt Crossley: Cost nothing (93 league starts plus Conference appearances).
- Terry Skiverton: Free transfer from Chelsea (13 league starts).
- John Cheesewright: Free transfer (18 league starts).
- Anthony Clark: From school (two league starts).
- Graham Hall: Free Transfer (no league starts).

Is that shirt show a message in disguise?

JOHN Gregory and his assistant Richard Hill dropped a massive hint that the quarters could return to Adams Park next season, when they changed into the traditional old kit to join the players' lap of honour last Saturday.

No-one at the club will confirm their return but perhaps more

importantly no-one will deny it either.

Gregory has campaigned for the kits' return but refused to say whether his shirt-show was significant saying "I love the quarters."

Wanderers have maintained they could not change the kit until they sold all 1500 of the stripey shirts.

That happened last weekend. But a stumbling block could still be the surplus of stripey material the club still has at kit stockists Mizuno.

Wanderers sold 135 new yellow and navy quartered away shirts on the first day of sale proving fans love quarters. Normally only 300 or 400 away shirts are sold in a season.

Axe clears path for new stars to blossom

Continued from back page

Farrell, who is on the verge of signing a three year deal for Peterborough, learned of his release from teletext. He had permission to miss Tuesday's meeting, when the others were told, to talk to Barry Fry.

He said: "I'm glad and not surprised. But the boss should've had the bottle to tell me."

Gregory said: "He knew what

was happening because I allowed him to talk to Peterborough."

For goalkeeper John Cheesewright the writing was on the wall after a series of costly clangers. The rest were fringe or reserve players who were victims of the club's need to trim the wage bill. Wanderers will make a loss for the second year running.

Gregory said: "I'll have to carry fewer players next season. With

eight going we've maybe got room for one or two to come in."

Cuts began last season as Miquel Desouza and Matthew Lawrence were sold, and record signing John Williams, Brian McGorry and Damien Markman left on frees."

Gregory hopes his actions will make room for Martin Taylor, Keith Scott and Keith Walker to come in.