

League step in over Fulham cash

WANDERERS had to go to the Football League to get mega-rich Fulham to cough up for Matthew Lawrence.

Wanderers called in the League after The Cottagers, owned by Harrods boss Mohammed Al Fayed, did not respond to their demands for £5,000.

The money, part of Lawrence's £20,000 move to Craven Cottage, became due after the defender played his 20th game for Kevin Keegan's side following his move last season. The final £5,000 will come when Lawrence plays 40 games.

Blues secretary John Reardon said: "They were five weeks behind but paid within three days of the League giving them a reminder."

Wanderers will shortly

receive £12,500 from Peterborough. The money is part of the £50,000 fee that took Miquel Desouza to London Road. The Posh paid £25,000 up front with the rest coming after 20 and 40 games.

● John Gregory will stick with his five man defence despite the club's goals against column.

He said: "The defensive system was a strength last season and the amount of goals we have conceded is a major surprise."

Paul McCarthy, who lost his place and captain's armband to new signing Nicky Mohan, could be recalled tomorrow.

● Ex-Wanderer Tim Langford handed over a cheque for £45,000 to the Birmingham Children's Hospital - three years after starting the appeal.

Langford began fundraising as a Wycombe player when his son Adam was diagnosed as suffering from leukaemia.

He said: "I'd like to thank the Wycombe fans for all the money they donated. Adam's now six and has gone 14 months without treatment."

Langford is hoping to play in Dave Carroll's testimonial.

● Wanderers lost 3-1 to Fulham in the Capital League on Wednesday with Paul Read grabbing the Blues consolation.

● The all-red away kit, introduced for the FA Cup clash at Colchester last season, will replace the white pin-striped shirt as the club's second away strip next season. Replica red kits will go into the club shop on June 1, 1998.