

As Parry offers his services, Beeks insists Blues will take early reject Eddie May asks ...

Is it all done & dusted?

High profile, and not, line up for job

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Neville Southall can also be expected to feature amongst the high profile candidates. He is desperate to break into management and was recommended for the Cardiff City job that went to Frank Burrows.

Former World Cup star and ex-Portsmouth manager Terry Fenwick is another Cardiff applicant who is now turning his attentions to Wycombe.

He was a former playing colleague of Smillie's at Crystal Palace and has already put a call in to Beeks.

Fenwick said: "I feel I've learned a lot from my time at Portsmouth and I'm hungry to get back into the game."

Ex-QPR boss Stewart Houston and former England skipper Mick Mills added to the speculation by attending Tuesday's match against York at Adams Park but kept tightlipped about what they were doing there.

Houston could have been there in a working capacity though, he does some scouting for George Graham at Leeds.

Wanderers will advertise the job shortly although some managers like May are keen to queue jump.

That includes former Chelsea, Southampton and Leicester player Dennis Rofe who was manager at Bristol Rovers and number two at Southampton. He was made redundant from his coaching job at Fulham when Mohamed Al Fayed swept in.

He said: "My cv's already in the post. I've seen Wycombe quite a few times this season with Fulham and I liked what I saw."

Steve Gritt, sacked by Brighton last week after saving their league bacon, applied for the Wycombe job last time but did not get an interview.

A former colleague has put his name forward and Gritt said he was not unhappy to be in the frame again.

Paul Fairclough, boss at non-league FA Cup giantkillers Stevenage has also had his name mentioned in the corridors of Adams Park.

He has another year of his Stevenage contract to run but would be interested if Wycombe approached him and believes they should look outside the league.

He said: "Professional football is the only business I know where you can fail, go away and play golf for six months and then come back into another job."

"Chairman should look beyond people who have failed. There's a wealth of hungry talent away from the incestuous relationship of the Football League."

Former Reading boss Mick Gooding has also applied for the Wycombe post.

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REPORT By Dave Peters

CARETAKER boss Neil Smillie has staked his claim to be Blues' next manager with two straight wins – but chairman Ivor Beeks insists there are no early favourites to succeed John Gregory.

Beeks claims he is adopting a wait and see policy and said: "Finding a manager is important but not as important as getting the points we need to stay up."

But the Bucks Free Press can exclusively reveal that the process has already begun and that at least one hopeful manager has already been turned away. Fifteen have so far applied and club secretary John Reardon confirmed: "There are two types of letter going out."

Eddie May, sacked by Brentford to make way for Micky Adams earlier this season, applied for the Adams Park job last Friday and received a letter on Tuesday telling him his application had been unsuccessful.

May said: "The speed with which it has all

happened suggests to me that it is all done and dusted. It makes me think they have already got someone lined up for it."

Two of Blues' previous bosses were headhunted by Wanderers director and Sky Sports commentator Alan Parry.

Parry has again offered his expertise and has a brilliant track record. He recommended Martin O'Neill and John Gregory to the club and both are now in the Premiership.

Parry who said he doesn't know anything yet, said: "Working in football and knowing so many people in the game does give me an advantage and I'd like to think I could make some contribution in that sense again if that's what's required."

Parry was at West Ham against Arsenal on Monday but did not speak to wannabe manager and Chalfont resident David Platt about Wycombe.

Parry said: "We have to

remember who we are. Goodness knows what sort of money he's on. Unless he's prepared to take a massive drop in money to launch his managerial career I don't think David Platt is a realistic candidate."

But while Platt is off limits, Wanderers can be expected to make another shrewd signing whether it is Smillie or someone else.

Beeks said: "Neil's made a good start but I've told him there are no guarantees and that hasn't changed."

Fans' favourite and former player Cyrille Regis will not be applying but is not out of the running.

He was interviewed last time around but is now coach at first division West Bromwich Albion.

Regis said: "I'm happy and under contract for three years so that's the end of it as far as me applying is concerned."

"But if someone went through the proper channels and made an approach to the chairman and he let me speak to the club, that's a different story."

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No bids for Smillie's goal hero Ryan

CHAIRMAN Ivor Beeks confirmed that Wanderers have received no bids for new skipper Keith Ryan.

Rhino is a target of Premier Division Leicester and Aston Villa. Scouts from Manchester City, Wimbledon and Aberdeen were

also in the stands against York on Tuesday although it is not clear who they were watching.

Ryan's feet are doing the talking. After failing to score a league goal under John Gregory he has scored twice to give caretaker boss

Neil Smillie a perfect start.

Ryan said: "It's been hectic because of all the speculation about Martin O'Neill and John Gregory saying he wouldn't mind taking me to Villa and being made captain here. My head's been in the clouds."