

Villa and Charlton lined up for pre-season friendlies

JOHN Gregory is set to return to Adams Park with his Aston Villa team as part of Wycombe Wanderers pre-season build up.

Villa's visit, part of the compensation package agreed when Gregory left Wycombe to become the Midlands manager last season, has been pencilled in for July 25 but is still subject to change.

But the Blues will definitely be taking on Charlton Athletic at Adams Park on Saturday, August 1, seven days before the Nationwide season kicks off.

Blues had also arranged a fixture with Terry Evans' Kingstonian for July 18 but that match will now have to be re-arranged because the K's are playing Chelsea on that date instead.

Blues boss Neil Smillie is still trying to arrange one more prestige home friendly and a couple of others against non-league opposition.

Smillie admitted he has found it difficult to attract the teams he wants to Wycombe this

summer for friendlies.

He said: "Most of the big clubs fix up their pre-season friendlies a long way in advance."

Smillie was not able to do that as he only got the Wycombe job at the end of the season.

● Injured duo Paul McCarthy and Michael Forsyth have been at Adams Park this week working on their fitness while the rest of the squad have been away on holiday.

McCarthy is still recovering from a hernia operation which has kept him out of action since February while Forsyth is working on the hamstring strain which ended his season seven weeks early.

● Wanderers are introducing a membership scheme for fans next season. Benefits include free entry to all reserve matches, a discount of between five and ten per cent in the clubshop, priority booking for cup matches, 25 per cent off room hire and £5 off Vere Suite membership.

The membership scheme is free to 1998/99

season ticket holders or £15 for adults, £10 for OAPs and £5 for children.

● Dave Carroll, who had his new contract talks postponed last week, will meet boss Neil Smillie today in an attempt to thrash out a new deal.

Carroll said: "I'm hoping we can sort something out."

● Renewing season ticket holders who introduce a new season ticket holder this summer will get 20 per cent off the price of the introduced season ticket.

● If leagues were won on bad behaviour Blues would have been in the play-offs.

With six sendings off they finished joint fourth of a bad boys table for dismissals. They also finished high up in the bookings table where their 72 yellow cards put them joint fifth.

Blues will suffer for their ill-discipline next season. Nicky Mohan misses the first three matches after his sending off against Chesterfield.