

Blues have some Premiership pull

WYCOMBE Wanderers have four tantalising home draws with Premiership opposition which could see gates for their reserve games rise this coming season.

The Blues will be taking on the reserve sides of Premiership champions Arsenal, Chelsea, West Ham and Southampton in the Avon Insurance Combination League.

Blues boss Neil Smillie decided to opt out of the Capital League last season and join the Avon, where he believed his side would come up against tougher reserve opposition.

And with many of the Premiership clubs playing some of their big-name stars back from injury in the reserves, that could mean some familiar faces at Adams Park.

Reserve football just got better

It will also see former Arsenal man Paul Read, who was a regular in Blues' reserves last season, facing his old team-mates again.

Five first division sides will also be visiting Wycombe for reserve football.

They include newly-promoted Watford, QPR, Portsmouth, Norwich City and Swindon Town.

A total of 14 reserve home matches will be played with season ticket holders gaining free entry to all of them.

The reserve games will follow on from three pre-season friendlies, which will also draw Premiership and Division One opponents to Adams Park.

The friendlies kick off with Terry Venables' Crystal Palace on July 15 (ko 7.45pm), before John Gregory's Aston Villa arrive on July 28 (ko 7.45pm). The friendlies are rounded-off with a visit from Premiership new boys Charlton on August 1 (ko 3pm).

● Wanderers have sold more than £250,000 worth of season tickets in the three weeks since they went on sale.

The club's sales and marketing manager Mark Austin said he is pleased with the take-up so far.

"They are going extremely well," he said. "It's difficult to compare it yet with last season, because the dates are different each year.

"It's nice to know they are going well," he added.

The club reduced season tickets for under-tens to £23 for the coming season in a bid to encourage families.

Season tickets remain at a discounted rate until 5.15pm on July 3. Early bookings can save supporters up to £65.

● The Quartermaster, Wanderers' new official club magazine, will be on general sale from July 29.

The magazine is issued free to last year's season ticket holders.

● Wanderers have installed three large screens in the Centre Spot, the Keen Lounge and the Vere Suite for punters wanting to watch all the World Cup action.

The club has even purchased a special television projector for the duration of the tournament.