

Smillie faces his frustrated fans

Rovers return

WYCOMBE v BRISTOL RVRS
A guide to Monday's
Division Two match at
Adams Park

BRISTOL Rovers showed their ambition to join cross-city rivals Bristol City in Division One next year when they turned down a £2 million bid for striker Barry Hayles this summer.

Blues will be hoping their preparation is smoother than it was for the last clash between the two sides in February.

That was when their pre-match meal was interrupted by a phone call from Aston Villa inviting John Gregory to become their new manager.

Tickets bought before Monday's match (ko 3pm) are £1 cheaper.

BLUES boss Neil Smillie will tackle head on the fans who are disappointed by the club's worst ever start to a league campaign at a fans forum at Adams Park next Thursday (7.30pm).

Smillie, his helper Terry Evans, marketing manager Mark Austin and youth team coach Gary Goodchild have agreed to take part in the question and answer session which has been organised by the Official Supporters Club.

And although fans are not blaming skint Smillie for the club's poor start he can expect an uneasy night. Dozens of supporters left Adams Park early last week as the Blues slipped to a second successive home league defeat – and a small minority repeated their calls for chairman Ivor Beeks to resign.

Morale among fans is low. For the first time in Wanderers' Football League history the

Independent Supporters Club is not running a coach to tomorrow's match at York because of insufficient interest – and last Saturday's Adams Park crowd of just 4,102, was the club's lowest-ever for a quid-a-kid promotion.

Admission to the forum in the Woodlands Club is free to members of both supporters clubs and £1 to everyone else.

● Former Wanderers assistant boss Richard Hill has followed Martin O'Neill and John Gregory into the Premiership.

Hill, who quit Adams Park when Gregory got the Aston Villa job, has been appointed Derby County's South of England scout.

Last Saturday he was spotted in the White Hart Lane directors box watching Spurs lose 3-0 to Sheffield Wednesday – and by coincidence he was sitting next to Gregory who is believed to have been watching Tottenham's Chris Armstrong.

Hill said: "I saw eight different

games last week and I'm really enjoying it being part of a Premiership club."

● Blues match at Fulham on Saturday, September 5 has been called off due to international commitments. Fulham's Chris Coleman and Kit Symons are in the Welsh squad due to face Italy and their goalkeeper Maik Taylor is in the Northern Ireland squad.

Blues will now travel to Craven Cottage on September 29.

● Third division Southend wanted to take Keith Scott on loan with a view to a permanent move before the striker dislocated his elbow at Millwall. Wycombe turned the approach down.

● The latest edition of the Wanderer fanzine goes on sale at Adams Park before the Bristol Rovers game on Monday.

The 80-pence Wanderer boasts a glossy front cover for the first time, an interview with Neil Smillie and a culinary guide to Blues' forthcoming away games.

Rhino's out of the action

YORK v WYCOMBE
A guide to tomorrow's
Division Two clash at
Bootham Crescent

NEIL Smillie will have to pick a new captain tomorrow as Keith Ryan misses the Bank Holiday programme with an ankle injury.

But there is better news on Andy Baird who is available after dislocating his finger against Walsall. Smillie also hopes to include a loan signing. (see page 110)

John Cornforth is still being troubled by a calf injury and remains doubtful but it's better news for midfielder Mo Harkin who Smillie says should be ok.

York's win at Burnley last week means they have won one, lost one and drawn one.