

BACK THE BOSS

Players insist Smillie should be given time

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

BLUES skipper Jason Cousins has urged the club's directors not to make manager Neil Smillie the scapegoat for the club's awful start to the season.

Smillie and chairman Ivor Beeks were locked in talks at the back of the stand after the Blues lost 2-1 to an 89th minute penalty at bitter rivals Colchester on Saturday.

And Smillie's body language afterwards suggested that the conversation had not gone along the lines of "we were unlucky today."

But captain Cousins is in no doubt that Smillie is the man to drag winless Wycombe off the bottom of the table.

He said: "Neil is the man for the job, he's a very good manager. His record spoke for itself last season and it's more or less the same bunch of players this season. If they don't put out for him that's not his fault."

"He's got the confidence of the players. We're all behind him and Gary Micklewhite 100 per cent. The players have got to take the responsibility themselves."

Defender Alan Beeton joined the manager's defence committee.

He said: "You can't come down on the manager. It is up to the 11 that go out and do it on Saturday."

Chairman Ivor Beeks was unavailable for comment.



On the slide: Jason Cousins says boss Neil Smillie should not be blamed for Blues' bad start