

Froggatt stuck in Smillie's throat

Blues boss sees yet another transfer bid fall through

STEVE Froggatt's £2 million transfer from Wolves to Coventry has scuppered Neil Smillie's attempts to sign winger Michael Gilkes.

Wolves boss Mark McGhee was prepared to let Gilkes join the Blues on a three-month loan deal with a view to a permanent move – but chaged his mind when he realised he was about to lose Froggatt.

Former Reading and Chelsea winger Gilkes had been out of the Molineux picture before then, but in Froggatt's absence he was brought on as substitute in Wolves' last two games and even made Wolverhampton's goal in Tuesday 2-1 defeat by QPR.

A disappointed Smillie said: "We're not having a lot of luck bringing people here at the moment. We've had two or three situations now where we've hit the post."

● Neil Smillie is renewing his attempt to bring Bristol City striker Steve Torpey in on loan.

Torpey has already turned Wanderers down once, preferring to battle it out for a first team place in City's reserves, but Smillie is hoping to persuade him to change his mind in time for tomorrow's match. And he has help from Bristol boss John Ward who thinks a loan would benefit Torpey.

Smillie wants the 6ft 3in target man to pep up Wanderers' powder puff attack.

Torpey, 28, and with 84 goals to his credit, went on loan to Notts County but is not keen on a similar move.

● In the week when Wanderers' annual accounts will start dropping through the letterboxes of the club's members, the Bucks Free Press can reveal that stay-away fans are costing Wycombe £7,000 a match.

The number of people who have been coming through the

home turnstiles at Adams Park this season is 1,100 down per match on last season – equating to £7,000 in lost receipts. The figures have been somewhat offset though, by healthy away fan attendances at Adams Park.

The two Worthington Cup matches against Middlesbrough brought in a windfall of £60,000 – the exact figure which Neil Smillie spent bringing Paul Emblen to the club.

Wanderers were delighted with the cup cash but unlike in previous seasons, where they didn't budget for more than one round in each cup competition, optimistic Blues directors had already included a second round cup match in their budget – so the figure cannot be seen as an extra £60,000.

● The freeze on new membership applications has been thawed.

Applications are now being considered to bring the number of members up to the 500 limit.

To become a member you must hold a current season ticket and provide proof that you have been a season ticket holder for three consecutive years previously and be accepted by the board.

Applications should be sent to Gordon Richards, Director and Company Secretary, Wycombe Wanderers, Football Club, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands.

New applications had previously been frozen while possible changes to the constitution were being discussed.

● Blues' Division Two match at Gillingham on Saturday, October 10 has been brought forward to a midday kick off to avoid a clash with England's European Championship qualifier against Bulgaria later that afternoon.

● Adams Park will stage the womens international between England and Romania on Sunday, October 11.

The match will kick off at 2pm and admission is £3 adults or £1 concessions.



SNAP SHOT: Wanderers fans can have their picture taken with the club mascot Bodger, free of charge, a week-on-Saturday when the larger-than-life legend will be in town.