

Wycombe kick up over Gills timing

GILLINGHAM'S decision to bring tomorrow's kick off forward to midday has cost Wanderers £1,000.

Neil Smillie's team are having to cough up to stay in a hotel tonight, when they had previously intended to travel up on the day.

Wanderers secretary Ian Moat said: "We're very unhappy about it. We never agreed to the time and it's costing us money."

"We had to pay for an overnight stop because otherwise it would have meant some of our players who don't live in the area having to start travelling before 7am - and that's not the best preparation for an important match."

He also sympathised with Blues travelling supporters who will now have to make an early start.

Gillingham brought the match forward by three hours to avoid a clash with England's game against Bulgaria in the afternoon.

Wanderers complained but their objections were overruled by the Football League who also turned down their appeal for help from Gillingham to foot their hotel bill.

The League upheld Gillingham's view that the two hour journey from Wycombe to Gillingham did not necessitate an overnight stop - and refused to consider the fact that almost half of Wanderers team are based in the Midlands.

● Blues are interested in two players who are out of favour with their Premiership clubs.

● Former Wanderers keeper Brian Parkin will play a one-off match for Notts County against Lincoln City tomorrow.

Parkin, released by Wycombe last summer, was asked to bail out the East Midlands club because their first choice goalkeeper Gavin Ward is on international duty with Wales.

● Jeff Lamb has been released by the club. His month to month contract has not been renewed.

● Blues boss Neil Smillie is keeping tabs on Notts County striker Sean Farrell.

Farrell has not been able to win a Magpies place since his injury.

Smillie said: "We're considering him, it's an option for us."

But while Farrell comes into the

Early start leaves Wanderers with £1,000 hotel bill to pay



Thrown out: Dutch defender Robin Wyngaarde played at Adams Park on Wednesday, but failed to impress boss Neil Smillie and has gone back to Holland

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picture to pep up Blues goal-shy attack, Bristol City hitman Steve Torpey is out of the frame.

Smillie has twice tried to persuade the 6'3" target man to join and will not be trying a third time.

He said: "There's no point in bringing someone in on loan who does not want to play for us."

Smillie now seems to be turning his attentions to goal providers rather than scorers.

He said: "I've got four centre forwards at the club, we need a midfielder and a wide man who can provide them with chances."

Blues strikers have been moaning that they have been starved of chances and Smillie has recognised the point by admitting the supply needs pepping up.

Wanderers striking problems are emphasised by a glance at the statistics which show that Mark Stallard is the club's leading scorer in the league with just two goals.

● Stallard bagged a penalty for the reserves in their 1-1 draw with Gillingham on Wednesday, but missed a stack of chances from open play.

Stallard, last season's leading scorer, was dropped for the first time in his Blues career against Notts County last week, and his sabbatical in the reserves will not have done his confidence much good as Gill's ageless keeper Jim Stannard frustrated him.

Smillie said: "Stall is short of confidence at the moment and he is one of those players that needs confidence. He's his own biggest critic and he probably worries and cares too much about it. I haven't made my mind up about him on Saturday."

● Triallist Mark Cooper has also been released after failing to do enough to win a contract in his two games for Wanderers reserves.

● Fans can have their picture taken free of charge with Blues mascot Bodger at Wanderers In Town tomorrow afternoon.

● Neil Smillie praised the fans and players following last week's draw with Notts County.

He said: "There was a lot of enthusiasm from the players and the crowd. The fans got behind everyone, it was a real partnership."

● A retirement party was held for former secretary John Reardon at Adams Park on Wednesday night. Reardon spent 40 years at the club as a player, manager and then secretary.

● Blues will play Birmingham in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup.