

Don't worry, your number isn't up

MANAGER Lawrie Sanchez has reassured midfielders Steve Brown and Michael Simpson that their squad numbers do not reflect their standing in his plans for next season.

Brownie has been given the number 30 and Simmo 28 next season as the Nationwide League comes into line with the Premiership this year by introducing squad numbers for the first time.

Sanchez said: "All the players were asked to pick a number from one to 11 and then to pick a second number up to 30. If they couldn't get their first choice I tried to give them their second. There's nothing to be read into it."

Blues numbers: 1 Martin Taylor, 2 Matt Lawrence, 3 Chris Vinnicombe, 4 Jason Cousins, 5 Paul McCarthy, 6 Jamie Bates, 7 Dave Carroll, 8 Keith Ryan, 9 Andy Baird, 10 Sean Devine, 11 Paul Emblen, 13 Mark Westhead, 14 Mo Harkin, 15 Jermaine McSparran, 16 Lee Holsgrove, 17 Mark

Rogers, 19 Gary Wraight, 20 Richard Thompson, 21 Alan Beeton, 22 Dannie Bulman, 24 Nick Leach, 25 Martyn Lee, 26 Mark Osborn, 27 Eddie Gray, 28 Michael Simpson, 29 Danny Senda, 30 Steve Brown.

● Sanchez has failed in his bid to move the Notts County game forward two days to Thursday, April 20 instead of Saturday, April 22 to give Blues longer to prepare for Easter Monday's Reading derby.

The league refused to sanction the switch but have allowed the Blues to play it on Good Friday, April 21 at 7.45pm instead.

Sanchez said: "It's better than nothing, at least we're not playing Saturday and Monday."

● Captain Jason Cousins looks set to miss the club's pre-season trip to Ireland after failing to report for the start of pre-season training.

He is still suffering from the twisted ankle he received at Bristol Rovers in March and is

rehabilitating at Lilleshall in a race to be fit for the League opener against Burnley on August 7.

Sanchez said: "It's taken longer than we thought. It'll be two or three weeks before he can join us."

Goalkeeper Martin Taylor was another absentee when the squad reported back last Thursday. He was also at Lilleshall recovering from his successful summer knee operation, but he was back with the troops this week at RAF Halton.

Everyone else reported back fit and Sanchez did not have to impose any of his threatened £50 fines for players returning overweight.

He said: "They knew what was expected of them and they've all looked after themselves. There's a good mood about the place and the players just want to get the games going but there's plenty of hard work to be done before then."

Sanchez has also given the players a massive vote of confidence by not inviting trialists to train.

● Steve Brown, who turned 33 this week, has set his sights on winning a new two-year contract and believes more goals could help him get it.

Blues' oldest player said: "I'm in my last year of my contract and I'm very focussed. It's a big year for me, we've got our first child on the way and I want to do well."

He added: "I've set myself a target of four or five goals by mid-September and that's realistic. I watched last season's video and realised I didn't score after Boxing Day. That's not good enough."

He's torn into pre-season training and said: "It's very intense but good fun. There's a good mood in the camp and it feels like it did when we left eight weeks ago."

It's the final countdown to open day at Adams Park

THE Wycombe Wanderers Open Day is now just seven days away and next week's Bucks Free Press will be printing an exclusive picture poster form for youngsters to fill in

Wolves date

IN last week's BFP we incorrectly stated that the Blues' Worthington Cup first leg match at home to Wolves was on April 20. That match will in fact be played on Tuesday, August 10.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by our error.

and complete on the day.

We will be printing the pictures of Wanderers' players and fans who get them signed by the stars can win exclusive goodie bags in the Blues player trail.

Wanderers are expecting a bumper crowd for the open day with interest in the club currently booming.

Adams Park chiefs this week reported that they have already taken more than £320,000 in advanced season ticket sales and are on course to set a new record.

The season ticket early booking deadline has been extended to

include next Friday's open day. The Adams Park ticket office will stay open until 8.45pm.

If you can't make it down to the ground, early bird discounts are available from Wanderers in Town but only until 5.15pm next Friday. Tickets can also be booked on the creditcard Hotline (01494) 441118.

The Bucks Free Press-sponsored open day runs from 5pm until 9pm and coincides with the official launch of the new Wycombe Racers junior supporters club which is being sponsored for the first time by the Hotwheels toy company.

Boss Lawrie Sanchez and all the

players will be in attendance and club press officer Alan Hutchinson will be conducting public interviews with them throughout the evening.

Supporters will also be able to take a peek behind the scenes and sit in the manager's office, look around the Adams Park gymnasium, see where chairman Ivor Beeks holds his board meetings and go into the new-look home changing rooms.

Entrance and parking is free and there will be competitions to enter as well as a disco and the BFP face painter will also be there to make sure fans look the part.