

ALAN BEETS VIRUS

MENINGITIS victim Alan Beeton reckons it will be three weeks before he recovers from the illness he thought was going to kill him.

Speaking from his hospital bed, the Wanderers star

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

told Midweek: "I'm looking at three weeks before I can start training.

"I'm just glad to be alive. I thought I was going to die, but old Comanche [Blues'

good luck charm] looked after me.

"I was so scared. When I was on my own I cried, but I didn't let my mum and dad see because I knew how worried they were and I didn't want to worry them."

● Continued on page 39

How the Beeton drama unfolded ...

Tuesday: Alan Beeton plays the full 90 minutes of Wanderers' 1-0 win over Marlow in a pre-season friendly.

Wednesday 3.30pm: Beeton leaves for Wanderers' friendly at Oxford

Wednesday 7.50pm: Beeton returns to his Watford home complaining of a violent headache, shaking and aching joints.

Thursday 4.25am: Beeton wakes his parents complaining he's feeling worse.

Thursday 11 am: He goes to his doctors, is prescribed ibuprofen and told to see how he feels in two hours.

Thursday 1.30pm: Doctors ring back saying they are unhappy and refer the Blues defender to Watford General Hospital for meningitis tests.

Thursday 3.30pm: Beeton arrives at hospital, is put on antibiotics and in an isolation ward.

Thursday midnight: The trip

to Dublin is off. Wanderers start ringing staff and players and order them to stay in their homes for 48-hour incubation period.

Friday 5am: Supporters leave Adams Park unaware that the trip to Dublin has been cancelled.

Friday 11am: Fans arrive at their hotels in Dublin to be told the match is off.

Friday 2.30pm: Wanderers' Aer Lingus flight leaves without them.

● Continued from back

"But I'm feeling much better now. I've been up and walked about a bit but I still feel dizzy and the headache is only just going.

"The best news is that the doctors have told me it isn't going to affect my profession."

The rest of the Wanderers squad came through the 48-hour danger period with flying colours, although two, Martyn Lee and Nicky Leach did suffer two unrelated health scares – and the club has been given the all-clear to continue with tonight's reserve friendly at Thame

Sanchez's men prepare for Notts clash

(ko 7.30pm) and tomorrow's match at home to Nottingham Forest (ko 7.45pm). The club insist there is no danger to public safety.

Boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "We're getting back to normal after a traumatic weekend. It's been frightening for all the lads. The

important thing is that Beeton's going to be ok. Luckily they diagnosed it early."

The cancellation of the Irish trip, on medical advice, has left Wanderers having to refund the four sponsors who paid for the trip.

Sanchez said: "It's cost the club but what's money compared to health? That was all that was important here."

"The lads were disappointed to miss the trip but were more worried for Beets."

Around 50 fans went to Dublin unaware of the drama unfolding at

home. But they made the best of it.

Keith Blagbrough, who was on the Official Supporters Club trip, said: "We didn't know the game was off until we got to our hotel. We made the best of the weekend and still managed to see two matches taking in Shelbourne against Portadown and Shamrock against the Argentinian side Boca Juniors."

Blues' trip to the Emerald Isle could still be resurrected. Aer Lingus have kept the flight tickets open until May and Sanchez is keen to take his players across the Irish sea at some time.