



● **DEFENDED: Bodger**

Bodger's TV slating

A TOP chat show host targeted Wycombe Wanderers mascot Bodger while criticising club mascots in front of millions of TV viewers on the BBC show Room 101.

Michael Parkinson, who lives in Bray, near Maidenhead picked football mascots as one of his choices on the show - which features celebrities picking the things they think should be banned from modern life.

As Mr Parkinson revealed his loathing of the mascots, host Paul Merton showed a picture of the Blues' Bodger as the main example.

Bodger was named after former player and Wycombe legend Tony 'Bodger' Horseman who scored a massive 525 goals in 900 appearances for the club.

Bodger was chosen as official mascot in recognition of Tony Horseman's magnificent achievements for the club.

Mr Horseman said the mascot was a great way for youngsters to

get involved with the club.

Mr Horseman, who now works for Wycombe Wanderers' official sponsors Verco Office Furniture Limited, said: "I think he was just passing his own opinion but I don't agree with it. The mascot is just a bit of fun."

Club spokesman Alan Hutchinson said Bodger had done a good job for the club during the past season - boosting up the fans before and during matches at Adams Park.

The original mascot Bluey was retired in July last year and appeared for the last time at a match against Crystal Palace.

Mr Horseman introduced his name sake to fans at a pre-season friendly against Aston Villa last year.

● *Do you think Parky's right or wrong? Write to The Leader, 51 Castle Street, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 6RN, or fax on 01753 892855, or e-mail on Bucksad@btinternet.com.*

Fans' fears over Brown quashed

by Ryland James

BRISTOL City boss Tony Pulis has moved to quell Blues fans' fears that he is looking to sign popular midfielder Steve Brown.

Battling Brown, 32, last season signed a two year contract and has impressed already in the pre-season with some tough tackling and the talk on the terraces is that he could be leaving for £40,000.

Brown is a huge favourite among Blues fans who have been concerned about City's interest in the influential midfielder.

It was his beautifully weighted pass down the touch line to Jermaine McSparran which provided the cross for Paul Emblen to score the final goal in last Tuesday's 2-0 win against Nottingham Forest in a friendly.

City boss Tony Pulis who is looking to strengthen his midfield told the Leader that he was a fan of Brown.

But Pulis, who has been with the Ashton Gate club for just over a month having

been dismissed by Gillingham, stressed that he had no intention of making an offer for Brown.

He said: "I watched Steve play last season when Wycombe played Gillingham and although he's a good player he doesn't figure in my plans at the moment."

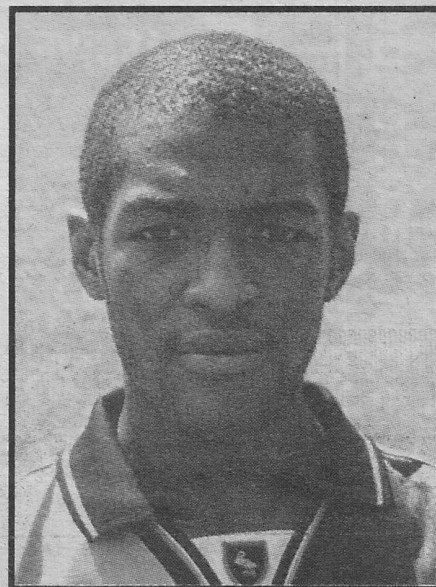
Wycombe spokesman Alan Hutchinson said the club had not had a formal approach from Bristol City.

He said: "This sort of thing does come up from time to time, but Brown still has a year left on his contract. We'll have to see what happens."

Richard Payne from the Bristol Evening Post said Pulis was looking for midfielders and Brown would be the perfect answer.

Wycombe begin their league campaign with a home tie against Burnley on Saturday.

● **For Sing a Song For Sanchez contest latest and how Blues mascot Bodger came under fire on national TV, see pages 10 and 11.**



● **STAYING: Steve Brown**