

Another cash crisis for the hard-up Blues

WYCOMBE Wanderers are facing a new cash-flow crisis after being forced to postpone their Nationwide League match against Gillingham on January 29 because the Gills are involved in the FA Cup fifth round.

It means Wanderers will go four weeks without a home match with tomorrow's visit of Scunthorpe their last home fixture until Oxford United's visit on February 12.

And with clubs no longer sharing gate receipts, as home clubs keep the lot, it represents a financial worry for the cash-strapped Blues, with no turn-stile income coming in for four weeks.

Blues did try and persuade Wigan to move their midweek March 21 visit to Adams Park to January 29, but the league leaders chose to stick to the original midweek date.

● Blues defenders Paul McCarthy and Mark Rogers are both knocking on the first team door again after coming through 120 minutes of Auto Windscreen action at Oxford without any problems.

McCarthy was made captain on the night for the first time since John Gregory's management era and now has his sights set on a first team return.

That could come at Preston next weekend when Jason Cousins is suspended, but Macca is taking nothing for granted.

He said: "It'll be hard to get back into the team. Cousins' suspension gives me a chance but Mark Rogers is doing very well as well."

Boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "We've got plenty of strength in defensive areas it's the attacking areas we need to look at."

● Jason Cousins' second sending off of the season, at Millwall last Saturday, has kept Wycombe top of the second division bad boys table alongside Cardiff. Both have had five players sent off this season.

● Sanchez slammed referee John Brandwood and his assistants after Tuesday's AWS defeat at the Manor Ground.

He said: "They were useless. I work on the basis that referees today are useless and useless for both sides."

● Sanchez says he is four players away from turning Blues into a really decent side. He hopes to add four free transfers to his squad in the close season.

He said: "I've got a wish list. There'll be a lot on the free transfer list in the summer and hopefully the people I want will be on it."

● New signing Matt Brady enhanced his growing reputation with an impressive display as substitute in the AWS clash at Oxford and then by scoring a solo goal against their reserves in the second string's 4-2 win over the Us on Wednesday.

Leeyon Phelan, Ian Simpemba and Roger Thompson were also on target in the match which saw Richard Thompson, Mark Westhead, Roger Johnson, Phelan and Simpemba booked.

● Jermaine McSparran, who scored against his home town club Oxford United in the Auto Windscreen Shield, welcomed the new ten-yard rule which sees teams pushed back ten yards for showing dissent.

Wycombe were the victims of the rule as Michael Simpson was the only player punished on the night, but McSparran still welcomed the experimental idea.

He said: "It makes the game a bit more exciting and gives teams more opportunity to get shots on target."

● Blues go to bitter rivals Colchester United on Tuesday (ko7.45pm) for a re-arranged Nationwide League match after the first attempt on December 29 was frozen off. On Thursday the youth team visit Newcastle in the FA Youth Cup fourth round.

Death threat striker lines up to face the Wanderers

WEST Ham outcast Manny Omoyinmi will seek sanctuary at Adams Park tomorrow with death threats hanging over his head.

The unhappy Hammer has been shipped out to Scunthorpe on loan to escape the wrath of angry Upton Park fans who blame him for their controversial Worthington Cup exit on Tuesday.

The Hammers won their original quarter-final against John Gregory's Aston Villa but were forced to replay it when it was revealed that Omoyinmi was ineligible when he came on as a substitute, having played for Gillingham in a previous round.

Fans of the East London club blame Omoyinmi for not declaring it and an Upton Park insider told the Bucks Free Press yesterday: "I'll be surprised if he plays for West Ham again."

The excommunicated striker is set to partner

former Wycombe trialist, Cameroon-born targetman Guy Ipoua up front.

Sanchez rejected him after seeing him in a pre-season trial match for Blues at Aylesbury.

But the 24-year-old former Athletico Madrid youngster has settled in Lincolnshire and is their leading scorer with eight league goals and is expected to recover from the neck strain which kept him out last week.

But while he will line up against Wycombe, former Blue Gary Ablett won't, despite signing for Scunthorpe United seven days ago.

He signed on a non-contract basis last Friday morning but had changed his mind by 10.30pm that evening, deciding to join rivals Blackpool instead. That has left the Glanford Park club fuming and, worse than that, still short of defenders, with three-quarters of their regular

back four doubtful.

Richard Logan, Chris Hope and Andy Dawson are all struggling to make it which means Coventry's £400,000 Danish on-loan keeper Morten Hyldgaard could be in for a busy day as he tries to stop Sean Devine from scoring the two goals he needs to equal Miquel Desouza's record of 18 league goals in a season for Blues.

Devine will be restored to the Wanderers attack and Keith Ryan, Dave Carroll, Jamie Bates and Jason Cousins are expected to be included in the side after being rested in the midweek Auto Windscreen Shield reversal at Oxford.

Devine opened his Wycombe account in the 1-0 win at Scunthorpe in August and will be hungry to continue his run as Wanderers chase their first double of the season.