



Flying the flag: Damien Johnson is playing for St Vincent this weekend

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Pub players say 'give us a shot'

Wycombe's newest World Cup stars tell Blues to take a look

TWO Sunday League footballers who have been picked to play for their country in a World Cup qualifier tomorrow have told Wycombe Wanderers to get their scouts down to the Rye and see what they're missing.

Damien Johnson, who plays for Kingston United in Division Three of the Wycombe Sunday Combination, and Andy Humphrey, who turns out for the Cherry Tree pub, are with the St Vincent squad preparing for tomorrow's World Cup qualifier against the Virgin Islands in the Carribean.

The pair were both spotted by St Vincent scouts who combed the Wycombe area looking for talent.

REPORT By Dave Peters

Johnson, 21, who works in the complaints department of a car hire firm in Marlow said: "I think Wycombe should watch some of the Combination matches. There are a lot of good players in the local leagues who could do something if given the chance."

He is hoping his international call will attract interest from League clubs.

He said: "I'd like to think I'd be good enough for a trial."

Humphrey, whose international call-up has come at the age of 31, added: "There's a lot of players in Sunday football who could play if

they were spotted."

Sunday Combination competitions secretary Martin Cyster said: "It's a real honour for the league to have two players called up to play for their country in the World Cup."

"I wish Wycombe Wanderers would take a bit more interest in our league. Among the younger element there may be some players who are worthy of a trial."

"Martin O'Neill used to come down to The Rye on Sundays when he was Wycombe manager. I don't know whether he was talent-spotting but he was often there out of his love of football."

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "Good luck to the two who've been picked, they've hit lucky. It is

fantastic for them.

"We'll probably send someone along to see the 21-year-old, but I wouldn't hold out much hope. That's not to say they're aren't decent kids out there but very few slip through the net. International football has become a joke with players qualifying for these tiny countries."

"I think we'd comfortably beat St Vincent and it says a lot for their international team if they have got Sunday league players playing for them."

"I used to have park players writing for trials when I was at Wimbledon. I sent some back in the warm-up because they couldn't pass it from A to B."

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