

Now say Hello to Wanderers' Posh Spice

PARK LIFE

By Blues midfielder
Steve Brown

I CAN'T wait to get to Stoke tomorrow and get the football season underway. The first day of the season is one of the best days of the year for me.

Football is a tribal thing, being with the lads, seeing the fans and when it's not there you miss it.

I had a knee operation over the summer and I've been keeping myself fit during the close season and it's been too long for me.

Pre-season has gone well and I think we can have a good season although I'm a little bit worried about the size of the squad.

I've been a bit surprised that the gaffer hasn't signed a few more people over the summer. I thought he might have added one or two more faces but he doesn't want to bring people in just for the sake of it.

Still he produced a real coup when he signed Posh Spice – that's Stewart Castledine to you and me.

I couldn't believe it when I was shopping in Sainsburys and saw Stewart on the cover of Hello magazine for his wedding to his television presenter fiancée in the summer. I had to buy the magazine.

That's something new for Wycombe Wanderers, most of the lads couldn't even get on the front cover of The Beano, but Stewart's different.

Our other new signing, Steve Jones, has fitted in just as well. Although we haven't managed to come up with a nickname for him yet. We are working on a gipsy theme for him. He let slip the other day that he still owns a caravan from his younger days when he couldn't afford to buy a house.

The mood in the camp is excellent and I would say that we are a tighter knit group than we were last year.

Going to Dublin was excellent for team morale. It came just at the right time. We had all helped push each other through some really hard pre-season training and the trip bonded the lads even more. With Sean Devine injured I even got my old job of penalty taker back and scored.

Now it's down to the real business of the league and we couldn't have been given a tougher start. We've got Stoke tomorrow and then my old club Northampton on Saturday and Millwall on the Bank Holiday Monday.

That's tough, Stoke and Millwall are my favourites to go up, but I don't worry about that. Playing them so early means we've got a chance to catch them cold.

The start of the season means we can also resume some other little battles.

When we stay overnight we always play a five-a-side on the Friday between the northern and southern based players at the club. The North won it last year.

Staying away also gives me the chance to brush up on my Play Station skills as that always comes with us on away trips and I will relax by listening to a bit of garage music.

Others do different things and I know Michael Simpson and Terry Gibson will be watching Big Brother on television. Personally I've only seen it once and I can't see what the fuss is about, but they're well into it.

Wycombe cash in

BLUES are set to bank £1.5 million from a new television deal.

For the full story and details of how Man Utd are muscling in on Blues' patch see main section, page six.

Rookie Rogers can be all right for boss Sanchez

WANDERERS start the new season without a recognised right back. Central defender Mark Rogers will start in that role and Sanchez is confident, that even though he is still wearing L-plates, the Canadian can be a success.

Sanchez said: "He offers us a lot defensively but going forward from that position is not one of his strengths. But he's a hard worker and very keen to learn."

Rogers said after the Boreham Wood game: "I prefer it in the centre, but if the boss thinks I can do a job at right back I'll give it everything, I'd play anywhere for this team."

● Sanchez watched Blues' official video of last season, Simply Devine, and went out and

signed striker Steve Jones.

He said the tape, including most of the goals scored for and against the Blues last season, brought home how few headers Wanderers scored last season. He believes the former West Ham and Charlton hitman can put that right and take the pressure off injured striker Sean Devine, who scored 23 of Wycombe's 56 league goals last year.

Jones is on a three-month trial with a view to a £100,000 permanent move from Bristol City. The video will cost fans much less. For the sixth year running the price has been held at £14.99 and offers the chance to relive some wonderful goals from last year.

● Blues have released trialists Joel Rogers, from French third division club Dunkerque, and Rob Smith, a right back from Woking. But they will have another look at Hinckley United striker Gary Ricketts.

● Adams Park celebrated its tenth birthday on Wednesday. It was a decade to the day when Mark West scored Wanderers' first goal in the new stadium in a 1-1 draw against Nottingham Forest. Admission that day was £3.50 standing and £4.50 seats.

Tomorrow, Blues fans will be charged £16 (adults) to sit behind the goal while Stoke fans, who bought their tickets in advance will see the same match for £5 less.