

'Four'tunate to be back in Blues side

STEVE BROWN

PARKLIFE

MY four game suspension has flown by and I'm delighted to be back in the squad to face Wigan tomorrow.

Although it has been four games I have been lucky to get it over and done with in a fortnight with us playing every Tuesday and Saturday.

If it had happened at a different stage of the season I could have been out for five weeks.

That happened once when I was suspended for three games. It started on November 25 and I didn't play again until Boxing Day because we had been knocked out of the FA Cup and had another game postponed.

I never like missing games but I think the enforced break came at the right time for me so I can be fresh for the semi-final and the games at the back-end of the season.

The gaffer has decided to take us all away to Spain for a few games after tomorrow's Wigan match.

I think that is a great move. It's a good time to get all the lads away to eat, drink and sleep together and to get that sharpness back.

I remember Martin O'Neill did that when he was here. He took us to Portugal before a game against Doncaster and it gave all the lads an extra spring in their step.

We were 3-0 up at half time and I would take that against Liverpool.

We'll be playing a bit of golf while we are away and we're going to have a bit of a north versus south Ryder Cup competition out there.

We've got a few good golfers in the squad. Martin Taylor, Dave Carroll, Jason Cousins and Jamie Bates are very good players. Unfortunately though I'm an also-ran. My only handicap is myself.

Whatever happens, it is going to be competitive because none of the boys in the squad like losing at anything.

We showed that when we played Millwall the other night.

We had a good performance and a good result against them which was very important after the Walsall result.

The Walsall game was a surprise to all of us because I know the lads went there thinking they could get something out of the game after beating them earlier in the season.

It didn't happen though and we were well beaten, which perhaps wasn't that surprising. Everything is geared to the FA Cup now.

It's the biggest game in the club's history and it's only human that some of the lads, if not all of us, haven't quite got their eye on the ball in the league.

Not that confidence will be a problem for the semi-final. It's a one-off game and I've got no doubts we can win it.