

Taylor takes the honours for record third time



The main man: Martin Taylor receives the Player of the Year trophy from BFP reader Jeni Abbott

KEEPER Martin Taylor became the first player to win the Wanderers/BFP Player of the Year Award three times in a row, but he would swap it all for promotion to the first division next year.

The glovesman, who has also been runner-up twice, said: "I'm very pleased with the way things have gone for me at Wycombe except for not getting into the first division – which is the main goal.

"It means a lot to win it three times in a row.

"I never expected it this year and it was a real shock when my name was read out. It's an honour to be recognised by your own supporters."

But the 35-year-old added: "I'd sooner someone else gets it because it would mean we're not under so much pressure. I'd love a goalscorer or a midfielder to get it next time."

Taylor has been a model of consistency. Before joining Wycombe he won the Player of the Year trophy at Derby, as well as coming runner-up there.

But he masked out personal tragedy to win this time around. He considered quitting at Christmas time when his mother-in-law, Glenda, was suffering from a terminal illness from which she died in February.

Taylor said: "It was a very difficult time and it was a complete shock to win it this year because, with everything that was going on, I hadn't thought I'd been playing so well."

Taylor, 35, started last Saturday's match against Oldham

by being presented with the Champagne Delbeck Bucks Free Press Player of the Year Award and finished it by producing a fantastic save to keep out Allan Smart's 85th minute header to preserve Wanderers 2-1 win.

Boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "That's why he's won the award again. It was a great save and it gave us the three points. I would have been bitterly disappointed if we had only ended up with a draw from that game."

That save and the countless others that Taylor has made this season made sure that Wanderers hit the 63-point mark for the first time since the legendary Martin O'Neill era.

Sanchez said: "It shows the progress we're making here. Year on year there has been an improvement. It's been a good season hitting 63 points and it could be a even better if we make it 66 at Swindon on Saturday."

Chris Vinnicombe was second in the Player of the Year Poll, Michael Simpson was third and Darren Currie and Mark Rogers joint fourth.

● Marlow youngster Ryan Parsons won the Youth Team Player of the Season award after a solid season in the left back position for both the Under 19's and Reserve side.

● Centre back Stuart Hole won the Alan Henry Gillott Memorial Award for the first year scholars' Player of the Year. The 18 year-old joined the club five years ago through their Centre of Excellence.