

Released Rammell could join Devine at Exeter

ANDY Rammell showed there is life in his old boots yet as he scored for the reserves in their 1-0 win over Barnet on Wednesday and he could now be about to join up with Sean Devine at Exeter.

The third division Grecians are among a cluster of clubs interested in extending the 36-year-old's career now that he has been told he is being released by Wycombe Wanderers.

The Devonians are considering re-uniting Rambo with Blues old-boy Devine as they battle for Football League survival.

City director Mike Lewis confirmed Exeter's interest yesterday and said they tried to get him earlier in the campaign.

Ray Graydon, Rammell's former boss at Walsall, is also looking at Rambo as a potential saviour for Bristol Rovers in their fight against relegation to the Nationwide Conference.

Rovers and QPR both saw Rambo announce his return to fitness, after a calf injury, with a goal against Barnet in his first game back.

Rambo said: "It's nice to be creating a bit of interest and the sooner I can get something sorted out the better."

Rammell joined Blues in a £75,000 deal from Walsall three years ago when injuries caught up with him.

He said: "I went to Wycombe and proved Walsall wrong and I think I can do the same again."

Rammell is certain he can.

He said: "I've had a great two and half years here and I'm convinced that if I hadn't spent the

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last couple of months injured, I'd have got a new contract. I still believe I'm one of the best strikers Wycombe have got but I understand the club's financial position and the gaffer has been as good as gold with me."

And Rammell is now hoping for the perfect swansong to a glittering chapter with the Blues when they take on one of his former clubs Barnsley at Adams Park tomorrow.

He said: "I would love to be on the bench for that one."

Rammell showed that he has still got the goalscoring touch that has made him a big favourite at all of his previous clubs when he was in the right place at the right time to hook in a 28th minute winner after Barnet keeper Ricky Millard had pulled off a wonder save from Gavin Holligan's diving header during Wednesday's reserve match.

Wycombe should have scored more against a poor Barnet side who showed why there are bottom of the table but Wanderers, with two trialists in their side, found it all too easy and became sloppy in their play.

The match also gave defender Paul McCarthy a chance to put himself in the shop window following his release.

The 31-year-old former Eire youth international team-mate of Manchester United ace Roy Keane was told he was going after a meeting with boss Lawrie Sanchez on Tuesday.

He said: "I'm disappointed to be leaving. I would have loved to

stay but it hasn't worked out that way.

"I have enjoyed my time at the club. I have some very fond memories of the place but life goes on."

McCarthy will go down in history as one of Wycombe's best signings.

He was plucked from Brighton by Alan Smith in 1997 and has since gone on to make 245 appearances for the club.

He was a star of Blues' FA Cup run two years ago scoring in the second, third fifth and sixth rounds as Wanderers went all the way to a semi-final showdown

against Liverpool.

He started this season as captain but has fallen out of favour since the turn of the year.

● Wanderers played Wednesday's reserve game at Adams Park because normal hosts Aylesbury United wanted to keep their pitch in tip-top

condition for their FA Trophy sixth round match at home to Gloucester City tomorrow.

Next season though, Blues reserves will return to Adams Park now that their new Desso pitch has had time to bed-in so that it can take two doses of football and rugby.