

Tails: I didn't want to be the scapegoat

TELFORD United-bound keeper Martin Taylor has revealed he quit Adams Park a year early because he didn't want to be made a scapegoat if the team doesn't do well next season.

The 36-year-old former Derby County glovesman quit with a year still left on his contract after being dogged by injury last season. He will now go to work on a building site instead and play for Telford in the Conference after signing a two-year professional contract with them yesterday.

And he told the Free Press that a major reason behind the decision to hang up his Football League gloves was that he didn't want people accusing him of holding the team back.

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez told him Frank Talia will be Blues' number one next season and then told supporters at a Fans Forum that he could only bring new players in if he got Taylor – one of the biggest earners at Adams Park – off the wage bill.

Taylor said: "He was honest with me. I didn't want to be stuck in the reserves and I didn't want to be the reason

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why he couldn't bring anyone else in.

"I've left for the good of the club and for the good of myself. I didn't want to become a burden and I didn't want to hang around and take the money when I wasn't playing."

He has come to an agreement with the club over the remaining 12 months of his contract and will now concentrate on his new career in the building trade.

He said: "I'm a partner in a building firm and I'm going to throw myself into that. I've always been interested in that and I'm going to be pretty hands on."

"I'm disappointed to be leaving Wycombe because I've had six great years there."

"I've enjoyed every minute of it. Last season was very disappointing because of all the injuries I had and I didn't want it to turn sour."

But it took him just a week to get back into the game after announcing his retirement.

He said: "I thought after being released by Wycombe that I was retiring but Telford are exactly the type of club I

wanted to join. They are a club moving forward and are very much like Wycombe in that sense."

The three times Wanderers Player of the Year was injured at the start of the season and lost his place to Frank Talia, who was signed to cover for him when he was injured.

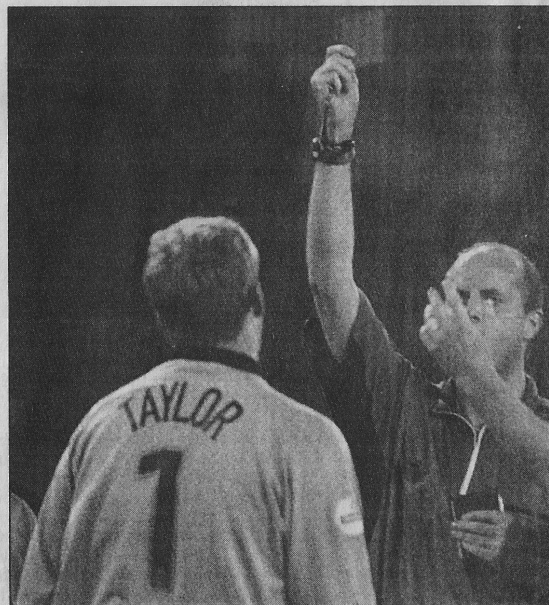
He won his place back but then lost it again through a calf injury and went on loan to Barnsley at the end of the season only to return early with a back injury.

He said: "My body was telling me it was time to go really. I've got some new challenges ahead of me and I'm looking forward to it."

"I've really enjoyed it at Wycombe and I would like to thank all of the supporters for that."

John Gregory brought him to Adams Park ending his nine-year association with Derby and Taylor soon became a firm favourite with the Chairboys faithful.

He starred in the 2000/2001 FA Cup run saving a last minute penalty in the fifth round replay at Wimbledon and then scoring Blues' winner in the penalty shootout.



He's off: And this time it is for good for Martin Taylor

He said: "The cup run and avoiding relegation at Lincoln are the two things that stand out but I have enjoyed it all."

● Released reserve keeper Mark Osborn has signed a one-year deal with Farnborough.