

Rhino's operation is hailed a success

WANDERERS' Mr Versatility Keith Ryan had a hernia operation on Tuesday and is now looking to return to the training field in three weeks time.

Rhino, who signed a two-year contract last year, will miss the start of the season after suffering the injury in training a fortnight ago.

He said: "It's frustrating. It's not good timing but the surgeon said the operation went well and I should be running again in three weeks."

And Rhino is hoping it won't be too many weeks after that before he pulls on the quartered shirt again.

He said: "I'm looking forward to the season. The bookies are tipping us to go down. They can tip all they like but we're good enough to avoid that. No-one is expecting anything from us this season and that could help us."

● Blues entertain West Ham in their third pre-season friendly on Tuesday (ko 7.45pm) with all the receipts going into a pot to bring new players to the club.

But the money will not be quite as much as Wanderers had originally hoped with

the Hammers insisting on a 50 per cent cut of the gate money.

● Wanderers are holding an open day at their newly-named Causeway Stadium, which is still referred to as Adams Park by the fans, on Sunday from 11am to 3pm.

Admission is free and fans will be able to watch the team train on the pitch as well as taking a tour behind the scenes and enjoying a range of sideshows.

● The decision on whether Wanderers and Wasps can continue to groundshare without having to apply for planning permission will be taken on Tuesday.

Wanderers are appealing over the definition of the world football which exists in their original planning consent. Blues argue 'football' also means rugby 'football' but the council ruled it does not.

● Wanderers have been given permission to lay extra hard-standing on the top-field car park next season enabling them to accommodate 600 cars in all weathers.

For a fuller report see page three of the BFP county edition.