

By BILL LONDON

TONY ADAMS was named manager of struggling Wycombe yesterday.

Adams, 37, won every major domestic trophy with Arsenal and reached the Euro 96 semi-finals as England captain, but takes his first step in management at the club rock-bottom of Division Two.

He knows there will be pressure but does not think it will be any greater than he experienced in leading the Gunners to a Premiership and FA Cup double before retiring as a player 18 months ago.

And he believes that winning his battle against alcoholism will help him cope with the stress of a relegation fight with the Chairboys.

Adams said: "I'm used to winning. I think there will be pressure on me because of my career and these fans will be calling for my head if I don't get them winning."

"I think I've got the tools to deal with the pressure."

"I'm a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and in three weeks if I've gone grey and I'm pulling my hair out, I'll probably go to a meeting!"

"I've been told that they like to be entertained here and we've got a conflict straight away because I like winning. Hopefully we can do both."

Adams learned his trade from the game's top coaches, including Arsene Wenger, George Graham and Terry Venables, and intends to put that schooling into practice during the course of his two-and-a-half year contract at the Causeway Stadium.

Amazing

He has a UEFA B coaching licence and also aims to use what he has learned so far on a three-year degree course in Sports Science to be a success.

Adams added: "I will try to combine things I've learned from different managers over the years - George's resilience, Martin O'Neill's enthusiasm, Arsene's empathy and sensitivity and the ideas of Terry Venables, who was an amazing coach."

"We are what we learn, but I've got my own ideas as well."

"I'm halfway through my degree. I've interrupted it but I want the degree at some stage. I think it complements the job and I don't want to waste that."

"University has been interesting but there's nothing like getting your hands dirty. I've missed the game."

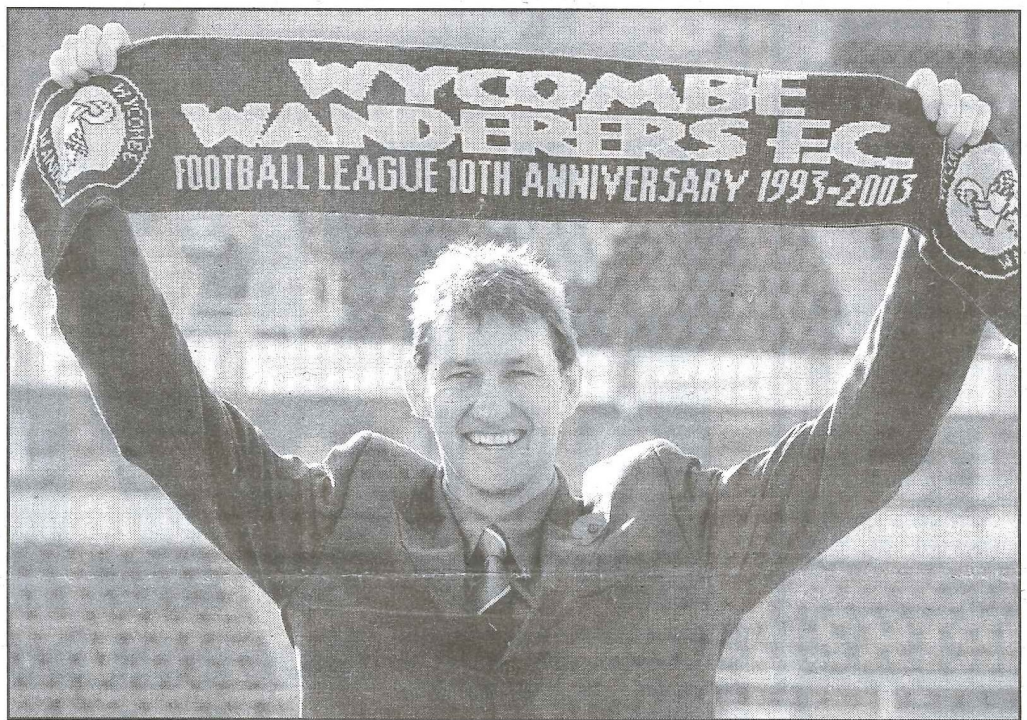
"I've been skiing and fishing over the last few months and I've played a lot of golf."

"But I was walking up the 18th tee about 130 over par and thought, 'I'm not meant to be a golfer'."

"I'm never going to put the boots back on. It's going to be frustrating wanting to go out there and kick a ball, but hopefully I can coach the lads to do that for me."

Adams takes over from caretaker boss John Gorman, who will stay on initially as

I'LL BE BACK AT AA IF MY HAIR STARTS GOING GREY



HAPPY WANDERER: Former England skipper Tony Adams takes his first job in management with Wycombe

Job could get on my Wyc, says Adams

his No2 in an arrangement described as "open-ended" by the club.

The Wanderers players wanted Gorman to succeed sacked Lawrie Sanchez on a permanent basis.

But the Scot is happy to return to the assistant's role in which he served Glenn Hoddle with Swindon, England, Tottenham and Southampton, and is convinced Adams will get the support of his new side.

Gorman said: "All the players will be totally behind the manager. They're disappointed, some of them, but they will be

behind him. Tony has always been a winner."

"It would have been wrong of me to leave after the appointment because he needs help and I want to help him."

Adams added: "My first job was to try to get John to stay on and give me his time and experience. The players have warmed to him."

"When there is change there's fear and obviously they don't know me but if I can improve them then maybe I will be a success."

"It's 20 years to the day since I started my playing career

as a 17-year-old and here I am starting my managerial career. Who knows where this will take me?"

His first test will be an FA Cup first round tie at home to Swindon Town on Saturday.

Adams is quoted at 16-1 by William Hill to become England coach at some time during his career.

But the bookies reckon he has a tough challenge on his hands at Wycombe.

They offer 13-8 that he will keep them in Division Two this season and 4-9 that they go down.