

BLUES SCRAP THE RESERVES

**Members agree to accept share plan
but it won't save the doomed reserves**



All change: Andy Reilly seen here in pre-season friendly action against Millwall on Saturday has come through the Blues reserve system to earn a Scotland U21 cap. Now the system that has served him so well is being scrapped

WYCOMBE Wanderers are scrapping their reserve team just days after the club opened its doors to a potential new investment programme of £1.5million.

The club say the decision has been made because of a lack of players and insist it has nothing to do with finance

The decision comes after the club's 500 members voted narrowly in favour of changing the constitution to allow the club, which is more than £2 million in debt, to launch a share issue.

The club received 78 per cent of the vote and needed 75 per cent to push it through at Thursday's meeting.

The decision to switch to a plc will now be ratified by the courts on Friday.

But the members and fans were then hit by a bombshell yesterday when a statement appeared on the club's official website announcing the reserve team, which has produced first team stars such as Roger Johnson and Danny Senda, is being axed.

It read: "For financial reasons the manager has assembled a first team squad that currently numbers 20 and has announced his intention not to play or risk any of these players in second team matches. There are some 16 youth team players, who the manager intended to use at second team level. Ten are first year scholars and there's a limit to the number of games they're allowed to play in a season.

"As a result the club are unable to commit to fielding a reserve team on a regular basis and after much discussion it has been decided to withdraw from the Pontins Holidays Combination."

Chairman Ivor Beeks yesterday added: "With the number of players we've got we're struggling to put a reserve side out. It's got nothing to do with investment."

And he added that reserve facilities would be arranged if needed.

But member Alun Crockford, who voted against changing the constitution, said: "The timing is appalling. After winning the vote, the first thing the club does is to ditch the reserves. They didn't mention anything about that in the run-up to the vote."

● Wanderers won the vote to change the constitution with a cushion of just three per cent.

They needed 75 per cent of the 430 votes cast and got 78 per cent. They received 335 votes with 94 people (22 per cent) voting against. One ballot paper was spoiled.

The club will now invite people to invest in the club but no one shareholder will be able to hold more than 25 per cent of the share capital and the minimum investment will be £500.

In addition, the existing members will have their £1 certificate transferred into a £1 share and a Founder Shareholders Trust (FST) will be formed.

The club can only change the heritage of the club with the agreement of 51 per cent of the FST.