

Kevin's Keen on the Wanderers hotseat

KEVIN Keen and Andy Hessenthaler have emerged among the early contenders to succeed John Gorman as Wycombe Wanderers boss.

The club have received 30 to 40 serious applications which they have described as well worth consideration and plan to make their appointment by July 3.

The board will discuss those 30 or 40 names at their next board meeting on June 16 when all the board members have returned from holiday.

They will then whittle those names down to ten who they plan to interview.

Wanderers are encouraged by the calibre of applicants they have had and insiders say Keen's application has caught their eye.

The West Ham reserve team coach is a former Wanderers player and his

**Wanderers
by Dave Peters**

dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

father Mike managed the Blues in the early 80s.

Keen, 39, was born in Amersham and still holds the record as being the youngest player ever to turn out for the Blues when he made his debut against Hendon in his dad's team in 1982.

He then went on to play 219 times for West Ham before moving on to Wolves and Stoke, where he finished his career.

Hessenthaler is also seeking a return to football having previously performed miracles on a shoestring managing at Gillingham.

The former Gillingham player-manager, who is still playing for Barnet after ten years with the Kent club, was

short-listed for the Northampton job but lost out to Gorman.

The 40-year-old has just agreed a one-year playing agreement with Barnet but has an arrangement with chairman Tony Kleanthous that if a club comes in for him in a managerial or coaching role that Barnet would not stand in his way.

Wanderers are thought to be looking for an up-and-coming manager rather than an established name who has failed elsewhere.

The club came close to hiring Adrian Boothroyd last time they were hunting a manager but decided against it because he did not have any experience as a manager although he was coaching at Leeds.

He since got the Watford job and took them into the Premiership this year and

that could weigh heavy in Wycombe's thinking as they look at candidates like Keen, who are looking for their big break.

Others linked include former Torquay boss Leroy Rosenior, Colin Lee, who was interviewed last time around, and Graham Rix, who is also seeking a route back into the game having been sacked by trigger happy Hearts chairman Roman Romanov after 19 matches.

But any fans hoping to see Martin Allen at Wycombe could be disappointed.

Brentford will demand compensation from any club which takes Allen, who resigned with 12 months left on his contract, and say any club wanting to speak to him must go through them first.

At the time of going to press they had received no approach from Wycombe.

McSporran can't wait for Wycombe



JERMAINE McSporran was yesterday poised to sign for League Two rivals Chester after managerless Wycombe failed to come in for him.

The former Blues star (pictured above) wanted to return to Adams Park but his dreams were dashed when John Gorman was sacked and the club put a freeze on any comings and goings until a new manager is appointed.

He said: "I was very keen to come back but situations change. Chester were very keen on me. They wanted to sign me two years ago."

● Jonny Dixon has put his Aldershot move on hold until Blues appoint a new boss.

The striker has been offered a two-year-deal by the Shots but will sit tight now.

He said: "It's a bit of risk but I'm going to wait and see what happens at Wycombe. I have been at Wycombe a long time and I would like to stay there but I know it is going to be a risk because you never know if a new manager is

going to fancy you at all.

Aldershot have been chasing Dixon for over a year and have not stated how long they will leave the door open.

● Blues desperately need landladies within walking distance or a bus journey away for their new intake of apprentices. Families will be offered £70 a week for which they will be expected to provide bed, breakfast and an evening meal. Contact Nicky on 01494 455727.

● Swansea boss Kenny Jackett has urged his board to increase their bid for Blues captain Roger Johnson.

Their £100,000 bid was rejected, but Jackett won't give up.

He said: "He's got some leadership qualities I like. He's very strong as a central defender and very dominant in both boxes. He'd be a good addition at Swansea."

Blues say they are not looking to sell the 23-year-old, who has a year remaining on his current deal.

Parry backs Gorman to be a success at Northampton

FORMER Blues director Alan Parry has backed John Gorman to be a big success in his new role as manager of higher league Northampton, while expressing his disappointment that he is no longer in charge at Wycombe.

Parry, the Sky Sports football commentator, had been instrumental in his appointment and that of previous Blues managers.

He said: "I was surprised and disappointed at the decision. I've seen a lot of John and I thought he was getting back to his old self."

"People should remember he only lost his wife three months ago. He's so honest that he found it difficult to disguise his feelings. I don't think it would have stopped him doing his job properly."

"He put together a wonderful team that was good to watch and was the best team since the Martin O'Neill days. It was only when tragedy struck that it came off the rails."

He added: "I think he was the right man for Wycombe and the dignity and manner in which he left the club and how quickly he found another job with a team in a higher division shows what a good manager he is."

"I'm sure the board considered their decision very carefully but it's a shame some compromise couldn't have been reached."

He reckons Wycombe's loss will be Northampton's gain.

He said: "I think he's the kind of guy that will do well anywhere he goes. He's steeped in football. He's got a principle about how the game should be played and that the crowds love to see."

I knew I'd get another club



Back in business: John Gorman sacked by Wycombe had a choice of three clubs to join

SACKED John Gorman admits he can't wait to sink his teeth into the new challenge of managing Northampton Town.

He was out of football for just ten days following his controversial Blues sacking.

He was snapped up by higher league Northampton but could also have gone to Lincoln or Hartlepool.

Gorman, who was sacked by Wycombe because they felt he wasn't ready to return to the club following the death of his wife said: "I was disappointed but never worried."

"I knew I'd get another job but I was disappointed because I enjoyed it at Wycombe and thought we were building something special here. That's gone but now I've got the chance to do the same at Northampton. It is a good club and an exciting challenge."

"The people at Northampton made me feel very welcome straight away. They were really nice people and they said I was their man straight away."

Gorman has signed a two-year deal and the Cobblers are delighted to get him.

Northampton chairman David Cardoza

said: "He was head and shoulders above everyone else. He had a couple of other offers out there but he was desperate to come to Northampton."

And he reckons that the way Gorman was treated by Wycombe will work in Northampton's favour.

He said: "John feels he's got a point to prove. He comes to the club very hungry and was really keen to come here and get back to work."

Now the fear is Gorman will take his assistant Steve Brown with him.

Brown has been told he's too inexperienced to be considered for the Wycombe job and is an ex-Cobbler.

Blues managing director Steve Hayes this week insisted the club was right to sack Gorman with a year left on his contract.

Hayes said: "We didn't think it was right for John to be the manager of this football club but this is a fresh start for him at a new club and we wish him well."

"At Wycombe there were too many ghosts and too many reminders and the pressure was too great."

It's time
to **APPLY**
the
BRAKES

THE ORIGINAL TASTE OF OXFORDSHIRE

www.brakspear-beers.co.uk