

DESTINY DAY FOR PATIENT KEEPER

Dons test will decide 'the longest trial in history'

WANDERERS

WANNABE Wycombe keeper Steve Arnold will get his big chance to land an Adams Park contract today – six weeks after first tipping up at the club for a trial.

The one-time Norwich City reserve will keep nets in a behind-closed-doors friendly at Milton Keynes Dons with the promise of a deal if he impresses.

The glovesman has shown plenty of potential on the training field – but boss Gary Waddock would not commit to anything without seeing him in proper combat first.

He tried to arrange a trial match for him before Christmas but was Ko'd by bad weather and other teams' commitments.

Since then Waddock has been scuppered by a number of postponements for his reserve team with three matches biting the dust since the turn of the year and Arnold has been kept patiently waiting for his chance to nail a deal.

Waddock said: "It must be one of the longest trials in history."



WATCHING BRIEF: Gary Waddock will head for MK Dons to watch his keeper

Arnold chucked in showed their interest in him as he chases his dream of Conference South side and he has been training every returning to the Football Eastleigh when Blues first day with them without any pay League.

That commitment has impressed the Blues chief but he says he can't keep the 20-year-old net-minder waiting any more.

He said: "We need to see him in a match situation and then decide on him. He's done very well with us but we need to see him in a game."

He will operate behind a defence which will include Luke Oliver and understudy left back Joe Cobb.

Wanderers already have two first team goalkeepers on their books with Scott Shearer currently keeping the number one jersey despite competition from Aussie Jamie Young.

Meanwhile the Blues, who went down 2-1 at home to promotion-chasing Charlton Athletic on Saturday, say they are still hoping to revive striker Alex Revell's move from Southend to Wycombe.

The deal collapsed under FIFA red tape because Revell has already represented two clubs this season.

Waddock is also working hard to pull off at least one other loan deal as he attempts to drag his team out of the relegation zone.

He won't reveal the identity of his latest target.