

Wycombe back in for Strevens again

WANDERERS

WANDERERS have made their move for Brentford's out of favour striker Ben Strevens, the *Midweek* can reveal.

The 29-year-old is expecting to be let go by the Bees this summer and says a return to his former club Dagenham, or a move to Wanderers, would be his favourite destination as things stand at the moment.

Former Wanderers boss Peter Taylor had an undisclosed bid turned down for him when he was in charge at Adams Park, but now Blues could be about to get their man 18 months later.

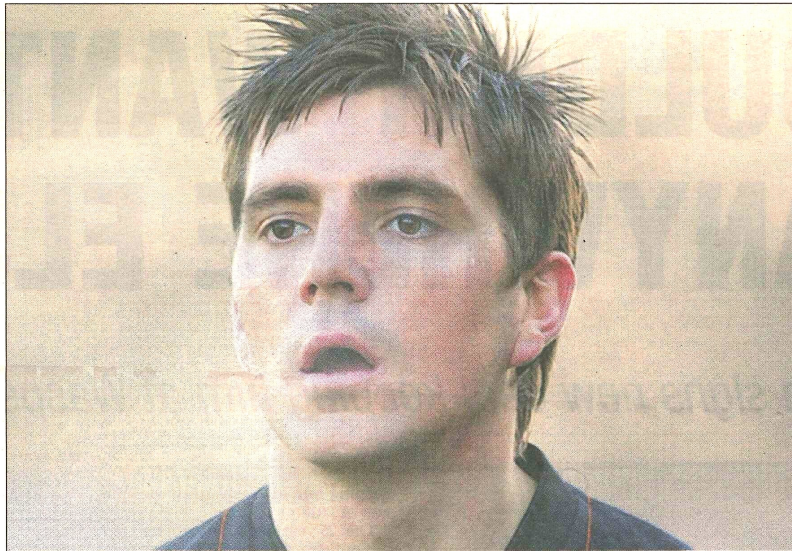
Strevens said: "I haven't spoken to anyone from Wycombe myself, but I know they have been in touch with my agent over the last few days.

"They have shown some interest and, if I don't stay at Brentford, going to either Wycombe or Dagenham would probably be my favourites at the moment."

Strevens scored seven goals in 29 appearances for the Bees in an injury-hit campaign last season but he doesn't appear to be in manager Andy Scott's plans for next season.

He has a year left on his Griffin Park contract but looks likely to be allowed to go if the Bees get an offer that suits both parties.

He told *Midweek* yesterday:



WANDERERS TARGET: Blues have declared their interest in Brentford's Ben Strevens

"I think I am going to be allowed to leave."

Strevens won't speak to anyone personally though until his position is resolved and he is hoping that situation will be ironed out this week.

His agent has received numerous calls from clubs wanting to be kept informed about the situation, including Wycombe.

London-lad Strevens, who

has a three-month-old baby, is keen to stay in the region which puts Wycombe and the Daggers in pole position of all the potential suitors at the moment.

Dagenham could give him an opportunity to stay in League One if they win their League Two Play-off final against Rotherham, while moving to Wycombe would mean dropping a division.

But that doesn't put off Strevens.

He said: "I know they are looking to strengthen and they will be one of the favourites for promotion next year.

"I know I can score goals in League Two because I have done it before. Sometimes you have to take a step back to go forward again."

Blues boss Gary Waddock was unavailable for comment.

Arnold pens new Chairboys deal

GOALKEEPER

Steve Arnold has agreed a new one-year deal at Adams Park.

The 20-year-old shot stopper put pen to paper on Friday and is now looking forward to challenging for the number one jersey.

He is currently the only keeper on the Adams Park payroll, following the summer release of Scott Shearer.

But manager Gary Waddock has made it plain that he is also looking to bring in another glovesman and wants to see Arnold battle it out with him for the green jersey.

Waddock has shown plenty of faith in the one-time Norwich City reserve who joined Blues on a short-term contract from Salisbury in January.

The manager told his club's official website: "It's great news that Steve has agreed a new deal. He will not only offer good cover but will push whoever we bring in.

"He's hopefully one that has a big future ahead of him."

Arnold ousted Shearer from the bench for the end of season run-in as both battled it out behind Manchester United loanee Tom Heaton.

Waddock has already given up hope of retaining Heaton's services next season with United having offered him a contract and a rash of other clubs also showing interest should the 24-year-old decide not to stay on at Old Trafford.

Waddock has been heavily linked with Brentford reserve stopper Nikki Bull.

The 28-year-old was Waddock's first-choice keeper at Aldershot before his switch to Brentford.

Waddock told Sky Sports: "He is someone that I'd love to work with once again, but whether that happens any time soon remains to be seen"

But Waddock says he is not optimistic about a reunion this season with a keeper who made just seven appearances at Griffin Park last term as he was handicapped by a shoulder injury.

Bull has been offered a new contract by the League One club and Waddock doubts he would be able to tempt Bull to Wycombe following relegation.

■ Tickets have gone on general sale for Blues' glamour pre-season friendly against Chelsea on July 29.

They are priced at £15 adults, £8 concessions and £4 for U16s.

Tickets for the pre-season match against Championship rivals Reading five days earlier are also now on sale.

They are priced £10 adults, £6 concessions and £2 juniors.

■ Blues are on the up. They have moved from their ground floor base in the Eden Shopping Centre to the upstairs level.

