

REFORM HOPES RISE AGAIN!

REGULAR readers of this column will know how much in favour I am of reforming the present set-up in amateur football. They will also know how cynical I have been of all previous attempts.

The failure of successive plans to add new life to the scene have justified my doubts. But at last, there seems some hope of tangible progress.

Leytonstone president, Barry East, himself Isthmian League vice-chairman, recently offered £7,000 in sponsorship, along with an ambitious re-organisation plan to instill a more competitive atmosphere to amateur soccer.

It would kick off next season with the introduction — long overdue — of medals for the first three places, and a play-off against the winners of the Northern Championship.

Negotiations would also be opened with the Athenian League about the formation of a second division. If successful, the 1973-4 season could then herald a two-division system, with the 22 Isthmian clubs in the first and 16 Athenian League clubs in the second. It could also mean a League-Cup enveloping the two divisions.