



MIKE KEEN
... good facilities

Blues bid upsets Alliance

WYCOMBE'S surprise decision to apply for the Football League has certainly caused rumblings in the non-league soccer world.

The Alliance Premier League, who until now had boasted that they were the unofficial fifth division of the Football League, are reported to be dismayed by Wycombe's application.

The fact that Wanderers' announcement comes on top of an all Isthmian League F.A. Trophy final between Sutton and Bishops Stortford, only serves to rub salt in the Alliance's wound.

The Isthmians on the other hand are predictably chuffed by Wycombe's exciting bid. League sec-

retary Alan Turvey expressed himself delighted and pointed out that teams wanting to go into the Football League do not have to join the Alliance first.

Cricket square

Mike Keen, who, as player and manager, experienced life in every division of the Football League, says that Wycombe's facilities would not disgrace the Fourth Division.

"There are several teams in the Fourth Division with worse grounds than Wycombe — for instance Rochdale. Even my old club Northampton Town

had a cricket square next door to the football pitch."

Mr Keen was not too concerned about the sloping pitch although he admitted it could be a problem. "Even Hillsborough has a slight slope on it — although not as steep as ours," he added.

Looking to the future, he said, "I think it would be a good thing for the town if in a period of say four to five years, we got into the Fourth Division."

Football League officials will be coming down to Loakes Park within the next three weeks to give their judgement on the facilities.