

We're not going to give up – Goldsworthy **HOPES ARE SUNK BY SAFETY PROBLEMS**

THE state of Loakes Park has forced Wycombe Wanderers to drop their application to join the Football League.

Club Secretary John Goldsworthy, just back from the team's tour of Portugal, said this week that the ground was not up to League standards.

He said that after discussions with League officials the club had been advised to withdraw their application "for

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the time being."

The stumbling block is that safety regulations currently enforced at First and Second Division grounds — including the segregation of fans and prevention of pitch invasion — are now to be extended to Third and Fourth Divisions clubs.

But Loakes Park does not come up to scratch. "Even assuming the finance was available it was impossible to complete all the work in time for an inspection and a report to the Football

League's Annual Meeting," said Mr Goldsworthy.

Changes which need to be made include:

- Fencing the ground into four sections.
- Installation of toilets at the Hospital end and covered enclosure.
- More turnstiles and exits at the Hospital end
- The terracing at the Hospital End needs concreting.
- The perimeter fence around the playing area must be raised to prevent pitch invasions.

"Most people are aware that this exercise has cost clubs a huge amount of money," said Mr Goldsworthy, adding that the Wanderers were still determined to make the fourth Division.

"We are determined to overcome the problems," he said.