

Blues say 'no' to Alliance

WYCOMBE Wanderers will not be playing in the Alliance League next season even if they win the Servowarm Isthmian League championship.

After a month's long research into how entry into the Alliance might affect the various aspects of the club, the committee decided not to join the league in its current format.

The aspects they looked into were players, management, committee/board, supporters and financial.

Secretary John Goldsworthy explained:

"The cumulative effect of our researches would mean that if we applied and were successful, the Club, in the close season would need to find a new management team, over half a squad of quality players able to obtain release from employment, and several new committee members to run the club —

not to mention increased income."

Travelling costs alone would go up 400 per cent.

He said the club also considered the benefits of the Alliance such as more competitive and attractive matches, but pointed out that winning the League did not guarantee entry into the Football League.

Opportunity

"The committee came to the conclusion, having given all of the above facets careful consideration, that there was a composite argument and not finance alone in favour of not making application for membership of the Alliance League at this moment," said Mr Goldsworthy.

"However, the committee did reiterate their hope that in time the Alliance League would become regionalised as a Saturday league and we would be given the opportunity of membership."

Manager Mike Keen, said on balance that the club's decision to stay out of the Alliance: "was probably the right one."

He commented that to join the Alliance Wycombe would have had to change their image and be more competitive financially — like refunding players for loss of earnings.

"It would have been nice to play different teams for I'm convinced our players could cope in the Alliance, If it had been regionalised, there would have been no problem."