

GOING FOR GOLA

By **JIM McCANN**

W Y C O M B E
Wanderers chairman **Brian Lee** confirmed at the weekend that his club will move up into the Gola League next season — if the chance arises.

Mr Lee revealed that Blues had applied for membership and that their application had been "acknowledged."

Now Wycombe must continue their fight to fin-

ish second or at least third, in the Isthmian League Premier Division to keep hopes alive of gaining acceptance to the prestigious Gola set-up.

The Blues' chairman added that even if Wycombe did not reach the Gola League next season the club's application would be "left on the table" for the future.

Explaining the club's position Mr Lee stated: "There has been a change in circumstances since the club thought about entering the Gola League before.

"For one thing we now have more personnel at the club who would be in favour of such a move and that includes our manager.

"Obviously we would need a bigger, and possibly stronger, squad of players.

"This would cover problems which would arise for instance if we had to play a Tuesday night match at somewhere like Barrow.

"We might not be able to have all our regular first team available for such a trip through work commitments and other squad

players would have to be drafted in.

"But I must stress that nothing has been finalised yet and even if we finish high enough in the League we still have to be accepted by the Gola League."

In favour

Wycombe Manager Paul Bence is in favour of the move — although he prefers not to build up false hopes at this stage.

"Wycombe belong in the Gola League because we have one of the best set ups in non-league football and we should be playing in the top league available," commented Bence in his first public statement on the issue.

"Obviously at the moment nothing is certain and we

must concentrate on winning all our remaining games to give us a chance.

"If we don't do that and slip out of the top three the hopes of everyone will be dashed so I would prefer to get on with the business in hand first."

But Bence was prepared to take a look into the possible future which lies in store.

"There would be lots of things to take into consideration if the move into the Gola came off.

"We would have problems with travelling and players getting more time off work.

"We would need more

quality players in the squad so we would have to keep our eyes open for bargains like we did this season.

"Wycombe run a tight budget and we would not be prepared to go into the market of offering big signing on fees to players.

Big time

The idea of playing in the Gola has come like a bolt out of the blue but it is obviously attractive and I believe it is what the town needs."

Bence will give his players a taste of the big time soon by taking them to the F.A. Trophy final at Wembley between Boston United and

Wycombe's conquerors Wealdstone.

"That should give the players an idea of what can be achieved," said Bence.

"We gave Wealdstone a good run for their money and my players might realise that in the future they could be running out at Wembley."

For the moment Bence and his players are intent on keeping up the amazing streak of success which has seen them go 17 games without defeat.

He was very pleased with the latest victory at Barking.

"The attitude of the players recently has been right

and they seem to be responding to every challenge," explained the boss.

"They are so determined not to let this record go and on Saturday they showed lots of character.

"After losing the goal they rolled up their sleeves and played some good football in the conditions and Fairchild's winner was something special on the day."

Wycombe will try to keep their record intact tonight (Tuesday) at Hendon, another side who have been improving lately. On Thursday night Blues entertain Tooting and Mitcham.

Wycombe boss PAUL BENCE



**Blues chairman
BRIAN LEE**

"We belong there,"