

GOLA PLACE IS SECURED

By ROLF NIVEN

W Y C O M B E
Wanderers have been given the official thumbs-up to begin a new life in the Gola League next season.

Blues' secretary John Goldsworthy received verbal confirmation from Gola chairman Peter Hunter at the weekend that Wycombe have been accepted into Britain's top non-League set-up.

Inspection

The decision to elect the Loakes Park club was made at a joint-liaison committee meeting of members from the Gola, Isthmian, Southern and Northern Premier leagues.

"It is fantastic news," enthused Goldsworthy.

"Although everyone was confident we would be accepted, we needed official assurance to completely ease

our minds."

Wanderers have not received an official letter of acceptance from the Gola League, but they expect one within the next few days.

"We have had a note from them congratulating us on our high standard, following an inspection by some of their committee men," pointed out Goldsworthy.

The Blues are promoted along with Stafford Rangers form the Northern Premier and Cheltenham from the Southern League.

Yeovil take Wanderers' place in the Isthmian Premier Division, while Worcester and Gateshead are also relegated in the non-League pyramid system.

Wycombe get an official thumbs up

"This is the start of a new era for Wycombe and I only hope we can attract more fans," said the Wanderers' secretary.

"The standard of football in the Gola League is considerably higher and there is always the curiosity of new names coming to Loakes Park.

"I would like to see our present gates doubled.

"Gola results are regularly featured in the pools check, which gives them national coverage on television."

Manager Paul Bence was also delighted with the news.

"Smashing — it should set the club buzzing for next season," he said.

"Now I will have to gauge

the players' reactions to it all."

Bence will talk to strikers Simon Read and Declan Link as well as Kenny Wilson and Graham Pearce before the rest of the team leaves for the Algarve on tour in 10 days' time.

"None of them is going on tour and it is important I know their feelings on the situation before I talk to the others," explained the Loakes Park boss.

"The first season in the Gola League will be a holding year, where we will try to establish ourselves.

"I am looking forward to playing the Wealdstone and Altrinchams of this world."