

Cough up or shut up!

SPORTS COMMENT

NO amount of beating around the bush can disguise why Wycombe lost their place in the Gola League.

The club's tight-fisted policy stopped them buying a few quality players who were obviously needed for the weekly struggle against the best non-league football can offer.

Money can't buy success — as blues chairman Brian Lee is so fond of saying.

But it's a certainty that if you act like second-class citizens you will be treated like them.

It was sheer lunacy for Wycombe to go into the Gola League without a few ex-professionals who could still play a bit and organise the younger, less experienced men.

Most other Gola League clubs had them.

It was sheer lunacy for the Blues committee, with Mr Lee as overlord, to pay players a

pittance and expect them to perform miracles.

It was sheer lunacy for Mr Lee to say, as he did after the FA Cup bonus bust up, that players should play for the jersey and the honour of representing Wycombe.

This is 1986 where big money has even infiltrated deep into non-league football.

It's true that splashing out lots of money for the sake of it solves nothing.

But a few wise investments — and surely that's part of a good manager's job — might have made the difference between a Gola League place and one among the also rans.

Mr Lee continues to say that Blues can't afford to spend.

What happens to the money raised by Wycombe's thriving lottery?

It's burying your head in the

sand to say, as even Blues boss Alan Gane is saying in his own way, that looking around the Vauxhall Opel teams for players will take Wycombe back to the Gola TO STAY.

The club talk ambitiously about building a new ground and attempting to reach the Football League where they would still be light years behind teams like Wimbledon and Wigan, former non-league teams with enterprise who are now reaping the benefits.

But the time for talking is over.

New players are needed — and not, with all due respect, from Beaconsfield, Flackwell, or the like.

It's time for Mr Lee and the rest of the Politburo to cough up or shut up about the future — because there's not going to be one.