

New era ahead for Wanderers

**Report by
Peter Thomas**

WYCOMBE Wanderers greeted the new season by announcing a loss of almost £60,000 on the old campaign and the resignation of one of their most loyal servants.

But chairman Ivor Beeks insists that the club is on the brink of a "new era" with a bright future ahead.

The announcements came at this week's annual shareholders' meeting, when it was revealed that transfer fees of £65,000 and players' wages of almost £140,000 left the club with a hefty deficit last term.

It was this kind of big spending which prompted the other major item on the agenda - the departure of John Goldsworthy, committee member for the

last 20 years and secretary for 15.

John resigned both as a director and secretary at Loakes Park.

After the meeting, he told the Free Press: "It was a resignation rather than a retirement.

"The time had come when I could no longer see my way clear to supporting some of the financial policies of the current directors. Some things you have to stand up and be counted over.

"My attitude is that I only have what I can afford to have.

"If there is a player available who costs £50,000 and I haven't got £50,000, then that's too bad.

Principles

"Perhaps I failed in getting over to the board what my experience has taught me. Perhaps I was the one who was out of step. But I felt there was nothing further I could do.

"I got on alright with the board and they respected my principles. There was no animosity or resentment and, although I have resigned from my official

posts, I will still be around."

"I have worked for Wanderers for nothing in my free time and thoroughly enjoyed it. In the long run I will probably miss the club more than it will miss me."

John's years of service were recognised with a life vice-presidency only the second ever awarded - and a cut-crystal bowl.

His departure seems to be part of a process which is taking Wanderers into a different sphere to the homely, local club it has been in the past.

The links with the community are being maintained or even strengthened - but non-league football is now big business.

Mr Beeks said after the meeting: "The loss we made last year was entirely down to one thing we took some money out of the bank and spent it on players.

"And what happened when we bought those players? We finished fourth in the Conference and our gates went up dramatically.

"We have had money in

the bank for years, but it is no good without a team on the field.

"It was not so long ago that people were complaining that not enough money was being spent and not enough players bought.

"This is a time of change, the start of a new era, and the money we are spending now is an investment.

"When we move to the new ground at Hillbottom Road, there will be so much more to the club, such as a banqueting room and conference facilities and it will all have to be looked after and managed.

"It is sad to see someone like John resign, but he had been working for us for 20 years and everyone appreciates what he did for the club.

Perspective

"People tend to get things like this out of perspective. It might sound like a lot of money to lose, but it is nothing when you compare it with the value of the team. If we included that in the accounts there would be no deficit.

"The price of success is high, but there are spin-

offs, such as sponsorship and public support.

"We had a good meeting and I am totally happy with the direction the club is taking.



■ Ivor Beeks



■ John Goldsworthy