

O'Neill to reap benefits of staying

BLUES boss Martin O'Neill will receive the green light to build Wycombe into a Football League team when he returns to Adams Park next week.

Having rejected the opportunity to manage Second Division Bristol Rovers, O'Neill will now be free to scour the transfer market with his chairman's backing. Ivor Beeks has stoutly promised to continue supporting his boss's judgement in lining up new players.

"If and when he comes to us with

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a request, we will treat it as we have done in the past," said Beeks this week, who last season sanctioned O'Neill's acquisitions of Simon Hutchinson, Mick Nuttall and Keith Scott. Beeks has not rejected any of O'Neill's transfer moves yet.

O'Neill, having himself resisted the financial temptations of a three-year contract with Bristol Rovers, can still show a credit in his transfer dealings at Adams Park.

But while O'Neill's search for

quality players — focussing on the need for a keeper and an alternative in midfield — will not be stemmed, Beeks was anxious to put Wembley winnings in proportion, denying Blues will have profited by the reported estimate of 170,000.

"There's no way this club will make that sort of money," he urged.

Following the saga of whether O'Neill would stay at Adams Park, Beeks, who has offered his manager renegotiated terms, said: "What Martin has said to me is that he just wants to get on with the job,

and he wants to see us into the Fourth Division.

"No one can guarantee we will do it, but we will give it our best shot, and this year has to be one of the best chances. With no one coming down, everyone knows the standard of the opposition, as much as you ever can do in football."



O'Neill: decision

● **WANDERERS'** friendly fixture with Luton Town, which was to be played on August 6, has been cancelled. Second Division Watford have now been lined up to come to Adams Park instead.

Managers debate Super League plans



Allan Robson

AS THE Football Association's blueprint brings a Super League ever nearer, the GM Vauxhall Conference took a commercial lead last week with the inaugural meeting of all the fifth division's commercial managers held at Adams Park.

Graham Kelly's blueprint aims to increase revenue at football's top level by co-ordinating the commercial efforts of the clubs and the national team.

But as the FA and the Football League battle out their bids

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for supremacy, the Conference has set up the mechanism for combined national sponsorship.

Allan Robson, Wycombe Wanderers' commercial manager, led the meeting attended by the chairman and secretary of the Conference, and all clubs' commercial representatives.

"We agreed that there's so much potential and enthusiasm that we've got to tackle this

collectively, build from a united base," said Robson.

"We've got the official backing of the Vauxhall Conference Management Committee, and they're extremely encouraged that the initiative has been taken."

The association aim to improve the commercial prowess of the Conference with bulk purchasing and nationwide sales, while the bi-monthly meetings will provide a forum for new ideas and a chance for the commercial managers to educate each other.

"Wycombe Wanderers are a leading club outside the Football League in many respects, and this is one of them. We're in more of a position to lead clubs and help them," added Robson, who is one of five on the newly-formed committee which also includes Conference secretary Peter Hunter and PR man Ken Scott.

The next meeting takes place in September at Cheltenham.

The united commercial front will prepare the Conference for some of the changes of foot-

ball's future. Should Kelly's Super League come to be, a natural consequence could be for some current Third and Fourth Division clubs to go part time. Operating on the same basis as the Conference clubs, any fitness and financial gaps with the likes of Wycombe would disappear.

Alternatively, the Conference could simply be the new Fourth Division, with today's Second Division renamed the First Division, as happened in Scotland when their Premier Division was installed.