

Can they lift league?

Mark helps The Blues play

WYCOMBE Wanderers lit the fuse for their football explosion by grabbing FA Trophy cup glory last season.

They were replaying their tie against Bath this week in a bid to secure a place in this year's quarter final of the competition.

And The Blues are still in with a shout in the GM Conference title chase – trailing leaders Colchester but with games in hand over the favourites.

Pundits say Wycombe face the tougher run in to the end of the season, but if they keep winning – who knows?

One of those helping to shape the Blues' future is their commercial manager Mark Austin, from Beaconsfield.

And Beaconsfield Baptist Church's soccer team's loss has been Wycombe's gain.

"I used to play regularly in goal, but I can only turn out occasionally now because I am needed here on our match days," explained Mark in his Adams Park office.

The complex, built with part of the £3million Wycombe received for the sale of their old ground is impressive by any standards.

Plush banqueting suites, a gym, fantastic club room and great facilities for families on match days all add up to a ground any third or fourth division clubs would kill for.

It is Mark's job to make sure all those facilities run smoothly and to the maximum benefit of the club and its shareholders – the supporters.

"We are in the black, which is pretty unusual for a football club these days," adds Mark with satisfaction.

A new survey commissioned by the club shows many fans come from all over the South Bucks area to follow The Blues blazing their exciting trail across non-league football.

And success breeds success.

Mark hopes the Trophy win last year was just the start of things to come – and with an average gate of around 4,000 this season the fans have shown they

will turn out to back a winner.

"We are very much a family orientated club," says Mark. "Our survey showed one in four of our supporters was female, which is great."

The club's main bone of contention on behalf of its fans at present is a struggle to get council approval for vastly increased car parking much needed when the crowds flock in on match days.

"We do have a problem and hopefully it can be sorted out," says Mark. "We are hoping to come to arrangements with firms on the local industrial estate and we are thinking of park and ride schemes."

"But we could contain all the car parking we need here, if only we could get the approval!"

Lack of parking showed up as the fans' main gripe in that club survey.

Mark, 30, is keen to get the club more involved with the town and let every-

body in the area know about its superb facilities, which can be hired out for anything from weddings to fitness sessions.

And who knows – the boy from Beaconsfield could soon be boss of a booming fully fledged league outfit if The Blues climb into the fourth division from Conference

'We are very much a family club here'
