

Bucks Free Press

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Why are we waiting?

MANY will wonder why the Bucks Free Press is making a fuss just because Wycombe Wanderers missed the chance to go into the Football League.

Well, we hope that readers will read our news stories and supplement, and understand. More importantly, we hope that the Football League management committee will read our arguments and change their minds.

This is an exceptional year for the Football League, which has lost one club from the present fourth division, and is not replacing it. It is also losing the present first division, which is going off into a super league of its own with the Football Association.

The league has been dogged with falling gates, dwindling revenues, bankrupt clubs and criticisms of poor and dangerous facilities.

Consider then the position of Wycombe Wanderers. It is a modern and progressive club with a two-year-old stadium and facilities the envy of many league clubs. It has a healthy bank balance and the support of local industry.

It also has a superb team, which even when competing against a full-time squad from Colchester, finished with the same number of record Conference points. The club also has a superb manager in former Nottingham Forest star Martin O'Neill, who has galvanised the players and supporters.

Attendances have gone from strength to strength, with Wycombe not only boosting their own coffers, but those of other clubs they have played.

Wycombe must be a considerable asset to football in general and the league in particular. Many sporting personalities inside and outside the game think that Wycombe should be the exception to the rule. It is hard to see differently.

The League wants to limit the amount of clubs even though it knows that some may fall by the wayside. It is paying between £4,000 and £5,000 to each of the present fourth division clubs as compensation for having one less team to play.

Many of those clubs think they would be better off with Wycombe rather than the money. They know they will benefit more with Wycombe.

Barnet manager Barry Fry certainly thinks so, and look how they did in their first year in the fourth division.

So come on Football League, give Wycombe the chance they deserve.

Council fails to help

ONE of the tragedies of Wycombe Wanderers' success must be that they have had little or no help from the local council.

This is exemplified by the authority's refusal of an application to hold a carol concert in the stadium.

Compare this with Colchester United who have just been given their ground – rent free – for a year, worth £130,000, by their local council.