

League again rule out Wycombe

THE Football League's shadow board have reaffirmed their decision not to admit Wycombe Wanderers following the closure last season of Fourth Division Aldershot.

Wycombe lost out on goal difference to GM Vauxhall Conference winners Colchester, who won automatic promotion. Wycombe felt they should be allowed into the League to make up the numbers of the Fourth Division or its equivalent next season.

Wycombe's only hope of promotion is if Colchester fail to complete rebuilding work at their Layer Road ground.

Colchester, whose representatives met League officials on Friday, have not received a formal invitation to join the League. That will come only if rebuilding work is completed by July 21.

Barnet's players have urged Stan Flashman, the club's chairman, to make their jobs full-time—at present 11 of the 20 players are part-timers.

"They want several assurances, some financial, and they want the club run on a more professional footing,"

said Barry Fry, the Barnet manager.

Paul Bodin, the Swindon full-back, is doubtful for Wales' opening World Cup qualifier in Romania on Wednesday after spending yesterday in bed with 'flu.

Bodin's international teammate, Mark Penbridge, is set to join Derby from Luton for £1.2 million after rejecting a move to the Baseball Ground on transfer deadline day.

Wayne Clarke, released by Manchester City last week, is to have talks with Fourth Division Walsall. Walsall's manager, Kenny Hibbitt, is a close friend of Clarke, 31.

John Silk, who resigned as West Bromwich Albion's chairman following the dismissal of Bobby Gould as manager, has decided to step down as a director of the Third Division club.

Michael Knighton, who resigned as a director of Manchester United earlier this month, will take over as chairman and chief executive of Fourth Division Carlisle United on May 29.

TODAY'S SOCCER

S MIDLANDS.—O'Brien Trophy, final replay: Luton OB v Ashcroft.

Midweek 19/5/92

Wanderers lose out on appeal

WYCOMBE Wanderers' hopes of promotion in place of extinct football club Aldershot have been dashed by soccer's ruling bosses.

Now the club has only a minute chance of playing professional football next season—in place of Conference champions Colchester United.

Colchester's pitch must meet league standards by July 31 or Wycombe will take their place. Colchester need to spend £80,000 to make it come up to scratch.

Wanderers manager Martin O'Neill admitted he was dismayed by the league's refusal on Friday to allow Wycombe in to replace Aldershot. "I'm massively disappointed. But, at the end of it, I wasn't over optimistic," he said.

But club director and TV commentator Alan Parry still believes Wycombe have a chance. "We haven't officially been told anything," said Mr Parry. "The champions and the runners up are invited at the end of the season to submit an application to the football league. The champions go up by rights. However, if they fail to meet any of the criteria and if there are any problems with the champions they invite the runners up."

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