

To deny Wanderers would be petty

I AM not a football fan, but I do believe in natural justice.

Two teams have gained the same number of points at the top of the Conference table. The demise of Aldershot surely makes room for both in the Fourth Division. Common sense demands that there should be an even number of teams within that Division.

The showing of other teams promoted in recent years and their success within the League highlights the desirability of introducing fresh blood – compare some of the newcomers with some of those propping up the rest at the bottom.

To promote Wycombe Wanderers as well as Colchester – to whom congratulations and good wishes on their success are due – would be a victory for magnanimity and common sense.

To deny the Wanderers this prize would show a petty and intransigent attitude which could only be described as bringing the game into disrepute.

Mrs P Price
Desborough Avenue
High Wycombe

O'Neill has done us proud

LETTER to the Football League: I'm sure you will have to agree in the end that Wycombe Wanderers deserve to be promoted. They only lost on goal difference, which is such a shame. Their support and following is always good wherever they go.

Aldershot have gone (sorry for them) and that leaves a team short. In the 1992-93 season you are to promote two teams, so why not start a season earlier?

Martin O'Neill has done us proud. We hope he will continue for next season too. If he does move on then good luck to him. But we need to know we can make the promotion anyway.

More families attend Wycombe now, and that is surely a good sign for future top teams.

Look at the attendance Wycombe had at Wembley last year. You would not regret the decision to promote Wycombe Wanderers this season.

**Philip Styles, Angela Styles, and
Charlotte Styles**
Telford Way
High Wycombe

Crowds have doubled

WYCOMBE Wanderers' average home crowd has doubled to around 3,600 over the past two years. Teams coming to play at Adams park can expect a thriving atmosphere in a congenial setting.

Last year when they reached the final they brought to the town comradeship between all walks of life, and inspiration to the children who are the up and coming stars of football for the future.

The players often bring their expertise to coaching the children and supply good role models for them to follow.

Wanderers on the field have proved 21 points better than the next best part-time team, and have finished on level points with the Conference champions.

Since Aldershot are not in the League, Wanderers should be promoted.

**Mr and Mrs Stanley and
Christopher Stanley**
Downley Common

PFA boss Taylor backs the Blues

I AM very sympathetic to the case of Wycombe Wanderers to be admitted to the Football League, particularly as I feel that the newly formed Division Three should have an even number of clubs which would of course be 24 with Wycombe's inclusion.

A problem which is concerning clubs in the League is the fact that in 1995 there are due to be four clubs relegated from the Premier League with only two replacing them and there is a feeling that 26 clubs would be too high a number for the lowest division.

There is also a feeling that with the demise of Aldershot FC there may well be other clubs who

go out of existence and clubs which have recently been admitted to the League, such as Barnet, Maidstone and Scarborough have experienced financial problems in maintaining full-time commitments.

I have personally been very impressed with the organisation of the club and would give its claim my full support.

Gordon Taylor
Chief Executive
Professional Footballers Association
Oxford Court
Bishops Gate
Manchester

Wanderers prosper, others don't

I FEEL compelled to write to you concerning the "Promote Wycombe Wanderers Campaign". I am among many others who feel the way it was decided who should go up to the Fourth Division was very unfair.

After a major event, when the scoring is level at the end, a lot of people think deciding on penalties is a cruel way of winning. Maybe it is – but each side has the same chance of winning.

I wonder how Manchester United and Liverpool would feel if they were told it was level at full time, the result will be decided on goal differences. It would hardly be worth them playing.

In a time when the country is in deep recession, High Wycombe, being in the furniture industry, has been hit very hard and I know a lot of people with no jobs who look forward to going to football on Saturdays.

But, ironically, Wycombe Wanderers FC have prospered. I don't know if you have been to Adams Park, but they have first class facilities, a lovely ground, a large crowd each week – more than any other team in the Conference – and a first-class manager in Martin O'Neill, who has re-vamped the team into a side who could give any team in the league a good game for their money.

I don't know what their finances are, but I am told they are good.

Wycombe Wanderers FC have had a disadvantage all season in the fact that Colchester are all full-time players, and every other team in the Conference are only part-time. That in its own right is not fair.

As someone said: "Wycombe Wanderers did not finish second, but finished joint first."

I can honestly say, and I am sure I speak for everyone, had Wycombe finished one point behind Colchester, everyone would have accepted it and there would be no "Promote Wycombe Wanderers Campaign".

Peter Nunn
Hepplewhite Close
High Wycombe

New division will be a graveyard

I THINK that now Burnley have gone out of the bottom of the division, the proposed proposed Division Three of the new Football League will be an absolute graveyard for football.

A club like Wycombe would breathe fresh hopes to the clubs in this league, particularly southern clubs like Maidstone and Gillingham who have very little to look forward to in the way of glamour games. I am sure their games with Wycombe would be the highlights of their league season.

I am very grateful to the Free Press in supporting Wycombe's quest for League status.

David Plested
Copes Shroves
Hazlemere

It would be a crying shame

I THINK for their effort, determination, good entertaining football, public interest and support it would be a crying shame if Wanderers didn't get some sort of recognition at the end of a most exciting and entertaining season.

Could you believe I am an Arsenal supporter, so for me to write in support of Wycombe Wanderers, they must be a little special.

R Greenwell
Beech Road
Wycombe Marsh

Claims are exceptional

THANK you for the great support your paper is giving to Wycombe Wanderers' attempt to win promotion to the Football League.

If the chairmen of the other league clubs are fair-minded people, then they cannot fail to be impressed by the wholly exceptional claims of The Blues to be admitted to the League. The ground, the crowds and above all the team, would be an asset to any division.

Congratulations on the BFP stand at Adams Park and keep up the pressure - please!

The Teare Family
Allen Drive
Walters Ash

Support beats others

HOW many Fourth Division clubs get the support Wycombe get?

How many Fourth Division clubs get 3,000-plus gates?

How many Fourth Division clubs have stands like Wycombe?

How many Fourth Division clubs have credit balance?

M Russell
Rose Avenue
Hazlemere

Please change your minds

TO the League: Please could you see to change your minds and please promote Wycombe FC because we guarantee they will be an asset to the league. Please just two seasons and I know we can prove our worth.

Neal Stevens, K Stevens, B Stevens,
C Walley, D Jackson
Arundel Road
Sands

League needs Wanderers

THE Football League needs the Wanderers as much as we need league status.

In financial, moral and common sense terms there is no alternative - promote Wycombe to the Football League.

C R Doe
Deeds Grove
High Wycombe

Football would benefit

AS football supporters, we think the Football League could only benefit from Wycombe Wanderers joining the Football League, considering the support of the club.

M V Carter, B Carter
Canterbury Close
Monks Risborough

Boot on the other foot

IF Colchester had come second to Wanderers, I'm sure the Football League would have given them a lot of consideration.

G Woodbridge
Boundary Road
Loudwater

Factory backs Blues

I WORK in a large factory in Aylesbury with a varied cross-section of different football supporters, and there is a very strong feeling that Wycombe should be in Division Four.

J V Cooper
Shortborough Avenue
Princes Risborough

Fans deserve promotion

THE team deserve to be promoted not only for the players who have worked so hard, but also for the manager, staff, and especially for the fans who have supported them so much.

E Dawson
Pheasants Hill
Hambleden

Wimble-done good

JUST look at Wimbledon Football Club. They have gone on to big things. Why not Wycombe FC?

R B Norris
Bath Road
Maidenhead

Courageous campaign merits success

I AM writing with regard to your most courageous campaign to attempt to help promote Wycombe into the league. I must say I certainly give my support to your enthusiasm.

I ought to point out that I am not an avid supporter of Wycombe, that is to say I do not attend their matches, but it fills me with great pride to live in such close proximity of a truly achieving team.

I find it hard to believe that one must have to plead to the Football League to admit a most equitable team, when all the circumstances point to their entry.

Wycombe should be promoted. We ought to feel ashamed of having to testify our team's suitability. Surely the Football League need not be reminded of what Wycombe have done for the Vauxhall Conference, indeed Wycombe would be the league's greatest asset.

Andrew Long
Kiln Lane
Lacey Green

Tremendous following

I THINK Wycombe Wanderers should be promoted to the Football League because they have proved that a part-time team can be just as successful as their full-time opponents. They have a tremendous following which can only get bigger.

The overall atmosphere at Adams Park is a triumph for the game, and shows that the friendly attitude of management, staff and fans can only help improve the image of football.

My three-year-old son and myself have been to matches and I have no hesitation in taking him onto the terraces, something I wouldn't contemplate at many grounds.

With teams like Wycombe Wanderers in the League, I'm sure the families will start to attend, thus improving gates and keeping the game alive.

Mrs M Clark
Ashridge
Chinnor

There's no looking back

WE all know the rules surrounding promotion from the Conference. We were pipped by Colchester and that is now history. There is no looking back in football.

This comment also applies to the gentlemen in charge of the Football League: You have lost out once by allowing the FA to take the initiative with the new Premier League. Don't do it again, open up the door to the pyramid clubs.

Let Wycombe in the League this year and allow two clubs up from the Conference thereafter. You definitely won't regret it.

Roy Bevan
Shepherds Close
Beaconsfield

Support is simply the best

LETTER to the Football League: I understand the Football League's decision not to replace Aldershot next season and I respect your right to make that decision.

I would however, along with other Wycombe Wanderers supporters, like to voice an appeal given the exceptional circumstances that have prevailed this season in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

It is disappointing enough to finish as runners-up in any season, even more so if the only promotion place has been decided on goal difference.

But to finish the season equalling the present and bettering the previous record score of points makes this more unbearable.

Of course missing the chance to play league football is a loss to Wycombe but have you also considered the loss to the Football League?

Wycombe are the best supported (in numbers and vocally) of all non-league teams and you must be well aware by now of the superb facilities at Adams Park.

I imagine that self-preservation is the underlying reason behind your decision, as to promote two teams now would mean demoting an extra one later. But please in the interest of Fourth Division football in general, and Wycombe Wanderers in particular, have the courage to reconsider your decision.

Mike Locke
Wrights Lane
Prestwood

Football's lifeblood is at smaller clubs

I HAVE only been a supporter of Wycombe Wanderers for two years but have followed them religiously ever since.

Wycombe Wanderers are a professional, well-run club with much potential. Their stadium, Adams Park, would be a credit to most Fourth and even some Third Division clubs.

Despite the purchase of such a magnificent ground, they have not only stayed solvent, but have continued to make money. This is a situation which is not always common to League clubs like Aldershot and Tottenham Hotspur.

I feel very strongly that Wy-

combe have not only the potential to do well in the Fourth (or Third, as it will be next year) Division, but also the drive and ambition to succeed.

They have much to contribute, not least a large following of supporters who come to watch the game, not to fight with opposing fans. The true spirit of football has been safeguarded at Wycombe Wanderers.

The players love to play and the supporters love to watch. The players contribute much to our local society (eg giving blood to find a bone-marrow donor for a local boy) and could set a good example to many of the Fourth Division (and above) clubs,

where many players have detached themselves from their humble beginnings.

Wycombe Wanderers are a lovely club with much to offer and the capacity to cope with the Fourth Division attendances, as our attendance averages 3,000 to 4,000 per game. This is also higher than some of the Fourth Division clubs.

Is it, therefore, no sound business and footballing sense to promote Wycombe Wanderers to the Fourth Division to replace Aldershot, as Barnet were promoted last season with fewer points?

Wycombe obviously are better equipped than Colchester (despite Colchester's past spells in the

League) to cope admirably with football in the Fourth Division, and possibly beyond.

The League should consider this case most carefully and I am sure that reason will prevail, and Wycombe Wanderers will accompany Colchester to their rightful places in Division Four.

PS: I think I speak for football fans everywhere when I say that if the time has come for the League to reject clubs such as Wycombe, our country (and any other who would consider such actions acceptable) has no future in football.

Miss Toni Brodelle
The Pastures
Downley

Blues would be an asset

LETTER to the Football League: I was very saddened and disappointed to learn your decision that you will not be promoting "The Blues" up into the Fourth Division.

This to me seems totally impractical, with the demise of Aldershot coupled with the fact that Wycombe finished joint top of the Conference with Colchester and missed promotion on goal difference.

I have been following Wycombe for the last three seasons and watched them go from strength to strength. They have a superb ground and facilities which put many of the top division clubs to shame.

Throughout the season we have consistently achieved the highest Conference attendance figures whether playing at home or away.

Surely a club which draws such crowds would be an asset to the finances of other clubs within the Fourth Division? Wycombe is still fundamentally a family club and I remember the joy when we won the FA Trophy - 25,000 people went to Wembley, people power.

The feeling within the town was fantastic, surely these people who pay to go to football deserve a reward for their continued loyalty.

The feelings in Wycombe at the moment are running high, I would be grateful if you would reconsider your decision.

Claire Marchant
Lower Furney Close
High Wycombe

Is the League scared?

WYCOMBE Wanderers should be promoted to the Fourth Division for the following reasons.

1. We are undergoing a period of great change in football (Premier League, return to Europe, increasing gates etc). The promotion of Wycombe Wanderers would be in step with recent changes because we are a family club, play exciting football and would be a great advert for the game. We would be an asset to the Fourth Division.

2. How many teams in the League got 94 points this season?

3. The lost fixture due to Aldershot's demise would mean clubs losing out financially. Just ask a supporter from Barnet or Colchester if they would prefer a £4,000 handout or the prospect of four times that amount if they

played Wycombe. Also supporters like to watch football. Wycombe Wanderers play football in an exciting and entertaining way. Ask Peterborough what they thought of us in the FA Cup.

4. Our stadium is purpose built, modern, has all the facilities required for League status and is better than most in the lower divisions of the League.

5. Ask any neutral football follower. They would all say promote Wycombe.

6. Wycombe Wanderers have a huge following who are proud to be associated with the club. We are the backbone of our great game. Wycombe should be promoted, or are the League just plain scared of success?

Gary Campbell
Bradenham Road
High Wycombe

Clubs back the Blues

I AM pleased to add my name to the Promote Wycombe Campaign.

You ask for further comments and reasons why the club should be promoted to the League in order to present the supporters' own case in addition to the appeal made directly by the club.

There will of course be many and varied opinions and *raison d'être* proffered by followers of the club, all of them valid to one degree or another, and I will not therefore attempt to lengthen the list by vague or esoteric suggestions; instead I would restate certain points already made by your newspaper.

1. The question of submitting the appeal in question has arisen only because of the Demise of Aldershot FC.

2. There is no other League club

in the vicinity and this is therefore the opportunity to rectify this.

3. Most League clubs welcome the idea of promoting Wycombe and those in the fourth consider the extra games against will provide good additional income.

4. Wycombe's promotion will open a space for a club from the pyramid to enter the Conference.

In my opinion Wycombe have achieved remarkable success in attracting the gates at home and away and I believe it would be foolish of the League, when football needs all the support it can get in terms of cash and good public relations, to throw away this opportunity of admitting a club that will bring only positive attributes to the National Game.

S F Marchant
Marlow Road
High Wycombe

Norwich has no ambition for an ambitious manager

I AM an exiled Wanderers supporter and have been so since 1985. Even so, I still go and support the lads whenever I can.

Wycombe are good enough for the Football League because they should have finished above Colchester, but Colchester were lucky to beat us with that last minute goal from their keeper.

But the reason they should be allowed in is the professional set-up of the whole club (which wouldn't look out of place in the new premier league).

Whatever league they're in next season, I'll be supporting them whenever I can, (or glued to the Ceefax) hopefully with Martin O'Neill in the manager's seat.

Regarding the vacant manager's post at Norwich City, can I through your paper try and persuade Mr O'Neill not to be tempted by the job for a number of reasons.

1. Norwich City have a chairman called Robert Chase who doesn't like to lose money. Therefore, they buy fairly unknown players, build them up for a few seasons, then when they get some kind of recognition, he lets them go. You can't

blame the players as they want success. And with Norwich you are never going to get a truly successful team.

2. The supporters can't stand Robert Chase. The Taylor Report recommended all Premier League and all First Division grounds be all-seater by 1995. Last month, Norwich played their last home game with a terraced crowd in support and many petitions and angry letters did not change his mind. In a poll, 90 per cent of calls were for the terrace to stay.

3. Did anybody watch the FA Cup semi-final? The Norwich supporters, who sat on the North Stand at Hillsborough, were pathetic. Noise. What noise? I was behind the goal shouting my head off. Wycombe at Moss Lane in last season's FA Trophy semi-final – the supporters were magic, true passion.

4. Norwich City are going nowhere. Wycombe Wanderers are the best thing that has happened to the Football League for a long time. Please start a petition to keep Mr O'Neill at Wycombe.

P Burfield
Northfields
Norwich

Odd number is illogical

WE feel that Wycombe Wanderers should be allowed in the Football League because:

1. We finished equal first, having won more matches than Colchester, more away matches than Colchester and having conceded less goals than Colchester.

2. Wycombe Wanderers have won every honour in the Vauxhall Conference.

3. We offer a wonderful new ground, the best support of a non-league side and better than some League sides.

4. It would be good for football as the nearest League sides are Reading, Oxford, Watford and Brentford. South Bucks needs a league side.

The League's decision not to take in a club from the Conference upon Aldershot's demise to even numbers up was ludicrous.

To have a division with an odd number seems illogical. Paying £4,000 to each Fourth Division club appears laughable. Having one club not playing on a Saturday seems impractical.

Nigel and Penny Penn
Kiln Lane
Wooburn Common

Special circumstances seem to rule the day

I BELIEVE the following comments worthwhile:

1. Those clubs previously promoted have accredited themselves and been an asset to the league.

2. Average home attendance has exceeded 3400, better than many current Third/Fourth Division sides – a financial benefit to the league.

3. The club is run at a profit, unlike many league clubs in the lower divisions.

4. The footballing facilities are of an excellent standard, as also are those for spectators.

5. The Football League say they will not allow the "special circumstances" of Aldershot's demise to promote two clubs and everyone knew this. However, have they not also allowed "special circumstances" to exist for current league clubs for some time, ie they do not have to provide a bond guaranteeing players' wages.

6. Will they not promote Colchester if the ground requirements are not met or will "special circumstances" apply and entry be granted on the understanding that the work will be undertaken.

Richard Glenister
Walkham Close
Loudwater

I AM pleased to inform you that Scarborough Football Club will support any motion in favour of Wycombe Wanderers inclusion in the Football League at the start of next season.

The case for entry is in my mind unanswerable and I only hope that common sense prevails and that Wycombe Wanderers obtain membership.

We at Scarborough look forward to being entertained and hosting Wycombe Wanderers next season.

G Richmond, Chairman
Scarborough Football Club
Seamer Road
Scarborough

Supporters are desperate to join the Football League

WHAT more could a club do to deserve Football League status?

Finishing on equal points with Colchester, the Conference's only full-time professional side, is one thing, being 21 points ahead of the next club having amassed a record 94 points for the season is another.

Winning more games than any other side is yet another and having conceded the least number of goals is another remarkable achievement.

Yes, it is difficult to see how the players, manager and staff could have done more, or the supporters who regularly achieved home gates of 4,000 or more.

OK, rules are rules and it had been agreed long ago that only one club would gain promo-

tion to the Football League and none would be relegated from Division Four.

But situations change, and the demise of Aldershot seemed to give the Football League a simple way of solving a problem which had been developing at the top of the GM Conference where two clubs were getting so far ahead of the rest.

No one can deny Colchester their right to Football League status, their performance over the season deserves them their spot, as does Wycombe's.

Indeed equal points seems to have been their destiny with both clubs deserving to be winners.

There would have been 24 clubs in the newly-formed Third Division of the Football League

if Aldershot had survived, so the situation would be the same if Wycombe were now allowed to join.

The Football League's gain would be a financially sound club with a good following (probably up to 6,000 for home games); a modern and safe stadium for which the town and supporters fought for over many years with a view of obtaining league status; and wide interest and support from a large footballing area previously starved of league football.

Wycombe's loss, if they do not gain promotion, could be devastating. Many league clubs have watched our players who now expect to play in the Football League (and why shouldn't they?).

Our loyal manager is ambitious, but has already turned down a move to Bristol Rovers to stay and obtain promotion with Wycombe.

He will no doubt have to move on to further his footballing career if Wycombe are not promoted.

This would amount to the breaking up of a marvellous team which should be encouraged to continue on a high.

Come on Football League! The club and supporters are desperate to join and support you. Promote Wycombe and you won't be disappointed.

Robert Chaney
Glebe Close
Holmer Green

Admit decision was bad

TO those decision-makers who have already decided the fate of Wycombe Wanderers, I say: Why don't you admit that you made a bad decision (ie one that is bad for football) and have the courage to change it?

For a spokesman to say that Wycombe "knew the situation" etc etc, is a crass comment to make, it attempts to hood-wink us into believing that if Wycombe were not aware, things might have been looked at differently – what utter nonsense.

So come on decision-makers, apply common sense and give Wycombe wanderers their well-deserved promotion.

Roger B. Pickard
Wynbury Drive
High Wycombe

Put 'em where they belong

SEASON after season teams struggle on and off the field to remain in the league. Then along comes a team who win the most games in the Conference offer only positive things in the game, and are ignored.

One can only assume that if the League continues to pay off teams which fold in the new Third Division, most teams will lose out by not playing Wycombe. Put the Blues where they belong.

Mrs Sharon Deighton and family
Queen Street
High Wycombe

Blues' time has come

FOR many years Wycombe Wanderers' players, along with their passionate supporters, have epitomised the spirit that delves beneath full League football.

The time has now surely come for them to take their place in the top bracket and to spread this appreciation among a wider audience.

It would be criminal to stifle this.

M Summers
Great Hivings
Chesham

Enthusiasm is marvellous

WE have all enjoyed the games we've seen this year, and think that the atmosphere and camaraderie is marvellous at Adams Park – a bit of that enthusiasm would be good for the Fourth Division, we feel.

Our son who is studying in Germany came home, at great expense, to see the last match, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it apart from the fact that The Blues weren't promoted.

Hugh, Eileen, David and Basil Chapman
Watchet Lane
Holmer Green

Adams Park is good

AS there is a space in Division Four, why can't Wycombe fill it?

With as good a ground as many clubs in Division Four which has been passed by league officials, we would have no problem fulfilling football league requirements.

Mr C D Summerfield
Misbourne Avenue
High Wycombe

Councillors do care

AS a district councillor I, and my colleagues, do care about Wycombe Wanderers. So please do, for once, get your facts right.

Cllr Bob Barber
Brands Hill Avenue
High Wycombe

Set-up is professional

I BELIEVE it would make common sense to have Wycombe Wanderers in the Football League as the support they have on their away games is often better than some Fourth Division sides have at their home games.

The general set-up at Wycombe is very professional, exactly the standard the Football League should encourage. For instance, the ground is superb with a real 'family' feeling about the place.

In general the stadium is very good, but above all, the crowds are well behaved and there are thousands of them so the club is tailor-made for the League.

Ron Langston
Supporter for 30 years
Primrose Hill
Widmer End

Wycombe would be a credit

LETTING Wycombe into the League is the only sensible course of action. Everything had been worked out before the demise of Aldershot for a certain number of clubs. They would be a credit to the Football League.

Nicholas Simon
Monument Lane
Chalfont St Peter

Team has the ability

I THINK that Wycombe Wanderers have more than proved that they are good enough to go up to the Fourth Division – most years the number of points they gained would be enough to let them go up easily. They have the ability and the facilities to make a positive contribution.

Philippa Brewer
Roberts Road
High Wycombe

Kirsty rests her case

WYCOMBE should be promoted because they have been in the non-league for a long time and they deserve it. After winning the FA Trophy last year, I think they deserve to be promoted to the Fourth Division. I rest my case.

Kirsty Collins
Wendover Road
Little Kimble

It would be nice for Bucks

I WOULD like to see Wycombe Wanderers promoted to the Football League, as they are one of the best-supported football teams, that are not currently in League Football.

It would also be nice to have a League team in Bucks. At present there is none.

E G Slater
Ambleside
Bedgrove

Average gates are better

LOOK at Wycombe's average crowd to some teams in the Third and Fourth Divisions. The Football League needs teams like Wycombe Wanderers FC.

Adam Baccus
Ovesdown Avenue
Harrow

New blood is needed

I FIND it very sad and disappointing that the League will not allow Wycombe Wanderers into the Football League.

To obtain a Conference record of 94 points and yet still not be allowed into a play-off situation is absolutely ridiculous and totally unfair.

Surely in these times of financial hardship, what the League needs above all is to allow fresh new blood into a very stagnant division.

Wycombe has facilities that are the envy of many league clubs. Gates have averaged 4,000 this season, which is amazing for a non-league club (25,000 went to Wembley last year, creating an FA Trophy record).

Above all, Wycombe is a thriving club financially which must be a welcome change to the situation of many league clubs.

I find it amazing how Conference clubs in the last few years who have managed to obtain promotion have done incredibly well – Darlington, Maidstone, and this season Barnet, who in their first season have made it to the play-offs.

It makes me wonder whether the standard of Division Four football is really any higher than Conference football?

So please, the powers-that-be, think of our case sympathetically and let Wycombe Wanderers FC into the League – you know it makes sense.

The Marvin Family
Ashley Drive
Tylers Green

Vacancy to fill

A CLUB gaining 94 points should be promoted to fill the vacancy left by Aldershot. The fact that Wanderers finished 21 points ahead of Kettering and were FA Trophy winners in 1991 should count.

J Brewer
South View
Downley

LETTER to the Football League: I feel particularly strongly that you should admit Wycombe Wanderers to play in the League next season.

To ignore the Promote Wycombe Campaign would not only reflect badly on the Football League, but could also have a particularly damaging effect on a currently profitable, vibrant, proud and exciting football team in High Wycombe.

I expect most of the letters you have been receiving over the last few weeks have concentrated on the undoubted positive contribution which Wycombe Wanderers could bring to the Football League, but I would like to highlight the likely effect on WWFC should their campaign be unsuccessful.

Please take into consideration the following points should you be considering rejecting Wycombe's promotion claims.

Firstly, there is the very real prospect that Martin O'Neill, a particularly ambitious and talented manager, would be forced to leave a club which he loves and which loves him.

No great loss to the League since one of their clubs would gain the services of this fine manager, but it would be a catastrophic and avoidable loss to WWFC.

Secondly, without the prospect of Football League football at Wycombe Wanderers, several of the players would, I feel sure, be wooed by current Football League clubs, and nobody would blame them if they grasped with both hands any such opportunity to play in the Football League should it come their way.

This would leave a possibly new manager desperately trying to weld together a new team of players, which, unless he is extremely lucky, will be of a lesser quality than those already at the club.

This in turn would seriously undermine the chances of WWFC mounting an effective challenge for the Vauxhall Conference championship next season.

Thirdly, as a direct consequence of both of the previous points, the incredibly enthusiastic support which Wycombe have enjoyed over the last two seasons, instead of continuing to go from strength to strength and providing what would undoubtedly be some of the largest gates in what I understand is to be renamed the new Third Division, would return to being more modest, typical GMVC attendance figures.

Why even risk letting such an exciting club return to obscurity within the GMVC when it makes so much sense to embrace WWFC within the Football League, thus benefiting all concerned.

Don't allow yourselves to be shackled by your own rules and bureaucracy — take the bold step of admitting Wycombe Wanderers into the Football League and give this club the opportunity to show its full potential. I sincerely hope to be watching Third Division football at Wycombe come next season.

G M Smith
Wycombe Road
Stokenchurch

Demise of Aldershot should have let us in

WYCOMBE Wanderers should have been allowed into the Football League due to the demise of Aldershot, leaving Doncaster bottom of the league.

By rights with Aldershot not involved in the league, their points void, Doncaster should have been the club to drop into the Conference, and that would have been the way for Wycombe to be promoted.

Wycombe have great crowds, which was noted in the FA Trophy final last year, which broke record receipts for a final, and can draw bigger gates for a game than some Third and Fourth Division teams who have been in the Football League for years.

Wycombe Wanderers deserve the chance for the people, the team and the manager, who have done wonders over the last two seasons.

Simon Hudson
The Acres
Downley

Let's move on, gentlemen

SURELY, with only 23 teams next year in the 'new' Division Three, there will be a team without a game every week. The name of the game is money and how to generate more for our wonderful game, so having a free week doesn't make any sense at all.

Wycombe, with our home gates of 3,500 average over the season, (and which would certainly be increased should we be elected, due to our large catchment area) would certainly help fill the coffers of the Football League.

Come on, gentlemen lets move forward with solvent clubs with enthusiastic ideas and a positive board of directors, together with first-class facilities, please give our case your full attention.

Mike Jeffries
Pearl Gardens
Slough

Gap needs to be filled

THE closure of Aldershot has left a gap which needs to be filled. Wycombe should be given a chance to prove that they can compete with the other clubs in what will be the Third Division.

The performance of Barnet this season proves that clubs like Wycombe can succeed and keep a good balance in the bank. Wycombe have a good support and they should be given the chance to see the club go from strength to strength.

I hope to watch Wycombe next season and am hoping that it is in the Third Division. I hope that the Football League will reconsider.

M Randell
Abbey Road
Aylesbury

What about a play-off?

I THINK Wycombe Wanderers should get promoted into the new Third Division because:

1. The state of Colchester's ground is not good enough and the League should say it has got to be ready one month before the season starts.

2. The rule on goal difference is unfair. A team such as Wycombe could be just as good as Colchester, and Colchester might score more goals against, say, Redbridge Forest and lose the league because of it. I think if two teams have the same points at the end of the season, you should play a play-off match.

David Small
Wooburn Manor Park
Wooburn Green

Everything to offer

I HAVE supported Wycombe for 20 years and I feel if any team deserves a place in the Football League, it's Wycombe.

No team outside the Football League has more to offer than Wycombe. To have obtained 94 points, 21 ahead of the third placed club, just shows how the top two clubs dominated the league.

I just hope the league sees this light and promotes Wycombe as this club has everything to offer the league.

A W Russell
Chiltern Avenue
High Wycombe

It only makes sense

WYCOMBE should be admitted to the Football League not because they have an excellent ground, great organisation, tremendous support and that they missed out so narrowly from winning the Conference, but because it makes sense to replace Aldershot and so fulfil League plans to revert to a 24-team Division 4, so clubs don't miss a fixture and consequent revenue. Wycombe would be a credit to the Football League.

Ian Baker
Portland Crescent
London

What more do they need?

REASONS to promote Wycombe:

1. Only lost League on goal difference
2. 30 League wins in the season.
3. 21 points clear of third placed team.
4. Average home League attendance of over 3,600.
5. Excellent modern ground.
6. Financially sound club
7. Odd number of Fourth (Third) Division clubs otherwise.

David Peatey
Wash Common
Newbury

Thank you BFP

MAY I take this opportunity to thank you for the effort you are making on behalf of Wycombe Wanderers and their supporters. I sincerely hope, as you do, that it is not in vain.

Mrs A Farrell
The Greenway
High Wycombe

Please make an old man very happy

I HAVE been a regular to support the Wanderers since 1910 and remember the thatch roof on the dressing room at Loakes Park. I am almost totally blind and registered for it, my grand-daughter takes me to Adams Park and gives me a running commentary as I cannot always see the ball. I get

the thrill of the game. League status has always been my fondest dream. So please, Football League, make a very old man very happy.

Stan Carter
Holmers Farm Way
Booker

Loyal fans give more views on the decision

HOW on earth can the powers that be even hesitate to let Wycombe Wanderers enter the football league.

They are a club with a good healthy bank balance and a superb stadium, a splendid discipline record, what more can they ask? On top of all this they have not yet reached full potential.

If the media are to be believed, then one or two more teams at present in the league could be in financial difficulty before the end of 1992-93 season.

If it should be correct then the league management could look rather silly to keep Wycombe out. What a good chance they have; if they don't let Wycombe in, they will be the losers.

I have been a supporter of Wycombe Wanderers since 1932 and through all those years they have always continued to grow in stature. Come on Football League, wake up. It is now 1992-93.

Cyril G Rance,
Cambridge Crescent, Totteridge

☐ **LETTER** to the League: In any other division the top couple of teams go up, and as Wycombe only drew on goal difference, surely they can fill the empty space?

Wycombe have a superb ground, and they have money to help them in the Fourth Division. I mean it is not as if they are broke.

Wycombe have done well over the past season. No-one could have asked better from a team, and what do they receive in return – a slap in the face.

Please would you re-consider and allow Wycombe to join the Fourth Division. You have an empty space, so why not use common sense and fill it.

Jane Farragher,
Pond Park Road, Chesham

☐ **THE Blues** have all the ingredients:

- A team of gifted players
- A creative and inspiring manager
- Dedicated and loyal supporters
- A board that has the vision and

leadership to assemble such a galaxy of players

● A magnificent ground that reflects all these attributes. There have to be losers in any sphere – that's life. But the Blues are manifestly not losers. To deny the Blues makes them appear as such.

Philip Gladwin
Priory Road, High Wycombe

☐ **NOT** only are the League being unfair about taking one team instead of the more reasonable idea of two, due to the other clubs already in the division who will miss out on things that your £4,000 simply cannot provide, these men need to play games.

Kirsteen McDougall
Cryers Hill Lane, Widmer End

☐ **YOUR** decision to take up Wycombe's fight for election into the football League is an admirable one and is deserving of support.

It is only common sense for the

League to look towards filling the gap for many reasons, not least to prevent one club from not having a blank Saturday every week of the season!

Good luck Wycombe and good luck to the Bucks Free Press in their quest.

Roy Rance
Chartridge Lane, Chesham

☐ **PLAY** fair Football League, forget the glamorous team for once – give the smaller clubs a chance and a crack at the league (we deserve it).

Mr and Mrs Oxbrow and son
Mayhew Crescent, High Wycombe

☐ **LETTER** to the League: I am writing to tell you how disgusted we are that Wycombe Wanderers are not to be promoted. Please reconsider.

Wycombe are a good team with good finances and facilities. They would be an asset to the football league.

Catherine Palmer (14)
Desborough Avenue,
High Wycombe