

WYCOMBE Wanderers are hoping rivals Colchester fail to make it to the fourth division today - but that dream seems far from reality.

GM Vauxhall Conference winners Colchester United, will come under the scrutiny of Football League officials who are looking at the arrangements the club has made for life in the Fourth Division.

With Wycombe Wanderers' immediate future depending on the outcome, Colchester chairman James Boditch said on Wednesday: "We are very hopeful."

He added the relevant papers had been completed and would be handed to the League yesterday.

The Blues had hoped they too could reach the Football League

While stressing he was optimistic about Colchester's ground and facilities being up to scratch - there were doubts about the Layer Road ground meeting safety requirements - he felt sorry for Wycombe and their fans.

James told The Star: "I have every sympathy for them. We wrote to the League supporting their case."

Meanwhile, the confusing situation about what league Wycombe play their football in next season is also damaging their pre-season planning.

Secretary John Goldsworthy, who said this week he can't wait for all the speculation to end, has not been able to arrange games so far.

He told The Star: "There are some quality teams in the pipeline, with Martin (O'Neill) having spoken to a lot of them about possible fixtures."

"The trouble is, we don't yet know where we're going to play."

Today could be a very important day all round for Wycombe, with a crucial meeting planned for this afternoon between chairman Ivor Beeks and Wycombe District Council to discuss the car parking.

The council has said it agrees with the club and a new car park should be built.

Blues must earn their place

IN the days when Jock McCullum, Peter Birdseye and later when Paul Bates and my all-time favourite Len Worley paraded their sporting skills for Wycombe Wanderers, the Blues were the pride of the town and justifiably so.

Obviously the present team gives similar pleasure to today's generation of supporters and that pleases me as a one-time ever present at Loakes Park.

I very much doubt however if Frank Adams and the stars of yesteryear would have found any sense of achievement by winning second-hand honours via the back door.

In those days rules were rules and were played to. The club and BFP's orchestrated campaign to secure promotion for Wycombe Wanderers is misguided and would if successful undervalue the achievements of all the past and future champions of the Conference.

Let the Wanderers earn the coveted place in the Football League by finishing top of the league. If they are as good as they say or think they are another year or two would make the realisation of their dream all the more worthwhile.

However, the celebratory posturing by the players before they met defeat in this year's trophy regrettably suggests that the high sporting traditions of a famous club have sadly declined through the years. A further period in which to prove their worth would I believe be more beneficial to the club and the players in the long term than a quick "Jim (Hill) and Martin will fix it" solution.

I hope that the Football League rejected Wycombe's application as very superficial and unjustified, for that I think it was. Any other decision would have transformed the feeder system of the Football League into anarchy and farce and there is plenty enough of that in sport already.

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Fan answers rival's points

I AM incensed to find a letter from a loyal Colchester supporter in last week's Bucks Free Press stating two illogical points. Who does this man /woman /donkey /McDonough think he is? His points:

● Wycombe were joint first and we won more games than our moronic colleagues. It was just certain power-hungry individuals in the Football League who denied us.

● Colchester - a league team? What rubbish! There are not many teams with the honour of being kicked out of the league.

I think it is about time this frightened wreck stopped whining and followed his team back down into the Conference next season.

I'll be laughing and rubbing my hands with glee at this idiot.

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