

Blues have new hopes of going up

WYCOMBE Wanderers are clutching at yet another slender Football League lifeline revolving around the possible demise of troubled clubs.

Blues need doom-laden Maidstone and another Football League club to fold within the next week to be promoted to the Third Division.

League rules say that it can bring in a new member if the number of clubs dips below 70.

Wanderers heard at last weekend's GM Vauxhall Conference Annual General Meeting in Brighton that the league had asked about the possibility of promoting Wycombe.

Conference chairman Bill King said he had been told by League director John Reames that he had no objection to Wycombe joining the league if a fresh opportunity arose. Ivor Beeks, the Blues chairman, said: "If we can go in, we'll go in. We've always been ready to take our rightful place in the Football League."

Maidstone could appoint liquidators at a shareholders' meeting tomorrow, while other clubs are also in danger of following Aldershot to the wall.

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The other Blue line

OUR sympathies go out to battle-weary Wycombe Wanderers fans whose nerves have been shredded throughout the summer by the Football League's continual vagueness.

The club had been told it had no chance of gaining league status under any circumstances. Now the league has let slip that if two of its debt-ridden members go belly-up in the next week Blues will take one of their places.

Is there any end to the bleary-eyed dithering of league bosses who don't seem to know or care how their actions affect the patient Wycombe fans.

Thompson boosted by recognition

THERE was recognition for three Wycombe Wanderers players at last weekend's GM Vauxhall Conference meeting — and consolation for the injured Steve Thompson.

Thompson, who was bitterly disappointed to miss Wanderers' last four games of the season with ankle ligament trouble, was included in the Conference team of the year, along with Andy Kerr and Glyn Creaser.

Colchester's Steve McGavin succeeded Mark West as the Mail on Sunday Conference player of the year, while his boss Roy McDonough won the manager of the year award.

Farnborough Town were the first winners of the Alan Hardaker memorial award for fair play. Joint top goalscorers, with 29 apiece, were Redbridge striker Paul Cavell and Terry Robbins of Welling.

Wycombe, who were presented with the JC Thompson Championship Shield for beating last year's Conference champions Barnet, also picked up a cheque for their success in the 1991/91 season.

They received £4,000 for finishing Conference runners-up and a further £3,000 for winning the Bob Lord Trophy.

The team of the year, vot-

Report by PETE LANSLEY

ed for by the Conference managers, was as follows: McKenna; Shirtliff (both Boston), Watts (Redbridge), Kerr, Creaser; Thompson (all Wycombe), Collins (Colchester), Richardson; Cavell (both Redbridge), McGavin (Colchester), Robbins (Welling).

There was also an important ruling on loan players. Contract players loaned from Football League and Premier League clubs to those in the Conference will be limited to five a season, with no more than two at any one time.

● WYCOMBE will meet Colchester in a championship shield match sometime in the autumn.