

Blues go back to school for training

WYCOMBE Wanderers will practise at a school when they start pre-season training - in an effort to stop their Adams Park pitch resembling a mud-bath over the next year.

Attractive football became difficult towards the end of last season, after the strain of first team and youth football, on top of regular training sessions, proved too much for the new pitch.

Chairman Ivor Beeks said this week: "We played some of our best football in the early part of the season."

The club would ideally like a practice pitch built near to the stadium, but people living close to the ground and Wycombe District Council don't agree.

The players will therefore train at Cressex School during the new season, while negotiations between the council and club rumble on.

Ivor added: "We want to keep the football played on the pitch down to a minimum."

The council has said it agrees that car parking problems created on matchdays need to be resolved.

A planning inquiry that was to go ahead on Wednesday was frozen, with both parties confident a compromise will be reached.

Discussing the decision to postpone the planning inquiry, Ivor told *The Star*: "We will get further by negotiation than by appeal and confrontation."

Fans are still wanderer-ing

by Stephen Deal

THE bizarre 'will they, won't they' Wycombe Wanderers situation was back on this week.

Blues fans who thought we were definitely playing in the Conference after Football League chiefs decided not to replace Aldershot had better think again.

The chances of promotion to the new Third Division are still slim but if two teams fold before next Thursday, then Wycombe will go up.

On Wednesday, a crisis meeting was held at Maidstone, who are in all sorts of financial trouble, where it emerged that a mystery buyer may come up with enough money to save them.

The Kent side have been

given until next Wednesday to see if the club can be saved. The latest Wycombe can be accepted into the Football League is Thursday.

If Maidstone fold, the League is then left with 70 clubs. If another club, as well as Maidstone, goes by next Thursday, the Conference will recommend Wycombe are promoted to make up the numbers.

Peter Hunter, secretary of the Conference, told *The Star*: "It is important to get across that Wycombe Wanderers

have not been invited into the Football League.

"Most people talk about Maidstone and Northampton (who have been put in the hands of the receivers) but there are a lot of other clubs in financial trouble.

"We would be sorry to lose Wycombe, as we would any of our clubs. Wycombe Wanderers are a quality side, if that's the right word, but it would be foolish of us not to recommend them if there was a chance they could be promoted."

He added the Conference felt there was no chance Wycombe would have been allowed to replace doomed Aldershot.

Blues secretary John Goldsworthy said Wycombe would continue to prepare for the Conference season, but were aware of what was happening and were keeping up to date with the latest news.