

Season ticket sales up as Blues make a profit

**Report by
PETE LANSLEY**

THE cost of building a side capable of winning promotion to the Football League didn't prevent Wycombe Wanderers from announcing a £20,484 profit to their shareholders yesterday.

The club's turnover for last season increased by 17.5 per cent to just over £1.2 million as gate receipts equalled the previous season, during which Wanderers had enjoyed money-spinning runs in the FA Cup and FA Trophy.

The Blues bought Kim Casey, Dennis Greene and Steve Thompson in the second half of last season, while also bringing in Paul Hyde and completing the payments for Keith Scott.

The departures of Steve Whitby and Mickey Nuttall left an increased net deficit of £45,000 on player transfer activities. This

figure matches last year's profits.

Financial director Graham Peart has stated the turnover and profit figures are very satisfactory considering the current recession, and pointed gratefully to the loyalty of club sponsors and advertisers.

He continued: "Many other non-league and League clubs are disappearing while Wycombe Wanderers continue to make progress on and off the field. We are ready to take our place in the Football League."

For the current campaign, season ticket sales are up by 70 per cent and early attendances have also improved in the last few months.

Poppies' plight clouds league

STANDPOINT

Blues rethink pitch plan

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club has scaled down plans for a controversial training pitch at its ground in Hillbottom Road, Sands.

The club has applied for permission from Wycombe District Council and hopes an appeal to the Environment Secretary on a previous scheme will not be needed.

Planning officers had helped the club draw up a more acceptable scheme.

Wycombe District Council Town & Country Planning General Development Order 1988

Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990

Notice is hereby given that the following Applications have been submitted:

W/92/6574/FF Erection of 18 houses/Land off Sedgemoor Gardens, Flackwell Heath: *MD Additional information submitted.

W/92/6582/00 Residential development to include the provision of affordable housing in accordance with Local Plan Policy H4/Land to the rear of Inkerman Drive, Hazlemere: *MD & The proposed development does not accord with the provision of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

W/92/6583/FF Car Parking for 224 cars & Synthetic training pitch/Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe: *MD & The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Flats plan goes ahead

PLANS to build 68 flats on the site of the former Wycombe Wanderers football ground at Loakes Park, High Wycombe, were given the go-ahead on Wednesday by Wycombe District Council planners.

AS WE all feel the recession biting ever deeper, Kettering's plight is an alarming reminder of what mismanagement could do to your local soccer club.

Six months ago, Peter Morris' Poppies were set to be the main contestants with Wycombe or Colchester for this season's Conference championship.

In comes Mark English, a man of big promises making a big noise, and now Kettering are clinging onto the survival ledge by the edge of their finger nails.

I hear contrasting views of how successfully Wycombe Wanderers manage their finances, but this week's figures at least show they are in the black. Last season they made £45,000, so they

ploughed £45,000 into team-building. Sounds like common sense.

If Kettering pull themselves back onto the level, they have already lost a lot of ground on Wycombe in the Conference.

With Colchester promoted, that suggests Wanderers have lost the challenge of two strong teams.

It is also debatable whether Farnborough are the side they were 12 months ago.

But at this stage of the season, newly-built teams such as Woking and Dagenham/Redbridge have not yet had time to gel, and I reckon they will be pushing Wycombe at some stage this season.

They'd better not leave it too much longer, though.