

Can you stop the Blues fans singing the blues?

BACKCHAT joins forces today with soccer boss Martin O'Neill to find a clean new song for his Wycombe Wanderers' fans.

I'm launching a great competition to liven up the terraces at Adams Park.

Tuned-in readers should send in melodies to Backchat. The best effort, judged by Martin, will be printed in full.

And we'll try to get a celebrity – as well as the fans – to croon it in public. Supporters have been subdued of late

after a police ban on singing rude songs.

Now Martin, an opponent of dirty ditties, is appealing for someone to come up with some new respectable chants.

He is desperate to get the Blues' fans singing anything other than blue songs.

"If some people can come up with an innovative song that is not uncomplimentary to opposing teams and supporters, I am in total agreement with it," said Martin.

Hopefully, the new music will help get the Wycombe side on song for Wembley when they play West Brom in the FA Cup on December 6.

Incidentally, West Brom boss Ossie Ardiles knows all about obscene songs – after being party to the worst record of all time.

Who remembers the little man singing with Chas 'n' Dave on the vomit-inducing Ossie's Dream ('Ossie's going to Wembley, his knees have gone all trembly ...')?

Let's hope Wanderers' supporters can lift their team on December 6 to rewrite Ossie's Dream into Ossie's Nightmare.

● Anyone with a song should write to Backchat, Bucks Free Press Midweek, Gomm Road, High Wycombe. Or ring me on (0494) 521212

Support for new pitch

WYCOMBE Wanderers' long running battle to build a training pitch next to their Adams Park ground has been given the thumbs up at a council's planning committee meeting.

It was decided by 16 votes to ten to recommend approval to a Wycombe Council meeting in the New Year.

What do you think? Should the Blues be granted permission for the pitch? Write to The Star, Gomm Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7DW with your views.

Rush for big match tickets

THERE are just 3,000 tickets left for Wycombe Wanderers' big FA Cup clash against West Bromwich Albion, due to go on general sale for the first time this Sunday.

League Line members, season ticket holders, vice presidents and 1,800 West Brom fans have snapped up the rest of the 7,100 available.

Supporters hoping to snap up the 3,000 still to be sold will probably have to queue long before the club office opens at 2pm to have a reasonable chance of buying a ticket.

Only one ticket per person can be bought. The club office will stay open until 4.30pm.

If any tickets are left over, they can be bought this Monday, during normal office hours.

Blues refused charity status

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been refused charitable status by councillors, which would have led to a cut in the club's rate bill.

The club asked Wycombe District Council for a rate reduction because of the work it does in the community, but despite fierce opposition, members kicked out the application.

Cllr Tim Andrews called for the club to be given help, as others including Marlow Football Club and Wycombe Judo Club receive rate relief.

He said: "Many people

By MARK RACE

in Wycombe, who are not aware of the work we do, would say that Wycombe Wanderers does more for this town than Wycombe District Council."

He argued for a ten per cent rate cut. "We are looking at £1,100 and I am sure people would support it because we are supporting the local side."

But council treasurer Barry Catchpole pointed out at a meeting on Monday, there is no money to cover a rate cut and it would be against policy.

Blues score the first goal on controversial pitch plan

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club has got the first part of the result it wants over its controversial training pitch plan.

The proposal, which includes a 224-space car park, was discussed for more than 45 minutes at Wednesday's Wycombe District Council planning applications panel. The panel gave the plan preliminary approval.

"I am delighted, but this is only the first hurdle, really," said Ivor Beeks, chairman of Wycombe Wanderers, after the result was announced.

The proposal now goes before the full planning committee for final approval.