

BLUES WIN A ROUND IN PITCH BATTLE

By **SAM THOM**

WYCOMBE Wanderers chairman Ivor Beeks celebrated his club's planning victory over a training pitch scheme but warned the battle is still not won.

Councillors voted on Wednesday to give the go-ahead for the pitch, but the final decision will be taken by a full Wycombe District Council planning committee meeting.

"I am delighted but this is only the first hurdle, really," said Mr Beeks, after the result was announced.

"I am never confident about anything until we have had a vote."

Councillors voted by a clear majority to recommend an application for a synthetic training pitch and car parking for 224 cars at Adams Park.



Ivor Beeks

There was debate lasting more than 45 minutes when councillors put forward their views on the subject and more than a dozen members of the public and representatives from the football club listened from the public gallery. Issues under discussion were the fact the development was in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a possible increase in traffic and the expansion of social use which could disturb residents.

Sixty-five letters of objection were received from local interest groups, including Sands Residents' Association, the High Wycombe Society and the Booker Common and Woods Protection Society.

The application last came before the panel in July last year.

But many councillors, including Cllrs Bruce Holland and David Morris said the club had made consistent attempts to please, by altering planning details. They thought the proposal should be recommended.

Cllr Pam Priestley (Con, Icknield), supported the proposal. "I think there is very little more we can reasonably ask them to do and I think this application is going to be of benefit not just to Wycombe Wanderers, but to the whole community," she said.

Cllrs Val Letheren, Ted Collins, Claire Martens and David Turner, among others, voted against the plan, but affirmed their support for the club.

GOREY BITS

Roffey's in stitches

GOALKEEPER Trevor Roffey had to have 14 stitches after suffering an unexpected nose-job courtesy of teammate Noel Devereux.

Devereux got a nasty knock on the head in return but should be fit for action when required.

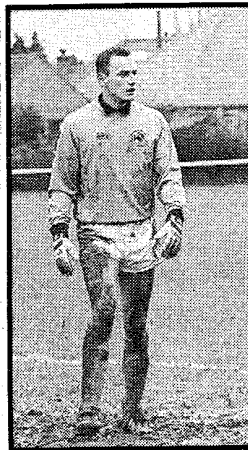
The other casualty from Saturday, central defender Martin Turner, was left with stud marks down a shin, but is not a long term casualty.

There was more good news in that Jamie Jarvis has started training again and Dominic Gavin is well on the road to recovery.

The club's injury problems mean manager Colin Barnes is happy to have a blank Saturday this weekend.

They should have travelled to Andover but their hosts have a county cup game.

"I can't say I'm sorry not to have a game," admitted the hard-pressed manager.



TREVOR ROFFEY