

FAN-TASY

SLOUGH Town soccer fans must keep the turnstiles clicking if they want their side to keep pace with Wycombe Wanderers at the top of the Vauxhall Conference.

The injury-hit Rebels just cannot afford to expand their squad unless more supporters plough through the gates. Until they do, manager David Kemp will have to shuffle around the men he's got.

"We are paying now for only having a small squad," he admitted this week.

"We have been doing well but the crowds haven't really increased that much. And, unfortunately, this game is all about money.

"We are getting around 1,000 people, whereas Wycombe are regularly topping 4,000. That means they are getting in four times as much income as we are and can spend four times as much on players.

"We cannot compete with that."

Wanderers have been able to draft in high-quality league players to replace their injured troops.

That avenue has not really been available to Kemp who has lost defenders Stuart Hemsley and Mark Foran for the rest of the season and been without the likes of Les Briley, Steve Scott and Mark Fiore for long spells.

Positive

On the positive side, Ian Hazel, who limped off early on against Farnborough, is not as badly hurt as was first feared and should be available for tomorrow's trip to Gateshead.

Scott, too, came through a reserves match on Tuesday and will be in the frame for a slot — at least on the bench.

Although Kemp will be the last man to concede that the title race is over, he was keen to point out that his troops have performed admirably over the campaign so far.

"I never said we would win the league this season because that just puts us under undue pressure," he said.

"And if anyone had tipped Slough to be this close 12 months ago, we would have thought they were mad.

"So people shouldn't be too disappointed that we don't seem to be catching Wycombe. Whatever happens from here on in, we've had a good season."

BY CLAIRE MIDDLETON

Supporters must do their bit or matching Wycombe Wanderers will be just a dream