

Dave can play as loud as he likes

ENTHUSIASTIC Wycombe Wanderers fan Dave Styles will be allowed to trumpet his team's success on the terraces at home games, the club has decided.

Dave, who has taken to blowing on a horn to encourage his team in their quest for promotion from the Endsleigh League Division Three, says his problems began when ground safety officer Frank Knowles confiscated his bugle at last week's match against Mansfield.

But club secretary John Goldsworthy confirmed this week that Dave will be able to blow his bugle as loudly

as he wants, providing he has Mr Knowles' permission to take it into Adams Park.

Dave, who now has his bugle back, complained about its confiscation on Wanderers' director Alan Parry's Sportsline programme on the ElevenSEVENTY radio station.

Mr Goldsworthy says Dave, or anyone else who wants to use a musical instrument at home games, will be entitled to do so from now on, provided they contact Mr Knowles in advance.

The safety officer is being interviewed by Alan Parry on this Friday's Sportsline broadcast between 11am and noon.

DUNCAN FARMER reports on Wycombe Wanderers' league campaign

HOW manager Martin O'Neill and his team must be ruing Saturday's penalty miss at Shrewsbury.

Three points for the chairboys and none for Crewe would have consolidated second place and put the team just a point off top spot.

It was not to be and in a game where the two goalkeepers came off as the stars of the show, Shrewsbury took the three points with an unstoppable second half shot into the top corner of Paul Hyde's goal.

Only defeat for the leaders Crewe softened the blow for Wycombe.

The bad news though is that Wycombe have played 26 games, one more than Crewe and two more than Shrewsbury and Preston who are within two points in third and fourth place.

This weekend gives all top sides the chance to take three points, although Wycombe are the only side at home where they take on Darlington who are four off the floor.

Crewe visit Gillingham, Shrewsbury go to Doncaster and Preston travel to Doncaster.

Home advantage is also going Wycombe's way for the rest of the season.

With just 16 games remaining 10 of those are at Adams Park where the loyal 5,000 or so should help the Blues home.

And for the next two months their opponents are the Third Division's mediocrity with very little left to play for this season.

But victory in those games is essential when you scan the fixtures list for the last two Saturdays of the season.

How will the table look on the morning of April 30 when Wycombe travel to Crewe Alexandra, or on the last Saturday of the season, seven days later, when Preston North End travel to High Wycombe.

Without a string of bread and butter victories between now and then the Third Division title will not be going to Wycombe, but with them, Adams Park could be the most exciting place in Britain on May 7.

Have you booked your ticket?

Wanderers safely negotiated Thatcham on Tuesday.

Paul Shepstone opened the scored their first after seven minutes following a defensive error. The ball bobbled in the box, and he rifled home.

Wanderers were 2-0 up at half after Hakan Hayrettin converted a 32nd-minute penalty.

Tim Langford pounced on a pass into the box on 60 minutes and beat the keeper.

Wycombe's fourth was their finest. Alec Norman won a header on the centre circle on 87 minutes and flicked it down for Langford.

The striker ran half the length of the pitch and beat two defenders before rounding the keeper.

Thatcham had pulled one back on 65 minutes with a fine 25-yard effort by Andy King.

Wycombe: Moussaddik, Stapleton, Crossley, Kerr, Titterton, Hayrettin, Shepstone (70 Guppy), Thompson (70 Ryan), Prindiville, Langford, Norman

Adams Family believe criticism was harsh

WRITERS of The Adams Family fanzine have turned down a request to help with Wycombe's Blues News paper after club secretary John Goldsworthy criticised a spoof of his programme column.

Goldsworthy challenged the fanzine creators to fill his page three slot after their piece Behind the Fanzine Scene, by Jack Silverworth, appeared in their last publication.

They teased the secretary's whimsical notes about his passion for good wine, Sky TV sport and his car. But Goldsworthy said in the next match programme: "It is appalling that the genuine and time-consuming efforts of contributors should be the subject of the inane natterings of a nomad collection."