

## Play-offs prompt tenterhooks scenario

LOVE them, or loathe them, the play-offs are here to stay, for now.

Wycombe are trying to avoid them by earning automatic promotion. But no one will complain if the play-offs, where the fourth to seventh-placed sides chase a fourth promotion spot, are the only avenue open to them come 4.45pm on May 7. Blues are still not mathematically assured of a play-off place while they chase one of the top three slots.

The season would continue for almost a further month in the play-offs. The final is at Wembley on Saturday, May 28. A two-leg semi final has to be negotiated to reach it. The first leg – seventh place v fourth place, sixth place v fifth place – is on Sunday, May 15. The second leg – fourth v seventh, fifth v sixth – is Wednesday, May 18.

Blues' Simon Stapleton wants to ensure they don't have to check this fixture list. "We want to be in the top three. The play-offs take four weeks of the summer out."

## U's chairman is sorry

COLCHESTER United chairman Gordon Parker has apologised for the behaviour of some of his club's fans at last month's match against Wycombe at Layer Road.

U's supporters tried to incite and hit out at Blues fans after the final whistle. Parker said the decision by police to let both sets of fans out at the same time did not help. "I am as disgusted as you are by the actions of a small minority of the Colchester crowd. The problem was exacerbated by both sets of supporters being let out at the same time," he said in a letter printed in Wycombe's match-day programme last Saturday.

## Deciders will be all-ticket thrillers

WYCOMBE'S last two matches of the season against Crewe Alexandra and Preston North End have been made all-ticket.

Both games are set to decide who goes where, be it automatically, into the play-offs, or not at all.

Most stand tickets for the game at Crewe's Gresty Road ground on Saturday, April 30 will be £5.50 and £3.50 for juniors and pensioners. A

small number of tickets at £7.50 will also be available.

Anyone booking a seat on the official club coach by Friday, April 23 will be assured of a ticket, which should be paid for and collected at the home fixture against Scunthorpe the week before the game.

Prices for coach travel are £10.50 (pensioners £9.50 and children £8.50). Seats can be booked on match days or by telephoning 0494 882916.

Tickets for the last game of the season, at home to Preston, can be claimed by members from the club's commercial office from 9am to 7.30pm on Tuesday, April 19 and from 9am to 5.30pm on April 20, 21 and 22. Tickets will be on general sale on April 25 from 6.30pm until 8.30pm

Terrace season ticket holders should take their match vouchers to entrance five or entrance six on the day.

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## Mystery furniture firm is shirty about tops

SO who is the mystery furniture firm which has banned its staff from wearing Wycombe Wanderers' shirts at work?

Apparently, the company is against the tops because they contain the name of rival furniture firm Verco, which is Wycombe's sponsors.

This was revealed in Friday's edition of Blues News by Verco boss Roger Vere. But

he declined to name the killjoys involved.

The ban must obviously upset ardent fans who would probably want to wear the attractive kit to work.

So I'd love to hear, on or off-the-record, from anyone who can name the firm which is so shirty about Wycombe's shirts.

● Please call me on (0494) 521212 ext 2223

## Teenagers are set for senior transition

BLUES youth team players Shaun Stevens and Robert Smith have a chance of progressing to the senior team squad.

Full back Stevens played his third game for England Schoolboys this week against a Football Association XI and has scored two goals for his country so far.

Centre back Robert Smith, groomed in Wanderers' Lions set-up, has also caught the eye in youth team matches.

Striker Stuart Wilson scored twice in Tuesday's 2-0 League Cup quarter final victory over Ruislip at Adams Park. Wycombe now play either Hillingdon Borough or Fleet Town away in the semi final.

## Charity hopes for help

THE High Wycombe branch of Cruse - Bereavement Care is making a collection at Adams Park tomorrow.

The charity helps the bereaved through counselling and social support groups. Telephone (0494) 523440 for further information.