

Thousands of travelling football fans will not be allowed to drink in local pubs tomorrow afternoon – while Wycombe supporters are perfectly welcome.

Landlords at pubs close to Wycombe's Adams Park ground have introduced a home fans' only policy this season, following trouble before last season's game against Swansea City.

Tomorrow (Saturday), Swansea will again be visiting Wycombe for a Division Two game.

On the advice of police and club officials, Wycombe have made the game all ticket, meaning fans cannot pay for entry into the ground on the day.

And Swansea supporters will find a less than friendly welcome from the town's hostilities.

Alan Heron, tenant at The Half Moon pub in Dashwood Avenue, said: "It's been said before but it really is the minority who spoil it for most of the fans who are perfectly well behaved."

"We introduced a ban on away fans because of the way Swansea supporters behaved here last year. There were about 40 lads who came in, stood on tables and chairs, threw glasses around and generally caused bedlam."

"The police had been caught on the hop and two officers outside the pub would not come in until they received back-up. I can't say I blamed them," Alan added.

"I think every football club has got a 10% element among their away support which spoils it for the 90%. We had some Swansea fans who were disgusted by the way the others were behaving."

"At the end of the day, we had to introduce this ban because I'm trying to make money and I can't afford to have this pub destroyed by an hour or so of madness."

Many pubs close to other Division Two grounds also ban away fans, and Alan believes that makes it easier to accept.

He said: "We had a group of Bristol Rovers' fans here and they were no trouble, even though we wouldn't allow them in."

Landlady, Marilyn Nevin, has employed doormen to vet football fans visiting her pub, the Hour Glass, in Chapel Lane.

She said: "Most of the games, there is no problem with the away fans, but we had a bit of trouble with Swansea fans and the end of season game (against Carlisle)."

"Our doormen can tell whether fans are Wycombe supporters or not by their accents, whether they are wearing Wycombe tops or just by using their discretion."

The police have categorised the support of each club due to visit Adams Park this season, with Swansea, Cardiff, Birmingham and Oxford thought to potentially have the most disorderly fans

AN independent Wycombe Wanderers supporters club is now up and running after an inaugural meeting.

Wycombe have not had a formal supporters' club since it moved from Loakes Park to Adams Park in 1990.

The idea for the new group, called the Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club, originated at the end of last season. "It was about time the fans had a collective voice," explained chairman Bob Officer.

"It is hoped that with a large enough membership the football club will take notice of our views and opinions."

"We have decided to make the supporters' club independent so that in its formative early stage it is genuinely run by supporters for supporters and has no outside influences. This does not mean that we are in any way at loggerheads with the football club, entirely the opposite is true."

Among the supporters' club's objectives are to promote more and cheaper coach travel to away games. A car-sharing scheme has also been suggested.

They also hope to achieve better lines of communication between supporters and the football club and provide an opportunity for fans to air opinions and views on all aspects of Wycombe Wanderers.

The supporters' club's next meeting is at the Post Office Social Club, Rutland Street, High Wycombe, this Wednesday, starting at 8pm. New members are welcome.

FC fan club gathers pace

THE Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club seems to be going from strength to strength.

Since The Star reported that the Blues were the only club in the Football League without an official supporters club, fans have been clamouring to help set one up.

The organisers are holding another meeting this Wednesday at The Post Office Club, Rutland Street, High Wycombe, at 8pm.

If you cannot make the meeting but want to join, send a £5 cheque, or £3 if you are under 16, to Tim Rutland, at 2 Carrington Court, Carrington Road, High Wycombe.

The ISC members have met with Wanderers officials, who like the idea of a supporters club but are not keen on the use of the word independent.