

Shareholders score

SO for the first time in their short history Wycombe Wanderers' shareholders have voted against a decision put forward by the directors.

On Monday night they refused to toe the line and reduce the number of prospective shareholders from 500 to 250 and perhaps the result will make the board sit up and listen.

The club may be concerned that the more shares there are, the more chance of a hostile takeover there is and see a need to put a lid on it.

But they also must appreciate that there are still many genuine local people who simply want to play a part in the club.

Soccer switch is on wrong track

I AM compelled to correct one crucial error in Elsa Woodward's proposals to resite Wycombe Wanderers at Wycombe Sports Centre (Bucks Free Press, October 13).

Obviously, Ms Woodward has given some thought to the issue. However, the area which she refers to as a football pitch is no longer a pitch, but actually part of the infield of the athletics track, home to Wycombe Phoenix Harriers.

I cannot speak for Proleisure, which manages the sports centre, about the practicality of such a venture. But Wycombe Phoenix would have very strong feelings regarding any reduction in what are already very rudimentary facilities.

True, the siting close to the M40 is far from ideal, but it is the base from which we have launched our programme of revitalisation. And with some considerable success.

The club is the most rapidly-growing sports body in the area, quadrupling its membership since the resurfacing of the track. This reinforces the argument put forward by the club members that the provision and maintenance of this facility would be matched by increased participation. This is also reflected in success in the competitive arena, achieved by tapping into the abundance of young local talent.

Wycombe Phoenix is a club with great ambitions, equal to our peers at Adams Park and the Judo Centre. We will consider all positive options and partners to develop facilities. But we will not consider a recurrence of the situation which left the club homeless and frustrated for five or more years and which nearly led to the club's demise.

I sympathise with Ms Woodward's desire to protect the Green Belt. But I would respectfully suggest it might be necessary to return to the drawing board.

Alan Hewson
Chairman
Coaching Committee
Wycombe Phoenix Harriers
Athletics Club