

COMMENT

Alan Smith had to go

WYCOMBE Wanderers' directors yesterday showed the type of guts and ambition that turned their club from non-league minnows into a Football League power.

By sacking manager Alan Smith, they proved that they will never be satisfied with failure.

Mr Smith came to the club with an excellent reputation, worked hard and talked a very good game.

Yet, under his brief reign, Wanderers slipped from being promotion probabilities to relegation candidates.

On Saturday, they hit their lowest point as they suffered their worst-ever Football League defeat and slid to the bottom of Division Two.

It was the final straw for a club that has thrived on success for the last few years.

However, the sacking could cost the club dear for the board will have to honour the rest of Mr Smith's contract.

It is also highly embarrassing to for the directors to dismiss a man they appointed so recently and to whom they gave a vote of confidence just two weeks ago.

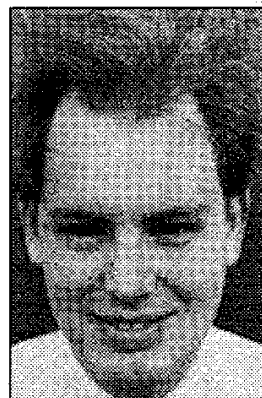
Ivor Beeks and his board could well have taken the easy way out, crossed their fingers and hoped for an upturn in results.

But Wycombe are of sterner stuff than that. The directors knew there is little excuse for this season's pathetic record.

Alan Smith had to go and go right now. Well done to Wycombe's board for recognising that.

Straight talking

by
**Alex
Robson**



The only way is up

WYCOMBE's season goes from bad to worse. Three-one up on Saturday after half an hour. Just how do you contrive to lose 6-3 at the end? The Blues now prop up the foot of the Second Division and will go into October still seeking their first league win of the season. Now they know what it is like to be a Spurs fan - they have not won a Premiership game at White Hart Lane since March.

You just would not think it possible after last week's brave Coca Cola Cup fight against Premiership outfit Nottingham Forest.

Let's hope the sacking of Alan Smith marks a turning point in the club's fortunes.