

Fixtures and form deciding Blues' fate

THE Bookies are backing Wanderers to beat the drop which means, punters backing the Blues will definitely not get very rich.

Ladbroke's confidence in John Gregory's men to stay up is reflected in the odds of 4-6 for them to survive.

But if the Blues are favourites to climb out of the relegation zone before May 3, who will fill the bottom four places.

The Bucks Free Press looks at the other clubs who could be facing the drop.

● Peterborough face the toughest run-in of anybody. They have six matches left and their final three games are against the division's three top clubs.

Barry's Fry's Posh, Miquel Desouza and all, go to leaders Bury on April 19, then entertain third-placed Luton before finishing at second-placed Brentford.

Fry said: "It will take a miracle for us to survive. We'll keep going as long as it's mathematically possible that we can survive. But we need a miracle there's no doubt about that."

"I've never felt so low in all my time in football as I do now. I seriously thought that we had a chance of promotion at the start of the season and I never considered a fight against relegation. Our next three games are make or break."

Boro's finish is: April 5, Bournemouth (H); April 8, York (A); April 12, Preston (H); April 19, Bury (A); April 26, Luton (H); May 3, Brentford (A).

● Of all the strugglers York are the form team and they have the easiest run-in.

Wednesday's draw at Millwall extended their unbeaten run to eight and lifted them five points clear of Wycombe.

York boss Alan Little went on record on Monday saying that Wycombe are the team he fears most.

He said: "Wycombe are the real fighters. They are giving it a real go and we've got to keep our run going."

York's remaining matches include two six-pointers at home to Notts County and Peterborough where they could guarantee their survival.

Visits to draw specialists Watford (17 draws this season) and seemingly doomed Rotherham could also yield points.

Their full list is: April 5, Notts County (H); April 8, Peterborough (H); April 12,

Watford (A); April 19, Bristol City (H); April 22, Stockport (A); April 26, Rotherham A; May 3 Crewe (H).

● Shrewsbury, beaten 3-0 at Adams Park last Saturday, have played more games than any of the strugglers and were in the worst form until two goals in the last ten minutes saw them beat Burnley 2-1 on Tuesday night.

Prior to that vital win, Shrewsbury were in free fall. But it gives them a four point cushion over Wanderers, although they have played two games more than the Blues. The Burnley victory was their first in 11 games.

Shrews boss Fred Davies reckons two wins from their last five games will be enough but with a difficult run-in which includes a local derby against Wrexham and away matches at promotion chasers Brentford and Luton it could be a tall order.

But the Shrews are confident. Davies was delighted to hang onto his 19-goal top scorer Ian Stevens and winger David Currie whose transfer deadline moves collapsed.

He said: "It is a big boost. It's like signing two new players."

Shrewsbury's run-in is: April 5, Brentford (A); April 12, Wrexham (H); April 19, Luton (A); April 26 Preston (H); May 3, Gillingham (A).

● Wanderers have the worst away form in the country so they will be pleased that four of their last seven are at home.

Since the New Year they have turned Adams Park into a fortress, winning five, drawing one and losing none, conceding just one goal in the process.

But they will need to maintain that invincibility at home because their away form, just eight points all season, does not suggest they will take anything from third placed Luton and fourth placed Stockport.

The April 12 trip to bottom club Notts County could decide their future.

Wanderers crucial remaining games are: April 5, Blackpool (H); April 8, Luton (A); April 12, Notts Co (A); April 15 Burnley (H); April 19, Bournemouth (H); April 26 Stockport County (A); May 3, Bristol City (H).

RESULTS AND FIXTURES

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Saturday March 29: Brentford 0, Bury 2; Bristol C 0, Gillingham 1; Burnley 0, Luton 2; Chesterfield 0, Blackpool 0; Peterborough 1, Bristol R 2; Preston 2, Notts Co 0; Rotherham 1, Walsall 2; Stockport 1, Crewe 0; Watford 0, Bournemouth 1; Wycombe, 3 Shrewsbury 0; York 1, Plymouth 1.

Monday, March 31: Blackpool 4, Rotherham 1; Bristol R 2, Wrexham 0; Bury 2, Wycombe 0; Crewe 1, Preston 0; Gillingham 1, Brentford 2; Notts Co 0, Peterborough 0; Plymouth 0, Watford 0.

Tuesday, April 1: Bournemouth 0, Stockport 0; Luton 2, Bristol City 2; Shrewsbury 2, Burnley 1; Walsall 1, Chesterfield-1.

Wednesday, April 2: Millwall 1, York 1.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Saturday, March 29: Brentford 1, Tottenham 3; Brighton 0, Oxford 3; Bristol C 2, Luton 1; Bristol R 1, Southampton 5; Reading 2, Colchester 2; Wycombe 0, Crystal Palace 0.

SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP SEMI-FINAL

Wednesday April 2: Crystal Palace 1, Wycombe 0 (replay).

CAPITAL LEAGUE

Wednesday, April 2: Wycombe 3, Northampton 1.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday, April 5: Nationwide Division Two: Wycombe v Blackpool (ko 3pm).
Tuesday, April 8: Nationwide Division Two: Luton v Wycombe (ko 7.45pm).