

Sponsors Verco are jubilant over Wanderers' survival

OFFICE furniture manufacturers Verco, main sponsor of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club for almost nine years, were in jubilant mood this weekend as they toasted Wycombe's survival in the second division.

"We are delighted to be staying in the second division for another season and I speak on behalf of everyone at Verco Office Furniture," said managing director Derek Vere.

"Make no mistake, this is no mean achievement. John Gregory has done and will continue to do a restructuring of the team that I believe next season will challenge strongly for the championship. He has done

this in a manner consistent with a flair for imaginative, passionate football whilst being under great financial constraint. He is a winner!"

He continued: "Congratulations to all concerned: to John, to the players for responding, and to the Wycombe management for their foresight.

"If we continue to play with this rejuvenated style of football, the crowds will return in increasing numbers.

"We will be consistently in the top half of the table, finances will improve and, instead of toasting relegation avoidance in Stockport High Street, we will be at the national stadium, truly celebrating Wycombe's legitimate promotion via the play off in May 1998."

And what better way could there be to mark ten seasons of sponsorship for Verco. Verco Office Furniture Ltd, based in Chapel Lane, High Wycombe, began their sponsorship of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club on August 1, 1988.

However, all the directors of the company have been Wanderers' fans for much longer than that.

Derek Vere remembers going with his dad to Wanderers' games, then at Loakes Park.

"Then I went more for the Fry's chocolate bar which a friend of my father's brought along.

"Now I am an ardent Wanderers' fan and a real

enthusiast along with my son Richard," he said.

It was Derek's grandfather, William Vere, who founded the family firm in 1912, making Windsor chairs from Abercrombie Avenue, High Wycombe.

The company and its 15 employees moved to its present home in 1932, purchasing the five-acre site in Chapel Lane.

By the 1940s, the company had broadened its range of furniture to include some cabinet work, such as tables and sideboards, and even commodes.

The factory was turned over to making chairs and folding tables during the Second World War as part of the war effort.

Derek's father, Albert, joined the business straight from school.

When Albert had a severe stroke in the early 1960s, Derek's late brother Roger, who was already working in the furniture industry, joined the company.

Roger and Derek ran the business as joint managing directors until Roger's sudden death at the age of 54, on August 22 last year.

Today, Verco employs a staff of 175, has a turnover of £20 million, runs its own fleet of lorries, and occupies 400,000sq ft of operating space, which includes a 43,000 sq ft wood mill opened this year.

Verco, which changed from making domestic furniture to office furniture in the 1960s, is now the largest office seating manufacturer in the UK.

It recently launched a new

88-page catalogue covering all that is new and modern in seating for everyone's office needs.

The comprehensive choice includes ten new ranges designed by Verco's in-house design research and development team.

"In this day and age, where keyboard skills are used throughout an organisation, we are very aware of the need for comfort and adjustability in seating to meet individual requirements," said Verco's sales director, Allan Davies.

Verco also produces a large range of tables for the office.

Derek said: "Business is consistently buoyant and we are planning for continued future growth." He added that he plans to expand the export side of the business, particularly in Europe and the Middle East.

FOOTBALL

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