

Wanderers fans say 'never on a Friday'

Plans for alternative to Saturday action get a cool response

JOHN Gregory's plans to introduce Friday night football at Adams Park in a bid to boost the atmosphere have met with an unfavourable response from fans.

The Blues boss revealed his idea to experiment with a couple of Friday night fixtures next season in last week's Bucks Free Press, saying he would hold a referendum among fans before making a decision.

But the early indications are that the referendum will not be necessary as fans have been quick to make their views known.

Ian Blackledge from Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Association said: "Our committee voted unanimously against it last week.

"We think weekend home matches should stay at 3pm on Saturdays. It's bad enough that the Football League has signed a contract with Sky, meaning that some clubs in our league will have to move their fixtures. We could be chosen for one of those games and we don't want any more moving.

"If we start moving our home games to Friday nights we won't be able to put up much resistance if other clubs start doing it to us.

"As away fans every other week we would feel sorry for any fans who had to travel to Wycombe on a Friday night."

The Independents also feel Friday football would reduce the cash going into Adams Park.

Blackledge said: "I think the gates would go down. We get bigger gates for Saturday matches than we do on Tuesday nights and people will spend less time at the ground in the bars before the match because they will be coming straight from work."

Elaine Butler from Wanderers Official Supporters Club said: "If there's football and Wycombe Wanderers are playing we will be there whenever it is. But given a choice I would vote for Saturday matches."

Gregory said: "I had a letter from an 11-year-old boy scout saying that he went to every game last year but that he wouldn't be able to if we played on Fridays because that's when his scout troop meets."

"It is just an idea and both clubs would have to agree to it and it would only be done if everyone wanted it. It might never happen and if it does it will be a decision the fans have agreed to."

But supporters will have to put up with Friday footie in pre-season. All three of Blues' home matches against Aston Villa (July 18), QPR (July 25), and Reading (August 1) are Friday night games because Adams Park is being used for other functions, including a wedding, on the nearest Saturday.



Throwing a wobbly: Jason Cousins takes over where Steve Brown left off

Cousins is new bad boy on the block

JASON Cousins has taken over from Steve Brown at the top of Wycombe Wanderers' bad boys league.

Cousins, who will miss the first game of next season through suspension after being sent off in the last game against Bristol City, amassed 33 disciplinary points this season.

The season before Brown topped the charts with 49 points against his name.

● Wanderers will report back for pre-season training on July 1, giving them 18 days to prepare for their first friendly against Aston Villa at Adams Park.

In addition to the Villa, QPR and Reading home friendlies Blues boss John Gregory has also arranged an away game at Icis Division One champions Chesham on August 4.

● Gregory's hopes of signing defender Keith Walker to replace Terry Evans were given a huge boost when Walker's Swansea side were beaten in the play-offs by Northampton.

Gregory who was at the Wembley final to take a 13th look at Walker feels he has a better chance of tempting the out-of-contract Walker to Adams Park now that Swansea has been consigned to another season in the third division.

Gregory said: "Walker impressed me again, although he did give away the free kick which gave Northampton their winner."

● Gregory is a huge fan of the play-offs after going to Wembley twice last weekend to see Northampton's win over Swansea and Crewe's win over Brentford.

He said: "I'm such a big fan of them. If you reverted back to just one season without them it would be such a let down for fans. It keeps the season alive and for the fans that get to Wembley it is an unbelievable day out."

He was also delighted with the outcome of the games because both Northampton and Brentford are expected to bring

big followings to Adams Park next season.

● Gregory has rubbished speculation that Chris Waddle will be a Wanderers player next season.

He said: "It's rubbish. I don't know anything about it. If he is here next season I won't be."

● Terry Evans, writing his final captain's log in this week's Blues News, took the opportunity to thank everyone at the club. One person he missed out though was manager John Gregory who gave him a free transfer.

● Miquel Desouza demanded a £10,000 staying-up bonus from Peterborough boss Barry Fry when he joined them for £50,000 from Wycombe.

Desouza's signing was captured on camera and formed part of a Carlton Television documentary on Barry Fry, which was shown on Tuesday.

● Wanderers are looking for people to buy the excess of stripey shirt material which is made up to make the unpopular home kit.