

POWER STRUGGLE

Constitution change will hit fans' influence

WYCOMBE Wanderers are trying to push through boardroom changes which would give the directors more power and take it out of the hands of ordinary supporters.

At an extraordinary general meeting, arranged for a week on Thursday, the board will recommend radical changes to the constitution which will whittle down the influence of fans.

At the moment the club is run by 500 supporters each holding a £1 share. They have the same voting rights as chairman Ivor Beeks and his board of directors, whom they voted back in earlier this year.

But now those directors want the power to expel existing members who they don't want, without giving a reason for doing it and without giving any right of appeal.

And, they want the power to invite new members by prescribing new categories of membership at their absolute discretion.

The directors want to change the rules so they can welcome some of the club's sponsors and backers onto the membership.

The plans have caused concern among some of the club's existing 500 members.

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

Keith Blagbrough, secretary of the Official Supporters Association, who ironically had been pressing for some changes to be made, to allow matchday staff to become members, is not happy with these proposed changes.

He said: "While there is no doubt that the members of the current board of directors are completely honourable, the changes to the articles of association would leave the way open for less scrupulous directors if they ever were elected to the board to eliminate opposition and create a friendly majority to push through whatever proposals they wished."

"We want to avoid situations such as that at Brighton and Doncaster."

"If these proposals are not amended, in my opinion they should be rejected."

Sharon Deighton, speaking on behalf of a group of members said: "I'm sure our present board is honourable but these changes would mean that in the future a new chairman and a new board would have the power to expel any member."

Blues chairman Ivor Beeks was unavailable for comment.



Looking for a change: Wanderers chairman Ivor Beeks and director Alan Parry