

Constitution changes voted out

WYCOMBE Wanderers have failed in their bid to push through constitution changes, which would have given the directors more power and whittled down the influence of fans.

The club won the vote, but failed to get the 75 per cent majority they needed.

Fans objected to clauses which would have given the directors power to expel existing members without giving a reason, and the right to appoint new members at their absolute discretion.

It is the second time in six weeks that the club has had its plans kicked out by the members. First time around they were rejected on a show of hands and this time they were rejected after a paper ballot – despite promises from chairman Ivor Beeks that fans' concerns would be addressed if the proposals were accepted.

In a turnout of 232 members, 144 voted in favour of the changes, representing 62 per cent, while

FOOTBALL

By Dave Peters

87 voted against. One paper was spoilt.

It is believed the no vote would have been higher had members not been made to sign their ballot paper and print their name alongside it.

Independent Supporters Club spokeswoman Sharon Deighton said: "I have no doubt that some people were intimidated by that. They didn't want the club to know how they voted."

But despite her pre-vote fears she admitted afterwards that the club handled the count well. Along with Official Supporters Club secretary Keith Blagbrough, she was invited to oversee the count and was happy with what she saw.

She said: "It was done very well. No-one looked at the names and afterwards the votes were put away in sealed envelopes. Being there erased a lot of my anxieties."