

Season starts with two defeats

A VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

THE new season has kicked off with two consecutive defeats for Wanderers' directors.

Although they enjoyed the majority possession of votes at both the Extraordinary General Meeting and last week's ballot, they failed to score the required 75 per cent they needed to make changes to the constitution.

Hopefully, chairman Ivor Becks will not take these results as a personal vote against himself or his integrity. Especially, as he asked members to trust him and his board to deal with the legitimate concerns raised about the proposed changes to the existing Articles of Association.

Like most defeats, both on and off the field, the game was lost due to inadequate planning, tactical errors and poor performance.

The 'legal-beagle', who prepared the proposed changes and spoke for the board at the Extraordinary General Meeting, appeared to have little knowledge of football or how football clubs operate – and he certainly had no empathy with the majority of the audience. Among his many own goals was an often repeated response that members could always turn to the law for help if they did not approve of the actions of any future board of directors. However, we all know how slowly the wheels of the legal world turn, and how quickly their costs escalate!

The insistence that members had to both sign and print their name on the ballot papers also alienated many people. Apparently, this was carried out on the advice of the company's solicitors – could this be the same person who drew up the proposed changes to the Articles of Association?

The simple solution would surely be for the board to make the changes promised by the chairman and then put the proposal to members once again at the autumn AGM, where I'm sure they would receive a much more favourable response.

The changes could include the formation of an Appeals Committee, made up of a small team of selected directors and elected members, to adjudicate on disputes regarding membership acceptance, suspensions and expulsions.

Let's hope this matter can be solved quickly and amicably so that we can totally concentrate on the football.

Bookie bashed

WYCOMBE Wanderers gambling expert Dave Carroll says local bookmakers Surrey Racing have got it wrong by putting Wycombe at 2-1 to be relegated.

Carroll said: "That's a ludicrous price. We are better than that, I didn't know how they arrived at that but I suppose if they saw our game at Kingstonian they might think that."

Surrey Racing also have Blues at 10-1 to finish rock bottom. They seem much more confident about Blues FA Cup chances, having them at 100-1 to reach the semi-finals.