

Time for change?

WANDERERS chairman Ivor Beeks is on the verge of inviting a big money backer to take over the club after admitting urgent action is needed to stop Wanderers losing £8,000 a week.

Earlier this week, he stunned fans by telling the BFP Midweek he would not rule out a move to another town, such as Milton Keynes, where the Blues might create a bigger fan base and increase revenue.

The comments, and a subsequent press release from Adams Park reiterating the claim, prompted angry calls to the club and Beeks now says his comments were off-the-cuff.

He said: "It was a flippant throw-away remark which was seized upon. Wycombe Wanderers will always be in Wycombe."

The chairman spoke out following suggestions by Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez that they would get more people at Adams Park if it was a supermarket. That outburst came after only 2,992 turned up to watch Saturday's FA Cup second round

EXCLUSIVE By Dave Peters

clash with Wigan. It is the second time the home crowd has dipped below 3,000 this season.

But although Beeks has now ruled suggestions of a move out, he insists he is serious about considering changing the club's unique but antique constitution, which sees 400-odd members each holding a £1 stake in Wanderers.

Just 36 days before the start of a new millennium he says it's time for

the biggest decision in Wanderers' history – whether to go for radical change or take the short term option of an overdraft to improve a team without a win in seven league games.

He said: "I'm convinced Lawrie

Sanchez can take us to the next level but he's building a house without any tools at the moment."

The third option is to hope crowds will improve. But, with Sanchez reacting to dwindling

crowds by saying: "This isn't a football town", that looks least likely.

Beeks said: "We are at a turning point in our history and the next step has got to be the right one."

The Wycombe chairman believes his club must eventually fall into line with all the others in the Football League and have their own sugar daddy or group of investors.

He said: "Eventually it will have to change but the time and the people have got to be right. It's becoming more and more difficult to act within the parameters of what we've got at the moment."

If the club chooses the overdraft, the decision will be made by the board, but if they go the other way the members will have the vote.

Director Alan Parry said: "The Milton Keynes comments upset a lot of people but they were made by people who are very passionate about the club moving forward. I've listened to our fans and I know how upset they get to constant references to the lack of support."

● Your letters: Page 78

● Wigan preview: Page 79



**Now call us and have your say
Should the constitution change?**

Yes: (0906)
6165088

No: (0906)
6165089

... but make sure you do it for the right reasons

IF Wanderers decide to ditch their current constitution and look for one big backer or consortium, chairman Ivor Beeks has insisted it must be to the right people.

He told the BFP: "The safety has got to be there for the people of Wycombe. I don't want us to go the way of Doncaster Rovers or Crystal Palace. I think I've got enough knowledge and love of the team to make sure it doesn't happen. If we

sold out to the wrong people we'd go down not as the board that took us into the Football League but the one which sold us down the river."

Fans are unsure.

Dale Hurman said: "For every successful takeover there's also the Doncaster scenario. There's as much chance of success as there is of being asset-stripped but I can see why people think it's unambitious to stay as we are."

Paul McCloud is delighted the idea of moving to Milton Keynes with its 200,000 population has been dismissed with the speed it arrived.

He said: "They'd lose more people than they gained if they left Wycombe. I wouldn't watch them any more."

Blues aren't the first club linked with moving to Milton Keynes. Luton, Barnet and Wimbledon all considered it.