

Flash your cash

WYCOMBE Wanderers directors have unanimously agreed to change the constitution of the club and are actively looking for a consortium to take over the club.

The board have already started putting out the feelers and chairman Ivor Beeks wants to have the big money backers in place before he puts it to the vote of the club's 400-odd members who will ultimately decide the issue.

He said: "We are trying to get the whole package in place first so that the members know what they are voting for."

But he warned: "If they stand in the way they are standing in the way of the progress of this club."

He began the process of attracting a big investor to join the club when he addressed 140 top business people at a high-profile breakfast meeting at Adams Park on Wednesday.

He chose that occasion to announce that Wanderers' antique constitution, where 400-odd members each hold a £1 stake, is holding the club back and needs changing.

He said: "We are a company limited by guarantee - the only other

Chairman Beeks looks for big money backers

EXCLUSIVE
By Dave Peters

club which is limited by guarantee is Bournemouth. All the others are privately or publicly owned. It is time for change. This club will have to go down that road in the months ahead, I repeat that, the goal is Division One.

"There is no doubt we cannot survive in these type of waters if we carry on as we are."

"We believe we will have to form a new private limited company with investors."

At the moment the club's only income comes from turnstile receipts, commercial activities and selling players.

But with wages spiralling and clubs in Wycombe's division such as Reading, Wigan and Stoke having big money chairman or a consortium of well-heeled backers behind them, Wycombe are in danger of being left behind.

They lost £250,000 last year and have not been able to buy a new player all season.

Beeks said: "I haven't had any

sleepless nights about it. For me changing the constitution is not a big decision because it is the right one. The whole town will benefit because it will give us a chance of getting into Division One."

No deal has yet been hatched with any possible investor but Beeks has refused to rule out that

he could form part of a consortium and said: "It may well be that some people are still involved."

Supporter and BFP columnist Ron Barnett, who was at that business breakfast said: "It's the only way forward if we want to compete with teams like Brentford who've got Ron Noades behind them."

Beeks refused to say what sums of cash would need to be involved to win a stake in the club but he has not ruled out the possibility of other companies being 'bolted on' to the club in other ways to maximise income.

Beeks is hoping to push the changes through sooner rather than later but promises he won't be rushed into accepting a deal which is not right for the club.

Marlow FC agree million-pound ground move

MARLOW Football Club have agreed to sell their Oak Tree Road ground and move into a new purpose-built stadium on the edge of the town, the BFP can exclusively reveal.

A deal has been hatched with Uxbridge-based property developer North West Estates for the club to move out of their existing home and into a new 1,000 seater stadium ready for Conference football.

The deal is worth at least £2 million to the hard-up Ryman League second division club.

But it all hinges on the company winning planning permission to develop Marlow's existing ground, probably into

houses, and being allowed to develop 300 acres of land east of the Marlow bypass into a leisure development, most of which is expected to be water-based.

North West Estates currently own part of that land and have the option to buy the entire 300 acres, if the scheme gets the green light from planning chiefs. A proportion of the leisure development, which may include a hotel, would be given over to the new stadium.

That stadium would include a full-size training pitch and a half-size all-weather pitch.

In addition to building Marlow's new ground, North West

would also give the club a lump sum for their current ground.

A statement from Marlow's directors, who unanimously agreed the plan to sell, read: "It is intended that the new facilities will be self-financing in conjunction with the prudent investment of the capital sum. We feel we have secured the future growth of Marlow FC and its commitment to youth growth."

"We have ensured that we do not vacate Oak Tree Road until the new ground is completed."

No planning applications are expected until the end of the year. If approved, the move could take place in 2002.