

Fans a warning

FOOTBALL Task Force spokesman Ian Todd has warned Blues chairman Ivor Beeks not to leave supporters in the cold as he hunts a consortium to buy the club for £8 million.

The Task Force are campaigning for fans to have a bigger say in the board-rooms of clubs and are concerned that Wycombe's proposed sale could go against their plans.

At the moment, Wycombe are run along co-operative lines with 400-odd members each holding a £1 stake in the club. But the board have unanimously voted to change that and are actively seeking a consortium to take over the club, although they need the support of 75 per cent of the membership when it goes to the vote.

Although the details of how it might work are still under wraps, Todd is worried it could lead to the erosion of fan power at Adams Park.

He said: "Wycombe seem to want to go in the opposite direction to the way that the Task Force wants clubs to go."

But he accepted Wycombe's need to take action to pump cash in to a club which is losing £250,000 a year.

He said: "You've got to have the dream otherwise it's boring going along to watch games."

But he added: "Members should make sure when it comes to the vote that they don't lose all their involvement in the club."

He suggested that fans might link together and form a supporters trust which could buy a stake in whatever consortium comes in.

Chairman Beeks has said that he wants the deal in place before presenting it to members for the vote.

Lord Richard Faulkner, vice chairman of the Task Force said: "I would hope the fans would be given the opportunity to buy their way in as well."

Ozzie on loan

KEEPER Mark Osborn has been loaned to Marlow even though fellow sub goalie Mark Westhead is out with a dead leg, suffered in the Berks and Bucks Cup at Thatcham.

Blues loaned Ozzie out on Tuesday before Westhead got injured. But Sanchez has taken the gamble not to recall him early because he wants Osborn to get competitive experience.

It means Blues will tackle Oxford tomorrow without a sub keeper.

Gibson says there is more to come from Blues' new signing



He can get this much better: Terry Gibson says there's even more to come from Matt Brady

ASSISTANT boss Terry Gibson has told fans that there is better to come from new goalscoring sensation Matt Brady.

The young winger, who arrived at Adams Park on a free transfer from Boreham Wood at Christmas, has scored two goals in his first two league starts for Blues.

Gibson, who also had him under his tutelage at Barnet, said: "Matt's done very well but there's a lot more to come from him. He's still getting used to full-time training and needs to get fitter."

But Gibson's not surprised to see him hitting the back of the net.

The impressed Wanderers coach said: "When I had him as a youngster at Barnet he scored 15 goals in the South East Counties League."

Gibson also believes Wanderers have found the ideal position to get forgotten star Mo Harkin's career back on track.

Blues have been employing the Northern Ireland Under-21 international in a free role just behind the front two recently and Harkin has benefitted.

Gibson said: "We'd been struggling to find Mo's best position but he's done well in the last two or three reserve games when he's had a free role behind the front two."

● Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez has entered the great Celtic cup calamity debate by saying that if he was in charge of the humiliated hoops he would take the players out for lunch!

Sanchez said: "The day after a defeat like that you'd just have a

loosener and get the players back together again. Maybe I'd take the players out for lunch and a chat. You have got to get them interacting together as a unit again. Roll-lickings at that stage won't improve it, they're for half time."

● Paul Emblen resumed running this week after breaking his right ankle in the victory over Brentford last November.

He said: "I'd love to play in the first team again this season but it might be difficult. The team are doing well without me and it'll be three or four weeks before I can return to full training and then I'll have to play some reserve games to build up my match fitness."

Jermaine McSparran is close after his appendix operation.

● Wanderers look set to miss out

on a cash windfall after Mickey Bell turned down Bristol City's latest contract offer.

Wycombe are due to receive a slice of any transfer fee if Bell is sold, but if Bell doesn't sign a new contract at Ashton Gate and leaves on the Bosman ruling this summer, Wycombe get nothing.

● Fans are being offered the chance to play at Adams Park when Wanderers stage their first-ever Corporate Six-A-Side tournament.

Teams will have to cough up £425 to play in the tournament on Monday, May 8.

● Issue three of Blues' fanzine When Skies are Blue will be on sale before the Oxford game. The 48-page issue costs £1.

● Blues' match at home to Bury on February 26 is a quid-a-kid game.