

Wasps verdict is delayed

WANDERERS must wait another three weeks before discovering whether they can complete a lucrative groundshare deal with rugby side Wasps.

The BFP can reveal that the two-year deal to bring the rugby men to Adams Park is 99 per cent done, subject to council confirmation that using the pitch for rugby does not contravene the stadium's planning regulations.

They had hoped to get that clarification on Wednesday, but missed the deadline for it to be discussed and it has been deferred until the last week in March.

Blues' chief executive, Simon

DAVE PETERS

WANDERERS AND WASPS

Monkman told the Free Press: "We are disappointed that the thing is dragging on longer than we would have wanted.

"The sooner we know, the sooner we can crack on, but I fully understand the pressures on the planning committee.

"We are ready to press all sorts of buttons but we are in limbo until we get the decision.

"We want an answer for the fans and we want to be able to get rid of this uncertainty."

He insists that the three-week delay won't scupper the plans which could net the

Blues an estimated £1 million.

He said: "We aren't getting any pressure from Wasps but we want an answer and the sooner the better. We need to know by the end of the month.

"If we get the yes vote, we are geared up and ready to move.

"We have a draft agreement with Wasps that's enormously beneficial to Wycombe Wanderers and I believe long-term it will make a massive contribution to the commercial success of the club.

"The deal isn't signed with Wasps but we're 99 per cent of the way there."

The two club's have drawn up a weighty tenancy document which includes generous splits

for Wycombe in terms of extra catering and bar revenue, as well as £612,000 in rent which the BFP revealed will be coming Wycombe's way over the next two years.

Wasps will also pay for Wanderers to lay a new Desso-style pitch which is tough enough to sustain football and rugby.

Wanderers will continue to play on Saturdays and have priority over all fixture scheduling.

They have also promised fans that they won't sell their identity to the London club.

Monkman said: "When our supporters come on Saturday afternoon it will still look like Adams Park. I'm very

conscious that the Wycombe Wanderers branding will not be diluted. We aren't going to lose our identity."

Blues Director Alan Parry says it's a winner for Blues.

Writing in last week's match programme he said: "Wanderers are currently operating at a loss and the directors are obliged to look at any idea that will increase revenue.

"There's no other plan available that could generate that kind of income without having an adverse affect on the playing squad."

Wasps have confirmed that director of rugby Nigel Melville's decision to quit doesn't affect their plans.