

Chairman Beeks joins the demonstrators

WANDERERS chief Ivor Beeks joined scores of other Football League chairman in a march on Granada and Carlton Television's headquarters this week.

The Blues chairman said: "I never thought I would ever do anything like this in my life. I've never been on a march or a protest before and I didn't think I would do this.

"But I had to because that's

how strongly I feel about it."

Beeks joined around 80 of his placard-waving colleagues in a protest about the collapsed ITV Digital deal which has left football in turmoil.

Granada and Carlton are refusing to pay the £178 million balance of their contract and the Football League chairmen are taking them to court.

Beeks said: "They have got to realise that this is not a storm in

a tea-cup. We are not going to go away. We are very serious about this.

"You cannot just jump in and out of bed on an agreements once you sign them.

"There is far too much money at stake here for us to just let it lie."

And he called on Wanderers fans to do their bit as well by continuing to boycott ITV programmes forcing advertisers

to withdraw from the channel.

He said: "We organised a very successful boycott of ITV during the World Cup. Fifteen million people watched England against Brazil on television. Twelve million of those watched the match on BBC leaving just three million on ITV.

"We want fans to continue doing that. Turn off their programmes when the adverts

come on.

"It's like a big blister that won't go away and they are going to have to do something."

The Nationwide League have since since a new TV deal with BSkyB. But that is small potatoes compared with the collapsed deal.

Wanderers will earn between £80,000 and £90,000 a year from the deal with the first payment due in October.