

Adams calls for Yes vote

WANDERERS boss Tony Adams has called on supporters to back the most radical change in the club's history and vote to change the constitution.

The former England and Arsenal captain says they should accept the revamp and allow outside investors onto the board if they want to help take the club forward.

He said: "I think people should back the change. If you've got wealthy people in the area that want to invest in this football club then it has got to happen."

At the moment Wanderers are run by 500 members, who have paid £1 each and have been season ticket holders for three years, and no amount of

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money can buy a seat on the board.

But the relegated Blues, who are £2.2 million in debt, are now trying to change that with a summer shares issue, which could raise £1.5 million.

The club's board met last week to agree to the proposal, but no changes can be made to the constitution unless 75 per cent of the membership agree.

Now Wanderers have called a members meeting for May 18 at which they and their advisors, accountants Baker Tilly and the PFA's solicitors George Davies, will try and persuade the members.

Blues' executive director

Rod Tomlin says new investment is critical. Wanderers are expected to report a loss of almost £500,000 this season and relegation to Division Three has cost them a further £300,000.

He said: "If investment is not allowed in, the directors may consider putting the club into administration."

But some fans worry it could lead to unscrupulous investors seizing power and the erosion of supporters involvement.

At a series of consultation meetings, members demanded clauses to be built in to protect the ground and to limit the size of investors' stakes to prevent one person taking control.

Some fans are also sceptical that the board may push to convert the £381,000 they have

lent the club into shares and buy more, giving them ownership of the club via the back door.

At the moment the board is made up of members who have been elected by the membership.

Tomlin is satisfied that safeguards have been put in place to protect the 117-year-old club and keep the critics happy.

He said: "I think it is quite exciting. I think they [Baker Tilly and George Davis] have addressed all the issues that we and the supporters were concerned about."

The plan to change the constitution is being driven by chairman Ivor Beeks, who hopes to push it through at an EGM in early July.

He has overseen the club in its rise from the non-league game and seen it transformed from playing at the dilapidated Loakes Park with its sloping pitch to its plush 10,000 capacity new stadium in Sands.

And Adams says supporters should back the chairman.

He said: "The reason I am at the club is because of him. I believe in him."

"You've got to allow people to invest in their club and it needs to be controlled with people at the club who look after it."

"We should have the facility to allow people to invest in the club to move it to the next level and the next level after that. But without that you are always going to be chasing your tail."