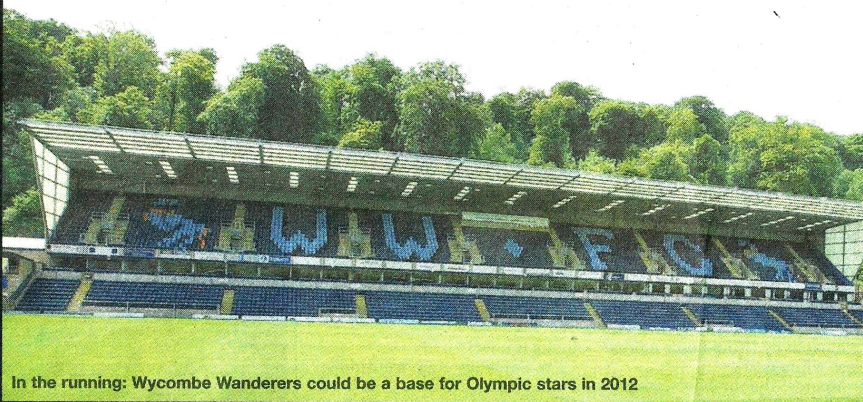


BLUES' OLYMPIC BID GIVEN GREEN LIGHT



Wanderers are one of ten South Bucks sites bidding to become a 2012 training centre



In the running: Wycombe Wanderers could be a base for Olympic stars in 2012

TEN sites across Wycombe and South Bucks are bidding to become training centres for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

The ten – which includes Wycombe Wanderers – have all been accepted by the London Organising Committee.

They, along with a further ten elsewhere across the county, will now pitch for foreign teams.

The sites were announced by Lord Sebastian Coe, *pictured left*, at Stoke Mandeville Stadium yesterday after an exhaustive 18-month application and assessment process.

They will now be included in a Pre-Games Training Camp Guide to be published and released to teams at this year's Beijing Olympics

Lord Coe said: "This is a great day for Bucks and the High Wycombe area. We always said that we wanted these Olympics to be about so much more than London.

"I want athletes to come to our country and into our communities and spend a little bit of time inspiring the next generation of athletes to come through."

He said the committee were hugely impressed with the facilities they saw in the county.

He told Midweek: "It is a tribute to the work that has already been done locally that so many centres from the area have been included.

"These sites were chosen because everything that we believe is necessary to train world-class athletes is in place.

"We were really impressed by the quality of the infrastructure and support mechanisms."

But there is still a lot of work to be done before the area can welcome competitors and former Olympic swimming ace Adrian Moorhouse will lead Bucks' charm offensive alongside a full-time county coordinator, who will soon be appointed.

Moorhouse, who is based in Bourne End, said: "This is a fabulous opportunity for the county and one we can all get excited about.

"We've got this far now we need to go after the countries."

If venues are successful they will be invited to apply for funding to cover costs and security."

The venues from this area are:

Active Equestrian Centre, Wycombe: Bisham Abbey; High Wycombe Judo Centre; Dorney Lake; Longridge Boating Centre; Shardeloes and Snowball Farm Equestrian Centre; Wycombe Badminton Centre; Wycombe Sports Centre and Wycombe Wanderers.