

Trust hope potential owners will present 'within a week'

THE Wycombe Wanderers Trust board want potential new owners to make their intentions for the club clear within the next week.

Frustration continued for supporters this week as a company interested in taking a 75 per cent controlling stake in the football club failed to attend the Trust's AGM at Adams Park on Wednesday.

Non-binding heads of terms, paving the way for a takeover, were signed a fortnight ago but since then fans have been left in the dark over the identity of the money men and what they plan to do to their club.

Trust board member David Cook said it is hoped members will be given a clearer indication on the future of the club within

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the next week.

He told the Bucks Free Press: "We are continuing dialogue with them, with the aim of getting them to present as quickly as possible."

"We want them to come back to us within the next week at the latest with a presentation that can be made."

The Trust had hoped to hear from the new party – which asked them to sign an agreement withholding their identity at the moment – at a members' forum last week, but they failed to show then, and at this week's Trust AGM.

Cook said: "The interested

party decided they weren't in a position to turn up and present. They want to complete due diligence before they come and present to the Legacy Trust members.

"It's very frustrating all round of course. It's frustrating to the Trust board, it's frustrating to the employees of the club and it's disappointing to the 900 or so Trust members. All these people are frustrated, so it's important we get the interested party to come to a date they can present."

Meanwhile Cook was one of four retiring Trust Board members to be re-elected at Wednesday's meeting with only one new face, James Sumner, standing for election.

He polled 123 votes, well down on the 193 received by fourth-

placed Garry Heath – but Cook admitted it was a shame there weren't more than five people standing for election for four places on the board.

He said: "I think it's a disappointment more people weren't willing to stand."

"There was a point made from the floor [at the AGM] there aren't enough young people, and that's absolutely right. There was a lot of grey hair in the audience and that's something we certainly have to address."

"We need young people who have the energy, passion and the skills to devote some time to serving the Trust board. We have to attract more young people to become Trust members and get them actively involved."

Trust member – It's time for the directors to direct

A TRUST member has urged the board to take a lead on the proposed takeover of Wycombe Wanderers instead of passing the responsibility on to its 538 Legacy members.

In a letter to Trust chairman Trevor Stroud, Lawrie Read, who has been a Blues fan since they were promoted to the Football League two decades ago and is a long-time season-ticket holder, said: "The board of directors must drive this forward and make their recommendation of the best way forward for the future of the club."

"Can you imagine the board of any major company saying to the shareholders at an AGM that it's your company so you decide what's best?"

"Ultimately, yes the shareholders have the final say but it's an abrogation of the directors' responsibility not to take a lead and make a unanimous recommendation of the way forward taking everything into account."

"Sadly, I felt at the meeting last week that we were being run by the committee of a local tennis club rather than a serious professional business with a stake in the Football League."

"Finally, I'm amazed that anybody wanting to buy the club by the end of March this year, and obtain a vote of 75 per cent of its owners to do so, is unable to put a prospectus forward at the earliest opportunity."

Speaking to the Bucks Free Press, he said: "At the first meeting they gave the impression of the tail wagging the dog and that the buyers have all the power."

"They don't."

Read, the executive chairman of Hireworks Ltd in Iver Heath, also believes the Trust scored an own goal by not appointing a full time chief executive to run the club.

He said: "I think they're doing their best – there is no reason to think they're not – but they are part-time and can't devote the time."

"A major failing is not appointing a full time CEO to run the club and report to them."

"They'll say they couldn't afford one, but he'd have paid for himself."

"They're to be applauded for getting the club back on an even keel and avoiding administration, but now is the time to get full-time people in. I'm pro the takeover."

