

Problems Of Blank Month

SPORTS CLUBS in Buckinghamshire tomorrow face their fifth Saturday of cancelled fixtures in the continuing deep-freeze, with little immediate prospect of any let-up in the arctic conditions which have dealt sport generally the worst blow in memory.

More snow during the week-end added several inches to the icy blanket which has covered sports grounds for a month, and sub-zero temperatures have been packing it still harder throughout the week, as club secretaries glumly ponder the problem of ever-increasing arrears of fixtures.

Most clubs have reconciled themselves to another blank day tomorrow, confining club activities to emergency arrangements for training to keep the players in trim for the eventual re-start.

Wycombe Wanderers, whose Amateur Cup game against Uxbridge had to be postponed for a second time on Saturday, made a special appeal to supporters to volunteer for snow clearing work at Loakes Park, as a contribution to getting the game moving again as soon as possible.

But the response to the appeal was disappointing. About 16 supporters turned up on Saturday afternoon to carry on the good work started earlier by the players, who had cleared much of the terracing during their training session.

THE DILEMMA

The tough volunteers worked so well on the terraces and the approaches to the turnstiles that

Wycombe secretary Mr. Bill Hayter was able to announce that Loakes Park was free of snow except for the playing pitch itself.

There, the same dilemma confronted club officials who the week before found that ridged ice was packed hard underneath the surface of snow and that any attempt to break it up would damage the turf.

Snow fell fairly heavily again soon after the volunteers had completed their work, but fortunately the strong wind blew most of it away from the terraces and approaches.

This week the Wycombe players have again taken advantage of the American offer to allow them the use of their fine gymnasium at the United States Air Force base at Daws Hill.

In case play were possible on Saturday the same team as before was chosen to line up against Uxbridge in the Amateur Cup tie.



Some of the hardy volunteers at work on Saturday clearing the approaches to Loakes Park to help speed the happy day when play becomes possible again.