

ERNEST TURNERS and Burnham will have to wait until tomorrow (Saturday) to see if they will be allowed to play their Hellenic League, Division One (Section A) local derby at York Road, Maidenhead, on Wednesday.

Maidenhead United will make their decision after their reserve game tomorrow. Burnham are trying to arrange the midweek game under floodlights as both their teams have many home games left to play. They must, therefore, play some of these in midweek to complete their programme.

They are also lending a helping hand to Turners in the process, as the works team seemed destined to have a mammoth backlog of fixtures at the end of the season.

At present Turners have

Turners face mammoth fixture backlog again

played only 11 league games — the lowest amount in the whole of the Hellenic League. Most other teams in the division have played at least 16 matches while three have played 20 or over.

This has come about by the Works' success in cup competitions. Tomorrow (Saturday) they are again in a cup competition — the Reading Senior Cup quarter final, and they have recently reached the last four of the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup. Added to this, they only went out of the

Wycombe Senior Cup to Naphill a fortnight ago.

Turners have only until mid April to play off their home games — a total of 11 Saturdays. They cannot hope to play midweek games until March due to the light problem. Club official Dick Cave, however, has already received permission from the Park Superintendent to play some of the games on the Rye as long as they give notice on the Tuesday before the match.

Turners' aim is to reach the

top seven bracket of their division if they are to go into the new Hellenic League division one next season. With so many games in hand they should fulfil this aim but they will remember two seasons ago when in a similar situation with fixtures, that they lost their chance of promotion to the premier division — playing the remainder of the matches on the Rye.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR INTERNATIONAL

AS there may not be many, if

any, more home matches for Wycombe Wanderers before the England - Republic of Ireland amateur international is played at Loakes Park on Friday, February 25, the club is taking the opportunity tomorrow of selling tickets in advance.

Treasurer Roger Lee, reflecting upon an away Amateur Cup-tie on February 15, plus the Floodlight League visit to Marlow next Tuesday, and the possibility of an away Isthmian League fixture on February 12, tells me seats for the Centre stand — "C" and "E" Blocks — can be reserved tomorrow. All those wishing to do so should contact him during the County Cup semi-final with Abingdon Town. Tickets are priced 35p.

While on the subject of amateur internationals, it was interesting to note the comments of England team boss Charles Hughes, in the national press earlier this week. Only a matter of days after Slough Town and St. Albans City had hit the headlines with their explosive exploits at the Dolphin Stadium, Mr. Hughes blamed the growing violence in the amateur game on club managers. Skilful players, he thought, knew that, against certain clubs, they would get kicked to bits.

He also pointed to inconsistent refereeing, and advocated an even stronger disciplinary grip on amateurs than professional footballers.

In effect, Mr. Hughes is merely echoing openly what is felt by many officials, players and supporters alike. The local areas' two leading senior clubs Wycombe Wanderers and Marlow, have both felt the effects of strong-arm tactics against them in recent seasons.

Perhaps the climax for Marlow was the occasion a fortnight ago when Reserve team manager Dave Wigley called his men off the field after only 60 minutes of a bruising Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup-tie against Britwell Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Wanderers also know only too well from past experience how a side favouring open, skilful football as they do, can often suffer as a result.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of the game at Slough on Saturday — where one Rebel was booked along with three Saints, and the visitors' Bill Ratty suffered a broken jaw — there is something drastically wrong somewhere when talk of legal action emerges.

Mr. Hughes is quite right. Something tangible should be done about growing violence. In fact, it should have been done long ago!

And let us hope that by bringing the situation to the public eye, favourable results can be gained—as swiftly and as effectively as possible.