

# The Wanderers must 'keep their cool' in sunny Italy

MID-WEEK'S off to Italy! On Friday sports editor Stuart Earp pictured alongside, joins the Wycombe Wanderers tourists for their trip to play Pistoiese and Teramo in the return matches of the Anglo-Italian Inter-League Semi-Professional Tournament.

Wanderers leave Loakes Park by coach on Friday evening for Heathrow and fly out to Milan at 8.35 p.m. First match is against Pistoiese on Saturday and the players then have a break before the Teramo game on Wednesday. Mid-week football fans will have on the spot reports on the games from Stuart Earp plus pictures and features when he returns.

Let me fill you in on the set-up of the competition. Six clubs from each country were invited to compete — Wycombe, Enfield, Wimbledon, Nuneaton, Stafford Rangers and Scarborough from England and Monza, Teramo, Pistoiese, Benevento, Udinese and Siracusa from Italy. The clubs were split into three sections and play each other on a home and away basis. The club from each country with the best record goes through to the final on Sunday, June 20.

Three points are awarded for a win and one for a draw and if clubs finish level on points, goal difference will decide. If still level, the greater number of goals scored will count and after that, the greater number of goals scored away from home.

The matches in England have already been played and the situation is this: Three English clubs — Wycombe, Wimbledon and Nuneaton won both games for six points. Scarborough have four points, Stafford three and Enfield two. Wimbledon top the table as they scored seven goals while Wanderers scored five and Nuneaton 4. Here are the tables:

ANGLO-ITALIAN INTER-LEAGUE  
SEMI-PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENT  
Tables after Two Matches

|                   | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Wimbledon         | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 6   |
| Wycombe Wanderers | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6   |
| Nuneaton          | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6   |
| Scarborough       | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4   |
| Stafford Rangers  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3   |
| Enfield           | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2   |
|                   | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Monza             | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4   |
| Teramo            | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1   |
| Pistoiese         | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1   |
| Benevento         | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0   |
| Udinese           | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0   |
| Siracusa          | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0   |

So what are Wycombe's chances of reaching the final of this prestigious competition? With two wins from the home matches, the Blues must be confident of a good showing on Italian soil. Pistoiese were well beaten when they visited Loakes Park on May 4, crashing to a 4-0 defeat. John Delaney, Dylan Evans, Terry Reardon and Dave Alexander got the goals.



Teramo were a more difficult kettle of fish. By various means, some not in accordance with the rules, they gave the Blues quite a headache, but in the end Evans' 20th minute goal was enough.

Wanderers therefore go to Italy with a 100 per cent record so far. But they know only too well that their task away from home will be doubly difficult. And they know it from past experience.

Last season Wycombe met A.C. Monza in another Anglo-Italian competition and in the first leg at Monza they were given a real lesson in the finer arts of the game by the Italians. They went down 1-0, a particularly good result, and took the return leg 2-0 to win 2-1 on aggregate. Wanderers expect both Pistoiese and Teramo to turn on the heat at home.

Wanderers' biggest challengers are Wimbledon. Their opponents, Benevento and Siracusa, seem to be the weakest teams in the competition and two good wins for the 'Dons' could see them through to the final. Wycombe know how efficient they are too — they played them in a friendly at Bisham Abbey last night (Monday) as a final preparation for the tour.

One thing could count against Wimbledon, however, their temperament. Already in the home matches, there has been a good deal of disciplinary trouble and Wimbledon might well find the Italian tactics away from home a little too much to take. Any retaliation could lead to dismissals. Every one of the English teams must be apprehensive about the Italian tactics.

At Loakes Park some of the Wycombe players were mercilessly chopped down and both Pistoiese and Teramo had a player booked. Much will depend on the Italian officials, but it wouldn't surprise me to see a fair bit of trouble on the field. Wycombe are better equipped than most to deal with the situation. In the last three years only six players have been booked in Isthmian League matches. Manager Brian Lee, who retires at the end of the tour after eight glorious seasons, will have drummed into his players the need 'to keep their cool.'

All the players have been instructed to keep up their fitness. But they will have plenty of opportunity to enjoy themselves in between the two (or possibly three) matches.

It will be interesting to take a look at the newcomers in the squad. Two Carnegie College students are included, one of whom has signed on for the Blues next season — left back Bobby Davis. Steve Perrin, who joined Crystal Palace last term, is also in the squad as a guest and will do much to fill the gap left by Tony Horsemans absence. 'Bodger' was unable to make the tour this year.

The tourists arrive back on Monday, June 21. Don't forget to buy your copies of 'Mid-week' and the 'Free Press' for full reports of the tour.



## Full reports from Italy

THE many followers of Wycombe Wanderers will be well served by the Bucks Free Press and Mid-Week over the next 10 days. The 'Free Press' is sending out sports editor Stuart Earp to cover Wycombe's tour in full and readers will be given on the spot reports on the matches in Italy.

There will also be photographs from the games plus news of players for next season's campaign.

Make sure of your copies for all the details of Wycombe Wanderers tour to Italy.

# Injury blow to Blues' Italian bid

**WYCOMBE Wanderers, who leave tonight (Friday) for the return matches in the Anglo-Italian Inter-League Semi-Professional Tournament, suffered two body blows this week with the news that two players are doubtful to play in Italy.**

Midfield player Terry Reardon, who had such a fine game against Pistoiese at Loakes Park, suffered a bad accident at work when he fell down stairs and cut his knee. He needed several stitches and is doubtful to play.

The other casualty is Keith Mead who cracked a rib in the friendly against Wimbledon at Bisham Abbey on Monday. Keith fell badly and played on with the injury for some time before being substituted. Mead's injury is particularly disturbing for Wanderers as there is only one other centre back in the touring party — John Delaney. If Keith is unfit it could mean someone like Paul Birdseye moving positions.

This news will come as a real blow to the Blues, who must stand a chance of reaching the final of this prestigious competition. Played for the first time at non-league level, six clubs from England and Italy were invited to compete on a home and away basis. The club with the best overall record from each

country goes through to contest the final.

Wanderers are well placed at the moment having won their two matches at home. They thrashed Pistoiese 4-0 and then beat Teramo 1-0. Two other clubs in the competition also won both games at home — Wimbledon and Nuneaton. Of the three unbeaten English Clubs, Wimbledon look favourites after two impressive victories. Their opponents, Siracusa and Benevento, appear to be the weakest Italian clubs in the competition and that fact could well see Wimbledon through.

The Dons look an extremely effective side. They played Wycombe in the final warm up game on Monday at Bisham Abbey and won 1-0 with a Dave Bassett goal. Their ability up front could be the decisive factor in Italy but they, and the other five clubs involved, must be worried about the tactics the Italians will adopt on home territory.

### PHYSICAL

In the home matches, the Italians had several players booked and two or three sent off in the six matches. Their physical approach to the games might well upset the tourists who are

unlikely to receive much protection from the referee. The recent England v Italy game in the American Bicentennial tournament showed many of the unsavoury aspects of Italian football.

With £500 sportsmanship money going to clubs who can avoid any disciplinary trouble, retaliation is both dangerous and costly. In this sense, Wycombe's excellent disciplinary record in the last three years will stand them in excellent stead.

The Italian clubs will have the advantage of being match fit as their league programme has only recently finished, whereas Wanderers played their last league match on May 8.

Wycombe can expect large crowds for the games at Pistoiese and Teramo. The Pistoiese ground holds 30,000 and at least 5,000 are expected to watch Wanderers. Teramo is a much smaller town but again, they are reported to be enthusiastic about the competition.

Venue for the final will not be decided until next Wednesday after the second set of matches. It is likely to be on the ground of the successful Italian team — probably Monza. If Monza do qualify for the final the game could well be played on AC Milan's ground in front of a bumper crowd.

The prize for the winners of this competition, which was previously played by professional clubs, is a magnificent trophy which will be held by the winners for one year. The players also receive gold medals and the losing finalists silver medals.

The Wycombe touring party is as follows: Officials: R. Williams, M. Seymour, A. Ward, J. Goldworthy, R. Hart, G. Cox Staff: B. Lee (manager), J. Reardon (assistant manager), J. Sheppard (attendant). Players: J. Delaney (captain), K. Mead, H. Kennedy, P. Watson, M. Gilligan, P. Spittle, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, D. Evans, J. Butterfield, R. Eaton, J. Priestley, S. Perrin, D. Alexander, T. Reardon. Press: S. Earp.

Guests in the party are Peter Watson who played for Bishop's Stortford last season, Martin Gilligan (Oxford City), John Butterfield (Ilford), Bobby Davies and John Priestley (Carnegie College) and Steve Perrin (Crystal Palace). Steve, who joined Palace from Wycombe last season, was given special permission to play

### PROGRAMME

**Saturday, June 12:** Monza v Scarborough (8.30 p.m.), Udinese v Stafford (7.30), Pistoiese v Wycombe (8.30).

**Sunday, June 13:** Teramo v Enfield (5.30), Benevento v Wimbledon (5.30), Siracusa v Nuneaton (5.30).

**Wednesday, June 16:** Udinese v Scarborough (8.30), Monza v Stafford (8.30), Teramo v Wycombe (5.30), Pistoiese v Enfield (8.30), Siracusa v Wimbledon (5.30), Benevento v Nuneaton (8.30).

**Sunday, June 20:** Final tie (5.30 or 8.30).

# Tourists fly out tonight

WYCOMBE Wanderers' tour party leave for Italy tonight (Friday) with a flight from Heathrow Airport at 8.35 p.m. Losing one hour in flight, they arrive at Milan at 11.20 p.m.

First stop for the tourists is Monte Catini after a long journey by coach. Tomorrow (Saturday) Wanderers have their first game against Pistoiese which kicks off in the evening at 8.30 p.m.

After the game, they move down to Rieti where they will be staying until the Teramo game next Wednesday. The second match kicks off at the earlier time of 5.30 p.m.

Wycombe's movements after the Teramo game are not certain at the moment. If they reach the final they will have to travel again to the successful Italian club's ground. The final is set for Sunday and the Blues return home the following day, taking the 5.35 p.m. flight from Milan to Heathrow.

## How they stand

Table after Two Matches

|                   | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Wimbledon         | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 6   |
| Wycombe Wanderers | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6   |
| Nuneaton          | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6   |
| Scarborough       | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4   |
| Stafford Rangers  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3   |
| Enfield           | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2   |

  

|           | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Monza     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4   |
| Teramo    | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1   |
| Pistoiese | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1   |
| Benevento | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0   |
| Udinese   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0   |
| Siracusa  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0   |

Group A: Monza, Udinese, Scarborough, Stafford Rangers. Group B: Pistoiese, Teramo, Wycombe Wanderers, Enfield. Group C: Benevento, Siracusa, Wimbledon, Nuneaton.

