

# Wanderers visit Minehead

**WYCOMBE** Wanderers, who received a bye straight to the first round of this season's F.A. Cup because of their exceptional performances in recent years, have been given a tough visit to the strong Somerset side Minehead on Saturday, November 26.

Minehead are one of the fastest rising clubs in non-league football for last season they finished runners-up to Wimbledon in the Southern League Premier Division after only five years in the league.

In addition, Minehead caused one of the shocks of the F.A. Cup first round when they beat Swansea of the Football League Division Four 1-0 and only went out 2-1 to Portsmouth in the second round — the first time they

have ever reached that far.

The Minehead scorer on each occasion was striker Andy Leitch, who was one member of a three pronged attack with Derek Bryant and Jim Jenkins who scored 96 goals between them in all competitions last year.

Although with virtually the same side, Minehead have not fared as well this winter and stand in mid-table. The reason for their slump has been the lack of form by their strikers.

But they are showing signs of coming back to their best. Leitch scored the goal which earned them a 1-1 draw with

Salisbury in Saturday's fourth qualifying round match. More important, their former Newport goalkeeper John Macey saved a penalty to stop Salisbury going two up.

In last night's (Monday) replay Minehead won 2-1 in a thriller that went to extra time. Once again Salisbury took the lead but Leitch netted the equaliser and Jenkins scored a great winner in extra time.

## RECREATION GROUND

Minehead, whose average gate is 500, play on a local recreation ground which is used

for cricket during the summer. Incredibly the football pitch and cricket square overlap without apparent ill-effect.

They are managed by long serving player Bob Boyd and include in their side Tony Clausen, the only local player who has played over 700 games for the club.

Wycombe manager John Reardon has a dossier on Minehead, gathered by his brother Terry who plays for Slough. Slough beat Minehead after three matches in last year's F.A. Trophy.

John Reardon's reaction to the draw was: "It could have been better, it could have been worse." He was relieved that the opposition was none of the top Isthmian sides. He mentioned Enfield and Leatherhead in particular.