

Wycombe's worry

By MICHAEL MELANIPHY

WYCOMBE and Blyth, deadlocked in a costly FA Trophy second round tie, will today appeal to the Football Association to change the rule that stops them replaying next Saturday.

Both clubs are feeling the financial pinch after a 1-1 draw at Blyth and two previous postponements, including one last Wednesday when Wycombe flew north only to find the match off.

Wycombe's air travel costs of about £1,000 in midweek, plus air and rail expenses on Saturday, could not be met from gate receipts.

To cover costs the two clubs want to replay at Wycombe on Saturday, but rules state

that replays must take place by Thursday with a 2 p.m. start unless both agree to an evening kick-off.

Blyth won't agree to an evening match in midweek because they could not travel back the same night and their players would have to take an extra day off work.

With the referee and linesmen also claiming two lots of expenses after an unsuccessful trip to Blyth the tie is producing a financial headache only the FA can ease.

A backlog of Trophy fixtures means that the team to play Wycombe or Blyth in the third round will not be known before February 24.