

Croydon or Leatherhead

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been drawn at home to Berger Isthmian League opposition in the first round proper of the FA Cup, on Saturday, November 24, when they will entertain either Croydon or Leatherhead.

These two teams drew 1-1 at Fetcham Grove on Saturday and the replay took place at Croydon last night (Monday). So by the time you read this, the identity of Blues opponents should be clear.

At the time of writing Croydon, with ground advantage in the replay, must be slight favourites to reach the first round proper for the first time in their history. Their best previous run was in 1975/76 when they reached the fourth qualifying round.

Leatherhead on the other hand are renowned cup fighters and have built up a reputation as one of the most successful non-league clubs in this competition.

Already in the past ten years the Tanners have gained giant-killing victories over Colchester United, Northampton, Brighton and Cambridge United. Their best year came in 1974/75, when they went one better than Wycombe by reaching the fourth round before losing to Leicester after leading 2-0.

Some of their best known personalities are striker Chris Kelly, veteran goalkeeper John Swannell and former Wycombe defender Alan Phillips.

When the teams met at Fetcham Grove earlier in the season, Wycombe gained a 2-2 draw with a good perfor-

mance. Blues have yet to meet Croydon in the league so far.

Although it is disappointing that they are not meeting League opposition, Blues at least have the consolation of being drawn at home at last after three successive away ties over the past two years at Minehead, Maidstone and Barnet.

The draw must give Wycombe a chance of reaching the second round again and keeps alive their hopes of another exciting run. Whatever happens Blues should get their best gate of the season.

Wycombe's immediate concern is the Isthmian League match at Boreham Wood, tonight, when they will be aiming to avenge the 2-1 defeat at Loakes Park on the first day of the season.