

Croydon the next hurdle

WYCOMBE Wanderers have at last received a home draw in the F.A. Cup. In the first round proper to be played on Saturday, November 24, they will entertain fellow Berge Isthmian League side Croydon.

When the draw first emerged, Wycombe were set against either Leatherhead or Croydon. But Croydon settled that matter with a 3-0 victory in Monday's replay after the teams had drawn 1-1 at Fetcham Grove two days earlier.

Manager Andy Williams reacted optimistically to the draw, although he would have preferred league opposition.

He said: "It's a home draw, and although it will be a difficult game, it gives us the chance to go through to the next round. If we can't beat Croydon, we can't really expect to beat a league club."

Croydon, who had a win and draw against Wycombe in the league last season, are breaking new ground by reaching this far. Until this season their previous record run in the F.A. Cup came in 1975/76 when they reached the fourth qualifying round. They are managed by Ted Shepherd

and their most experienced players include goalkeeper Dave Cobb and striker Charlie Pooley.

Wycombe are at least better off than near neighbours Chesham United, whose reward for victories over Bedford and Maidstone is a long trip to Minehead. The Blues know all about that having lost there two years ago.

Slough Town are luckier, being given a home draw against little Hungerford Town, who reached the first round for the first time ever with a 5-0 replay victory over Bridgend. So there will at least be one Berks and Bucks team in the second round.

Wycombe's immediate task is to move up the league table with a series of victories. They will hope that the first of these comes against Dagenham, who come to Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

Blues still have a number of injury worries, although the good news is that centre-half Gary Fowles has now fully recovered from the cut forehead he received against Barking. Indeed he could have played on Tuesday night, but Mr Williams chose to keep the Mead-

Hardwick combination, which did so well at Barnet last week.

John Maskell, still troubled by his bad back, underwent a series of eight X-rays on Tuesday, to see if there is any permanent problem. The results will be known soon.

Suffered

Dagenham are currently going through a period of change and their results have suffered as a result. They lost 4-2 to Barking in the F.A. Cup last week.

Manager Eddie Presland has just signed on two of the recent departures from Tilbury, most of whose players resigned following the upheaval there. The new men are striker Les Cobb and defender Martin Binks.

Cobb, serving a 28 day suspension after being sent off, will not play but Binks is expected to make his debut.

This Tuesday Wycombe meet Slough at Wexham Park in the second round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, while 24 hours later they entertain Oxford University in a friendly at Loakes Park.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	21	14	3	4	38	11	45
Harrow	21	10	7	4	30	24	37
Dulwich	20	9	9	2	29	15	36
Woking	18	9	6	3	35	21	33
Tooting	19	10	3	6	28	23	33
Dagenham	21	8	8	5	33	26	32
L'therhead	21	8	6	7	26	21	30
W'thamstow	18	8	5	5	37	26	29
Sutton	19	7	8	4	28	18	29
Hayes	21	8	5	8	25	29	29
Wycombe	20	6	8	6	30	25	28
Barking	18	7	4	7	28	21	25
Harlow	15	7	4	4	22	19	25
Hitchin	20	5	6	7	29	37	23
Boreham Wd	20	5	6	9	18	30	21
*Tilbury	19	5	6	8	23	26	19
Hendon	19	5	4	10	21	26	19
Carshalton	17	5	3	9	21	35	18
Croydon	16	4	4	8	24	25	18
Staines	19	4	4	11	15	33	16
Oxford	19	3	6	10	18	38	15
Slough	17	2	3	12	12	40	9

* 2 points deducted.

Go to Wembley!

WYCOMBE Wanderers are one of 16 teams who will be competing in the Isthmian League five-a-side competition for the Prince Philip Cup at Wembley Arena on Thursday, November 29.

All profits from the competition will be shared between the National Playing Fields Association's appeal for all forms of children's play schemes and the Goaldiggers Trust which gives grants for hard surface play areas.

An exciting evening's football will also feature a match between Jimmy Hill's XI and a team of Test cricketers raised by Doug Insole. Geoff Hurst and Jimmy Greaves will be two of the stars in view.

Tickets can be obtained from the Wycombe Wanderers treasurer Gerald Cox (H.W. 32952) or secretary John Goldworthy (H.W. 38042).