

Cup-tie delayed by torrential rain

HEAVY rain in the early evening caused Wycombe Wanderers' scheduled Hitachi Cup third round tie against Metropolitan Police on Tuesday, to be called off at the last minute, writes MICHAEL KNOX.

It had rained most of the day but a torrential shower, which had the Loakes Park pitch awash, was the final straw and the referee called it off about 35 minutes before the kick-off.

Both teams had already arrived and with the training pitch in a similar state, the players adjourned to the bar.

Officials of both clubs came to a quick decision to try again this coming Tuesday. Kick-off at Loakes Park will be 7.30pm.

This date was originally scheduled for the Berks and

Bucks Senior Cup quarter-final visit to Bracknell. Both clubs had agreed on the date.

But Bracknell, the London Spartan League pacesetters, had other ideas and suggested that the match now be played at their ground on January 29.

Preference

This is the date set by the county, although they have no objection to the match being played earlier.

A rather resigned Wycombe secretary John Goldsworthy commented: "As County Cup matches take preference over league matches there is nothing we can do but play on that day and re-arrange the league game we should have played."

When the Met Police game was called off manager

Mike Keen and assistant Alan Davies travelled to watch the Hitachi tie between Chesham and Kingstonian, having ascertained by phone that the match was still on.

However, by the time they arrived at the ground, that game too, had been called off because of a waterlogged pitch.

Keen's immediate task is to prepare a side for the Servoarm Isthmian League visit of Bromley to Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

Already without injured captain Howard Kennedy, he will be missing two more of his more experienced players. George Borg is serving the first of his two week suspension, while Terry Glynn damaged a foot in the local derby at home to Slough last Saturday.

He hobbled off in the first

half and his foot swelled up badly that evening. But an X-ray discovered no broken bone — just damaged ligaments. The injury had improved by Tuesday night but he is likely to be out for at least another week.

Sliced

Against Slough Wycombe ruled the roost for most of the game and looked to have collected the points when Bob Dell fired home a marvellous 20 yard free kick in the 67th minute.

But five minutes from time Slough forward Gary Atrell's sliced cross beat a surprised Gary Lester, who could not stop the ball entering the net.

So Wycombe lost a chance to increase their lead at the top but they should have a good idea by the end of the Christmas holiday, whether they will win their first league title for seven years.

After the Bromley match for which Keen could bring Billy Hubbrick into midfield, Wycombe's next league game is at home to Bishop's Stortford on Saturday week. They travel to Woking on Tuesday, December 21.

Then come the two vital Christmas games with Harrow, surely their main challengers for the title. These are at Harrow on December 27 and at Loakes Park on New Year's Day.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	24	14	5	5	45	28	47
Harrow	17	11	3	3	39	22	36
Slough	17	10	5	2	36	14	35
Sutton	22	10	4	8	56	37	34
Dulwich	18	9	6	3	27	18	33
Tooting	17	10	1	6	31	20	31
Hayes	17	9	4	4	26	17	31
Croydon	22	8	4	9	35	32	31
Carshalton	19	9	3	7	29	25	30
Levytonstone	17	8	3	6	23	19	27
Hitchin	21	8	3	10	29	34	27
Barking	18	7	5	6	22	25	25
Hendon	20	8	1	11	35	34	25
Stortford	17	6	5	6	27	23	26
Steane	20	6	4	10	24	39	22
Bromley	18	5	8	5	16	15	20
Bognor	15	4	5	6	13	30	17
Walthamstow	19	4	6	10	18	20	17
Billericay	14	5	1	8	15	18	16
Woking	20	3	2	15	12	35	11
Wokingham	11	2	4	5	7	13	10
Leatherhead	20	3	1	16	18	10	10

Memorial match

BRIAN Lee, chairman of Wycombe Wanderers, said he cannot guarantee the Sunday April 10 date of the Robbie Bressington Memorial Match at Burnham.

"We want to get our best team out, but cannot commit ourselves for that date until we know our other commitments."

Mr Lee stressed that the club were keen to fulfil the