



F.A. TROPHY SPOTLIGHT

THERE was good news and bad news for Wycombe Wanderers when the draw for the first round of the F.A. Trophy was made on Monday.

The good news is that they will be playing at home on Saturday, January 15. The bad news is that their opponents are formidable Alliance League side Wealdstone.

Mike Keen accurately summed up the situation when he said: "I'm glad we're at home, but it's going to be very tough. They're a good side."

Wealdstone are currently placed seventh in the Alliance with games in hand on all the clubs above them. On Saturday they won 2-0 at Barrow.

Treble

Like Wycombe, who excelled by reaching the semi-finals last season, the Harrow based club were exempt until this stage of the competition.

Under former Wimbledon boss Allen Batsford they enjoyed considerable success last winter. Not only did they qualify for the Alliance by topping the Southern League South Division, but they won the championship play-off against Nuneaton and completed a great treble by lifting the

League Cup with victory over Gloucester City.

Wealdstone also beat Gloucester in the first round of the Trophy before losing 1-0 at Dagenham.

Leading scorer was Alan Cordice with 38 goals. He and his brother Neil have a strong local connection with the High Wycombe area.

Alan started his senior football career with Marlow seven years ago and then played for Chesham, Maidenhead and Norwich Reserves before going to Lower Mead.

Neil, another key member of the side, nearly joined Wycombe about five years ago, but was then snapped up by Wealdstone. He still lives in Booker. So that should add some edge to a fascinating contest.

Indeed there is another local link between the two clubs for Wealdstone's assistant manager Brian Hall held the same post at Loakes Park for a while under John Reardon.

Though the clubs know each other pretty well, the only time they have met in recent years came in a friendly in April

last year, when the result was a 2-2 draw. Alan Cordice scored twice.

They also came across each other in the Suburban League last season, when Wycombe Reserves went down 5-0 to a virtually full strength Wealdstone first team.

Other notable players include former Millwall and Wimbledon goalkeeper Ray Goddard and new signing mid-field player from Plymouth Argyle Mark Graves.

Impressive

Other former Wimbledon players there include defenders Steve Perkins and Paul Bowgett plus striker Ray Knowles.

Wealdstone reached the first round of this season's F.A. Cup before losing 2-0 at Swindon. Brian Hall commented: "We could have done with a better draw than this. I know Wycombe well, they are a good side."

However Wealdstone, themselves have a pretty impressive record. They have lost only three Alliance games all season and have victories at Scarborough and Altrincham to their credit.

"Whatever happens, it should be an exciting game," added Hall.