

Chelmsford next

CHELMSFORD City, Wycombe's opponents in the first round of the FA Cup on Saturday, November 19, have played five matches to reach this stage of the competition.

The Essex club, who play in the Southern League Premier Division, cruised through the first two qualifying rounds beating Gorleston 5-1 and Great Yarmouth 4-2.

Then FA Vase holders VS Rugby caused a few problems. After being held 1-1 at home, Chelmsford won the replay at Rugby 2-1, and then recorded a home win by the same margin over fellow Southern Leaguers Bedworth last Saturday.

Midway

Managed by former player Mick Loughton for the past 2½ years, Chelmsford are currently placed just below midway in the table — largely because they have played so few games.

Their best known players are Bobby Moss, the former Colchester and Orient man who signed on from Walthamstow Avenue three years ago, and defender Phil Dudley, who played more than 100 games for Southend before joining last season.

Loughton's player coach is Denis Longhorn from Colchester, who plays an important role in midfield.

Chelmsford have a strong FA Cup tradition, having played Ipswich in the third round ten years ago and Birmingham City in the fourth round just before the war. In contrast, last year they lost at home to Chesham United.

Coincidentally, Wycombe and Chelmsford were the only English teams to play in the Gigi Peronace Trophy in Italy during April this year.

The teams met in the third place play-off, and Wycombe came from 0-2 down to equalise and then win on penalties.

Blues fans will hope that is a good omen.



Eastwood defenders can only stand and stare as the ball hits the back of the net for goal — the result of a header from the falling No. 5 Anton Vircavs.