

A chance to settle old score

Blues get home draw in Trophy

W Y C O M B E
Wanderers will have a score to settle after being drawn at home to either Minehead or Dorchester in the first round of the F.A. Trophy, writes **MICHAEL KNOX.**

Both these West Country teams have gained recent successes over the Servovarm Isthmian League champions — which should add edge to the match at Loakes Park on Saturday January 14.

Survival

Which of these two teams will travel to face the Wanderers should have been decided in the third qualifying round replay at Minehead last night (Wednesday).

The teams drew 1-1 at Dorchester on Saturday. So Minehead, who rejoined the Western League this season after ten years in the Southern, must be favourites to win through.

It was seven years ago that Wycombe travelled down to meet the Somerset team in the first round of the F.A. Cup. They had expected to win but came back with their tails between their legs following a 2-0 defeat.

Football

Only one survivor from that match is still playing. He is the former Bristol Rovers player Alan Impey who was in the Minehead back four that day.

Minehead are currently second in the Western League, after excessive travelling expenses forced them to quit the Southern.

In addition to Impey they have two other players with Football League experience. They are former youth international Wayne Powell of Bristol Rovers and player coach Willie Brown, who turned out for Torquay, Brentford and Burnley.

To reach this stage Minehead have so far beaten Keynsham 1-0 away, and Bideford 3-2 away following a 2-2 draw at home. Their leading scorer is Steve Riddler, who notched a hat-trick against Bideford.

Signing

Dorchester, currently bottom of the Southern League Premier Division, are having a disappointing season, after several good years.

They came to Loakes Park for a friendly at the start of last season's campaign and triumphed 3-1. Further back

they knocked Wanderers out of the F.A. Cup in the late fifties.

Apart from selling left winger David West to Liverpool, Dorchester have virtually the same squad as last season.

So it still includes Keith Miller (once West Ham and Bournemouth) and the former Exeter player Hedley Steele. Kevin Dove, once of Northampton, is a recent signing.

Although glad to be drawn at home Wycombe manager commented wryly: "At the moment we seem to be doing better away." He will have the opposition watched before the tie.

Keen's current dilemma is how to get the players match fit for the Isthmian League derby match at Slough on Boxing Day (Monday).

When they take the field they will not have had a proper match for 16 days. A couple of postponements and F.A. Trophy commitments of other sides they should have played, led to this 'midwinter break.'

At first this respite was welcomed as it allowed Wycombe's injured players to become available again — only Steve Long (groin injury) is unlikely to be considered for the Slough match.

But such a break is hardly the ideal preparation for one

of the physically demanding matches of the season, where fitness in probably heavy conditions, could tilt the balance.

Frustrated

"We can't do much about it. We've tried in vain to fix friendlies, but have been frustrated by the weather." The late arranged match against Burnham on Tuesday had to be postponed after prolonged rain.

Wycombe will have a work-out against Hillingdon at Bisham Abbey tonight (Thursday), but that is no substitute for the real thing.

The match at Slough on Monday will definitely be 'the real thing', even though both teams are suffering, relatively lean spells.

Servovarm Isthmian League

	Premier Division									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Sutton	22	12	5	5	39	21	41			
Worthing	21	12	4	5	52	33	40			
Hendon	22	12	4	6	34	23	40			
Slough	24	11	5	8	46	37	38			
Dulwich	24	10	6	8	36	32	38			
Harrow	18	11	3	4	28	17	36			
Hitchin	20	9	5	4	28	26	34			
Stortford	25	8	9	8	36	36	33			
Hayes	20	8	7	5	26	20	31			
Bognor	20	8	6	6	30	30	30			
Croydon	24	8	6	10	30	35	30			
Staines	22	8	5	9	36	36	29			
Leytonstone	22	8	5	9	26	31	29			
Carshalton	27	7	8	12	35	45	29			
Wycombe	19	6	5	8	25	29	23			
Billerica	19	6	4	9	28	38	22			
*Wokingham	21	6	6	9	33	32	21			
Tooting	20	5	6	9	29	35	21			
Harlow	21	5	5	11	29	37	20			
Barking	20	5	5	10	28	38	20			
Bromley	22	4	6	12	16	34	18			
Walthamstow	15	4	5	6	22	27	17			