

It's the Hope & Keen show

AN indication that the football world is a small one came with the F.A. Trophy second round draw which gives Wycombe a visit to Bromsgrove Rovers on Saturday February 4.

At first glance this draw seems unremarkable, until you realise that Wycombe's opponents are managed by the former West Bromwich Albion and Scottish international Bobby Hope.

The coincidence is that Hope was in the W.B.A. side beaten in the 1967 Football League Cup final by Queens Park Rangers, captained by Blues manager Mike Keen.

In contrast to Wycombe, the Worcestershire side, who play in the Southern League Midland Division, have played six games to reach this stage.

Striker

After victories over Lye Town and Redditch, they took three games before despatching Stafford Rangers in a second replay, and then

overcame South Liverpool 2-1 on Saturday.

Their star player is striker Melvyn Langford, signed from local football. He has scored 33 goals in 33 matches this season, including five in the Trophy.

They are currently placed third in the league well behind Willenhall and Shepshed Charterhouse. One of their best results was winning 3-2 at home to Merthyr Tydfil, who dumped Enfield out of the Trophy on Saturday.

Bromsgrove, beaten only once at home, possess two players with Football League experience — Gavin Lang (Crewe) and Dave Butler (Shrewsbury), who joined from Seattle Sounders.

Their best year in the F.A. Trophy was in 1975/76, when they reached the quarter-finals.

Mr Keen said: "They're obviously on a bit of a high at the moment, but I'll know more when we've had them watched."