

WHAT A WASTE!

WYCOMBE officials were in an angry mood following the eleventh hour postponement of their Servowarm Isthmian League visit to Wokingham Town on Saturday.

The Wanderers received news in mid-morning that the game was definitely 'on'. The pitch, badly cut up during Beaconsfield's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup tie on Thursday night, had been ruled fit by local referee David Keen.

Now Mr Keen is one of the most respected officials in Berks and Bucks, but his decision counted for nothing when match referee Michael Brown looked at the surface at around 1.30 pm.

He studied the muddy area and promptly called the match off, after coaches carrying players, officials and fans had already left Wycombe.

So all of them had made a wasted journey, which, of

Wanderers angry after late call-off

course, costs money.

There was no more angry man than Wanderers chairman Brian Lee who commented: "I don't want to say anything or I might be charged with bringing the game into disrepute."

The pitch itself looked like a field that had just been ploughed, ready for seeding. It barely resembled a football ground, but some form of the game would have been possible.

It was not dangerous and there was no surface water — and the pitch had only improved and dried out since the first inspection.

Wokingham club officials had delayed the printing of the match programme until Mr Keen had given it the

O.K. So they were several hundred pounds out of pocket due to the inconsistency of the referees.

This is the second time in the past month that Wycombe have been involved in such an incident.

Dorchester made the long journey up from the west country for an F.A. Trophy tie at Loakes Park, after a local referee had said that the game would be 'on'.

Inconsistent

Then the match referee appeared and called the whole thing off — another case of clubs suffering at the hands of referees.

It is about time that there was a directive from the top, saying that once the pitch

had been passed fit by one recognised referee, the match should go ahead — barring any violent change in the weather.

Referees are constantly accused of being inconsistent. How can they refute that claim when there is such a difference of opinion over whether a pitch is playable or not.

If one referee cannot accept another's decision, how on earth can they expect players to?

It is about time they got their act together to prevent another day like Saturday, which was a waste of everybody's time.

One Wycombe man more gainfully employed was assis-

tant manager Alan Davies, who went up to watch their F.A. Trophy opponents draw 2-2 at home to Dudley in the Southern League Midland Division.

Standard

While giving nothing away Davies reported that Bromsgrove, who entertain the Wanderers on Saturday in the second round, are of a similar standard to Eastwood Town — perhaps a little better.

Their Victoria Ground is a nice one and the pitch drains well. So the game should go ahead. Wycombe could do without another postponement.

Wanderers, whose centre half Anton Vircaus is suspended for a fortnight, have a final run-out against R.A.F. tonight (Tuesday) in the Battle of Britain Cup, when Mike Keen will be fielding his probable side for Bromsgrove.

Michael Knox

COMMENT

Blues and the town

WYCOMBE Wanderers supporters will question our decision to give the freedom of the park to put the boot in to someone with no strong allegiance to the club.

We do not expect the club management or those who stand on the terraces week in and week out in fine weather or foul to agree with everything our correspondent says. (If they would care to answer his criticisms the freedom of our columns is open to them, also).

But we suggest his views on the club's involvement with the town, which is an entirely different matter from the town's involvement with the club, are shared by many and have needed saying for sometime.

The young people of Wycombe look up to the Blues. It is their club. It would be nice to think that the club in 1984 would set out to return some of that warmth by sharing their talents and facilities with those would-be soccer stars of the tomorrow.