

A STIFF TEST ON THE CARDS FOR BLUES

DAUNTING Gola League high flyers Wealdstone could be the next hurdle Wycombe Wanderers have to surmount to further their FA Trophy ambitions.

Blues have been drawn away to either in-form Wealdstone or Harlow on February 2.

The present form book suggests that Wealdstone will face Wycombe in the next round at the expense of the Isthmian Premier Division stragglers.

Wealdstone will attempt to join the Loakes Park men in the second round when they travel to Harlow on Monday — weather permitting.

That would mean a highly demanding trip to Lower Mead Stadium in Middlesex for Blues to face a side pushing for the Gola League championship.

Enjoyed

From the Loakes Park point of view it might also spark off a historical repeat for Wycombe ousted Wealdstone from the Trophy in January 1983.

Blues won the first round clash 2-1 with goals from Mark Hill and Kenny Wilson — but on that occasion they enjoyed home advantage.

Wycombe manager Paul Bence warned that either team would be difficult to beat in a cup situation.

"League positions and

form mean nothing when you become embroiled in cup events," he stated.

"The win over Dartford has brought fresh confidence back to the club but we must guard against complacency after one good result.

"We have beaten Harlow twice in the League this season so we would have a psychological advantage over them."

Harlow are second from bottom with only three wins — all at home — from 21 matches.

Wealdstone are second in the Gola League race but, surprisingly, their home record is poor with only four wins compared with seven away.

"Against Wealdstone we would start as underdogs — a situation I would prefer," admitted Bence.

The Blues boss is hoping the Dartford drama will signal the start of Wycombe's revival this season.

"We have improved sufficiently to sustain a good run in the League, the Trophy and the Hitachi Cup," argued Bence.

"Up until the Dartford game we had been creating chances but not sticking them away.

BY ROLF NIVEN

"Last Saturday the lads came good and I only hope they can keep the momentum going.

"We are in a false position in the Premier Division.

"Presuming Saturday's match against Walthamstow is on I would expect to take three points."

Wycombe general secretary John Goldsworthy admitted that Saturday's match at Loakes Park is doubtful.

Inspection

"If we have more snow and freezing temperatures, as the forecasts suggest, then

the game will probably be off," he commented.

"We will follow the usual procedure of calling in a referee on Saturday morning for an inspection.

"A lot depends on his personal opinion.

"Despite the snow we had a thoroughly entertaining game last Saturday and if the weather holds there is no reason why we cannot have the same again."

Blues are due to travel to Slough next Tuesday for a previously postponed league match while their Hitachi Cup 3rd round home clash with Bishops Cleeve has been moved to January 29.