

SOCCER FIGHT: TWO FINED

Man's 10 pints before match

Leave it to the lunatics

FOR the first time in several years I went to a soccer match at Wycombe Wanderers.

It was good to see a large crowd enjoying the victory over Colchester. On the other hand it was appalling to see the behaviour of some of the youths at the hospital end of the ground.

These "supporters" urinated where they stood, exposed themselves for "fun," fought with the police, invaded the grandstand and made obscene chants. All this until the police brought in officers with dogs.

I would personally like to thank the Thames Valley Police for their quick action, which, at least, allowed us spectators with children to enjoy some of the match. Our only regret is that most of the above youths left the ground at the end of the match obviously intending to return for the next match for more "fun."

Sadly unless they can be kept out, others, such as I, won't want to risk this sort of thing again and will leave such events to the lunatics. — E. Lorch, Fox Lane, Holmer Green.

W Y C O M B E
Wanderers Football Club strongly denied that a young man accused of public order offences during the team's FA Cup victory over Colchester had bought alcohol at the Loakes Park ground.

Magistrates at Wycombe on Monday heard that one of the men, Sean Lewis, had drunk 10 pints of beer before the game.

But Wanderers chairman Brian Lee told the Free Press: "They most emphatically did not obtain alcohol at the ground before the match.

"We had an exemption to serve alcohol, yes, but we took scrupulous care that none was served before the game.

"In my opinion, the saddest thing of all is that these are local people. They are nothing like supporters. They are destroyers," he said.

Adjourned

The first two of five youths charged receive severe fines.

Apprentice bricklayer James Goulding, 17, of West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, was fined £300, and painter and decorator Lewis, 18, of Southfield Road, Princes Risborough, was fined £200. Both had pleaded guilty.

Cases against three others were adjourned. They are understood to deny the offences. One of them is Goulding's twin, Roy, also of West Wycombe Road, and the others are Paul Morris, 20, of Forest Way, High Wycombe, and Ian Rundle, 20, of Stanley Road, High Wycombe.

Arrested

The five were arrested after fighting broke out among about 40 fans. Police had to escort Colchester supporters away from the match, after Wycombe won.

Lewis's solicitor Robin Dukes had told the court that Lewis had not been to a football match for four years, and intended never to go again. He had simply been protecting one of his friends at the match, and he accepted he had been "thoroughly stupid".

Solicitor Chris Thompson, for James Goulding said his client was of previously good character and very much regretted what he had done.