

Stone-throwing denied

£300 fine for soccer fan, 17

A TEENAGER in a group of stone-throwing yobs after one of Wycombe Wanderers FA Cup matches was fined £300 last week. He denied in court that he caused trouble.

Trainee accountant Roy Goulding, 17, of West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, was among a group of 20 youths with scarves covering their faces after the trouble-torn Wycombe Wanderers and Colchester United game on November 16.

The group stoned coaches waiting to take Colchester fans home and in the police charge which followed Goulding was arrested.

He denied having thrown stones or having shouted when faced on Friday with a charge of causing a breach of the peace.

A policeman on duty during the match, PC Anthony Wappner, said he saw Goulding run to the back of the college car park and pull his scarf down from his face after the stoning.

"If we had had enough officers at the scene all 20 people would have been arrested in the car park," Const Wappner told Wycombe magistrates.

Another policeman, Sergeant Les Davey, said the whole group "gave the obvious appearance that they were acting together and were of a threatening appearance."

He said Goulding was among the group.

Both policemen said they did not see Goulding throw anything, however.

The court was told that during interviews Goulding said he thought the group was bent on trouble but that he denied having thrown a stone or that he had been threatening.

In his defence Goulding said in court that before he joined the group he put his scarf over his face because it was cold and had only been talking to someone in the group when the stoning began.

He said he felt he had no alternative but to run when the police charged.

If he had gone towards the police they might have thought he wanted to fight them, he said.

"I just stood there, my hands in my pocket. The police ran towards us and there was quite a few of them and I was not going to stand around and get trampled so I ran with the rest of the group."

Goulding, with no previous conviction, was fined £300, and ordered to pay £50 costs.