



Fans and police fight in the rain

FOR the second time crowd trouble has tarnished the local derby football match between Aylesbury and Wycombe Wanderers.

Five men were arrested after police grappled in the mud with unruly fans on Saturday afternoon in the middle of a cloudburst.

The Aylesbury troublemakers had been growing more and more frustrated as after three-quarters of the game the teams were still nil-nil. The downpour, far from dampening their appetite for trouble, seemed to be the signal for them to start taunting the police and opposition fans.

One fan said the trouble started in the first half when rain began to pour heavily down, and Wycombe fans standing in the open terraces tried to push towards the covered terrace where Aylesbury supporters were.

'Most people were in jumpers and when

the rain started pouring down they just ran towards the cover,' he said. 'I think that started it up among the rival fans.'

Aylesbury police had allocated ten men to the game — more than usual — in anticipation of trouble. Last season in the final of the Bucks and Berks Cup at Wolverton there was trouble, with a fan being arrested for hurling a smoke bomb.

At one point one policeman faced the unruly bunch — as usual only a small minority of the crowd — until colleagues came to his aid. As they attempted to sort out the troublemakers, some of them were wrestled to the ground.

A police spokesman said: 'None of our men were injured . . . except to their pride at getting their uniforms muddy.'

Five men, three from Aylesbury, one from Wendover and one from Weston Turville, were charged with public order offences and will appear in court on October 5.