

ures are put on ice by Arctic weather



ne groundsman, Frank Newsome, deals with the snow

Picture by MARTIN SYKES

FOOTBALL clubs face a mounting fixture headache as the terrible weather looks set to ravage this weekend's soccer programme.

Wycombe's home Conference match against Macclesfield Town was rated no better than 50-50 by groundsman Rod Lavers on Wednesday afternoon.

And a pitch inspection this morning (Friday) could decide whether Macclesfield make the long trip to Wycombe.

Blues trained on the snowbound Adams Park pitch on Tuesday night, but were planning to come indoors if a suitable location could be booked for last night's session.

Meanwhile, Blues' Conference match at Stafford Rangers, wiped out by last weekend's weather, is pencilled in for next Tuesday.

John Goldsworthy, Wycombe's secretary, has a fixture calendar on his wall and said of postponed games:

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"You get them in as quickly as possible, as with Stafford next Tuesday.

"When Mike Keen was manager and we won the Isthmian League, we were 15 points ahead by Christmas, even though other teams had games in hand."

Goldsworthy went on: "It happened in reverse when we were relegated from the Gola League. We had the cup run, and went to York in the third round, while the fixtures piled up, and down we went.

"I remember we had Runcorn on the Tuesday, Kidderminster on the Thursday and Cheltenham on the Saturday and lost them all. You can't expect players to perform three times a week, so I don't want too many hiccups," Goldsworthy concluded.

Meanwhile, Marlow's Vauxhall Premier League match at Bishop's Stortford tomorrow (Saturday, ko

3pm) is doubtful.

Marlow hope to play their Berks and Bucks Cup match against Reading, already twice postponed, next Tuesday at Oak Tree Road (ko 7.30pm).

The Loctite Cup replay at home to Hitchin is pencilled in for next Thursday, followed two days later by a home Vauxhall League Premier Division match against Wokingham.

Marlow also have to find room in their crowded schedule for the league match at Hendon.

Other matches tomorrow which could also be victims of the weather are: Bromley v Chalfont St Peter (Vauxhall League Division One), Flackwell Heath v Banstead (Vauxhall League Division Two South), and Abingdon United v Chesham United (Berks and Bucks Cup).

The Chesham game could be played at The Meadow if Abingdon's pitch is unplayable.