

Blues set for their semi-final revenge

**Report by TIM SINGLETON
and PETE LANSLEY**

FOLLOWING a reaction of elation to Wycombe's achievement in reaching the FA Trophy semi final for only the second time ever, history repeated itself in yesterday's draw.

For Wanderers have again been paired with Altrincham, as they were ten years ago when the teams reached this stage.

But on that occasion, Blues travelled first, grabbing what at this stage we would all settle for this time at Moss Lane — a 1-1 draw.

Altrincham, winners in 1978 and 1986, then dumped Blues 3-0 in the return at Loakes Park.

Wycombe secretary John Goldsworthy recalled that occasion, and was quite happy to be drawn at home first this time around. "I always bat first in a one-day cricket match," he quipped.

The first leg at Adams Park will be played on April 6, with the return a week later. The success further congests Goldsworthy's fixture chart, with the Berks and Bucks Cup Final scheduled for April 6 now rearranged for April 16.

Wycombe's Conference game with Colchester United, who were sensation-ally knocked out of the Trophy at home to Witton Albion on Saturday, has now been moved to next Monday, March 25 (ko 7.30pm).

Given the current form of Blues and

Colchester, this could turn out a canny piece of administration.

Before that, Blues travel to Cheltenham without Mark West (due for his exploratory operation this week) tonight (ko 7.30pm), to Barrow on Saturday and also play at Welling in eight days' time.

Meanwhile, Martin O'Neill was like the cat with the cream after seeing Blues move into the last four — and a Cheshire cat at that.

The grin on his face told the story. O'Neill's first tilt at the Trophy in the Wycombe hot seat has left him set to become the first Wycombe manager to take Blues to a Trophy final.

"Absolutely delighted," was his response, after a nerve-jangling last ten minutes. "The commitment was fantastic; I couldn't ask for anymore. And we scored three goals away from home."

The first of those three of course came from 34-goal West. "We took a gamble on Mark playing," admitted O'Neill. "But he got a goal and we can't say any better than that."

Goal-machine West played only 19 more minutes after scoring the opener. "That's all he puts me out there for," he joked.

● **CHESHAM** United, 4-1 winners at Lewes on Saturday, entertain Chalfont St Peter, who lost 1-0 against Molesey, at The Meadow on Wednesday night (ko 7.45pm).