

FA warns fans not to travel without tickets

FANS without tickets for tomorrow's Trophy semi-final are being warned by the police and the FA not to travel to Altrincham tomorrow.

All 1,200 tickets allocated to the Blues sold out within hours on Sunday morning — even Keith Ryan queued in vain for extra tickets.

The club has been swamped with phone queries and complaints from disgruntled fans all week because of the shortage of tickets.

The problem lies with the northerner's antiquated ground. It has a capacity of 10,000, but a safety certificate for only 3,000.

The club was granted, permission to raise the gate to 3,500 for the semi-final leg.

It was duty-bound to give Wycombe only 25 per cent of the tickets, but made allowances for the club's fanatical away support by handing over almost a third of the ground.

General Manager Brian Lee said: "We have just had the problem of who gets the tickets. We had to sell them on a first-come first-served basis, that was the only fair way. It is not ideal but we cannot please everyone whichever way we do it."

The club tried to set up a live satellite link to beam back the game to giant screens at Adams Park.

But the enormous cost, thought to be around £5,000, has scuppered the idea.

Instead there will be live commentary from Wycombe Hospital Radio relayed to the Vere Lounge at Adams Park from 2.30pm tomorrow.

The match is also being filmed by Trans-Vision Video.

If the tie is level after 90 minutes tomorrow, there will be 30 minutes extra-time. Away goals will not count double.

If a replay is needed it will take place at Walsall's Bescot Stadium on Tuesday night at 7.30pm

The stadium's 12,000 capacity will ensure there is plenty of room for everyone.

Those who are travelling tomorrow are urged by manager Martin O'Neill to let the team know they are there.

He said: "We hope they'll cheer us on. The away fans have been incredible all season. We want to do it for them and everyone back in Wycombe."