

Old boys hope for Slough's survival

FORMER Slough striker, John Reardon, is one of the driving forces behind one of this year's Wembley finalists, Wycombe Wanderers.

Now assistant manager at Adams Park, Reardon has helped the Blues through to the final of the FA Trophy after they beat Altrincham 4-1 in the two-leg semi-final.

It is their second visit to Wembley since winning the Amateur Cup 1-0 against Hayes in 1931. They met Bishop Auckland in the 50s but lost 3-1.

Reardon, now 58, began his footballing career as a youth on local parks until invited to join Slough Reserves.

"I was only 17 and scored a hat-trick against Maidenhead in my first game," remembers Reardon.

"The following week I was in the squad which met Pegasus in the Amateur Cup at the Dolphin in front of about 10,000 people.

"You couldn't forget a start like that, could you."

Reardon went on to play with Maidenhead, Wycombe and Chesham with whom he went to

Wembley in the 1968 Amateur Cup Final.

He played for Wycombe the day he got married in 1958 and has been wedded to the club ever since in either a playing or managerial capacity.

"We have had some great years, notably in the 70's, but this season is undoubtedly the best," he said.

"We got 105% from the players early on but it has been tough keeping up that level of commitment."

Reardon, the eldest of five boys and a girl, met former brother Terry at Wexham Park on Tuesday night's Berks & Bucks Cup final.

Terry was also a Rebel — he played in the 1973 Amateur Cup final for Slough when they lost 1-0 to Walton & Hersham — but both agreed that they want to see Slough survive in the Conference.

"We are praying Slough get the points out of their last five games," he confessed.

"The club has done marvellously so far and it is important that the Conference keeps a strong base in the South.

"The pitch on Tuesday did Wycombe no favours and I would not be at all surprised to see Slough cause an upset against Barnet.

"I don't expect Alan Davies will be getting much water onto it."

Reardon now lives in Maidenhead, having moved out of Bentley Road, Cippenham seven years ago.

He still works for Coopers Payen where he keeps in touch with the game through contacts like Windsor skipper Keith White and Woking's Trevor Barron.

● Another former Rebel, Dave Russell, steered Marlow to their first ever victory in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Final on Tuesday night.

Russell was a member of the 1977 Slough side which just missed a Wembley appearance in the FA Trophy after losing 5-2 on aggregate to Dagenham in the semi-final.

Russell went on to become assistant manager of the Blues under former QPR player Mike Keen, but took over two seasons ago.