

Wanderers take relaxed steps to final

WANDERERS' players will be hoping it is not too hot today — because some will have to wear their one and only white shirt on two visits to Wembley.

The players booked into a hotel last night, and are travelling to Wembley today for an early walk on the famous turf, decked out in their club blazers, ties and slacks.

But the call for decorum means some of the squad's more casual dressers, not used to cup final appearances, will today hang up their white shirts to air as soon as they return to their hotel for lunch.

Apart from this formality, preparations for tomorrow's game have been extremely relaxed. Tuesday night's training session was conducted with all the seriousness of a game on the beach, while two players at a time received the attentions of visiting masseuses.

Then, as the players donned their FA Trophy tracksuits, it was time for details of this weekend's menus.

Further training was also scheduled for last night.

This morning's visit to Wembley should calm the players even further, while a light training session this afternoon will precede a game of pool. "We've never had a serious training session here," said manager Martin O'Neill. "Seven pints should be about adequate for a Friday night," he quipped.

"I've always just said don't let me catch them." In between tomorrow's breakfast and a midday snack, the players have opted for a walk in preference to training, and the coach will return to Wembley at 12.30pm.

The players have found themselves in the spotlight beyond High Wycombe. Thames Television were filming during Tuesday's training session, and other local newspapers have homed in on former favourite sons.

After Wembley, the players will tour High Wycombe in an open-top bus on Sunday, unless the match has finished in a draw.

Any replay will take place at West Bromwich Albion's Hawthorns ground next Thursday with tickets available on the day.