

NON-LEAGUE SOCCER

Lucrative deal for FA Trophy

By Peter Ernest

A TOTAL of £30,000 in prize money will be on offer to the teams left in this season's premier non-League cup — now known as the Vauxhall FA Challenge Trophy, after yesterday's announcement that Vauxhall Motors are the first sponsors of a senior Football Association competition.

Under a one-season agreement, the winners are to receive £6,000, with the runners-up collecting £4,000 and the losing semi-finalists £1,500 each. Clubs progressing to the second round will receive £200, with £400 for reaching the third round and £750 for losing quarter-finalists.

The new deal was welcomed by Martin O'Neill, manager of the Trophy holders, Wycombe Wanderers, who was present at the FA headquarters in London when the sponsorship was revealed and the draw for the first round was made. "It is a great boost for the competition," he said.

The draw was kind to GM Vauxhall Conference title-chasers Wycombe, for they are at home on Jan 11 to Wokingham Town or Salisbury, who replay tomorrow in a third qualifying round tie. Kidderminster, beaten 2-1 by Wycombe last May, must visit the winners of tonight's replay between Walton and Tooting.

Conference leaders Colchester, level on points with

Wycombe, were given a home tie against Kingstonian, of the Diadora League, while FA Cup giantkillers Woking, the runaway Diadora leaders, are at home to Wembley.

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, commented: "The FA Trophy continues to go from strength to strength and Vauxhall's involvement is a further demonstration of the great development of pyramid football."

VAUXHALL FA TROPHY DRAW—1st rd: Southern Section: Welling v Dover, Wycombe v Wokingham or Salisbury, Woking v Wembley, Redbridge v Fisher or Bromsgrove, Gloucester v Harrow, Wivenhoe v Marlow, Sutton Coldfield v Farnborough, Colchester v Kingstonian, VS Rugby v Kettering, Bromley v Worcester, Atherstone or Heybridge v Dorking, Yeovil v Burton or Chesham, Tooting or Walton v Kidderminster, Merthyr v Dartford, Aylesbury v Newport AFC, Dagenham v Bashley, Windsor or Sutton Utd v Bath, Enfield v Slough or Margate, Cheltenham v Hendon or Wealdstone.

Northern Section: Witton v Billingham Syn, Macclesfield v Boston Utd, Southport v Tow Law or Bishop Auckland, Northwich v Hyde, Whitby v Barrow, Altrincham v Staylbridge, Blyth v Gateshead, Telford v Guisborough, Frickley v Northallerton, Fleetwood v Morecambe, South Bank or Bangor v Gretna, Stafford v Marine, Leek v Runcorn. Ties to be played Jan 11.

● The Football Association of Wales have decided by a two to one majority not to allow the eight rebel clubs refusing to play in the proposed League of Wales to remain in the English pyramid next season.

Merthyr, Newport, Barry, Bangor City, Newtown, Caernarfon, Colwyn Bay and Rhyl will meet to plan their next move on Thursday. The eight do not want to join the league, being set up by the FAW under pressure from UEFA.

FOOTBALL

Newport drawn in FA Trophy

AYLESBURY United will play Newport AFC in the newly-renamed Vauxhall FA Trophy first round at Buckingham Road on Saturday, January 11.

Newport AFC, midway in the Beazer Homes League Midland Division and 3-1 victors over Stroud in the third qualifying round last Saturday, was set up after Newport County, the former Football League team, folded.

Aylesbury drew 2-2 with County in the GM Vauxhall Conference in the 1988-9 season after the Welsh team had been relegated from the Fourth Division the previous year, but they never played the return fixture after Newport dropped out of the league in mid-season.

United chief executive Tony was pleased Aylesbury had got a home draw. "Newport have been doing well since they reformed, but it's a good draw."

"We haven't been blessed with too many home draws in recent years, but to get a home draw in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy is pleasing."

● **CLIFF Hercules**, Aylesbury United's record goalscorer, will be bidding for a place in the England semi-professional national team when the Diadora League take on an FA Eleven at Buckingham Road next Tuesday (December 10), kick-off 7.30 pm.

Hercules is likely to be in the starting line-up for the Diadora League representative side, managed by United boss Trevor Gould who is likely to draft in Woking striker George Friel, one of the league's leading scorers, as a late replacement.

Darren Collins, an original choice in the 20-strong squad, is suspended after he was sent off for Aylesbury against Bishop's Stortford last week.

The FA Eleven, managed by Redbridge Forest boss John Still, is likely to contain a strong contingent from Wycombe Wanderers, the FA Trophy winners. Dave Carroll and Mark West are in the squad as is Slough Town's Steve Thompson and current England semi-professional internationals Steve Connor and Paul Watts.

The match, the first of two for the Diadora league representative side, will act as a trial for places in the England squad.