

Pearce's men get back in title race

By Peter Ernest

RICHER by more than £130,000 after their FA Cup exploits against West Ham, Farnborough Town travel to Altrincham today to resume their challenge for the GM Vauxhall Conference title.

Farnborough bowed out of the cup in midweek after two brave performances against the First Division club which attracted a combined attendance in excess of 47,000.

But West Ham's Upton Park is a far cry from the Moss Lane ground at Altrincham, where gates average about 1,000 and the fifth-placed Conference team are still smarting from last week's defeat by Stalybridge in the Vauxhall FA Trophy.

"Any game at Altrincham is difficult," said Ted Pearce, Farnborough's manager, "but after coming out of the West Ham game with a lot of credit our confidence is high and we have no injury problems." He indicated that the cash generated from the cup run will go towards improving their ground.

Bottom club Yeovil, who face Witton at home today, are to revert to part-time following the completion of a two-year experiment with a

full-time professional squad.

Wycombe, with two games in hand, moved to within three points of leaders Colchester last night when they beat Kidderminster 2-0 through Glyn Creaser after 11 minutes and an own goal by David Benton two minutes from the end. Telford beat Runcorn with a 34th-minute goal by Ian Benbow.

● Brian Talbot, the former Ipswich and Arsenal player and manager of West Bromwich and Aldershot, yesterday signed to play for Beazer Homes League side Sudbury.

He is helping manager Richie Powling, a team-mate from his Arsenal days, and will play in Sudbury's FA Vase fourth-round tie at home to Newmarket Town.

Sudbury, beaten finalists in 1989, have a number of players injured and Talbot has agreed to play for nothing as long as he is required.

● A 15-2 victory by Wroxham over bottom club Thetford sent them to the top of the Jewson League Premier Division — on goal difference. Former Norwich player Jon Rigby came on as a substitute with 30 minutes to go and scored a hat-trick.

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

BARCLAYS LEAGUE—Div II

Tranmere (0) 1 Brighton (0) 1
Muir 77 Meade 80 7,179

BARCLAYS LEAGUE—Div IV

Aldershot (0) 0 Barnet (0) 1
Hodde 48 2,922

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Telford (1) 1 Runcorn (0) 0
Benbow 84 913

Wycombe (1) 2 Kidderminster (0) 0
Creaser 11, Benton 3,931
88 (og)

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

ALTRINCHAM .. (0) 1	FARNBORO (0) 1
Anderson 55	Coney 76
694	
BARROW (0) 0	KETTERING (0) 0
	1,384
BATH (0) 0	REDBRIDGE (0) 0
	614
BOSTON (1) 1	MACCLESFLD (0) 5
Hardy 15	Askey 47, 75, Lambert 59, Timmons 62, Clayton 89
	951
COLCHESTER (0) 4	CHELT'NHAM (0) 0
McGavin 46, 86, McDonough 80, Kinsella 88	2,643
NORTHWICH ... (0) 4	MERTHYR T (0) 1
Holland 68, Hemmings 70 (pen), 74, Feeley 84	Webley 85
	689
SLOUGH (1) 2	GATESHEAD (0) 0
Anderson 15, Donnellan 90	730
STAFFORD (0) 0	WELLING (0) 0
	637
YEovil (1) 2	WITTON (0) 1
Wallace 10, 47	Thomas 87
	1,659

	Home					Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Colchester	26	10	1	1	34	10	7	5	2	26	18 57
Wycombe	23	9	1	2	27	9	7	2	2	18	11 51
Farnboro	22	3	3	4	14	13	8	3	1	18	10 39
Redbridge	26	7	2	2	27	10	4	3	8	12	22 38
Altrincham	27	4	8	2	26	23	4	4	5	18	24 36
Macclesfld	24	4	4	12	11	5	4	3	15	12	35
Northwich	24	7	3	4	29	16	3	1	6	13	13 34
Kettering	19	4	3	2	17	13	5	4	1	13	8 34
Telford	23	5	2	5	20	21	5	2	4	18	18 34
Boston	22	4	3	5	21	23	5	3	2	18	12 33
Mertthyr T	22	7	3	2	21	13	2	3	5	10	20 33
Slough	20	6	1	4	17	15	4	1	4	15	17 32
Welling	25	3	6	2	19	19	4	5	5	21	26 32
Bath	25	3	3	5	13	13	5	5	4	19	24 32
Kidderminster	26	6	3	3	21	15	3	2	9	13	29 32
Barrow	27	3	6	5	18	15	2	5	6	15	30 26
Gateshead	23	4	2	6	12	13	2	5	4	14	17 25
Stafford	28	3	5	6	16	21	2	4	8	9	20 24
Witton	24	4	4	3	17	16	1	4	8	15	24 23
Runcorn	25	2	6	4	15	18	3	2	8	13	23 23
Yeovil	23	4	3	6	11	13	1	4	5	9	16 22
Cheltenham	24	3	4	6	13	16	1	5	5	16	28 21

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Depleted Welling hold out

By Peter Ernest

WELLING United forced a goalless draw against Stafford Rangers despite having three players sent off at Marston Road.

Welling's troubles started just before the interval when Gary Abbott and Wayne Brown were both sent off for violent conduct after a midfield flare-up.

Eight minutes from time Stuart White was dismissed for time-wasting, his second bookable offence.

Colchester strengthened their grip on the Conference leadership with a 4-0 victory over struggling Cheltenham which enabled them to become the first club to score 60 goals this season.

Steve McGavin (2), player-manager Roy McDonough and Mark Kinsella scored for Colchester. The win took them six points clear of Wycombe, who have three games in hand, but Cheltenham slumped to bottom place in suffering their 11th defeat.

Yeovil, previous occupants of the 22nd position, beat visitors Witton Albion 2-1, with two goals from Andy Wallace. "It was just the lift we needed," said Steve Rutter, Yeovil's player-manager.

Third-placed Farnborough had Dean Coney to thank for a point at Altrincham. He scored in the 76th minute to cancel out Gary Anderson's goal 11 minutes earlier.