

Wycombe's fine cup run sets town alight

SIXTY years ago, Franklin D Roosevelt had just been elected President of the USA. More threateningly, Adolf Hitler was a month or so away from becoming the German leader.

In sport too there was unrest, the MCC team's use of bodilyine bowling on their tour of Australia made cricket a flash-point for an international incident.

In High Wycombe the air was buzzing too, but with talk of the Wanderers who reached the First Round proper of the FA Cup for the first time.

Wycombe began their league campaign with a win at Loakes Park, watched by a crowd of 4,000. The players, for their part, made use of new dressing rooms and Bucks Free Press correspondent

PHILIP BARKER takes an FA Cup trip down memory lane

Spotkick reported that "Just the time to interview anybody is when he is just feeling that zippy feeling of a cold tub."

In the FA Cup, Wycombe were involved in the preliminary rounds and were drawn against Gradwell's Sports Club, a works team from the Slough area. The Blues eventually won 2-0 but the visitors were widely praised.

Maidenhead United were the next hurdle for Wycombe and the Spartan League side gave the Wanderers a fright before going out by the odd goal in five.

Two goals from FC Braisher sealed the victory.

Park Royal no longer exist but in 1932 they were unbeaten in the London League when they came to Loakes Park. Wycombe scored four times in as many minutes, partly because "The Park Royal defenders paid more attention to feeding their forwards than looking after their own goal." Eventually, Wycombe ran out 6-1 winners.

The real crunch game came next, drawn against Slough at the Dolphin Stadium. It wasn't a pretty sight.

Wycombe trailed 2-0 at half time but came back to win 3-2, Britnell, Braisher and Badrick scoring the goals in a mem-

orable victory.

The only obstacle to a place in the first round was a Surrey League side Camberley and York. The visit of the famous Wycombe Wanderers attracted a record crowd to their tiny ground but a hat-trick from Brown restored the status-quo as Wycombe secured their First Round place with a 4-0 win.

They were now drawn to play Gillingham, a struggling Third Division South side, who nonetheless expected fully to win.

Wycombe's own BBC (Badrick, Braisher and Cox) played superbly and Wycombe forced a draw, though Wycombe went on to lose the replay.