

BLUES RELISH HOME TIE

WYCOMBE'S players are pointing to the blessing of home advantage to see them through tonight's FA Trophy replay and into a Third-Round humdinger with Bromsgrove Rovers.

Another 4,000 crowd is expected at Adams Park tonight (ko 7.45pm) as the Blues aim to join Chesham United in the Third Round. Chesham recorded an excellent result on Saturday in overcoming Dover, and will play Sutton United, conquerors of Slough Town, on February 20.

Chesham boss Gerald Aplin is delighted with the draw. He said: "Absolutely superb. You've got to fancy yourself if you get a home draw.

"My memory of Sutton is fresh because we beat them 1-0 here right at the end of last season and they were the most impressive side we faced last year. We don't take them lightly."

Following Saturday's hard-fought 1-1 draw with Wycombe, Morecambe manager Bryan Griffiths warned: "We're not going all the way to Wycombe for nothing — we'll give a good account of ourselves."

By PETE LANSLEY

Wanderers' on-loan centre back Bob Dewhurst also faces a long journey as he comes to Wycombe for only the second time tonight.

Dewhurst still trains with Blackburn and has only met his new team-mates in Blues' two away games since his match-winning debut at home to Northwich a fortnight ago.

He gave another strong performance in Saturday's draw in his home county of Lancashire and said: "It was a real cup tie. It was like their cup final, because they won't meet anyone as big as Wycombe.

"But with the crowd behind us in the replay, we should come through."

Blues' supremo Martin O'Neill said: "We rode our luck at the end. They got a deserved equaliser and nearly sneaked it at the end so I'm pleased with a replay. We said before the game if we're in the hat on Monday we'll have achieved something."

Dave Carroll said of Morecambe, the HFS Loan Premier Division high-fliers: "They are quite a strong side. They just put us out of our stride, although the pitch

didn't help. We should be able to control the game more on Tuesday."

Morecambe expect John Coleman (knee) to recover from Saturday's fresh injury, while Simon Stapleton's hip muscle problem again makes him touch and go.

O'Neill said: "He was under doctor's orders not to have played in truth. He needed rest. But Stapes put the team first again and that's excellent. If he declares himself half fit for the replay, we'll play him."

Stapleton himself said: "It doesn't seem to be getting worse." Keith Ryan, who came on for Stapleton on Saturday, stands by while Morecambe goalscorer Andy Green would come in for Coleman.

Vauxhall FA Trophy
Second-Round results: Billingham 1, Winsford 2; Bishop Auckland 0, Warrington 1; Bromsgrove 3, Dagenham 1; Chesham 1, Dover 0; Farnborough 4, Enfield 0; Gateshead 3, Heybridge Swifts 1; Gloucester 3, Runcorn 3; Kingstonsian 1, Telford 2; Morecambe 1, Wycombe 1; Northallerton 1, Bashley 0; Nuneaton 0, Marine 1; St Albans 0, Witton 2; Stalybridge 1, Merthyr 1; Stevenage 0, Grays 1; Sutton 3, Slough 1; Walling 1, Boston 2.

Third-Round draw: Telford v Boston; Grays v Gateshead; Chesham v Sutton; Stalybridge or Merthyr v Warrington; Morecambe or Wycombe v Bromsgrove; Witton v Marine; Gloucester or Runcorn v Winsford; Northallerton v Farnborough.

Ties to be played on February 20