

Vets reunite to reach Wembley

FOOTBALL

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers star Paul Birdseye is spearheading the bid of a star-studded veterans team to get to Wembley.

The modestly-named Rebels and Cripples are only three victories from reaching the final of the Umbro Veterans Cup, which is likely to be played before this year's FA Cup Final.

The Marlow managerial duo of Dave Russell and Laurie Craker, and Oak Tree Road favourites John Richardson and Gary Lester, have also been offering their talents to the team's success. The team, started up two years ago by Ian Powditch, is run by former Swindon Town striker Alan Mayes, who finished his career with Wanderers and helped run the Blues' commercial department between 1987 and 1989.

Birdseye, a key member of Brian Lee's successful Blues side 20 years ago, scored the winning goal as the Rebels and Cripples beat Woodley Town — led by another ex-Wanderer, Kirk Corbin — 1-0 to progress to the regional final.

There they will meet Canada Dry at Wokingham's Finchampstead Road ground on March 21 (ko 2pm). The winners meet the Midlands' representatives on April 4. The semi final against the north is at Stockport County's ground.

The final of this competition has previously been staged as a curtain-raiser to the Charity Shield in August.

Cold response to icy incident

I WOULD like to comment on how useless the Wycombe constabulary are when they are present at Adams Park when Wycombe Wanderers play football. In a disappointing match against Kettering Town (March 6, 1993), Wycombe fans were quite annoyed at the way their team was playing. Then a brainless member of the Bucks Free

Press stand decided to throw a tub of ice on to the pitch at the players.

With Wycombe losing 2-0 at the time, I myself was quite annoyed and when this tub appeared, I blew my top. Then a member of the Wycombe constabulary duly reprimanded me for obscene language.

What happened to the idiot who threw the tub of ice? I don't know, but I didn't see any police move in search of the offender.

I don't see why I and others like me should be disciplined about bad language when some idiots are still throwing missiles at the pitch even after we have all been warned by the FA. Wycombe constabulary, you're a waste of space and money.

Name and address supplied

Robson moves on

THE season's most predictable departure from Vicarage Road has seen commercial manager Allan Robson move out.

Robson, who had a high profile when he came to Watford from Wycombe Wanderers a little over a year ago, was frequently to be seen addressing the Vicarage Road faithful before home games towards the end of last season.

Fanzines took him to task for wearing "shades" on overcast days and his aggressive marketing strategy upset some others.

However, following the appointment of director of marketing Brian Blower earlier this season, it was always felt that the days were numbered for Robson. Eventually it was revealed that the parting had been made as part of what is euphemistically described as "reorganisation of the club's marketing department".

"We wish Allan all the best for the future," said Brian Blower. "We are not looking to make another appointment at this stage."